

**SEEKING SOCIAL GOOD:
A LIFE
WORTH LIVING**

An Autobiography in 6 Volumes



JOHN LAWRENCE

Volume 6

**DISENGAGING FROM
WORK AND LATER LIFE**

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Volume 6 of an Autobiography

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SEEKING SOCIAL GOOD: A LIFE WORTH LIVING

An Autobiography in 6 Volumes

- Vol. 1 Getting Educated
- Vol. 2 A Career Under Way
- Vol. 3 Working in Australia
- Vol. 4 Living and Working Overseas
- Vol. 5 Working with International Organisations
- Vol. 6 Disengaging from Work and Later Life

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*Dedicated to all who seek and achieve social good,
and to Trish and the many others who
have made my own life worthwhile.*

Comments on the Autobiography

'A monumental achievement! Not only the effort put into pulling it all together now, but the meticulous record keeping throughout the years that it reflects, is just so impressive. This is an extraordinary record of a life, a life certainly worth living, and an invaluable resource for the social work profession and for a morally grounded social policy perspective.'

Bruce Lagay (former Prof. Fellow & former Head, Social Work Dept., Univ. of Melb.; former Assoc. Dean, Rutgers Univ., and Dean, Syracuse Univ., Schools of Social Work, USA)

'This personal and professional record is testament to the necessity of considering the interactions of someone's personal background, formative and institutional influences and exposure to educative and attitude shaping experiences, if a rounded picture is to be gained of what they stand for and why. The author's constant engagement with history and ethics, not as side issues but disciplines that are of great importance to social work, is evident from Seeking Social Good. It is my fervent hope that others will readily gain access to this work and learn from it, as I have.'

Tony Vinson (Em. Prof. of Social Work, former Head of School, UNSW; former Head, NSW Corrective Services; social scientist, prominent public intellectual)

'I thoroughly enjoyed reading this autobiography, which I think is a really significant work. The author had a wonderful opportunity to shape the direction of social work education in Australia, and internationally and seized the opportunity. So many different groups of people will be interested in this work – historians of the twentieth century, people interested in Australian academic life, anyone researching the history of the University of New South Wales, social work historians of course, whether interested in Australia, the USA or Europe, the many people interested in the Whitlam era and social scientists or historians interested in the development of the teaching of social policy.'

Jane Miller (social work historian; former Head, Social Work Dept., Royal Children's Hospital; AASW Life Member; President, Melb. Univ. Social Work Alumni)

Comments to the Author about his history of the SWRC/SPRC

'Your history of the SWRC/SPRC is, it goes without saying, well and thoroughly researched, clearly and expressively written, and passionately argued! I thought you handled one of the trickiest aspects – your own centrality in the story – with excellent taste and balance. There is, overall, a rich appreciation of the leadership and working researchers without losing sight of the larger argument you want to make.'

Sheila Shaver (former Deputy Director, SPRC; later - Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Res.), Univ. of Western Sydney; Conjoint Professor, SPRC)

'You tell the story well, and there is a great deal of scholarship and perception in the way you assemble and analyse the material. It is an excellent and worthwhile read.'

Adam Graycar (1st Director, SWRC; later - Head, Ausn. Institute of Criminology; Head; Cabinet Office, S.A. Govt.; Prof. of Public Policy & Director, Res. School of Social Sciences, ANU)

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Chapter 1

Disengaging From Work

Two retirements at UNSW – from the School of Social Work in mid-1991, and from the Social Policy Research Centre at the end of 1996 – disengaged me from my two major work responsibilities at the University.

1.1 Retiring from the UNSW School of Social Work 1991

On 11 October, 1990, I wrote to Betsy Wearing, the current head of the School:

I reach 60 years of age on 24 April, 1991, and have decided to retire from my position in the University on 10 July, 1991. I wish to receive at that time my long-service leave entitlements in the form of a lump sum.¹

I am giving notice at this stage so that appropriate steps can be taken to fill the Chair of Social Work which I have been occupying since I joined the University in November, 1968.

I am grateful to my academic and administrative colleagues, and my students, for making my association with the University so personally and professionally rewarding. The causes of social work education, social policy research, ethics teaching and of university education more generally, will continue to have my active commitment.²

On 6 October, in a letter to our daughter Ruth who was at the time looking for a job in France, I told her:

... Today is a very important day here. It's the football grand final in Melbourne. Collingwood are playing Essendon, and it should be a great match. When they played against each other a few weeks ago, it was very even and I have never seen a higher standard of skills...

We passed on your news to Peter. His work seems to be going considerably better (in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra). The project he has been doing in AIDAB (Australian International Development Assistance Bureau) sounds interesting and of some longer-term significance. He is going to sing a couple of love songs at Richard and Kim's wedding in the Great Hall at

1 This amounted to \$36,504.

2 Letter, R. J. Lawrence to Dr Betsy Wearing, 11/10/90.

Sydney University on 20 October, with me accompanying him on the piano. He has sent me the music to practice. Fortunately it's not too difficult.

I then explained to Ruth my decision to retire from the school:

As Mum may have mentioned, I have decided to retire from the University in July next year. A number of factors have contributed to my decision. We have been getting advice on whether it is financially feasible³, and it looks as if it should be, barring catastrophic things happening to the Australian economy.

I have again been asked, obviously informally, if I would be willing to stand for the Presidency of the IASSW. The term would be for 4 years from July 1992. Ralph Garber, the current President, asked Vera Mehta, the Secretary-General, to sound me out before the recent IASSW Congress in Peru. After a long phone conversation with Vera who is located in Vienna, I agreed to at least seriously consider the possibility. She insisted that my location in Australia would not be a major difficulty, given the ease of modern communications systems. She also claimed no suitable third-world person was likely to be in a position to take on the responsibility. Although this is clearly only talking about a possibility for me – how strong a possibility is difficult to know – it set me thinking about how I should be spending these next few years.

Given the sort of teaching loads that we now have to carry because of the general resource situation in the universities, I cannot find adequate concentrated time to do the writing that I should be doing. This session I have been teaching in four subjects; in three of these I'm the subject coordinator. We have just completed the Administration segment in Social Work Practice 3, the student feed-back had again been generally positive. Also the other teaching seems to be going well, including my new Professional Ethics subject with nine post-graduate students drawn from the different schools of the Faculty of Professional Studies. However, I haven't been able to give any time to the book.

If I formally retire in July 1991, I could work full-time on the writing that I think I ought to be doing at this stage of my career, and it would give me 12 months before the IASSW responsibility if it did eventuate. I would hope to continue as Chairperson of the Management Board of the University's Social Policy Research Centre, and hope to continue to retain my connection with the School and University, both for research purposes and in case I do undertake that IASSW responsibility. Tony Vinson has said he will be actively recommending my nomination as an Emeritus Professor of the University. This would certainly be a good way of guaranteeing continuing links, and it would be gratifying were it to happen, but of course I can't bank on it.

I have committed myself to act as Head of School again in January–March 1991, to enable Martin Mowbray to take up the responsibility when he returns from a six month assignment with the Federal Minister of the Environment, Local Government, etc., in Canberra. Unfortunately neither Betsy Wearing nor anyone

3 This was from Tony Hall, who remained our financial advisor for many years before handing over to Mark Nagel who was operating a much larger, very well organised financial advice service. We have been fortunate in our choice of financial advisors and have had no reason to change. Both Tony and Mark have given us confidence usually to follow their advice. In recent times, the process has become much more regular and sophisticated – and rightly so.

else wants her to continue in the role beyond December when her term is completed. Also in session one next year I will be offering two classes in my Faculty-wide Professional Ethics post-graduate subject, and will be trying to ensure that this initiative is continued in subsequent years.

You will have heard that we took the plunge and now have a 1987 Volvo GL240, with only 40,000kms on the clock. With power steering it is a joy to drive. It should last us for the rest of our days. The second hand car market is very depressed at present so we got a good deal, especially buying privately. David was a great help throughout the process of trying to decide what to do about the car situation.

Diane Zulfacar from the School bought our older car and she is delighted with it. You may remember her. She has two teenage daughters, whom she is bringing up now by herself. Her former husband, Asad, is back in the States. He could never settle in Australia. Di and the girls came and visited us at Pearl Beach recently for a bush walk (the wild flowers were profuse) and a barbecue.⁴

Retirement Dinner

My retirement dinner was enthusiastically organised by my social philosopher colleague Damian Grace, who had joined the school in February 1981.⁵ About 80 people were invited to a dinner to mark my retirement from the school of social work. It was held in the University Club at UNSW on 30 August, 1991. Included in the cost of the dinner was a donation for a present, and many who were unable to attend sent a donation anyway. Martin Mowbray, as head of school, presided and read out the apologies.

Written messages received included:

Peter Baume (professor and head, School of Community Medicine, UNSW). 'Would you give John my very good wishes for the future and my congratulations for a career of distinction and contribution.'

Eileen Baldry (former postgraduate student, later professor of Criminology, and deputy dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, UNSW). 'It is with considerable regret that I find myself unable to attend the dinner ... I'm sorry not to be able to celebrate your many and excellent achievements and your ground-breaking years in the school.'

Les Brown (retired professor of education, UNSW). 'It has come as something of a surprise to learn that you are retiring. I thought you had perennial youth. ... Your social work will have given you all the forewarnings you need of retirement problems. Without that advantage, I found Year 1 something of a hump, looking for work to occupy every minute as it had done previously. Now I've accommodated to a more sensible pacing, with some intellectual pursuits relieved by breaks whenever I feel I need them. I've had three books published since retirement, and have taken a Visiting Fellowship at London University at 76. I have a fourth retirement book completed, but there is, as you know, a deep recession

4 Letter, John Lawrence to Ruth Lawrence, 6/10/90.

5 See Vol. 3.

in UK which has hit publishers to leg. I may have to turn reluctantly to USA. I'm not sure I'd recommend this kind of activity: there's a lot of drudgery associated with getting books published, and a lot of ignorance among publishers' editors.

One thing I can't forget in the past – the regular frustrations and the uninformed presumptions of administrators. These we shared. But since my retirement there has been the Dawkins Factor, which I've observed with only the faintest amusement. I feel sorry for you with that additional burden.

Best wishes, John. Why not try politics? We need improvement there.'

Edna Chamberlain (professor of social work, University of Queensland). 'I have always appreciated John's friendship as well as the particular contribution to social work and social work education he has made.'

Max Cornwell (former school member of staff, UNSW). '... Hopefully it is only university retirement and you'll be enjoying many other activities. I dare say the occasion will spark many different memories; it's hard to visualise the School without you. On the other hand, you may well be enjoying the idea of visualising yourself without the School! I do very much hope so. And that you'll remember with pride and affection some of the golden achievements. ... I can recall hard times but there were moments in the School of great joy, accomplishment and good friendship. ... my practice continues to flourish. I learned a great deal about work and life while at the School, from many people including yourself; and given the relative differences of time and responsibility of your own involvement there, I can only marvel at how many recollections you must be taking away.

So, across the years a quiet salute to you and Trish, in those times and this. Good wishes for the leaving and in taking up your new lives.'

(My written response to Max. 'My retirement dinner was a memorable occasion. I'm still trying to come to grips with the great mix of emotions. One emotion will always be with me and that is gratitude for the particular group of colleagues working in the school when I was its head, and you were an important part of the group. I'm delighted from the news in your letter that your present life is so fulfilling both on family and work fronts.

Trish has developed splendidly as a sculptor, and has just sold a major piece in the recent Robin Gibson Gallery exhibition. I will continue to chair the Management Board of the SPRC at the University, and get on with my writing, which is my main reason for "retiring" at this stage. Our current teaching loads make sustained writing extremely difficult.')

Laurie Dillon (UNSW archivist). 'I hope the new era goes extremely well for you. It must already feel good to be freed from the overwork caused by others and all that distracting administrative detail.

Would you be happy to supply a C.V. for inclusion in the Archives' biographical reference files on (very select!) UNSW identities. Also would you know of any recent articles which look at the development of social work as an academic discipline in Australia. ...'⁶

6 I supplied my C.V. and a copy of the chapter I had prepared on Australian social work education for *The International Handbook on Social Work Education*.

Peter Einspinner (ISS social worker in Sydney). 'John and I worked a lot together over the years and I have great respect for him. His involvement with ISS as Chairperson of our Management Committee once again demonstrated his great dedication to social work in action through proper support, conceptually sound objectives, and last but not least a willingness to fight for the agency once he has been persuaded that it merits that support. I have learned much from him.'

Austin and Muriel Hukins (Austin was an emeritus professor of education, and former dean of our faculty, UNSW). 'Best wishes for your retirement. We hope you find this next phase of your life stimulating and rewarding and that you enjoy the freedom from former pressures.'

Valerie Pratt (director, Commonwealth Affirmative Action Agency). 'I would like to say how much I have admired your work over many years and your dedication to the social work profession. I particularly remember our encounter at the University of Sydney in Social Theory 2 – Benn & Peters will never be forgotten! I also vividly remember your last lecture when you transferred to the University of New South Wales, (that other place) when we drummed you out to the sounds of the Academic Festival Overture, accompanied by a shower of streamers. The important things you really do recall.'

All jokes aside, I can say that personally and professionally I have benefited enormously from the contribution you made to my education, even if only embarked on at the age of 35. I hope you take some responsibility and perhaps even pride, in a student who now administers some Commonwealth legislation.

Warm regards and every good wish for a satisfying and busy "retirement"'

Stuart Rees (professor of social work, University of Sydney). 'Congratulations on your numerous achievements in the development of professional education in this country and in particular regarding international social work education. You'll be sorely missed in that arena. I imagine that you have an infinite number of projects up your sleeve so that 'retirement' will appear as though it has never happened.'

Boyd Rayward (professor, School of Librarianship, UNSW). 'A note to offer my best wishes in this next rite of passage. I was very moved by your remarks at Faculty because I have some sense of the history that lies behind what we have today, and of your crucial contribution to it. ... Of course, we will be seeing you regularly on campus in your new manifestation, but, please know how much I have valued you as a colleague and how important I believe your contribution to have been.'

Richard Roberts (associate professor, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Charles Sturt University). 'Every good wish for your *retirement*. I have to use italics, because I am sure you will be kept even busier now you can map your own agenda.'

Ron Robertson (an older, former postgraduate student from the Baptist Church). 'It was a pleasure ... to be at your farewell function. I was proud to hear a recall of your fine record (I will always appreciate your supervision of my thesis on age persons legislation). I was pleased you were able to say with deep sincerity how much you had valued your wife and family. ... That was a loving tribute.'

Have you written papers or articles on retirement? I enclose a humble leaflet I wrote several years ago. You may feel a touch of relevance now that you are in the foothills of retirement.

I thought of you last week when ... I saw the play *Shadowlands* at the Opera House Drama Theatre.

It is a moving production around the theme grief and suffering as part of life, featuring C. S. Lewis. I remembered you saying that when you were at Oxford he was a celebrated don. ...

Again and in short, Hello and thanks for many things. Yours in warm friendship.'

Sheila Shaver (deputy director, SPRC, UNSW). 'I would appreciate ... if you would note my support for all the fine things that are certain to be said (at the dinner).'

Michael Birt (vice-chancellor, UNSW) expressed the university's gratitude for 'the many valuable contributions' I had made to the School of Social Work and to the University for more than 22 years. 'On behalf of all your friends and colleagues here I send you very best wishes for a long, happy retirement'. He added a PS: May I add a *personal* note of thanks for your willingness to offer advice and guidance about various matters during the last few years – I have appreciated that greatly. Yours, Michael.'

(My response to Michael Birt. 'I did appreciate your letter sent on the occasion of my recent "retirement" from the University. My main reason for going at this stage is to get a concentrated run on some writing I think I ought to be doing.

I have, of course, seen that you too are retiring, and want to wish you well, free from the multiple responsibilities and pressures you have borne for so long. I, in fact, had more working experience with Rupert Myers, your predecessor, but I have very much appreciated and enjoyed those times that I have experienced with you.

I'm really looking forward to the AFL grand final on Saturday; it should be a great game. Richmond's day must come, but obviously not for a while! ... '7)

Al Willis (emeritus professor, former pro-vice-chancellor and dean of Faculty of Professional Studies, UNSW). 'I am happy and proud to say that I had something to do with John's appointment – and the University has made few better ones. His achievements in establishing the School cannot be overstated but they will be well known to you. Perhaps I know better than most his other contributions, notably to the establishment of the Faculty of Professional Studies. I think when John came it was called the Board of Vocational Studies, but it was known irreverently (and certainly irrationally) to some as the home of lost causes, or even of academic waifs and strays. The Faculty of Arts was unhappy with some aspects of Education, Librarianship and Social Work, the Faculty of Commerce with Hospital Administration (as it was then), and the Faculty of Applied Science with Industrial Arts, although we all had enlightened friends in those faculties.

John's stature as a scholar and professional, as shown in his contributions to the work of the Professorial Board, was a significant factor in changing the negative attitudes of some of our colleagues. He was the first chairman of the Faculty

7 Letter, John Lawrence to Michael Birt, 24/9/91. He was an ardent Richmond supporter.

and did a superb job in that capacity. As Pro-Vice-Chancellor I had the duties of deanship of the Faculty and I enjoyed working with John. To add to his wisdom and vision, I have to add those far-from-universal but oh-so-appreciated attributes of probity, integrity and good humour.⁸

The format of the retirement dinner was pre-dinner drinks, dinner, a guest speaker, my farewell speech, remarks by Tony Vinson, and presentation of a gift by Sandy Regan.

Appointed an Emeritus Professor

The remarks by Tony, in fact informed us that I had just been recommended to Council for appointment as an emeritus professor and so would have this continuing link with UNSW.⁹ In formally informing me of Council's decision, Michael Birt expressed the personal hope that it presaged a long and enjoyable continuation of my association with the University.¹⁰ In fact, being an emeritus professor meant the school could continue to provide working accommodation for me if I wished to use it. In due course, Tony Vinson was also appointed an emeritus professor, we shared a room in the school, and were listed as members of the school staff. Twice a year, the association of emeritus professors has held university luncheons organised by the dean of emeritus professors. I have made a point of regularly attending these occasions, although have been unsuccessful in persuading Tony to join us because of his bitterness with the way UNSW handled the St George campus situation. One luncheon is hosted by the vice-chancellor in the Scientia Building, with him usually giving an account of the current state of the university. The other is in the dining room of International House. I have continued to value keeping in touch with senior UNSW colleagues through attendance at these lunches, although my own contemporaries are now very small in number.

A Wonderful Gift

My abiding love of music has been a feature of my life, and was recognised in a wonderful retirement gift – 12 compact discs, recorded for Decca and BBC Radio 3, of all of Bach's organ music played by the superb British organist, Peter Hurford. In the series, organised into 4 volumes, he used the organs in the Cathedral at Ratzberg, West Germany; the Church of Our Lady of Sorrows, Toronto; the Chapel of New College, Oxford; the Chapel of Knox Grammar School, Sydney; Abbey of Melk, Austria; the school hall, Eton College, Windsor; the Wiener Bach-Orgel, Augustinerkirche, Vienna; All Souls Unitarian Church, Washington DC; and St Catherine's College Chapel, Cambridge. The specifications of these organs were included in the program notes in each volume.

8 Letter, Al Willis to Dr Martin Mowbray, head, School of Social Work, UNSW, 2/8/91. (My daughter Ruth has commented that little of my sense of humour comes through in this autobiography. In holiday mode, I could not resist playing with words in shameless punning. I was always careful, however, that my humour was essentially laughing with, not at people.)

9 A formal letter by Michael Birt, 4/12/91, informed me that Council had decided that the title of Professor Emeritus be conferred on me.

10 Letter, Michael Birt to Emeritus Professor R. J. Lawrence, 4/12/91.

My long-term friend and colleague, Dr Mary McLelland, was invited to be the guest speaker. Her abstract, sent to the 'Master of Ceremonies', was titled 'John Lawrence: One Kind of Developer':

John's career is followed through three decades. He is seen as a philosopher of social work and education.

While it is not the only source, his extensive writing is my best guide to a preliminary assessment of his contribution to social work practice and thought. There is an additional reason for choosing the writing as my basic data. On reviewing what he had written, I found much that I believe is not easily accessible to his younger colleagues in the field. And some of it I read for the first time, although I knew it must exist.

Most of the sixties resembled a preparation for the rest of his career. He presented early his position that moral philosophy is the basis of social work thinking and one of the outcomes should be the independence of social policy as a subject. Social administration is, then, logically a particular discipline.

A rewarding sabbatical completed the decade and led in the seventies to a sharpening of focus, a toughening of the writing style and an important advance in his influence on the development of social work education here and in the nearby Asian region.

The eighties advanced the direction taken with an expanded audience, here and abroad, and included the Parliament of New South Wales. All of which bespeaks the high level of reputation and the general confidence in his judgment.

At the retirement dinner, Mary McLelland said:

JOHN LAWRENCE: One Kind of Developer
THREE DECADES OF HIS CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIAL WORK

This is a tall order. Not only is the evidence of a great contribution very extensive, it has to be reduced to a communicable after-dinner speech. I have re-read most of John's oeuvre to discover that it was not the chore John thought it would be. In common with a lot of us I had heard him talk more than I had read his writing. After a while I stopped hearing that pleasant, bland voice so seldom raised in anger or sarcasm,¹¹ and listened to the ideas the words conveyed. Instead of writing this I would have preferred to keep reading his material and many of his references. In fact I had decided to put him in an historical events frame when I started reading. I quickly abandoned that plan and waited until I was finished to decide. The main reason is that his writing style is generally tough, quite often punchy and the ideas – and their motivation – uncompromising. Probably my spoken words will not convey the feeling with which I started to write this. But I'll do my best with them.

First of all he says, 'Genuine morality, as distinct from conventional or authoritarian morality, has developed historically with individualism; and so has professional social work.'

Second we read, 'But Australian social workers not only act as moral catalysts

11 I recalled Mary saying at my farewell from the University of Sydney in 1968, that I was the most 'even-tempered' colleague she had experienced. Although I was not volatile by temperament, I obviously felt deeply about many things – my wife and family, friends, injustice, academic integrity.

in relation to their client's decisions. Some have assumed this function in relation to decisions made by those who make and administer social policy in this country.'

And third, 'In general, Australians responsible for social policy do not noticeably apply moral criteria when making their decisions.'

Having identified those three intertwined threads – they are not parallel as is occasionally said, I was really very pleased to find them clear as daylight through all the writing. Also in this early paper I found the chief criterion by which these principal threads should be assessed – that is the nature of their aim and outcome. On this they stand or fall – after you've weaved your way through the problems of means versus ends.

The following year, 1962, his paper on locally based social welfare services appeared in the Association's journal. Some of the not unexpected swipes at the attitudes of medical and health workers, provided a rationale for the suggested format of local organisation. The coordination should be by welfare experts, as, he persuasively argued, this could achieve a more equitable distribution; in other words a just outcome. We didn't ever find out if it would be so in the health field. But we do know that the later funded co-ordinator positions of social workers in the migrant field developed and maintained a service that reached down and across so far untouched pockets of need. It's not too difficult to connect this early discussion with the development of private practice in social work. To it, in its local relevance, could apply what he said about privatising options in general – that they 'should not be seen as freeing the service providers from public accountability'. You can't judge the outcome without accountability.

Really the sixties were years of preparation – it comprised the completion of the PhD thesis and the writing of the book from it, the development of his subject and, in 1965, some crystal gazing. He was apparently asked to prepare a background paper on social welfare in Australia over the next ten years. With considerable prescience he said it was hazardous – it took us to 1975 – that was the year that was!

Towards the end of the sixties John had his first study leave as a senior Fulbrighter to the University of Michigan School of Social Work. He seems to have had good opportunities to pursue what he wanted and needed to do. At that time he joined there a number of very good colleagues, with whom he clearly had no problem holding his own. I went there the following year – almost forcibly taken by a member of the faculty who, after John (and while Edna Chamberlain was there), could not believe that another Australian academic social worker would actually plan to leave out Michigan from her itinerary. I had a great time on the others' reputation.

In the first year of his return, in 1968, three papers appeared that were probably responsible for my listening to his ideas and not the voice.

The first of the three papers was on the responsibility for the welfare of ethnic minorities. It was part of the ACOSS conference of that year. Discussed from a social policy point of view, he was led to strong words about our lack of social and cultural data. W. D. Borrie, a distinguished demographer, had, of course been lamenting for some time the paucity of adequate material within colleague disciplines that all together can make political sense of planned social development.

This was a punchy paper. And the next in the *Australian Journal of Social Issues*,

on the Social Transaction Model, shows the other side of the development – clear, hard-headed, relentless argument. The third is my second favourite. ‘The Great Society: Rhetoric or Reality?’ was presented to the Australian and New Zealand American Studies Association. I suppose there were some Americans present. It is written with a deceptive blandness but treats the U.S. War on Poverty, current at the time of his sabbatical, with something hardly short of disdain. The U.S. gets a rough time for a number of things, one of which was its lagging behind in social welfare development by the criteria of, say, Britain and Sweden. However, one point could strike nicely home in Australia. The analysis of the criticised policies, under the socio-cultural conditions in the U.S. showed, because America did have the data, that these policies had failed. As usual the middle classes had done best out of the policy initiatives. But he did concede that it is terribly difficult to make morally sound judgements of what will be best for the most.

At this point he moved to this University (UNSW) and your gain was our loss. No longer our luncheon sandwiches in someone’s crowded little office where we discussed important things like could he get a decent potato peeler for Trish’s birthday? ... And I could admire how his deft finger tips peeled an orange and how he could eat a sandwich with beetroot in it and not make a mess. I also recall this being while we others ate grapes and peaches and sometime apricots, which, to his horror we’d paid for. In Adelaide you either grew them or your friends give you their surplus.

We come to the seventies. I think that this period is for those of us born between about 1915 and 1945, a watershed decade, as it was for Australia in general. During this time John wrote at least 25 solid papers. They range from long chapters of books to succinct definitional expositions as preparations for seminar discussions. They also include reviews of conferences, an enterprise he manages to turn into an essay. This is a gift much envied by one who often feels let down by them and who remembers her father saying – ‘If you’ve something important to say, don’t say it at a congress’.

The twenty five fall into three rough categories. One of them, of course, must be called political. Most of the other two overlap this to some extent. You would expect this of a scholar whose subject is policy and management. But some of the targets were politicians or, on request, their proposed policies. The range of audience is very large – there were not only social work practitioners and educators but also doctors of various specialties, members of Legacy Clubs, urban planners, to select a few in this range.

In another category there is a number of strictly social work professional papers – subjects including accountability and the social work function in relation other professions. Thirdly there is an important group on education for social work, that includes not only the question of content but also faculty development. The material was directed to audiences at home, in South East Asia and Jerusalem. In a moment we’ll return to the educational work.

The last of four papers listed in 1970 is my favourite. It was presented to the ACOSS conference of that year – on the Philosophy of Social Welfare in the 1970’s. It was a fantasy about the appointment of a social science adviser to the Prime Minister. It briefly stimulated a fantasy phase in my mind. John had a lost vocation: he should have been a playwright in the Beckett mode. The monologue

of Happy Days is made up exclusively of clichés and yet the whole is one of the most meaningful plays of the century. In John's fantasy Prime Minister Gortlam's new doctrine is 'it's people that count, not ideologies, institutions and material things'. The country is well enough off now to 'be concerned with the good life for everyone, and the good life doesn't have to be dominated by economic objectives'. Smith's appointment is delayed because of 'unforeseen difficulties' and some opposition to this 'first step towards a Presidential form of government'.

Smith had to inform himself about his homeland and assuage his guilt at having been part, until his appointment, of the braindrain, but he thinks he may have 'an integrating opportunity' for all the aspects of social development. Determined to 'achieve cultural relevance' he needs census figures: they're disappointingly sparse. His wondering about how other advisers get along is heightened when he learns that the 1971 census is not going to include data on income, housing finance and conditions, life assurance, superannuation health insurance, methods of travel to work and some others. After the pre-test they were out as Cabinet saw them as 'an intrusion into the privacy of the individual'.

When he looks at the voluntary sector he finds 'an heroic job being done by a tiny band of devoted people'. And when he confers with the coordinating bodies he finds that the 'avoiding of overlapping, exposure of new needs' do not have any examples that illustrate that work.

So his team moves to the government sector. Of Departments administering social welfare programs he asks 'Why does the Department exist? Answer 'To administer the Act'. 'Why does the Act exist? Answer 'Because the government passed it'. 'What did the government have in mind?' Answer 'That's none of our business'. If the only character in Beckett's play had been a political scientist he might have said 'I always say the separation of powers is fundamental to sound administration'.

To return to the papers in the educational category, one important group in it had South East Asian 'audiences'. John's involvement with the development of indigenous social work education in the area, starting then, has gone on over a long time. By the early eighties there was a substantial regional group of the International Association of the International Association of Schools of Social Work. The activity during the period was not simply writing papers for conferences, but had slogging seminar work. He was joined by other Australians, of course, but he filled a leadership position. I am glad to have the opportunity now to say something I forgot to note on a not too dissimilar occasion last year. Sydney University Department of Social Work, as part of its 50th anniversary celebrations, had six guests from schools of social work in the region. All who came had senior posts in their respective schools. More significant, however, is the fact that every one of them had his or her higher degree from the School of the current appointment – the one exception was the Sri Lankan lecturer who took a master's from Bandung – in, to him, a foreign language! The other places were the Tata Institute, Bombay, Bangkok, Jakarta, Manila, Port Moresby. Except for Bombay that could not have been the picture in 1972, the date of the first material from John as a consultant and rapporteur to a major seminar.

Coming now to the 80's I find them impossible really to identify with the kind of label that the journo-pundits find so easy. I thought of consolidation but that sounds rigid and they were anything but that. To continue the watershed metaphor

of the seventies, let's say that John and his department tumbled over the waterfall and managed to swim out into the stiller pool faster than many others.

The Family Research Unit, established in the seventies, finished its work at this time with two publications, one, as you know, very substantial. Added to that satisfaction then is no doubt the current one that its Director, Brian English, has a foundation chair in Newcastle. Another beginning, of course, was Richard Roberts' appointment to get Wagga going. Losses only in a narrow sense!

There must be both personal and material reasons why the establishment of the Social Welfare Research Centre within the University rates as a major satisfaction. For those who are not in the trees and care to watch the wood closely, it exemplifies one of the best developments in welfare of this decade. It has played a role in some ways more effectively than some of the things we always lamented that Australia lacked – for example a national public welfare association. Of course the issues it has addressed have been with us for a long time and most were addressed by John over the years in his particular context.

This is now much expanded and many of us oldies applaud the professional, in-depth focus of its work. One could describe its contribution to thinking about welfare purposes in several ways, but for my purposes tonight it can be pointed to as one of the providers of data and comment, whose absence John lamented in the sixties.

One of the assignments of the eighties for John was to prepare a parliamentary paper on the 'Responsibility for Service in Child Abuse and Child Protection', based on an analysis of the Montcalm case, in which a child died. Tonight we can be concerned only with the report itself. I think it has two features that mark it as fine work. The unvarnished and direct style has made, perhaps deliberately, chilling reading. Chapter V of the report, in deceptively bland language, proposes what might have happened 'if'. There are 90 'ifs', which do not overlap. Under the mantle of a chronology it exposes the dead hand of a bureaucratic system of simplistically ordered responsibilities that not only block the use of commonsense but also the use of professional insight, in the rare instances it was available. I suspect that the avoidance of any over emotionalism in style, cloaked some pretty strong feelings.

And the recommendations are worth mentioning. They are very different from the usual. They are couched in broad terms of the goals of child protection, and the clear need for the specific area of responsibility to be stated for all workers right down the line. These recommendations cannot be argued in the usual way – this one is accepted, that one is rejected in futile parliamentary debate.

I think the economic and political social systems in the eighties impinged heavily on all universities – and will continue to do so. This Department has been well equipped to cope, given its leadership and curriculum – whatever you in it may feel!

For John, although the times were so demanding, the eighties were ripe for the use of his particular knowledge and skill in policy and administration.

The ten years were peppered with international invitations and academic appointments. Again he made his mark with strong contributions to curriculum philosophy – especially at Rutgers.

But there were three events that belong together and exemplify what we are here for now. In 1984 he gave the inaugural Eileen Younghusband Memorial Lecture in Canada at a combined session of the International Association of Schools of Social Work and the International Federation of Social Work. The paper was right

for her. In 1987 he reviewed Kathleen Jones' biography, and the following year introduced the third lecture in Vienna with an appreciation of her life and work for the many delegates to whom she was probably only a name. These three reveal John as the person whose friends/colleagues value so highly for his capacity to express affection and respect together with a realistic assessment of what those friends/colleagues are to him or have achieved.

Reading

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I followed Mary McLelland's presentation with these remarks:

Farewell Speech
UNSW Staff Club, 30/8/91

Before I say anything else, I want to thank you all for coming and sharing this occasion with me. Clearly for me this is a unique occasion. For you, it is yet another farewell. I am especially grateful to Dr Norma Parker for making the effort to be here. Norma needs no introduction to social work colleagues. But for others, I perhaps could mention that she is a genuine and outstanding pioneer of Australian social work. She was the first federal president of the AASW, and Sydney University has fairly recently awarded her the rare distinction of an honorary doctorate.

I've had mixed messages about what I am expected to do on this occasion. I was told I would be expected to sing for my supper – but only for as long as I wanted to. I have decided that I certainly want to thank Mary McLelland, and also to share some reminiscences and make a few comments.

Last year Mary also was awarded an honorary doctorate by Sydney University. She and Norma were my colleagues in the Department of Social Work at Sydney University when I first came to Sydney in 1961. I first heard of Mary in about 1957 from Lyra Taylor, the formidable head of the social work section of the Commonwealth Department of Social Services (as it was then called). I was a new social worker from Adelaide visiting the Department's central office, then in Melbourne. Mary was referred to as 'that very able young woman on the social work staff at Sydney University'!

In preparation for tonight's task, Mary has now read more of what I have written, than anyone else – except perhaps Trish. For many years, Mary was the editor of the national professional journal and no doubt still reads everything with a critical editorial eye and a twitching editorial pen. I'm expecting my material to be returned covered in red editorial markings. Thank you, Mary! Tonight's task must have tested the bonds of our long-standing friendship.

If I am pushed to specify my basic value or values I usually specify respect for persons. This obviously ties in with my interest in ethics and my feeling so comfortable with working in the professional field of social work. The other value is intellectual freedom. I can be argued that this cannot be separated from respect for persons. I think, however, without intellectual freedom everything distinctly human is put in jeopardy, including having respect for persons as a fundamental value.

The university ideal of a place which respects and stimulates intellectual freedom has always been important for me. I think a university has a unique and crucial function in relation to the value of academic freedom. However, in Australia and elsewhere, current political and economic pressures are making it more difficult to maintain the ideal of intellectual freedom. In addition, the economic rationalists in our midst tend to respect persons only to the extent that they have economic power and resources.

It is widely accepted that our university did not get away to a good start. I remember the snide early comments about 'Wirth's circus'. My own first impressions frankly were not very favourable. I attended the opening of the Morven Brown Building. Premier Robin Askin was awarded an honorary degree which he clearly did not deserve, and the idea of piped organ music at a formal 'university' occasion grated.

When I was appointed here in 1968, the School's accommodation in permanent 'temporary' huts left much to be desired. I and a few other staff at least were housed

in a new hut. I made vigorous submission, and we had regular visits from members of the Universities Commission. I had a sympathetic hearing from Professor Peter Karmel, the Commission's Chairman – partly, I suspect, because my sister Margaret was his first woman student to gain a 1st class honours degree in economics. Eventually many of us moved into Building M, which was a very welcome step. Under Tony Vinson's headship, the accommodation of the School's staff has finally improved to a reasonable standard, mainly because the University was at last persuaded to spend at least some money on the Western Campus. It is perhaps significant that while I was head of school, I enjoyed good constructive relationships with the University's Administration except for one division – the Property Division!

Since those early days the University has grown greatly in stature. On some measures, it is now the leading research university in the country. It has matured as an institution, and it has been a privilege to have been part of the maturing process.

For many years I attended regularly the University's monthly Professorial Board meetings. Through these, and working committees of the Board, I came to know almost all of my colleagues at a professorial level. It was a productive experience, and I like to think that it was a useful way of getting the School of Social Work known throughout the University.

There was one initiative I remember taking in the Professorial Board that may have lost me a few friends. This was when I successfully moved for the establishment of a Resources Allocation Committee. Those who suspected they were doing well out of the existing highly centralised and confidential resources allocation arrangement 'hated my guts', but they didn't challenge my motion for my arguments for such a committee were impeccable. Malcolm Chaikin, Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science, one the 'privileged' faculties, just did not believe me when I said my motion did not arise out of immediate concern for my own school!

When I came to the UNSW, the School of Social Work was in an administrative structure that was decidedly odd for a university. There was a highly centralised 'Baxter' arrangement called a board of vocational studies. A few of us managed to get it changed into an orthodox faculty arrangement – called the Faculty of Professional Studies, with member Schools of Health Administration, Education, Librarianship, and Social Work.

Later, in 1985, I edited a united Faculty submission to a faculty review. Against all the signs, we succeeded in staying together. Starting from being a ragbag collection of schools who didn't fit comfortably in the University's existing faculty structures, we had discovered common interests and had enjoyed reasonably constructive faculty relationships. Each of the schools of the faculty was engaged in professional education, and was preparing people to work in the public sector. We had made the faculty work, and in time, work well. It seemed pretty senseless to disband us, given this history. On this occasion good sense prevailed.

The senior colleagues whose names come to mind from the period when I was head of school are: John Griffith and George Palmer in Health Administration; Jim Pratt, Les Brown, and Austin Hukins, in Education; Wilma Radford, the late Mel Winstock, and Carmel Maguire, in Librarianship. Of special significance, was Al Willis, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor who acted as the Faculty's Dean (until we appointed our own).

Before leaving the Faculty, I must give special mention to Austin Hukins. He was the Faculty's first Dean. He was a model of careful, scrupulously fair leadership, and we were lucky to have him in that difficult period when the University decided to devolve

onto each faculty, critical allocation decisions which had previously been taken centrally. Austin has become a good friend as well as a former colleague.

I cannot begin to give adequate mention to all of my friends and colleagues in the School who have made my working life over the past 22 years both productive and enjoyable. My colleague Ron Baker, who first occupied the other chair of social work in the School, used to talk about schools of social work as 'turbulent environments'. There was a time when the local turbulence got a bit much and I turned to hooking rugs in the evening to try to relax. I'm thankful we have generally avoided the destructive conflicts experienced in some of the other Australian schools. This does not mean we have always agreed with each other – far from it. It means we have learned to cope with conflict and disagreement in ways that have still respected the integrity of those in dispute.

One of the painful memories is the bitter and widely publicised dispute in the Sydney University's school of social work in the later 1970s. I remember someone saying I should be pleased that our rival school was having such problems. That person, in fact, couldn't be wider of the mark. Many of my friends and former colleagues were involved, and also the reputation of social work itself was being harmed.

At least one good outcome of the Sydney University dispute was the establishment of a second chair in the Department of Social Work. We had already set a precedent with Ron Baker's appointment in 1977. Perhaps one of the most significant phone calls I ever made was to the former Vice-Chancellor Rupert Myers, in connection with this chair. It had been recognised that our School was large enough to warrant two full professors, but at least 20 other professorial positions had also been approved in principle. I knew the University only had funds for 6 such positions, and that a decision on this was likely to come from a particular Vice-Chancellor's Advisory Committee meeting. I also knew some of the Vice-Chancellor's work habits. He always was in his office very early, and well before his secretary, on VCAC days. I rang; he answered the phone; he listened to my special pleading; he said the School's case was persuasive; I said 'yes', but are you persuaded; he just laughed at my cheek. Thankfully, social work was amongst the chosen few in that round of chairs; since then finances have become even tighter. Only Rupert knows whether that call made any difference to what happened.

When Ron Baker, for family reasons, returned to the UK in 1981, Tony Vinson joined the School, after a tempestuous period heading and trying to reform the NSW prison system. I was grateful to have someone of his ability, enthusiasm and high community profile to take over as head of school in 1983. And I deliberately got out of his hair by going overseas for a year. Both personally and for the School's sake, I have been especially grateful that Tony and I have got on well with each other. He has been particularly well suited for the new entrepreneurial challenges facing the Faculty.

I know it's often dangerous to draw parallels, but Tony's energy, hard work, and enthusiasm for new experiences, has often reminded me of my brother Jim. We shared a room growing up, and I didn't realise before it was too late that Jim's work habits were not the norm. I was delighted when Sydney University had the good sense to appoint him to a chair of medicine.

Actually all of us in professional life, and especially in universities, are in the privileged position of being positively interested in our work. For me, work has never been just a way of getting a living. It has been a continuing opportunity to pursue things which I value and things that continue to arouse my interest and curiosity.

In recent years, the development of the University's Social Welfare Research Centre, now Social Policy Research Centre, had been a major interest and commitment. My main teaching for the past 30 year has been social policy, and this Research Centre's main mission is completely in line with this interest. The Centre is directly and fully funded by the Federal Government and employs about 26 staff. We have just held our second national social policy conference, with more than 600 registrations and well over 80 research papers.

The Centre is performing an important function in helping Australian social policy debate to be better informed, and it is developing a strong international reputation. I believe social policy can be productively developed as a subject in its own right, not beholden to any one of the social sciences or professional disciplines, but drawing from all of them. I remain as the Chairperson of the Centre's Board of Management, and won't feel satisfied until the Centre is permanently established by the Federal Government and the University. The founding director, Adam Graycar, the acting director Adam Jamrozik, and the present director, Peter Saunders, and their hardworking staff have been very productive.

Altogether I seem to have spent over 6½ years away from Australia – studying, teaching and consulting in the United States, Thailand, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Sweden. There is no better way to help understand yourself, your profession, and your society than in the context of another society. As some of you know, I am a committed internationalist. I wish periodic work in another country was built into every person's job. The next generation has an urgent task to understand the emerging international realities, and to shake loose from outworn ideologies. The past three years have been quite incredible, but a reversion back to old isolationist and warring forms of nationalism will be a disastrous outcome. One of the most urgent theoretical as well as practical tasks is to work out what are the universal and what are the culturally specific aspects of human existence.

Living in and visiting other places has left me with a multitude of memories – the first 4-minute mile on the Iffley Track at Oxford; a bumbling attempt in Oxford to recruit me to work for ASIO; talking with Bob Hawke in an Oxford Library about his B.Litt. thesis on the Australian arbitration system (little did I realise where all that was going to lead!); the nuclear physicist's home where we lived for 6 months in Ann Arbor, which had a nuclear bomb shelter and in the study a list of what to do in the last five minutes!; the 1967 race riots in Detroit; the floods during the 1970 ICSW Conference in Manila; the hypocritical very progressive-sounding opening address at that Conference given by guess who – President Marcos; the earthquake in Manila in 1974 during a workshop (it was 6.7 on the Richter scale); the begging on New York streets; the terrible jokes told by Danny Kaye's cousin, Harold Lewis, who was the Dean of the School of Social Work at Hunter College (he could only get away with it because he was an outstanding Dean and a notable ethicist); and so on and on.

Another cluster of memories links with ACOSS in the 1970s, and especially when the two Joans – Joan Brown and Joan McClintock – were making the running. The origins of the now commonplace consultation of the Federal Government with 'the welfare sector' date back to that period.

I have a vivid memory of presenting as the AASW Federal President evidence at the first 'work value' arbitration case on social workers employed in the Commonwealth Public Service. I was kept on the stand for two days; but we knew we were doing pretty

well when the arbitrator, Mr Wilson, let slip in a tea-break that if he had his time again this is the field he would like to enter!

The AASW, in fact, occupied quite a bit of my time through the 1960s and early 1970s. I like to think that because social work educators like myself, were active members of the professional association, we managed to save Australia from having a large number of small, inadequate schools, especially in the new CAE sector. It was a lively, often difficult time. I very much regretted the AASW subsequently losing its industrial registration with the Arbitration Commission, largely due to some clever political manoeuvring by a small group in Victoria.

Another more local set of memories links up with 'Australia's oldest registered charity', the Benevolent Society of New South Wales. This organisation runs the Royal Hospital for Women, a teaching hospital of this University. Historically, it has also provided various welfare services. When I came to the School of Social Work, moves were afoot to review and professionalise these services. I, and some of my colleagues like Spencer Colliver, spent a lot of time and effort to help achieve change, but when it came to spending substantial money we encountered a resistant, powerful Treasurer who claimed welfare expertise, and a Board whose average age must have been in the 70s, apart from the University nominees concerned with the Hospital. I decided further effort was pointless, and wrote a strongly worded memorandum withdrawing the School's collaboration.

Some years later, in 1977, Malcolm Chaikin persuaded me to join the Board, which by then had a new composition. The Society's Chief Executive Officer was now Richard Gould, a UNSW graduate in health administration. I enjoyed working with Richard. We eventually managed to get the Society's Scarba House for Children reviewed and dismantled. My social work colleagues who gave evidence before the review committee were particularly impressive and I remember feeling very proud of them. We also managed to persuade the Society, for the first time, to review, revise, and take seriously its stated objectives. It was a pleasure eventually to see social workers of the calibre of Pam Roberts and John Davoren working for the Society. Before I left the Board in 1986, I made one last attempt to persuade the Board to change its 19th century name, but was unsuccessful. The matter was to be referred to a future committee; it would require legislative change, and that was a dangerous route; etc., etc.

The Aboriginal Legal Service is another source of keen memories. Hal Wootten, the first Dean of our Law School, invited me in 1970 to join the Council of this Service, and I stayed with it until 1974. It was fascinating to see Hal hold together in a common cause young black activists like Paul Coe, Gary Williams, and Gary Foley, and members of the legal establishment. He had obvious credibility with both groups. Through that activity I came to know and greatly appreciate Law School colleagues like Garth Nettheim and Richard Chisholm. Law schools can be notoriously conservative and impervious to social concerns. Ours has always had people concerned with social and not just legal justice.

Without students, of course, a teacher's existence is pointless. Literally hundreds of students have now graduated from the School. A constant source of irritation at graduation ceremonies has been that I have only had the chance to get to know a few of them. At least some of them eventually return as postgraduate students, and it's especially enjoyable teaching at this level partly because the numbers are more manageable.

As promised, I've shared a few rather random memories and observations with you. None of us gets the chance to do it again, but if I did, I would not radically change my lot – and that says a great deal for my profession, my colleagues, and my university.

Finally, if I can do it without getting emotionally choked (I need to keep the Irish in me under control), I want to mention and thank my family. We enjoy each other, we love each other, and support each other. One couldn't ask for more: and this applies especially to my wife Trish.

After the retirement dinner, I wrote to Martin Mowbray¹²:

My retirement dinner was an entirely memorable occasion. There was a good cross-section of friends and colleagues, and I was especially pleased to have the members of my family there. Your chairing was admirable; I very much appreciated Mary's speech: it was good to have the opportunity to 'say a few words' myself; my farewell present was nothing short of magnificent; and Tony's final 'good news' capped the evening. Although I have already done so, please thank again Damian for the time and thought he devoted to organising the occasion; Sandy for her initiative and time in locating and purchasing that wonderfully appropriate gift of CD records; and Tony for being the bearer of 'good news'.

Finally, I wish to thank you and all of my other colleagues and friends in the School for making my working life so worthwhile. I look forward to a continuing association with the School, but obviously it will be on a different basis.

Good luck to the School, and to all of you. Many, many thanks.

John Lawrence
Professor of Social Work 1968-91
Head of School 1968-82

Follow-up on Mary McLelland's Paper?

Norma Parker was unable to hear Mary McLelland at the retirement dinner, so Mary sent her a copy of her paper on 'John and his career and his development'. Norma responded:

Thank you very much indeed for letting me have the paper you prepared on John and his career and his development. I found it tremendously interesting to read. In what I know about it all, I was left, of course, almost back at the beginnings of what was covered in John's early days with us at Sydney University. So it was fascinating to read as you followed and presented the developments both in the widening and the deepening of the field of social work and in John himself as he made his contribution to its growth. I am not in a position to arrive at judgements since for quite a while I have been on the sidelines of it all. But I can react and as I did that, I formed the conclusion that the whole presentation you brought to the evening was absolutely splendid. I do not think it could have been better done. I think it should be published somewhere. Perhaps as you apparently think, something valuable might be added to the whole by someone from philosophy; – perhaps so but what you gave us the other night certainly is a gem from which social workers have much to gain and it should reach a wider audience that was present on that occasion. ...¹³

¹² Letter, John Lawrence to Martin Mowbray, 1/9/91.

¹³ Letter, Norma Parker to Mary McLelland, 15/10/91.

Mary McLelland sent this response to the editor of the *AJSW*, together with her speech. The speech was not for publication because it was 'necessarily slender', but she believed a substantial review of my writing should be made. 'I think one could only write an introduction to his work. I suppose I could do it; I wonder if anyone else is interested?'¹⁴ Nothing eventuated, however.



Sandy Regan, R.J.L. and Mary McLelland.



Esther and George Szekeres, Trish looking at my farewell present.



Norma Parker and Audrey Ferguson.



Tony Vinson, R.J.L. and Austen Hukins.



R.J.L., Sam Ball, Norma Parker and Michael Horsburgh - Norma's honorary doctorate, University of Sydney, 1986.

14 Letter, Mary McLelland to Elizabeth Rabbitts, 14/11/91.

1.2 Competencies Project – AASW 1992/93

My successor in the UNSW School of Social Work was Professor Allan Borowski, who joined the school in February 1992. From 1986 to 1991, he had convened the Practice Standards Standing Committee of the Victorian Branch of the AASW, which helped to produce a series of documents recommending practice standards for social workers in various fields. In 1992, we shared serious concern about the Social Work and Welfare Competencies Project, being carried out by the Brous Consulting Group on behalf of the federal office of the AASW. The project came from, and was funded by the National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (NOOSR) in the Commonwealth Department of Employment, Education and Training. A national conference in Adelaide in July 1992, was profoundly dissatisfied with an initial draft of 'Units and Elements of Competency' in social work. I responded to the draft, by preparing a statement illustrative of the kind of conceptual framework and orienting introductory statement I would expect from a sound social work competencies project.

SOCIAL WORK COMPETENCIES PROJECT

An adequate description of 'social work competencies' requires a clear orienting statement to signify what is being described, designation of the main ways of classifying areas of professional competence, and detailed listing of elements within each of these areas.

Introduction

Professional social work is a world-wide occupation and discipline which aims to enhance human well-being by helping individuals, couples, families, groups, organisations, communities, and societies, to develop more satisfying and equitable social conditions and to deal with specific social problems. As in many other countries, social work in Australia is an identifiable occupation organised on professional lines. It is based on a common body of theoretical and practical knowledge acquired and tested initially at university level in schools of social work designed for the purpose. It has a national professional association (the Australian Association of Social Workers) which has educational, social action, and some industrial functions. A code of ethics provides normative justification for its activities. Its members have attained at least minimum educational standards in social work prescribed and assessed by the professional association. Many function at higher levels of performance, through the various modes of further professional development such as postgraduate degrees, workshops, and staff development programs.

This document lists the competencies which can be expected to be found in the Australian social work profession. As in other established professions, its members perform a wide range of interdependent roles seen as necessary to achieve the goals and values of the profession. The effective performance of those roles depends upon a social worker having the values, knowledge and skills relevant to the role, and an understanding of the relationship of the role to the other intervention roles both inside the profession and in other occupations.

Given the scope, interconnectedness, difficulty, and complexity of professional

work, the competence involved cannot be simply described in terms of a list of discrete 'units of competency' each with its constituent elements. That may be possible for routine technical work, but not for work which by its very nature requires considerable theoretical and practical knowledge, judgement in its application, and a wide repertoire of overlapping skills, and explicit social responsibility.

It is, however, possible to set down the main areas of competence covered by the professional occupation of social work, and specify key elements within these areas. Indeed, this is precisely what competence in social work education entails. But such an enterprise is desirable only if:

- There is clear understanding of the interconnections and inevitable overlapping between the 'competencies' set down, and awareness that the 'elements' often themselves will have many constituent components some of which may well be controversial and not settled.
- There is clear understanding that any one social worker will obviously be manifesting only a selection of these 'competencies' at any one time – depending on their employment situation, professional experience, and level of development. (Individual social workers are, however, expected to understand what part their particular work plays in the overall work of the profession.)
- Any statement of 'competencies' is used to help develop the competence of the profession and not to limit and stifle its development in socially desirable directions.
- This statement is periodically reviewed and revised to reflect the current realities of the occupation.

The main areas of competence expected of members of the social work profession – by their professional peers, educators, employers, and collaborating with other service providers – can be described using the following framework.

1. First are aspects of professional performance that are common to all social work:
 - intellectual competence
(Effective and efficient social work practice requires considerable intellectual competence – to understand what is at stake, to listen to and construct relevant argument, to make decisions on the basis of relevant reasoning, and to communicate effectively.)
 - competence to perform rational intervention processes
(This competence applies to all social work intervention, and is necessary to assess and justify any intervention into social affairs.)
 - competence in the assessment and production of research
(Essential to social work is the maintenance and development of knowledge and skills relevant for social work intervention. Social workers are expected to be able to assess and contribute to research processes concerned with knowledge production.)
 - educational competence
(Social workers must be able to design, implement, and assess education and training programs for themselves, social work students, professional peers, and others in the community.)

2. Next can be listed areas of professional competence related to work at different levels and with different types of social structure:
 - competence to maintain and develop the work of an organised professional occupation – at local, national, regional, and international levels
(Without this competence, the occupation would not exist as such.)
 - competencies in working with individuals, couples, families, groups, organisations, communities, and in working at the societal, international regional, and general international levels.
3. A third set of competencies relate to the fields of practice defined by various target occupation, such as children, youth, people who are ageing, women, migrants, aborigines, people who are physically disabled, people who are mentally disabled, and legal offenders.
4. A fourth set of competencies relate to fields of practice defined by functional social service areas, such as income security, health, housing, and recreation.
5. Finally, social work has competencies related to specific social problems, such as AIDS, domestic violence, child abuse, long-term unemployment, poverty, and loneliness.

The rest of this document consisted of an elaboration of this competency framework, which listed elements of competency in of the broad designated areas of professional performance.¹⁵

This statement contributed to the discussion at a meeting of 12 experienced social work educators and practitioners on 7 August, 1982, convened by Allan Borowski at UNSW. Initially, it was not shared more widely because of all the uncertainty and dissatisfaction with the Project and its management at the time.

This NSW group sent a jointly-signed letter to AASW national president Di Gursanski, chairperson of the project's steering group, with serious concerns expressed about the auspice, purpose, content, structure and process of the Project.

If the objective is to develop competency standards for the social work profession in Australia, the following are points of concern:

1. The responsibility of NOOSR for the exercise is likely to distort it because of NOOSR's concern for overseas qualifications, and entry standards. ...
2. Each profession is supposed to undertake the task. To associate the social work profession with other workers in the one project, and with the same consultants, is to court confusion. And this is especially so when the other workers generally have a lower level of education and training, compared with social workers, and this places them at a different level in the proposed Australian Standards Framework.
3. A societal framework, not an 'industrial' or 'work-place framework is required to understand the nature, scope and competence of the social work profession, and indeed of any profession.
4. Adequate competency standards for a profession should include reference to

15 John Lawrence (in consultation with Claire Bunday), A Response to 'Social Work Competencies/Elements Draft Working Notes', 16/7/92.

what the profession could and should be doing, as well as what its members are currently doing.

5. The notions of 'competency' and 'skill' are meaningless unless related to what purpose, goals or ends. Purpose is not adequately covered in the notion of attitude. The notion of value is basic, yet it receives almost no explicit attention in the NOOSR Research Papers.
6. Given the scope, complexities and responsibilities entailed in professional work, it is doubtful if models for analysing simpler, narrowly conceived work will be appropriate for identifying professional competencies. Thinking that is primarily reductionist, mechanistic, behaviourist, instrumental and managerialist, will not adequately characterise professional competence.
7. A focus on entry standards for the profession is distorting and dangerous. It is ridiculous to characterise the competencies of a profession in terms of its beginning practitioners. A profession consists of people who are supposed to be growing and developing in competence throughout their professional life. The central idea of a professional career captures this notion.
8. The Competencies Project must be seen as the social work profession's, not primarily that of the Consultants'. The composition of the Project Steering Committee and its relationship to the Consultants are crucial in this context.
9. The Consultants do not apparently have the relevant expertise to help the social work profession identify and develop competency standards:
 - Their 'Appreciation of Issues' statement in their proposal to the AASW is conceptually confused and shows little understanding of general occupational analysis.
 - Only one Consultant has a background in social work which means their claimed 'independent' analysis is likely to bring frameworks and understanding derived from other contexts.
 - In their proposal, there is much reference to job analysis, skill analysis, and organisational and industrial analysis among the Consultants' expertise, but not to professional occupational analysis, particularly of the social work profession.
10. The draft working document is understood to be the product of an expert panel and was distributed at the recent national conference in Adelaide. Clearly the initial processes of this Project have not produced a reasonable basis on which to proceed with any confidence.

The Group realised that stopping the Project, set up under contracts between the AASW, NOOSR, and Brous Consulting Group would be difficult, if not impossible. It proposed various changes to make the Project more acceptable to the social work profession. In September, the NSW Branch called upon the AASW Directors to suspend the Project, pending a review and reconstitution of its management structure. In November, a teleconference of the Heads of Schools of Social Work in Australia sought direct representation on the Project Steering Group, and on the newly-formed National Reference Group for the Project; to ask the Project Steering Group what would be the review mechanisms for reviewing the competencies once developed; and to ask the AASW Directors about the relationship between the Competencies Project and the

accreditation of schools' programs (for purposes of AASW membership). In December, I wrote an article for the Newsletter of the NSW Branch giving an account of the pressure to change what was obviously a disastrous project for the profession, the limitations of a new only advisory National Reference Group, and the urgent need to review and revise the methodology of the project. This concluded with the comment:

In this project, the social work profession is caught up in broader political and economic processes, which are not sympathetic to work organised on professional lines. Retaining a sense of professional identity, integrity, and societal service is crucial, if our occupation is to survive, let alone flourish. We should be contributing to a wider societal debate about the wisdom or otherwise of these current competencies projects.¹⁶

Eventually, in mid-1993, the AASW dismissed its external consultants and extricated the profession from this project, which from the outset had not respected the scope and autonomy of social work as a professional occupation.

16 John Lawrence, 'Trying to Achieve Competence in the AASW's Competencies Project: The Continuing Concerns of the NSW Competencies Project Group', AASW (NSW Branch) *Newsletter*, 2/12/92.

1.3 Human Services in the Last Thirty Years – Some Critical Observations 1994

I was asked to give the opening contextual address at a dinner Symposium in the Great Hall at Sydney University in April 1994. The occasion was to mark the retirement of Sister Margaret McGovern, and to celebrate her leadership – at the Mercy Family Centre, Waitara, and in the wider Mercy Mission, the Catholic Church, and the Australian community – in the context and challenge of her time. She was a notable colleague and friend, who had tried to persuade me to join the board of the Mercy Family Centre.

We live in a time of short, sharp and sometimes horrific television images, of populist politicians grabbing news space with smart one-liners, of so-called ‘executive summaries’ being said to be all that busy decision-makers have time for. I at least have 20 minutes and I am first cab off the rank of speakers. But within the constraints of the occasion what *can* I say about my assigned topic, ‘Human Services in the Last Thirty Years’, without trivialising it. True, speakers have been encouraged to share with guests their own experiences and hopes, but in my case my topic has actually been my central teaching area for over 30 years. I am also acutely aware that our main purpose tonight, anyway, is to celebrate the work of a valued colleague, not just to have an interesting seminar.

Margaret McGovern was a member of one of my first Social Theory II classes at Sydney University in the early 1960s. I was employed by the Department of Social Work as a lecturer in Social Administration, a British term new to Australia. The focus of my subject was the social services and the social and political theory under which they operated in the welfare state. There was little Australian literature, except for Tom Kewley’s pioneering work on income security. (*Social Security in Australia 1900-72*, Sydney, Sydney University Press, 1973.) This forced me to use particularly British and North American teaching material, but also to think comparatively. The idea of a systematic book on Australian social welfare, covering the main dimensions of the subject guided much of my thinking throughout the 1960s.

I spent 1967 on sabbatical leave at the University of Michigan, and it left an indelible impression. The School of Social Work was on a real high. I can recall the Dean being roundly criticised by my colleagues in the faculty for ranking Columbia ahead of Michigan when asked by the University’s President about the School’s standing. But the School was heavily dependent on ‘soft’ money which was withdrawn when the War on Poverty gave way to a preoccupation with the Vietnam War. I found their social welfare teaching was not comparative and lacked a conceptual framework, which induced me to write an article on ‘A social transaction model for the analysis of social welfare’. (*Australian Journal of Social Issues*, Vol. 3, No. 4, 1968.) This insisted on taking into account both consumer and producer objectives, and outcomes as well as intentions. The School had undertaken an impressive curriculum revision, but a section on values and professional ethics had still to be completed. A committee which I chaired recommended a compulsory course on ethics, not unlike what Harvard University prescribed for all its graduate professional courses in the late 1980s. With a pragmatic Dean and financial cutbacks, ethics teaching in the Michigan School only gained optional status.

American society was in turmoil in the later 1960s with the Civil Rights

Movement, the abortive War on Poverty, the Vietnam War, the urban riots, and student protest. After graduating in 1962, Margaret McGovern worked as a social worker, then administrator at the Mercy Home in Waitara, before plunging into this American turmoil by doing a Masters degree at Columbia University in New York from 1968 to 1970.

On my return to Australia in 1968, I tried unsuccessfully to find sufficient authors for my social welfare handbook. There was considerable interest in the framework, but most of the relevant scholarship had not yet been undertaken. From the end of 1968, I was diverted from this project to head, for 14 years, the School of Social Work at the University of New South Wales. In our curriculum there, I ensured that we had substantial teaching about our society's social welfare arrangements, and also that our students had an introduction to ethics as a systematic subject, so they could understand better justificatory arguments for social policy policies and professional intervention. I at least used my social welfare framework to give coherence to the social welfare subjects, and to persuade ACOSS – I was on the Board from 1973 to 1977 – to press the Federal Government for a Social Welfare Inquiry instead of just a Poverty Inquiry.

In 1972, the Commonwealth Department of Social Services was invited by the State Social Welfare Departments to undertake research into Australian families. The Department did not have the research capacity for the task, so invited my School to undertake it. Our Family Research Unit produced the first national data on one-parent families, and eventually passed on its base-line data to the Institute of Family Studies, established by the Fraser Government in the Attorney-General's Department.

The frantic scramble for reliable data during the social reform efforts of the Whitlam Government, 1972-75, revealed a more general need for reliable data on which to base and evaluate social policies. Again under the conservative Fraser Government, the University of New South Wales was invited to set up a national Social Welfare Research Centre, directly funded by the Government. Since it commenced in 1980, this Centre has produced more than 100 monographs. At its third biennial national conference this year, about 500 attended to hear a wide range of research papers from people working in government and non-government agencies, as well as in universities. Obviously this development pleases me, particularly as I continue to chair the Management Board of the Centre. Certainly, compared to the 1960s and early 1970s, we are now vastly better informed about our social policies and social conditions.

What we have not achieved, however, is recognition of Social Policy as a subject in its own right. Our senior staff at the SPRC (as it has been called since 1990) inevitably are drawn from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds. None has a qualification specifically in social policy. The first Director, Adam Graycar, was versed in the British development of social administration and policy, or social policy as it has come to be called, and many of you will be familiar with his writing. I had thought Bettina Cass was another Australian mainline social policy scholar, but was surprised to see her recently described as Professor of Sociology and Social Policy. Peter Saunders, our current Director at the SPRC, has an economics background and at least sees social policy as 'a multidisciplinary field of study'. Perhaps he in time will provide intellectual leadership which will establish social policy as a coherent subject for the next generation.

I certainly would like to see it develop in university research and teaching centres which concentrate on social policy analysis. The subject would provide basic knowledge about the purposes, structures, and processes, for students destined for the various professions, for students specialising in one or other of the social sciences, and for students aiming for a career in social policy teaching and research. The advantage of this model for the development of the subject is that a broad societal frame of reference is more likely to be developed and maintained, with the major professional and other disciplinary players being encouraged to understand where they fit in the broad intervention pattern of modern society.

A number of Australian schools of social work including Margaret's alma mater, have added 'and social policy' to their title. This is understandable politically, but social policy teaching has been an essential part of a social work curriculum for a considerable time. It's like calling a medical school, 'a school of medicine and physiology'. If the 'and social policy' reflects the career ambitions of social policy teachers in a social work school, the school risks ambiguity of educational purpose, division and conflict – with the legitimate interests of neither social work nor social policy being well served. What I am talking about are not just academic and professional games remote from the real world. I know only too well that structures and career ambitions, and the words we use, shape outcomes in the lives of people at considerable distance in time and place.

It is difficult to maintain trusting and productive relationships unless we mean what we say and say what we mean. If we are genuinely concerned about human well-being, clarity in communication is an important instrumental value. Let me make brief comment on just a few terms.

The assigned title of this talk refers to 'human services'. A recent very welcome Australian book was entitled *Managing Human Service Organisations* (by Francis Donovan and Alun Jackson, New York, Prentice Hall, 1991). Just this year, we have acquired a Federal Minister for Human Services. Edith Cowan University now offers a degree in Human Services, and a recent monograph in connection with this program talks about 'human services' being a 'nascent profession'. (David Wiles, *Human Services: Australian Explorations*, Perth, Edith Cowan University, 1993.) Is this a term whose time has come in Australia?

It is an American term which caught on rapidly there after about 1968. In a critique of the concept in 1981, Herman Stein pointed to various usages of the term, including a blanket term to cover what were commonly called the social services in Europe. It was, however, not very helpful as an analytic concept, because it lumped together agencies that 'differed markedly in such variables as function, auspice, relationship to marketplace, size and structure'. (Stein ed., *Organisation and the Human Services: Cross-Disciplinary Reflections*, Philadelphia, Temple University Press, 1981.) I agree with him, but would add the following points. Should not all our human institutions be in the service of human beings, not just those that claim the 'human service' label? and 'in what sense are they being served?' In tackling these issues, the moral claims of future generations and people beyond our immediate social circles cannot continue to be ignored. There are, too, the claims to existence of other species apart from the human species. As a morally sensitive person, it is not surprising that Margaret McGovern's welfare concerns have stretched to ecological and peace issues, and work with the NSW Commission Against Corruption.

We constantly use 'service' and 'caring' language in our professional life, especially in the so-called 'helping' and 'person' professions. Illich and others, especially in the 1970s, highlighted what they claimed were the disabling effects of the professions. Only by careful evaluation of outcomes related to inputs could such claims be settled. The economic rationalism, as it emerged to a position of dominance in the 1980s, emphasised notions of efficiency and effectiveness in all human enterprise, not just business enterprise. If we really are concerned about making a difference in human welfare and not just in making a living or being seen to have good intentions, we *must* be concerned with issues of efficiency and effectiveness. We should not allow these rational action concepts, however, to be pre-empted by narrow economic criteria alone. Planners and administrators obviously should have substantive knowledge about what they are dealing with, and not just be expert in abstract economic, financial, and planning models. Michael Pusey's recent disturbing book has documented the extent of economic rationalism in Australian politics and the public service in the 1980s. (*Economic Rationalism in Canberra: a Nation Building State Changes its Mind*, Melbourne, Cambridge University Press, 1991.) Margaret McGovern has brought to her administrative leadership of the Mercy Family Centre since 1980, relevant substantive knowledge, and a keen awareness of the need to be *of* service and not just to be providing a service.

'Caring' language has become especially prevalent in the health services. Again the term, like 'service', can be morally slippery. Caring *about* people provides a justifiable moral basis for trying to be *of* service to them. However, caring *for* them always carries the danger of unnecessary paternalism (or maternalism).

In more recent years, Margaret McGovern has had extensive experience as a board member of non-government organisations. The governance of the voluntary sector, apart perhaps for hospitals, has been scarcely touched by serious scholarship. I spent 9 years, 1977-1986, on the board of Australia's oldest registered welfare organisation, the Benevolent Society of New South Wales, and in that time helped them rethink their purposes and programs. I failed miserably, however, when it came to persuading them to change their name, despite its patronising overtones.

Another unhappy term for me has been 'burn out' when applied to professional workers who are tired, dispirited, overworked, under-supported, and wanting a break. It is a metaphor from the world of machines and I wish we would not use it in relation to human beings.

Yet another unfortunate term has been 'change agent', a fashionable notion especially amongst people working at the local community level in the 1970s. While I certainly agree that the maintenance of the status quo is not a politically or morally neutral position, every and any change is obviously not necessarily *of* service to people. 'Change agents' need to win legitimacy by specifying the direction and outcome of changes being sought.

Two newly-popular other terms also call for closer scrutiny – 'discrimination' and 'rights'. Each now has an important place in the political process, but each can be used to stifle and close-off discussion. This, I think, is what the emerging 'political correctness' debate in the United States is all about. The basic concept of 'discrimination' should continue to refer to differential thinking and treatment, and not just to instances of *unfair* differential treatment. The concept of 'rights' is modern, and only makes sense in a context of rule systems and recognised duties

on the part of others.

'Dependency' is another general term which requires close examination. Dependency is a universal fact of human life. Each person and each group has a dependency profile, and often the most successful have the most extensive profile. 'Dependency' as such is not the problem. It is, in fact, only particular forms of dependency that are problematic and these are what we should be arguing about. The New Right complaint that the welfare state is harmful because it creates dependency is singularly unhelpful. I recall an American bumper sticker – THE NEW RIGHT IS NEITHER!

I will conclude by quickly highlighting some of the changes in Australian society and in social welfare policies that have occurred during Margaret McGovern's professional life.

In these past 30 years, we have approached a doubling of our population and become even more concentrated in our capital cities. We have become one of the most ethnically diverse nations in the world, and our indigenous population has reasserted its identity. We have become much more conscious of our interdependence with the rest of the world.

After a long post-war period of economic prosperity and full-employment, since about 1974, economic recession and continuing unemployment have caused a preoccupation with the economy. The women's movement has achieved major shifts in attitudes to and opportunities for women, although their participation is still limited in politics, at senior levels of the public service, and in the older professions. Our family structures have become more diverse and often less permanent. Child abuse and domestic violence have become major sources of concern. We are now regularly exposed to explicit violence in the media and in films. The conspiracy of silence about sexuality has been replaced by almost a preoccupation with it. We have become a society heavily dependent of drugs. Commercial values have invaded extensive areas of our recreational and community life. Our confidence in our politicians, our public servants, our police, and many professionals, has been eroded by public exposure of corruption. The long-term shift towards a 'service' economy has produced many new occupational groups vying for jurisdiction and status.

The social welfare policy trends have included – deinstitutionalisation; decentralisation of services; spasmodic increases in tertiary education but some erosion of university standards and autonomy; universal health insurance, but continued emphasis on hospitals, specialists, acute illness, and expensive high technology; the emergence of self-help groups; the development of women's services; a revolution in attitudes to disability; increasing resort to legal redress for past wrongs; attempts to reform the legal profession; changing balances in the respective responsibilities of the different levels of government, voluntary agencies, commercial enterprises, and informal social systems; but, thankfully, the continued responsibility of the Federal Government for a national income security system – to name just a few of the policy features.

Margaret and I belong to the depleted cohort of the depression generation, which has provided us with both opportunities and frustrations. As you will hear from later speakers, Margaret has both made and grasped opportunities so that she could be of service to others. It is a privilege to be part of this celebration of her life and work.

1.4 Disengagements 1995

1.4.1 International Social Service (ISS) – Australia

Work with ISS–Australia, a voluntary organisation providing an inter-country case-work service to families and individuals, was part of my later professional life. Established in 1924, by 1995 ISS was operating in over 150 countries but with resources that fell pitifully short of its stated aims:

The aims of ISS are clearly established in its Statutes, and address the social and legal problems of individuals and families who have moved to another country either by choice or necessity.

ISS is mandated to study the conditions and consequences of migration, identify trends in emerging social problems, advocate for the welfare of persons requiring assistance and make appropriate recommendations to international and national organisations.

In a world where migrants and refugees, abandoned children and fragmented lives are numbered in millions, ISS continues to strive to preserve the value of the individual and the family.¹⁷

In October 1978, the Melbourne-based director of the Australian Branch of ISS, David Cox, asked if I would help either as chairman or honorary president for New South Wales, or whatever title I preferred.¹⁸ In full agreement with my assessment of ISS and comments on a strategy for the future, these were approved in principle by the Council of Management in December. On his appointment to a lectureship at Melbourne University in April 1979, David hoped that I would continue informally as a consultant, particularly for Petrina Slaytor in the Sydney office.¹⁹ In May, the President Lady Clunies-Ross thanked me for being prepared to act in a consultant capacity for the Australian Branch.²⁰ In July, the new director Mrs Anne Cordner reported that David had taken over as President and that the Development Plan he had prepared after consultations with me, had been tabled at the Council meeting in June.

Would I be prepared to be elected honorary vice-president, along with Neilma Gantner, the original founder of ISS in Australia and daughter of the Patron, Dame Merlyn Myer? Peter Baillieu would be the NSW Patron. For their letterhead, ‘consultant’ did not fit the bill as well as ‘honorary vice-president’.²¹

In November 1985, David Cox wrote:

You have assisted the development of ISS in Sydney in several ways in the past ... There is a strong need for a Sydney ISS Committee ... in effect a sub-Committee of the National Council of Management, with its Chairperson an exofficio member of that Council.

17 International Social Service Australian Branch, *Annual Report 1995*, p 1.

18 Letter, David Cox to John Lawrence, 26/10/78.

19 Letter, David Cox to John Lawrence, 2/3/79.

20 Letter, Janet Clunies-Ross to John Lawrence, 14/5/79.

21 Letter, Anne Cordner to John Lawrence, 4/7/79.

Its major roles would be: to support the Sydney office staff; to handle general administration in the office; to ensure that ISS services were appropriately publicised throughout NSW; to oversee some funding-raising activity in NSW; to operate a Sydney bank account; and to be alert to areas of need to which ISS should contribute.

Your interest, position and wide-range experience would make you an excellent Chairman if you were willing to accept the position of inaugural Chairman. ...

Petra Playfair, employed in the Sydney office, would be overseas for six months on a Churchill Fellowship, and a Pacific Islander project working from the Sydney office would be starting early 1986.²²

In December 1985, I chaired the first meeting of the Sydney Committee. I continued with ISS for the next nine years, trying to extend its reach, not only in New South Wales, but nationally. Helping the organisation to develop into a strong, well-funded, community-based voluntary organisation was slow and often frustrating, but it was given some impetus with the appointment of Margaret Gibson as director in 1992.

In February 1995, I wrote to Rupert Myer, President of ISS Australia:

My successor as chairperson of the New South Committee and member of Council is, of course, entirely in your hands. It may be helpful for you to know, however, that I think Myf Bosanquet would be suitable, and so do Daryl Lightfoot and Peter Einspinner, with whom I have informally raised the matter. I have asked her to send me her curriculum vitae and will forward it to you as soon as it arrives.

Margaret Gibson will have had a chance to get to know Myf during the selection of Daryl, and you will have met her briefly, when you came to Sydney to discuss the draft national plan with the NSW Committee towards the end of 1994. Myf has been a valued member of the Committee. She has demonstrated a commitment to ISS and its development and has extensive social work experience. She has been fully involved in the process leading to the production of both the national and NSW plans and has the time and capacity to help to implement them. Her quiet firmness complements Daryl's more flamboyant style.

I thought Allan Borowski, a professor of social work at the University of NSW, could be a suitable appointee. He is keen to maintain his links with social work practice, and his particular research expertise is migrant research. I have discovered, however, that he will be away for the whole of 1996 so does not wish to consider this responsibility in the near future. He has indicated an interest in the longer term, which I have mentioned to both Myf and Daryl.²³

In March 1995, Rupert Myer, wrote:

On behalf of the Council of Management of International Social Service, I would like to thank you for the very considerable contribution which you made to the organisation since you joined nearly a decade ago. Both as a member of Council and also as Chair of the NSW Committee of Management, you have always held a very

22 Letter, David Cox to John Lawrence, 6/11/85.

23 Letter, John Lawrence to Rupert Myer, 9/2/95.

clear view of the need for ISS and the best way in which that need could be met.

On a personal note, I want thank you in particular for the many hours that you must have spent in the lead up to the appointment of the new Director in 1992 and again for your work on the three year Operating Plan. Like you, I believe that we have a very good 'blue-print' for the future and challenge for the Council will be, as always, its implementation. I too will miss our discussions but am delighted that you have indicated your intention to continue as a member of ISS and be available for discussions from time to time.²⁴

In the 1995 annual report, he wrote:

John first joined ISS in 1986 after having been approached to establish a New South Wales Management Committee. He had served as the Committee's chair until his resignation and during his term as a member of Council has had a profound influence on the agency.

I received a letter from Margaret Gibson, the director of ISS Australia in the national office of ISS in Melbourne in May 1995:

... Thank you very much for your spirited involvement in ISS over the last two years in which I have been with the organisation. Your intellectual rigour and your focus on the wider aims of ISS made your contribution to the organisation's future development pivotal, because you were able to clearly articulate the vision to which you thought the organisation should aspire and to influence others so they shared your vision. ISS was fortunate to have had your support as a Council member and as Chairman of the NSW Committee for so many years. There is no doubt that the quality which I observed in both the administration and the service provision of the NSW Office was, to some degree, the result of your involvement, and I am sure is also true of the discussions which took place at the NSW Committee meetings. It is significant that the ISS Plan for 1995-97 was actually completed while you were still a member of Council, because in many senses I believe yours was the guiding spirit which ultimately produced it. I am not sure whether you felt free to leave at that time because at long last ISS had actually endorsed a plan, or because the whole process had been so time-consuming and frustrating, in any case I hope you are enjoying the freedom of being able to concentrate your time and energy on the book you are writing.

Personally I would like to thank you for welcoming me to the organisation and to the NSW Office and for taking the time to talk with me about the organisation, both on my visits to NSW and yours to Melbourne, as well as on the telephone, all of which has helped me to develop an understanding of the recent history of ISS in Australia. In particular I would like to thank you for unflinching taking the time to read and note amendments on the various drafts of the plan. Your acute eye for detail and your understanding of the issues concerned provided me with vital feedback in compiling the final version of the plan. Thank you for your continued support as the plan was being completed. I would like to wish you a long and fruitful retirement and I hope you will continue to follow the progress of ISS with interest.²⁵

²⁴ Letter, Rupert Myer to John Lawrence, 20/3/95.

²⁵ Letter, Margaret Gibson to John Lawrence, 25/5/95.

At a farewell dinner, fellow members of the NSW Committee of ISS wrote appreciative comments on an attractive card featuring Blackwood Wattle by Patricia Daly, an Australian water-colour artist:

Peter Einspinner. Your help, enthusiasm, perseverance and leadership were outstanding. Working with you was great.

Trish Lane. ... Your presence and inspiration at ISS will be greatly missed.

Daryl Lightfoot. Thanks for your encouragement and help over these first months, John – I've no doubt I'll be looking for your inputs in future days....

Jude Irwin. All the best, John.

Myf Bosanquet. Thank you John for your inspiration. Best wishes for the future.

Petrina Slaytor. Wishing you the very best for The Book – with my thanks and admiration for your energy, enthusiasm and sheer hard galvanising work.

1.4.2 *International Social Work Journal*

In October 1995, I wrote to Frank Turner, editor of *International Social Work*.

I have been reviewing manuscripts for *ISW* for ten years, and I believe the time has come for me to stand aside and give someone else a turn. Although I will miss the interest and stimulus provided by the manuscripts, and will especially regret not being in touch with you on a fairly regular basis which the reviewing process has provided, I think it makes sense for me to resign from the Editorial Board at this stage.

Because of some uncertainty about my health, I am needing to re-examine my work priorities. As you know, since retiring in 1991 and becoming an Emeritus Professor, my major continuing University commitment has been to serve as the Presiding Board Member of the Social Policy Research Centre. I now plan to disengage from this next year. It will be a wrench since I have been centrally involved in the Centre's development since its inception in 1980. You may recall that the Centre is directly funded by the Australian government. It is now securely established with an international as well as national reputation, and its 120 or so monographs are well represented in social policy debates. At its latest biennial national social policy conference, we had about 550 registrations, topline national and international speakers, an array of good-quality research papers (most not-so-good were culled out in advance), and a half-hour address by the Australian Prime Minister. People from a wide variety of disciplines, both professional and subject, contribute to the work of the centre, without any of them dominating, and I continue to hope for and work towards trying to develop social policy as a coherent university subject in its own right.

For the past few years, I have been an active member of the National Ethics Committee of the Australian Association of Social Workers, taking major responsibility in a revision of the By-laws on Ethics, and devising a national case recording system, and last year I even found myself redrafting in a rush the ethical instruments of the IFSW to avoid a professional disaster for us at the international level, only to find the redraft approved for adoption after completely inadequate discussion! (I was horrified. When we meet I will share with you that extraordinary story!)

My highest work priority must be to complete my general book on ethics and professional conduct. I remember you saying to me once that in this I had a tiger by the tail! Whatever metaphor fits, 'albatross around the neck' could be another, I'm pressing ahead and am about two-thirds done. Others can do the other things I am involved in, but this responsibility I cannot pass on. ...²⁶

²⁶ Letter, John Lawrence to Frank Turner, 18/10/95.

1.4.3 National Ethics Committee, AASW

In December, 1995, Sheila Truswell, convener of the National Ethics Committee of the AASW, wrote:

As you know, it is with the greatest regret that I accept your resignation ... However, I do understand the reasons for your resignation, and cannot argue with them.

Your contribution to this committee in the past three years has been enormous. As Convenor, I have particularly appreciated the depth of your knowledge on the subject of Ethics both generally, and also specifically in relation to the Australian Association of Social Workers. Your regular attendance at meetings and your generosity in sharing your thoughts and suggestions on all manner of topics has been of the greatest benefit to the workings of the Committee. Without doubt, we would not have achieved as much as we have done, without your consistently high level of input. The Association owes you a great deal. I know that all members of the Committee will miss you sorely, as indeed I will.

I do appreciate your offer to be a 'sounding board' on occasions, and I am sure that I will be picking up the telephone from time to time, to talk with you.²⁷

²⁷ Letter, Sheila Truswell to John Lawrence, 22/12/95.

1.5 Retiring from the Social Policy Research Centre 1996

In September 1996, I submitted to John Niland, UNSW vice-chancellor, my resignation as presiding member of the Management Board of the SPRC, from the end of 1996:

This means that I will not be completing the full 5-year term of my current appointment which commenced January 1st, 1995, but it seems wise to disengage at this point. I have had a long innings of senior responsibility in connection with the Centre and it is perhaps time to step aside to give opportunity to the next generation. Also it seems better that my successor should be involved in the Centre's next review which is due to commence in 1997.

All of us connected with the SPRC, particularly the staff, can take pride in the Centre's achievements. It has published more than 120 research monographs since 1980. Its biennial national conference has become a national focal point for social policy scholars. As you know, the 1995 conference was addressed by the Prime Minister. (Of the 550 who attended that conference, 42% came from government agencies, 33% from academia, and 21% from community organisations.) It has begun to establish a network of social policy thinkers and analysts in the South East Asia region. It has already firm links with social policy centres and scholars in North America and Europe. Since 1991, the Centre is into its fourth 5-year Agreement entered into by the University and the Commonwealth Government.

I believe the Centre should be seen as a vital part of the research infra-structure of Australian society. Successive federal governments, both Coalition and Labor, are to be applauded for their continuing support for this most unusual initiative. It is distinctive in its breadth of mission and its societal framework, and nothing less would be appropriate for serious scholarship in the subject area. The model adopted for the Centre has allowed all the relevant disciplines, both professional and subject, to contribute to the work of the Centre, and has allowed all agencies to come within its scope. Its resources are, of course, still modest when compared with its mission, and the availability of research funds in other areas, especially those connected with the state of the economy.

In this Centre, I believe the University has a unique and worthwhile development and opportunity, both to develop social policy as a serious subject in its own right, and to make social policy-making processes in our society and elsewhere better informed. If the Centre were to lose its core funding from the national government, and had to rely mainly upon undertaking commissioned research, it would lose its intellectual and practical distinction, and could no longer provide national leadership in social policy scholarship. The one regret that I have in resigning at this stage is that the Centre has not yet become a permanent, but still of course regularly reviewed, feature of the Australian social policy landscape. My hope is that there is now so much support for the Centre across the political spectrum that the Centre's existence is secure, and that it will go from strength to strength, fully supported by all of the interested parties.

My own involvement with the Centre dates from its inception. As Head of the School of Social Work, I chaired the Steering Committee of the Family Research Unit 1972-80, a national government research project financed through the Department of Social Security. I understand that it was a senior public servant, Max Wryell, one

of the members of our Committee, who took the initiative of suggesting to the Fraser Government that a Social Welfare Research Centre fully funded by the national government should be established in the University of New South Wales. Our Vice-Chancellor, Professor Rupert Myers, consulted with me about the desirable terms of the original Agreement reached in August, 1978. I was a member of the Centre's Advisory Committee from its inception in 1979 to 1989, when it was discontinued; a member of the selection committees for the Director of the Centre 1978-79, and 1986; Chairman of the Research Management Committee, established as a result of the revised Agreement in 1985; and have been the Presiding Member of the Management Board since it was established in 1990, replacing the Advisory and Research Management Committees.²⁸

Three Letters of Acknowledgement of my Contribution to the SPRC

For about 20 years, I had devoted a great deal of my time and effort to the establishment and development of a national social policy research centre at UNSW, fully funded by the federal government. As the first lecturer in social administration in the country in the 1960s, I was keenly aware of how little we knew about our own society's social conditions and policies, and felt an obligation to do what I could to change this. In the latter part of my time in the school of social work and in the five years after my retirement from the school, the centre was a continuing major commitment. I greatly valued receiving three letters which acknowledged my contribution to it – from the successive directors of the centre, and from the current secretary of the Department of Social Security.

Adam Graycar²⁹

The SPRC has had two directors and an acting director in its 17 year history, but it is John Lawrence who has been the continuing thread throughout the Centre's history.

Although the Centre formally began in January 1980, the gestation period was long and painful, and skilled midwife was Professor Lawrence. In fact he played many roles – he was part of its conception, nurtured the embryo, guarded against a miscarriage, presided over the birth, helped the toddler find its feet, and grow into a strong, proud, and productive member of our community.

²⁸ Letter, John Lawrence to John Niland, 4/9/96.

²⁹ Adam Graycar has had an impressive career in both academia and public service. Beginning with a PhD and lectureship in political science at UNSW, he was at Flinders University for 7 years teaching and researching social administration in its school of social work, headed by Ray Brown. He was foundation director of SWRC 1980-4, South Australia's first commissioner for ageing 1985-90; CEO, Office of Tertiary Education, SA Government 1990-1; executive director, Department of Employment, Training and Further Education 1992-3; director, the federal government's Australian Institute of Criminology 1994-2003; head, Cabinet Office in South Australian Government 2003-7; dean, School of Criminal Justice, Rutgers the state University of New Jersey 2007-10; professor of public policy, foundation dean of Australian Institute of Public Policy, and director, Research School of Social Sciences, ANU 2010-14; and president, Australian Social Policy Association 2013; and strategic professor in social and policy studies 2014-5. He is well known internationally. In recent years, he has taken a particular interest in the study of corruption in government. See various entries on the internet.

As first director I valued John's vision, his commitment, and counsel.

I took up the post in January 1980, but knew the Centre was first announced in the 1976 Commonwealth Budget. It was only when I read the University file that I realised what an enormous role John played, first of all, leading up to the announcement, and second, in the 4 years between the announcement and the establishment. The then Vice-Chancellor, Sir Rupert Myers was a meticulous keeper of notes and the file contained all the evidence of John's persistent commitment to the establishment of a national Centre, and its location at UNSW. Not only did the file contain reams of formal correspondence, but notes of phone conversations and ad-hoc meetings, often literally scribbled on the backs of envelopes ... Without John, the Centre would certainly not be here at UNSW today.

- John Lawrence had the vision to see the importance of a national centre for the study of social policy.
- He worked tenaciously to make it happen.
- Once it happened, he provided guidance and helped it find its way.
- Once it had found its way he provided support, over many years to keep it at the cutting edge, as the Australian leader in social policy research.

John Lawrence is a quiet achiever. His role has been incalculably valuable, but neither he, nor anybody else has proclaimed it from the rooftops. Not only the Centre, but Australian social policy research is most fortunate to have had the guiding hand and commitment of John Lawrence.

I join with others in wishing him well in his (second?) retirement.³⁰

My response to this letter from Adam Graycar, included:

... Your appointment as the founding Director of the Centre was vital in getting us off to a sound start. ... At this distance in time, I think it's reasonable for me to disclose that I did, in fact, play a significant role in your eventual appointment, and I believe it was one of the best things I did in connection with the Centre. As you know, Tony Vinson was originally appointed, but Premier Wran persuaded Tony, and the University, to annul the appointment because he desperately needed someone to tackle prison reform. When we readvertised, we had a number of reasonable applications from experienced social scientists of one kind or another, but none indicated any real awareness of social policy or social administration, to use the older British term, as an identifiable subject area. [Tony's application has been attractive because he was an experienced researcher and had occupied a senior lectureship in social administration at Sydney University (in fact, my old job!)]. I recall that you did not reapply, but I urged the Selection Committee to invite you to do so. I was aware that your recent publications would have strengthened your application. The rest is history!

I particularly value your letter, Adam, because it gives generous special recognition to the role that I played in the early days of the Centre. I think all of us who have been associated with its development can take considerable pride in the way it is maturing.³¹

³⁰ Letter, Adam Graycar to the Social Policy Research Centre, 21/11/96.

³¹ Letter, John Lawrence to Adam Graycar, 20/12/96.

Peter Saunders

First of all, I should apologise to each of you for not attending this meeting of the SPRC Management Board. I have a long-standing prior commitment in New Zealand, which unfortunately clashes with the day which was chosen for the Board meeting whilst I was on Study Leave. Aside from a previous period on Study Leave, this was the first time in my ten years at the Centre when I have not attended a meeting of the Board.

My absence at this meeting is all the more disappointing because this is the last meeting at which Emeritus Professor John Lawrence will serve as Presiding Member of the Board. I cannot let this occasion pass without making some comment on this and am writing this letter to convey both my sadness at John's departure but also in recognition of the enormous contribution that he has made to the work of the Centre since its establishment in 1980.

There have been many ingredients to the success of the SPRC over the last sixteen years. We have been fortunate to have had a series of top quality staff appointments at all levels, both professional researchers and support staff, with which we could never have functioned as effectively as we have. But the framework within which we have operated has been the result of efforts made at many other levels, both within the university generally and within the relevant sections of government.

Responding appropriately to the needs of the two parties to the Centre's agreement has been absolutely vital to the longer-term success of the Centre. The issues and debates to which this has given rise have generally been played out through the regular meetings of the Management Board and, before its formation in 1990, through the previous Management and Advisory Committees. Over the years, these committees have expended an enormous amount of effort to ensure that the Centre could function smoothly and with a clear sense of role and purpose.

There have, of course, been occasions on which difficulties have been encountered. This is to be expected of a Centre funded by government but operating as an independent unit within a university. But even these have generally been resolved promptly and amicably in ways which have satisfied the requirements of all parties without at the same time compromising the independence of the Centre or impeding its functioning.

There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that John Lawrence has played a crucial role in establishing and promoting the kind of open, honest professional environment within which all of this has been made possible. His commitment to the goals of the Centre and enthusiasm for its work have always been apparent to those familiar with his involvement in all aspects of its operation.

His clear sense of where the boundary lies between independence and scholarship on the one side and the legitimate concerns and needs of government on the other, have been a light which has helped to guide me through some sensitive and difficult periods. His insight and ability to focus on the key issues have always served to provide both wisdom and stability when both have been needed. We are all in his debt for the quality of his work for the Centre and, through it, on behalf of the both the university and broader community.

For my part, I can do little more than express my personal thanks to John for

the help and advice he has provided to me over the last ten years. Much of my own success and enjoyment of that period is due to his support and encouragement. He has never once shown anything less than total professionalism in his approach to his Board duties, and nothing other than loyalty and support to me in my role as Director.

When things had to be done after the Board met, he has always been willing to help out whenever and however he could. Over the years, I think it would be fair to say that we have developed into a pretty good team drafting what have often been rather delicate, but nonetheless crucial, letters to those in positions of influence.

Someone in my position could ask for nothing other than the support John has provided over the years in talking through the issues and resolving the problems which inevitably arise in an institution like the SPRC. I have gained an enormous amount from working with him and am proud to have had him as both a colleague and a friend.

We owe him a great amount for his past work on behalf of the Centre and his role in securing and fostering its current status. It is my hope that the success of the SPRC and its contribution through its research and other activities to the quality of life in this country will continue to serve as testimony to the ideals that John Lawrence has argued for throughout his professional life.³²

On 19 December, I wrote to Peter Saunders:

I could not have received a better parting gift than the three letters of appreciation that I have received from you, Adam Graycar, the first Director of the Centre, and Mr Blunn, the current Secretary of the Department of Social Security. Your letter captured admirably the relationship we have experienced and enjoyed during the decade of your Directorship. Working with you has been a pleasure which I am going to miss greatly, but I am looking forward to seeing you periodically in less task-focused circumstances in years to come.

I am greatly in the debt of all of you who have done so much to establish the SPRC in its present flourishing, developing state, already with a most impressive track record of social policy scholarship and stimulus to serious policy debate. I owe particular gratitude to Adam Jamrozik for his period as Acting Director, and as you know, regretted that his eventual retirement was so stressful for many of us involved, including Adam himself. I also owe particular gratitude to Sheila Shaver, who as Deputy Director in your absence, has provided impressive leadership, complementary to your own. However, without the very successful, successive appointment to the Director's job, the Centre could not have become established in the way it has. Both you and Adam Graycar, the founding Director, have done us proud. That is why your respective letters of appreciation have meant so much to me.

I cannot think of a more worthwhile venture on which to be engaged than the mission of the Social Policy Research Centre. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to have played a continuing part in the development of the Centre. May it continue to flourish, never losing sight of its broad social mission, drawing on the specialised

³² Letter, Peter Saunders to Members of the SPRC Management Board, 5/12/96.

contributions of a wide variety of subject and professional disciplines and agencies, but not captured by any of them. I still believe in the possibility and desirability of social policy as a subject in its own right and not just a field of interest. To my knowledge, no academic unit anywhere is better placed than ours, to develop this concept, and in my view the likely payoff for the improvement of human well-being would be considerable.³³

The February 1977 *SPRC Newsletter* contained this item written by Peter Saunders:

The December 1996 Meeting of the Centre's Management Board was the last meeting held under the Board's Presiding Member, Emeritus Professor John Lawrence, who had submitted his resignation to the Vice-Chancellor in September. John had indicated to me some time ago that he wished to resign in order to concentrate on other activities and allow the timely appointment of a successor. His departure is nonetheless a sad occasion in light of his very long association with the Centre.

He was in fact heavily involved in the discussions which took place before the Centre was formally announced and there can be little doubt that he was influential in seeing it located at the University of New South Wales. In the early 1980s, John served as a member of the Advisory Committee of the Social Welfare Research Centre (as it was then called) and he chaired its Research Management Committee between 1985 and 1989, before being appointed as Presiding Member of the SPRC Management Board in 1990.

The success of any institution like the SPRC depends upon much more than how efficiently its daily operations feed into the production of its various outputs. The framework is also critical, as are the ideals and values that underlie it. Creating a productive, committed and professional organisation like the SPRC has been the result of a team effort in which many players have been involved. In our case, the Management Board has played an important role in the development of the Centre and John Lawrence has played a vital part in that process. Over the years, he has, through his many contributions to the Board's work, highlighted the importance attached to the Centre being located within a University, both for the kind of questions that have been asked in our research and how the research itself is conducted and disseminated. In particular, he has always emphasised the need for social policy research to be theoretically informed and located within the broader fabric of society and its values.

Personally, I could have asked for nothing other than the support that John has provided to me over my years as a Director, both as a sounding board for my own ideas and as an independent source of ideas of his own. I have gained enormously from working with him and greatly value having him as a colleague and as a friend. Above all, however, John has been a friend to the Centre and to everyone associated with it. Through his involvement with it he has demonstrated his strong commitment to the ideals of scholarship and compassion which have been integral to our success.

The position of Presiding Member of the Management Board will be taken over by Professor John Nevile, while Professor Allan Borowski from the School of Social

33 Letter, John Lawrence to Peter Saunders, 19/12/96.

Work at UNSW will take up his appointment to the Board from the beginning of 1997.³⁴

A. S. Blunn, Secretary, Department of Social Security, Canberra

As mentioned, the third letter which I greatly valued came from the current head of the Department of Social Security, expressing departmental appreciation of my 'very significant contribution' to the work of the Centre, which had spanned the centre's 17-year history. He understood that:

... in a less formal sense your contribution began long before the establishment of the Centre, when you chaired the Steering Committee of the Family Research Unit over the years from 1972 to 1980. This was a national research project financed through the Department of Social Security. The discussions of its Steering Committee helped to give impetus to the proposal that the Government establish an independent national research organisation in the field of social policy. I believe you yourself played an important part in the decision to establish it at the University of New South Wales.

You were a member of its Advisory Committee from 1979 to 1989 when it was known as the Social Welfare Research Centre and as Chairman of its Research Management Committee from 1985 to 1989. This contribution has continued through your role as Presiding Member of its Management Board of the Social Policy Research Centre from 1990 until the present. I should also note your participation in the selection of its two distinguished Directors.

This is, of course, only the record of your formal role in the development of the Centre. The views of some who have been involved in its work at first hand reflect a much closer focus on the work it does and the way this is carried out. Several senior departmental officers have served with you on the Social Policy Research Centre Board. They would wish me to remark upon the time and thought you have devoted to issues of principle in the matters before you and your meticulous care in advice and decision making. In particular, they speak of your passionate commitment to the vision of the Centre as fulfilling a comprehensive social policy brief, and as conducting independent high quality research which is relevant to the needs of society and government. They have expressed appreciation for your concern to achieve strong links between all the Departments and the Centre's policy and research agendas and your willingness to adopt Centre administrative reform in order to achieve efficiencies.

The current strength of the Social Policy Research Centre owes much to your wisdom, advice and support over many years. I trust you will continue to be interested in the work of the Centre and the directions it takes in the future. I hope you will remain a close friend to it.³⁵

In my response to this letter, I stated:

We are especially privileged when we can devote our ideas, time and talents to

³⁴ Peter Saunders, 'Changes to the SPRC Management Board', *SPRC Newsletter*, No 64, February 1997, p. 5.

³⁵ Letter, A. S. Blunn to John Lawrence, 5/12/96.

work in which we have a deep personal and professional commitment. This has certainly been the case with my involvement with the Centre.

Successive Australian governments are to be congratulated on their continuing support for an independent, university-based, national, social policy research facility, which can make it possible for social policy debate and action in this country and elsewhere, to be better informed. I believe that the more than 120 research monographs and national conferences and seminars sponsored by the SPRC are making a significant contribution to this end. It is a sign of a mature democracy for the national government to fund and sponsor this kind of enterprise. Without the funding and legitimacy provided by government, the broad societal research mission of the Centre would be impossible to pursue successfully, and social policy research would be underdeveloped, limited and fragmented, largely reflective of those sectional interest with financial resources to devote to their research interests.

The role of you own Department has, of course, been vital in the development of the Centre. From the outset, the government's funding has come through your Department, and we have always enjoyed an especially close relationship with senior officers and researchers in your Department. This is entirely appropriate, given your Department's social policy responsibilities. It is to everyone's credit that the particular concerns and responsibilities of the Department have not dominated the overall research agenda of the SPRC, although they are clearly well represented. The Centre is certainly not perceived as part of the research arm of the Department of Social Security. If it were, the very idea of the centre would have been lost.

Finally, I took the opportunity to acknowledge various connections I had had with the department in the course of my professional career.

Virtually my first job was as a social worker in the Department of Social Services (as it was then called) in Adelaide, from 1956 to the beginning of 1958, when I went to the ANU to undertake a doctorate on the history of professional social work in Australia. Lyra Taylor was still the national director of the social work service (she was appointed in 1944 to head social work and research in the Department), and Frank Rowe the Director-General (the Department's first, appointed in 1941.) Both were impressive people. Lyra Taylor was keen that I should gain a general understanding of the Department, so at one stage, I went to Melbourne for a brief crash course under her direction! My interest and support of an adequate national income security system has been long-standing. My honours thesis for my first degree in history and political science at Adelaide University in 1953 was on 'Australia-wide old-age pensions'. When I was appointed to the first Australian lectureship in social administration at Sydney University in 1961, I had a chance to develop a systematic interest in social policy as a subject. Income security was, of course, an important topic, and had at least some Australian teaching material, thanks to the work of Tom Kewley, greatly assisted by Max Wryell, First Assistant Director-General of the Department.

In 1968, after a year in the United States, I was invited to give a paper at the Departmental social work conference in Canberra on the scope of social work service in the Department. I can recall very constructive discussions with Bruce

Hamilton, appointed Director-General in 1966, and it was a pleasure to have dealings with him when the Social Welfare Research Centre was being established a decade later. The work of the Family Research Centre, financed through the Department and located in my school of social work, gave me regular contact with Max Wryell and Spencer Colliver of the Department throughout much of the 1970s.

Pat Lanigan, Bruce Hamilton's flamboyant successor, invited me to provide a Conference overview paper and edit the proceedings (in a special edition of *Social Security*) of the International Year of the Child National Conference in 1979, and I chaired the Conference Follow-up Group appointed by the Minister. I found my dealings with Pat to be lively and generous, I suspect partly because I did not want or expect payment for the professional tasks I was doing. (I was, after all, on a full university salary, and this was a mainline professional responsibility as far as I was concerned!)

During the 1980s, I can recall many phone conversations with Anne Brennan, who headed the Department's social work service. I knew her well because I had supervised her master's social planning thesis, which she undertook with us while on a public service fellowship.

It is clear that one way or another I seem to have had a variety of connections with your Department, extending over much of my working life. The purpose of this letter, then, is not only to acknowledge your letter of appreciation of 5th December, but, in turn, acknowledge the contribution many in the Department have made to my own professional experience and things which we mutually value.³⁶

In March 1997, just prior to our departure overseas to visit our daughter's family and in California, SPRC held a formal farewell. I wrote to Peter Saunders, 'It was clearly a tribute to the Centre that the Vice-Chancellor (John Niland) made a point of attending and making such generous comments. I obviously valued the opportunity to reaffirm with both John Niland and Chris Fell the significance of the Centre for the University.'³⁷ The Centre came directly under Chris Fell as deputy vice-chancellor (research and international), and I came to know him well. Chris thanked me 'for the immense contribution you have made to the Social Policy Research Centre from its establishment to its current position today. It am sure the Centre would not be as strong as it is without the time and energy you have devoted to it.'³⁸

I was given two most unusual gifts – a Swedish hand-painted jug which fitted perfectly in a niche in the stone wall in our sitting room, and superbly executed portrait by Biek Lai, which, I said, 'captures how I would like to be seen and remembered'. After my disengagement from the centre, I appreciated being able to continue participating in the biennial national social policy conferences, on an honorary basis.

36 Letter, John Lawrence to A. S. Blunn, 19/12/96.

37 Letter, John Lawrence to Peter Saunders, 18/3/96.

38 Letter, C. J. D. Fell to John Lawrence, 25/3/97.

1.5.1 SPRC Loses Core Funding from 2001

In 2000, I wrote this self-explanatory letter to the vice-chancellor about the future of the university's SPRC:

In my letter of resignation as Presiding Member of the Social Policy Research Centre's Management Board in 1996 (enclosure 1), I wrote about the special significance for Australia and for our University of the continuing development of the Centre.

As you know, the federal government's recent decision not to continue the five-year Agreements between the University and the Government under which the Centre's core funding has been provided has placed in jeopardy the future of the SPRC as a national social policy research centre. You may have already seen my recent Sydney Morning Herald article (enclosure 2). I have sent copies of it, with especially tailored letters to a number of people in relevant political positions – John Howard, Kim Beazley, Meg Lees, Jocelyn Newman, Wayne Swan, Cheryl Kernot, Brendan Nelson, Jenny Macklin, and Bob Carr, to Ian Castles and Margaret Guilfoyle (members of the 1997-98 review of the Centre), to Adam Graycar (first Director of the Centre); and to Michael Raper (President of ACOSS). In my letters to Mr Howard and Senator Newman (enclosure 3), I have urged the government to reconsider this issue.

So far, I have received a very positive written response from Senator Meg Lees, Leader of the Australian Democrats (enclosure 4), which shared my concerns and gives an undertaking to do something about them. It would be gratifying to receive similar responses from within the major political parties, because the Centre continues to need bipartisan political support. A response from ACOSS has also indicated concern and enclosed a letter the ACOSS President has written to Senator Newman urging the Government to 'introduce a system of core funding for the SPRC, and possibly other social policy research organisations ...'

If we do not manage to maintain and develop the SPRC as a *national* (and international) social policy research centre, I would predict that in the next generation the need for such a centre will be rediscovered. Meanwhile what has already been achieved through the efforts of our Social Policy Research Centre will have been squandered and not built upon.

If the Government does not re-establish core funding for the Centre, I hope the University will do all it can to help and encourage the Centre to maintain its current functioning as a truly national centre with a responsibility to develop social policy as a subject. This could still be achieved by a recast (now independent) mission statement which includes these functions, and core funding from University and/or philanthropic sources (for example, from the Myer Foundation). This would free the SPRC from continuing political and bureaucratic entanglements and give it an independent image provided the philanthropic help identified fully with its broad social policy development mandate.

I am aware, John, that in the University's administrative structure the SPRC comes under the responsibilities of Professor Ross Milbourne, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), and that this letter and its enclosures will be passed on to him. I decided, however, that I should write directly to you because of the seriousness of what had happened – for social policy scholarship, for our University, and for Australian

society. I do not believe that I am overstating the situation. Also, you have indicated in the past, for example at the Centre's national social policy conferences, your interest and pride in the Centre's development.

As you will know, last year I had published *Argument for Action: Ethics and Professional Conduct*, Ashgate, Aldershot. What is happening to the SPRC has induced me to undertake one more major project – writing about social policy as an academic discipline.

I have kept in close touch with Professor Peter Saunders, the current Director of the SPRC, and he shares my interests and concerns.³⁹

My efforts and those of many others were of no avail. The Howard government persisted in its decision to stop the core funding of the Centre, and placed its reliance on market forces to determine what social policy projects should proceed and who should do them. I described this in my SMH article as 'social vandalism', with apparent disregard for the effects on the agenda and nature of the national social policy research body which had taken so much time and effort to get established. In future, SPRC would have to rely on a range of sources for its funding, which included the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services, a range of other Commonwealth and State departments, research funding bodies like the Australian Research Council (ARC), and a variety of non-government agencies. In 2002, the director could report a total income higher than the income in 2000, the last year of core funding from the Commonwealth government. He described this as a formidable achievement, which might seem to vindicate the decision to withdraw core funding, but this ignored what had been sacrificed to achieve a large and growing budget.

Of greatest significance here is the ability to shape our own research agenda and, in particular, to raise our sights above the immediate pressures in order to take a longer-term perspective on those factors that, although often currently dormant, will eventually require a policy response.

He referred to the high turnover of projects which now pervaded the research agenda, reflecting the shift towards research that was short-term in both its focus and its conduct.⁴⁰ I was, of course, bitterly disappointed at this turn of events.

I did not ever complete a book on social policy as an academic discipline. Throughout my university teaching this was my main area of teaching and I was aware that although there had been a massive increase in the availability of comparative teaching materials, the subject-area was still little recognised, apart from in the United Kingdom and Finland, as a university discipline in its own right. The societal social welfare framework which I developed in the 1960s provided coherence to my teaching, research, curriculum design, and involvement with the SPRC. Its main components were: charting the population and the population policies which influenced its size and nature;

39 Letter, John Lawrence to John Niland, 18/5/2000.

40 *SPRC Annual Report 2002*, p. 2.

identifying their common social goals (income security, health, housing, education, employment, recreation⁴¹) and means to their attainment; examining special population categories (the aged, children, people with disabilities, the physically and mentally disabled, migrants, the indigenous population, ethnic minorities, legal offenders, etc) and their means for goal attainment; and examining outcomes of policy interventions. The means to goal attainment were the formally organised ones operating at the different levels of social structure (local, regional, national, international) – governmental, non-governmental, and commercial; and the informal ones of family, friendships, neighbourhoods, and work-groups. My social welfare framework provided a basis for comparative analysis which I argued in a paper to the SPRC in the early 1980s, was essential to the growth of the subject of social policy.

As indicated in my letter to John Niland in 2000, what had happened to the SPRC gave me added incentive to get on with writing on social policy as a university discipline, now that at long last my general book on professional ethics was behind me. I had, in fact, over the years collected a large amount of relevant material to this end, but I finally regretfully decided that the general book on social policy of the kind I had always had in mind was now beyond my individual capacities because of the size of the task. A considerable number of excellent social policy scholars, for example at LSE in Britain, should surely tackle the task collectively for the sake of the world-wide development of their subject and this may well be happening, although I was not aware of it.

41 This list could, of course, be extended, but any list would need to include these.

1.6 A Career Overview 1999

My entry in the Billups book of portraits of international social work notables gives a summary account of my career as I saw it in the late 1990s⁴², after it was virtually complete. This provides the reader with a final general review of much of what has been covered in the writing of this autobiography.

Billups: *Could you share with us some of the early life influences or experiences that helped steer you into social work?*

Lawrence: I was guided into social work by Trevor Jones, who was a psychologist on the staff of St. Peter's College, the private Anglican school I attended in Adelaide for the final five years of my secondary schooling. After a year at a state high school, I was admitted to St. Peter's College. My schooling at both state and private schools gave me an awareness of class and religious differences, prejudices, and opportunities, although Australian society was obviously not as socially stratified as societies in the Old World. The headmaster of St. Peter's was Colin Gordon, a rather enigmatic Englishman whom I came to respect, especially in my final year, when I was captain of the school. He helped me with my high jumping and later urged me to apply for a Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford. I had no clear ambition while at school. According to a family story, I once answered the question 'What are you going to be when you grow up?' with 'I don't have any ambition; I'll just go into the bank like dad.' My father entered the Commonwealth bank at the age of 16 and left at 65.

My brother and I were born in Mount Gambier, a small country town. After transferring to the Adelaide branch of the bank in 1934, my father became notorious in bank circles by refusing all further transfers until his children were educated. This took a considerable length of time, my younger sister finally graduating in economics in the early 1960s. Neither of my parents was university educated but all three of their offspring became academics.

My parents were basically decent, responsible people who loved, encouraged and supported their children. I can remember my father saying when he heard that I might choose social work as a career, 'You won't earn a lot of money, but you should have work when others are out of work!' His mother had been an active member of the Ladies Benevolent Society. My brother and I recall being excluded from the room in their house in South Melbourne where she placed cakes, pastries, and other perishables she distributed to 'the poor'; she had collected them from shops at the end of their trading week. Apart from Grandma Lawrence, I was not aware of any particular welfare tradition in the family.

As well as being the first vocational counsellor to be employed by an independent school, Trevor Jones knew about the social work course at the University of Adelaide, so I was obviously extremely lucky to discover social work as a career option. I was, in fact, the first male student recruited straight from school to this particular course. At the time, only the Universities of

42 James O. Billups (ed), 'John Lawrence', *Faithful Angels: Portraits of International Social Work Notables*, NASW Press, Washington D.C., 2002, pp. 165-179.

Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide had social work courses or programs. Trevor Jones suggested I combine the diploma in social science (a social work qualification) with a degree in history and political science (I topped the state in history in the Leaving Honours examination, which served as matriculation for university study.)

Studying modern greats, or PPE (philosophy, politics, and economics) at Oxford helped me to decide to seek social work employment on my return to Australia, partly because the field was still small and I could be part of its development.

Billups: *What was the nature of your education for a career in social work?*

Lawrence: My combined diploma in social science and honours BA in history and political science at the University of Adelaide (1950-1953) included four field placements: at the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau, the state Child Welfare Department, the Australian Red Cross, and a Commonwealth Government Repatriation Department hospital. My time as a sergeant psychological examiner in a unit of the Citizens Military Force under the command of Trevor Jones was also counted as relevant. My honours thesis for the bachelor of arts was an historical study entitled 'Australia-Wide Old Age Pensions'.

At Oxford, I attended Magdalen College, following in the steps of other Australians, including Malcolm Fraser, a future Australian prime minister. Bob Hawke, another future Australian prime minister, was a fellow Rhodes Scholar while I was in Oxford, but he chose the postgraduate route. I might also have undertaken a postgraduate degree but was well advised that postgraduate study at the university tended to be a rather isolated and lonely experience, and I would get more educational benefit from further undergraduate study.

PPE covered six compulsory subjects and two electives. The compulsory subjects were general philosophy from Descartes to the present, moral and political philosophy, theory and working of political institutions, British political and constitutional history since 1830, principles of economics, and economic organisation. My electives were British social and economic history since 1760, and the political structure of the British Commonwealth.

I was secretary, then president, of the Raleigh Club, a club of Commonwealth students who met to discuss social and political affairs, often with an eminent speaker. The focus was on the emergence of independent nations from their former colonial status.

One curious aspect of the Oxford experience was the virtual absence of sociology as a recognised discipline. Amy Wheaton, the director of the University of Adelaide social work course, had already given me some sociological education, but the first full chair of sociology in Australia was as late as 1958. For someone like myself with a developing interest in social structures and social relationships, this was a matter of concern.

Billups: *Tell us about your first professional practice responsibility.*

Lawrence: On my return to Adelaide, I was employed briefly as a social worker by the Family Welfare Bureau, which helped ex-servicemen and their families. My next employer was the Commonwealth Department of Social Services,

which under the direction of Lyra Taylor had developed a nationwide social work service connected with Australia's social security system. Our state social work director was Madge Forsyth, who had a master's degree from Case Western Reserve University in the United States. She provided excellent supervision, which I certainly needed and appreciated.

I provided a casework service to beneficiaries in Adelaide and for a residential rehabilitation centre. Lyra Taylor organised for me a study tour of the Central Office of the department, which was still in Melbourne. I remember vividly the head of the tiny research unit warning me that I would lose my academic soul if I worked with him, because his research topics and what he could say were heavily circumscribed by the government.

Generally, I could not have wished for a better setting for my early professional practice. We had good professional leadership and supervision, staff development programs, staff conferences, and a national social policy framework we were expected to understand and contribute to.

During this period, I became secretary of the small South Australian branch of the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) and was the organising secretary for the Sixth National Conference of the AASW. Through the conference work, I became familiar with colleagues in other states and with leaders in the field, most of whom attended the conference.

Billups: *Am I correct that this practice experience was followed by doctoral study?*

Lawrence: Yes. My early practice experience, including my experience with the professional association, convinced me that social work was likely to be a worthwhile long-term career. By 1958, social work education in Australia had been developing for three decades, and many of the pioneers were still around. No history of Australian social work had as yet been undertaken, so my next career move was to do just that. A doctoral research scholarship in the History Department of the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University in Canberra made this possible. I was only interested in the scholarship if I could do this topic.

The Australian National University (ANU) began after World War II as a completely postgraduate research university. Distinguished scholars were recruited back to Australia from overseas to head its schools. Historian Keith Hancock led the Research School of Social Sciences. He had been the general editor of the official history of Britain in World War II and had invited Richard Titmuss to write the volume on the social services, despite his lack of academic qualifications. That volume is said to have led to Titmuss's seminal appointment to the Chair of Social Administration at the London School of Economics.

Hancock suggested Titmuss as an examiner for my PhD thesis; the other examiner was W. D. Borrie, a notable social historian and demographer who had taught in the University of Sydney social work course in the 1940s. My thesis supervisors were Robin Gollan, a labor historian; George Zubrzycki, a sociologist; R. S. Parker, a political scientist; and Borrie.

My historical study of the development of professional social work in Australia was well supported by my social work colleagues. The research process

was often tedious, hampered by inadequate or no archival policies and poor recordkeeping. When I could locate a document, I often had to copy it by hand like a medieval monk. It was, however, a rare opportunity to study a nascent profession with the collaboration of most of the main participants.

The ANU Press published *Professional Social Work in Australia* in 1965. Regrettably it is still the only general historical account available. I updated it to some extent in 1975 and in the early 1990s.

Billups: *I understand that you entered into an extended period as a lecturer and, later, professor of social work, as well as an administrator.*

Lawrence: During my research for the doctorate, my wife and I had lived in Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide. We were particularly attracted to Sydney as a place to settle because of its cosmopolitanism and natural beauty, and because of the range of challenges and opportunities offered by its size. I was interested in the possibility of a community work position where I could make greater use of my educational and research background than in a casework position, but the only job available was assistant to the executive director of a state council of social service. It was a very poorly paid position with no obvious career prospects.

By this time we already had two young children, with a third on the way. Instead of returning to agency practice, I took an academic appointment in the social work school at the University of Sydney. The director of the department was a British urban sociologist, Tom Brennan, who was familiar with the British postwar university development of a subject rather misleadingly called social administration. I was to undertake teaching and research in social administration, the first such appointment in Australia. I was responsible for Social Theory 2, a final-year degree subject that combined social philosophy, the analysis of social welfare problems, policies and provision, and organisation theory. This was compulsory for social work students, but also could be taken by arts students. One of those was Charles Perkins, one of the first aboriginal Australians to graduate from an Australian university. Charles was to become a controversial aboriginal leader with fluctuating fortunes. At one stage in the 1980s, he headed the Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

My colleagues included two founders of Australian social work, Norma Parker and Kate Ogilvie. Kate was a key figure in the development of medical social work and the New South Wales Council of Social Service. Norma was the outstanding first president of the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) and played a large part in the founding and early development of the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS). Kate had strong links with British medical social work. Norma had a master's degree and social work qualification from the Catholic University of America and maintained a particular interest in social work in North America. She was, however, very much an internationalist in her belief in the need for the profession to be operating appropriately in all societies where intelligent, informed, professional help could assist people. Norma has been a special friend and mentor throughout my professional life. In 1969, I compiled and edited a book, *Norma Parker's Record of Service*, to mark her retirement, and was delighted when this contributed to

her receiving an honorary doctorate from the University of Sydney.

Although my teaching and research responsibilities were focused on the social, political, economic, and institutional context of the social work profession, I continued to be an active member of the AASW at the state and federal level. I also recruited others to the profession.

My appointment in 1968 to the University of New South Wales to fill the first full chair of social work in the country gave me a rare opportunity to shape a social work curriculum and to develop a full range of postgraduate educational opportunities: master's by research and by coursework, and doctorate by research.

In 1981, shortly before I ceased being head of the school, we had 423 students enrolled in the four-year BSW degree, 19 in the MSW (by coursework), seven in the MSW (by research), and four as doctoral students. Some of the early undergraduate teaching was done in other schools. In the early 1970s, the social reform Whitlam federal government offered funding for Australian schools of social work to increase their intake. I believed this was likely to be 'soft' money, that social work should grow in open competition with other career options, and that already our school had achieved a reasonable size. Two of our academic staff did, however, benefit from a special scholarship scheme to improve their academic qualifications.

All our BSW students learned about the various dimensions of their profession – casework, group work, community work, administration, and research – with some degree of specialisation, a major and a minor, and social welfare or social policy subjects, as well as human behaviour and the social and behavioural sciences. Field education and classroom learning were integrated. The school employed a political/moral philosopher to teach two semesters of social philosophy, one a general introduction to ethics or moral philosophy, the other an introduction to political philosophy, especially democratic political philosophy, to attempt to give normative or value coherence to the various components of the course. We produced the first doctoral social work graduate in about 1983. Since then many have followed, both in our own and other Australian schools. My successor as head of school in 1983, Tony Vinson, was particularly successful in stimulating the school's research degree program.

Billups: *Were you involved in the life of the university as a whole?*

Lawrence: Yes. The University of New South Wales developed soon after World War 11 as Sydney's second university. By the time of my retirement from the chair of social work in 1991, when I was appointed an emeritus professor, the university was rated as one of the best in the country, with a developing international reputation, especially in the Asian and Pacific region. It has been a pleasure to see it mature and to have been part of the process.

My membership of the Professorial Board and on selection committees for the academic staff of different schools, such as law, history, philosophy, accounting and community medicine, helped to keep my own discipline in a broader perspective and gave credibility to a newish venture like social work education.

I felt a responsibility towards the university as a whole, not just to my neck of the woods. In the mid-1970s, I took the initiative in the Professorial Board

to establish a Resources Allocation Committee to monitor the university's allocation criteria. From 1979 to 1981, I was also a member of the governing council of the University.

When I joined the university, social work education had briefly been in the School of Sociology, but had then been established as a separate school linked with the Schools of Education, Health Administration, and Librarianship in a highly centralised Board of Vocational Studies in which academic staff had no part.

I was responsible for negotiating a full academic faculty structure under the name of Faculty of Professional Studies. I was its first chairman and chaired it again later. In 1985, I edited the faculty's joint and united submission to a university review committee, fending off an attempt to dismantle the faculty and lob social work back into the arts. The schools of our faculty were all professional schools preparing people mainly for work in the government and not-for-profit sectors of society. They had a common interest in the nature of professionalism.

In 1997, under financial pressure from the federal government, the university finally dismantled the faculty, with social work being relocated in a swollen faculty of Arts and the Humanities. Although there is considerable ambiguity, education for a particular profession and education in a particular subject or scientific discipline, though intertwined, are distinct. Professional education and research must be informed by the values and purposes of the profession in question, while the discipline or subject education is informed by knowledge transmission and development. Academic structures have considerable influence on content and on educational outcomes.

Billups: *During much of this same period, your professional responsibilities were hardly limited to your school or to your university alone.*

Lawrence: True. While at Sydney University, I was the first secretary-treasurer of an association of teachers in schools of social work and was actively involved in the founding of the Australian Association for Social Work Education in the late 1970s. We already had formed the national Standing Committee of Heads of Schools in 1975. I represented this group in a joint committee with the AASW to review AASW accreditation criteria and procedures when relations between some of the schools and the AASW had become particularly strained.

When I was elected federal president of the AASW (1968 to 1970) education issues were paramount. Eligibility for AASW membership – following completion of an accredited education program – is the only nationally recognised qualification for social work practice. With a round of new social work programs in the late 1960s and early 1970s, some of them in colleges of advanced education, the professional association had to think through its attitude to the many program proposals coming forward. Because many of us in social work education were also active members of the professional association, the association managed to act as at least a minimum standard setter for the profession.

The overall entry standard was raised to four years of degree-level education, with various other requirements, and Australia was spared a proliferation of

small, inadequate social work programs. All the same, in roughly a decade (1965 to 1976) Australia moved from four to 13 schools of social work, four in colleges of advanced education, and the rest in universities. The late 1980s saw the beginning of another round of new schools. By federal government decree, the system of colleges of advanced education was abolished, so all social work schools were now in universities, at least in name.

Billups: *I understand that a national centre with which you have been closely associated is of special importance*

Lawrence: Throughout my academic life, I have never lost sight of my dual concerns for social work education and for social policy as a subject in its own right. For the past 20 years, my social policy concern has been reflected in a national social policy research centre at the University of New South Wales. The current university leadership has referred to it as 'a jewel in the crown of the university'. It has published more than 140 research monographs, and its biennial national conferences have become a focal point for scholars, both national and international. Australia's Prime Minister addressed the 1995 conference, which attracted more than 500 people from government agencies, academia, and community organisations.

The Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC) has stimulated social policy debate through seminars. It has built up a network of social policy research scholars, and has links to social policy centres and scholars in North America, Europe and an emerging network in Southeast Asia.

The centre's model has allowed all relevant disciplines, as well as government and nongovernmental agencies to contribute to the work. With a staff of about 30, the centre's resources are, of course, still modest. It is, however, a significant movement in the direction of serious social policy scholarship and making social policymaking processes better informed.

However, the centre's future is uncertain because of government withdrawal of core funding. If the centre loses its breadth of mission, I believe Australia will have lost its only chance in this generation to develop social policy as a coherent subject or discipline. My own involvement with the centre dates from its inception in the late 1970s. As head of the school of social work, I chaired the steering committee of the Family Research Unit from 1972 to 1980, a national government research project financed through the Department of Social Security. In 1976, Max Wryell, a senior public servant on our committee, told me the Fraser government was going to establish a social welfare research centre fully funded by the national government at the University of New South Wales. I became a member of the centre's advisory committee, chaired its research management committee, and presided over its management board from 1990 until 1996, when I retired. I helped select the centre's director in 1978/9 and again in 1986.

When I retired from the centre, I was pleased to receive letters of appreciation from each of the successive directors, and also from the head of the Department of Social Security through which our funding came. In helping with this institutional development, I hoped I was making a far greater contribution to the long-term development of social policy as a serious subject than

I could ever had made with my own individual research and writing.

I have never been a reluctant academic. I have positively enjoyed the degree of personal autonomy and intellectual freedom and interchange of a genuine university context.

Billups: *What have been your primary areas of academic interest and scholarship? Have these changed over time?*

Lawrence: Throughout my academic life, I have taught social policy, initially at the undergraduate level, then to postgraduate students in the 1970s. In the 1960s, I developed a social welfare framework that provided coherence to my teaching, research, curriculum design, and involvement with the SPRC. Its main components are: charting the population, identifying their common social goals and means to their attainment, examining special population categories and their means for goal attainment, and examining outcomes of policy interventions. My social welfare framework provided a basis for comparative analysis, which, I argued in a paper to the SPRC in the early 1980s, is essential to the growth of the subject of social policy.

Now that my general book on professional ethics is behind me, I think my next project must be to write on social policy as a university discipline⁴³. My active interest in the history of the social work profession has been only spasmodic since my doctorate, although my conviction about the importance of historical study remains. It is often hard to give it priority in the face of the profession's contemporary and anticipated problems. On my 'retirement' agenda is helping to establish adequate archival systems for both social work and social work agencies.

My doctorate stimulated my interest in the study of professions generally, and so did my involvement with the Faculty of Professional Studies and interactions with people from a wide variety of occupations. My book on ethics and professional conduct is now complete.

Billups: *Can you tell us a bit about the book?*

Lawrence: *Argument for Action: Ethics and Professional Conduct* was published in April 1999 by Ashgate, an international publisher in the humanities and social sciences. The specialised expertise and power of professions and professionals make it both difficult and pressing for them to identify and justify their contributions to society. That is the central concern that gave rise to the book.

The book is in two parts. In the first, the concepts of 'ethics' and 'professional conduct' are discussed through examining the relevant literature and constructing conceptual models for each. In the second, the model of ethical choice is used to discuss ethical justification of professional conduct in the various forms, locations, and stages provided by its social setting. The work concludes with a proposal for a national standing commission on the professions.

I have not lost my interest in social work, but rather have chosen to give priority in recent years to these broader intellectual grounding ventures, stimulated by my social work concerns and experience. For me, ethics or moral

⁴³ This was my aspiration at that time. See pp. 33-4.

reasoning is the most significant human attempt to provide justification for human action. It should be central in all our educational and professional ventures.

Billups: *Interspersed with your years in social work education in your homeland, you have had a rich variety of study leaves, visiting professorships, and teaching exchanges. Can you recount something about those experiences?*

Lawrence: My first study leave, at the University of Michigan in 1967, made a lasting impact on me. It was the university's sesquicentenary, and there was a lecture series 'great minds of the century' that included people like Gunnar Myrdal, Raymond Firth, and Jean Piaget. The School of Social Work was large and flourishing, although some of its faculty were on soft money. I taught or co-taught three courses, or subjects, and monitored others. A faculty committee, which I chaired, made curriculum recommendations on social philosophy and professional ethics. And I was used as a consultant by Roger Lind, who was special adviser to the UN for the 1968 international conference of ministers responsible for social welfare.

In the summer, many of the American cities blew apart in race riots, including nearby Detroit. The extremes of wealth and poverty and the attitudes towards those who didn't 'make it' in American society horrified me. Yet the year provided enormous professional stimulus, and my family greatly benefited from it.

We have maintained contact with some of our Michigan friends ever since that memorable year. I organised national residential seminars led by my Michigan colleagues Paul Glasser in 1974 and Rosemary Sarri in 1978. Rosemary's seminar was on the evaluation of social welfare programs. She and I produced a book from the case studies presented at the seminar. Senator Peter Baume, who chaired the Australian Senate Standing Committee on Social Welfare, was a participant and found it especially helpful, because his committee had a reference to report to the senate on the adequacy of Australia's health and welfare services.

I wrote for advice to the executive director of the Council on Social Work Education, Katherine Kendall. She channelled my letter to an excellent service in the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, which assisted overseas scholars to be most appropriately placed. The service sent my details to the six schools they deemed most appropriate; four were interested, and their correspondence was then sent to me.

Having me was an experiment for the Michigan school. The school was on a roll, its morale could not have been higher. I recall Dean Fidele Fauri getting into trouble with the faculty because he told the university's president that perhaps Columbia University's School of Social Work still ranked ahead of Michigan's. Only up-to-date local knowledge in the United States would have identified Michigan as one of the best places for me to go for my sabbatical.

My second study leave was in the second half of 1974, in the Department of Social Administration and Social Work at the University of York in Britain. This allowed me to observe the rather trouble relationship between social administration and social work in that country. I found British social work

fragmented. It did not have the same university standing as did social administration, and it had neglected management education, partly because of the educational ambiguity of the social administration courses. (In recent years, a number of the Australian schools of social work have tacked 'and social policy' onto their names. This seems to me to court educational confusion, but it is easily done when a country has no independent school of social policy teaching and research.) On our northern summer break in 1974, the family toured in Europe in a camping van, retracing some of the terrain my wife and I had covered in the summer of 1954.

My wife and I returned to the United States for another full year in 1983, at least partly to get out of the hair of Tony Vinson, my successor as head of the school at the University of New South Wales. This time, on the suggestion of Werner Boehm, I was a visiting professor at Rutgers University in New Jersey for the first half of the year and, on Terry Hokenstad's suggestion, at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland for the second half. Werner and Terry were both former deans of their schools. In both places, I taught regular courses, made presentations to faculty and university colloquia on social policy and on the teaching of ethics, and visited other schools. The year was particularly notable because my wife, Trish, discovered she had talent for sculpting, which she has developed seriously ever since.

I was the Moses Distinguished Professor at Hunter College in New York for another full year in the United States in 1987 and 1988, mainly working on my book on ethics and professional conduct.

For three months in 1990, I was on a teaching exchange at the University of Stockholm teaching a course on professional ethics. Before going to Sweden, we had two months at Wilfrid Laurier University in Canada, where I helped establish a social work doctoral program, did some teaching and consultation, and made presentations to a number of Canadian schools. I have greatly valued these opportunities to develop comparative knowledge, to see one's own country and programs in broader perspective, and to build an international network of professional colleagues who share similar values and concerns. If I had my way, I would build into many people's existence periods of working and living in other places. Adequate professional knowledge can know no national boundaries.

Billups: *During most of your career you have been heavily involved in local, state, interstate, and national activities. Which of these activities received the most of your attention?*

Lawrence: I have already mentioned some of my involvement at a national and interstate level in relation to social work education. My professional social work commitment has led to a substantial engagement in the social welfare institutions of my society. ACOSS, as the nation's peak social welfare body, has been of particular interest, and I had a range of involvements with it in the 1960s and 1970s when it was establishing a significant influence in community and government circles. The foundations for its present high profile in social and community debates were laid then.

In the mid-1960s, I prepared the ACOSS contribution to the Terminology

Project of the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) and edited the proceedings of its national conference. I gave plenary session papers at three successive ACOSS conferences and helped it to review its constitution in the early 1970s, and to provide a report to the National Poverty Inquiry in 1973. For five years I was an elected member of the Board of Governors, and was vice president for two.

In 1969, as federal president of the AASW, I gave two days of evidence in the first 'work value' case for social workers in the Commonwealth Public Service. The case was an industrial milestone for the profession. For the first time, social work salaries were aligned with the salaries of other professions with degree-level education. The arbitrator was a clearly sympathetic listener to the social work case. At one point in informal conversation, he disclosed to me that if he had his time again, this would be the field he would enter. The successful pursuit of this case clearly gave lie to the myth that social workers couldn't explain what they do.

Another national involvement I valued was being a member of a planning committee for annual national seminars run by the Urban Research Unit of the Australian National University for four years in the early 1970s.

In 1979, the International Year of the Child (IYC), I gave the final overview of the IYC National Conference in Canberra, edited the proceedings, and was appointed to chair the conference follow-up group by the Commonwealth Minister for Social Security. The follow-up group ensured that all of the relevant community bodies were made aware of the content and the extensive recommendations that emerged from the conference.

In 1986, on the suggestion of David Cox, I was invited to chair a New South Wales committee of management and to be a council member for International Social Service (ISS)-Australia, whose headquarters were in Melbourne. During the next nine years, I helped ISS, an organisation based on professional social work capacity, to try to begin to fulfil the great potential I believed it has, especially in a country of high migration like Australia. When I left we had a new national director operating with a three-year rolling plan, but lack of substantial funding was still a major problem.

In 1992-1993 a group of us, including Allan Borowski, my successor in the chair of social work at the University of New South Wales, induced the AASW to rethink its handling of the so-called competencies project. This was a federal government project emerging from the technical training sector that would cover preparation for case aides and other professional support staff in social work. Its focus on skills reflected shallow, managerialist thinking. As the government tried to extend the project into the university-educated professional sector, it ran into inevitable conceptual and political trouble. Induced by federal government pressure and money, the AASW had entered into a contract with outside consultants to identify social work skills. There was no regard for the essential trilogy of values, knowledge, and skills that characterises professional practice.

I joined the AASW national standing committee on ethics when it shifted to Sydney in 1993 and played an active role in developing the program and effectiveness of the committee as part of a nationwide system of ethics

committees. We revised the by-laws on ethics, set up a systematic recording system, carried out a survey of ethics teaching in schools of social work, and developed a kit on ethics especially for members of branch ethics committees. In 1995, I resigned with some sense that my professional association was beginning to take more seriously its ethical responsibilities.

One occasion that I found particularly gratifying was an invitation in 1986 to speak on future directions for social work education at a seminar celebrating 50 years of social work education in South Australia, my state of origin. In the 1960s I was on committees of the Council of Social Service of New South Wales and NSW Old People's Welfare Council (as it was then called). At the invitation of Hal Wootten, the founding dean of the law faculty at the University of New South Wales, I joined the council of the Aboriginal Legal Service at its inception in 1970 and stayed on it for five years, seeing it develop as a model for legal services in other states and moving to aboriginal management and control.

In 1977, I joined the board of the Benevolent Society of New South Wales, which took great pride in being Australia's oldest registered welfare organisation. It ran the Royal Hospital for Women, a teaching hospital of the University of New South Wales, but its various welfare programs badly needed review and professional leadership. In my nine years on the board, I managed to help the organisation become progressive in its welfare programs and planning procedures, but I failed to achieve change in its inappropriate 19th-century name. It was feared the organisation would lose fundraising capacity if it lost its historical identity; changing the name that was enshrined in legislation required parliamentary action, and this was hazardous.

In 1982, I was given the difficult task of undertaking the first official child abuse inquiry in Australia. I was commissioned by the Minister of Youth and Community Affairs of New South Wales to inquire into the department's handling of a particular case and to make policy recommendations. My report, printed as a parliamentary paper, led to the appointment of additional appropriately qualified staff. Though the report made it apparent that the department required structural change and professionalization of its work, these have still not been achieved. Meanwhile, the department stumbles from crisis to crisis, with dire effects on its services to the public. I am distressed by the extent to which public welfare services are now so heavily concentrated on child abuse, rather than on child and family support systems.

Billups: *You have been involved with a wide-ranging group of international organisations as well. Could you tell us about the major issues and concerns that you helped to address, and some of the outcomes?*

Lawrence: As chair of the preconference working party for the 15th Conference of the International Council of Social Welfare (ICSW) held in Manila in 1970, I was thrown into the deep end of international conference discussion and politics. In the course of the week, something like 16 of us, drawn from different countries and international organisations, were expected to provide a report on the conference theme, using national reports. It was a remarkable, taxing exercise.

Together with Rifat Rashid from Pakistan, I served as a consultant for an Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East – UNICEF seminar on developmental aspects of social work curricula in Bangkok in November 1972 and acted as chief rapporteur. My early interest in rehabilitation social work was rekindled when I helped in planning the 12th World Rehabilitation Congress, held in Australia in 1972. I helped to plan and chaired a seminar on social planning for physically and mentally handicapped people that preceded the congress. We invited the distinguished African-American social worker Jim Dumpson as our main speaker. I served the Australian Council for Rehabilitation of the Disabled (ACROD) as a consultant on social planning.

In 1973, I was an active corresponding member of an ICSW committee looking at objectives of international conferences. It worried me that so much of the experience and talent represented in such conferences did not seem to be used effectively, and there did not seem to be ongoing work on particular topics. In all, I attended five ICSW conferences. Each immediately followed an IASSW congress.

My major sustained effort internationally was as an elected member of the executive board of the IASSW from 1974 to 1982. I served on steering and program committees for its congresses. In all, I attended seven of its biennial congresses. One of the lively issues was the emergence of the Inter-University Consortium for International Social Development. I attended the meeting of the consortium in Brighton, England, in 1982 before the main social work and social welfare meetings. I was not impressed by attempts by the consortium to nab speakers ahead of the other bodies or by any notion that the consortium was a legitimate substitute for the meetings of the social work and social welfare bodies.

I remember Katherine Kendall toying with idea of changing the name of the IASSW to embrace developmental concerns, but I firmly believed that social work was the established international term for our occupation and that we had a responsibility to keep it progressive and developmental. I can recall Eileen Younghusband enthusiastically shaking me by the hand when I expressed this viewpoint. In the first Eileen Younghusband Memorial Lecture at the international social work meetings (a joint occasion for IASSW and IFSW) in Montreal in 1984, I argued the world's general need for a reflective universal morality. The last two presidents of the IASSW sounded me out about the possibility of running for the presidency, but I have declined and it is now too late. I couldn't get the funding that would be necessary for the travel, there were health considerations, and being a white male from a so-called developed country would not have been a political asset.

One aspect of the organisation always worried me, and that was the low financial support provided by member schools. For many of the schools in the more affluent countries, especially in North America, this represented for me an unacceptably low level of commitment to the profession at an international level. As head of a school, I was aware that membership dues were in the petty cash category for many schools.

In 1996, I resigned after 10 years on the editorial board of *International Social Work*, the official journal of the IASSW, the ICSW, and the IFSW. The

editor invited me to write a guest editorial reviewing the journal, with comments on its future. This appeared as a discussion article in which I suggested the journal should become a specifically international journal for the social work profession, and the ICSW should establish its own journal.

Billups: *Along the course of your career you have received several distinctions, awards, and honors. Could you share with us the nature of some of these?*

Lawrence: For my university education, I was the fortunate recipient of a number of awards. A bursary for my Leaving Honours results paid for my time at the University of Adelaide. A Rhodes Scholarship for South Australia – there is one for each Australian state – enable me to study at Oxford University. It took me overseas and, I am sure, permanently influenced my view of the world and my place in it. It did help me to realise that Australian academic standards were reasonable in comparison with those in other places. I have already mentioned my receipt of the doctoral scholarship at the ANU. This was government funded: I could not have paid for the degree from my meagre social work salary.

Senior Fulbright awards supported my travel to the United States in 1967 and again in 1983. A Canadian Commonwealth Fellowship made possible my time at the Wilfrid Laurier school in 1990.

The year in New York, when I was the first non-American to be appointed as the Hunter School's Moses Professor, was especially memorable, because I could freely interact with all the faculty, which included Charles Guzzetta, whom I knew well. Regular sessions about my book on professional ethics with Harold Lewis, the outstanding dean of the school, were a particular delight.

In 1997, I was made a member of the Order of Australia 'for service to the discipline of social work internationally, and as the first Professor of Social Work in Australia, to the development of social policy research and to community agencies'. Since 1975, I have been an honorary life member of the AASW.

Billups: *Do you have any thoughts for the next generation of social workers and social work educators?*

Lawrence: The present generation is far better educated than we were. It needs to be, not only to cope, but to improve life chances and life opportunities. We seem to be losing ground against the forces of commercialism, parochialism, and selfishness. Only by sustained organised action can the profession compete with what I might dramatically call the 'forces of darkness'; the organisation must cover all levels of human existence – local, national, and international. The idea of a profession needs to be better understood and welcomed, provided it is underpinned by moral reasoning that justifies our continuing place in human society.

Chapter 2

Later Life

2.1 Continuing Professional Activities

I disengaged from my teaching and administrative responsibilities at the UNSW School of Social Work at the age of 60, but continued my professional concerns in the various ways that have been indicated. There were other activities which also reflected a continuing commitment to both social work and social policy, but these were mainly as an interested, concerned observer, rather than active participant. Over the years, Tony Vinson and I have continued to have periodic discussions about the state of the nation, the current political situation, and his latest project.

Regular attendance at the bi-annual luncheons for UNSW emeritus professors has kept me aware of university developments and in touch with many interesting old senior colleagues, now being increasingly replaced by their successors. One luncheon is hosted by the vice-chancellor in the Scientia Building, with him usually giving an account of the current state of the university. The other is in the dining room of International House. The latest vice-chancellor, Ian Jacobs, gives every indication that he is socially-minded, a welcome change from my point of view, after his predecessor, Fred Hilmer, a self-confessed 'economic rationalist'.

2.1.1 Retired Social Workers Group

I have also regularly attended luncheons for a retired social workers group organised by Mary Doughty and held in her home. In recent times, the group has benefited from the NSW branch president of the AASW, Annie Crowe (a UNSW graduate) keeping us informed about developments in the association. In 2007, when the then president appeared to be in favour of opening the association to others not fully qualified professionally (not a new issue), I drafted the following statement from the group to the national president and national board of the AASW.

Since its formation in 1946, AASW has been the professional association of social workers in Australia. It is essentially a peer organisation; its members are people who have successfully completed an initial education program designed by university schools for the professional practice of social work. As members, they share

the educational, industrial and social action responsibilities for their profession. Over the years a great deal of time and effort has gone into developing appropriate initial and continuing education for social work practice. This is an essential feature of an occupation organised as a profession.

Eligibility for membership of AASW has been the recognised standard for determining who is a qualified social worker in Australia. A strength of the Australian scene has been the continuing responsibility accepted by the professional association in determining what educational programs should be accepted as preparing a person for the responsibilities and privileges of professional practice. This has been accomplished through cooperation and commitment to the profession of social work educators, willing to engage in developing professional standards in conjunction with the professional association and to work on AASW assessment panels.

The idea that welfare officers and others who have not undertaken the relevant educational preparation might become members of the AASW is to court confusion of identity and role. Welfare courses and courses which concentrate on particular aspects of welfare intervention are not equivalent in their range, their depth, or their purpose, to university professional social work courses.

The social work profession is, of course, only one occupation amongst many that work in the social welfare institutions of society. Its characteristic values, knowledge and skills will determine how its members ought ethically to relate to these occupations. In some cases, cooperative relations will be appropriate, in others they will not. Any occupation organised along professional lines, will have to deal with ongoing challenges from adjacent occupations and employing bodies. Well-grounded professional education and professional organisation will help it grow and develop in service to the community, with awareness of its political context and capacity to deal with it constructively. University courses in the humanities and social sciences, including social work, have been under-funded in recent times. In the present university climate, hard-won professional disciplinary autonomy can be under threat from inappropriate amalgamations, 'interdisciplinary' talk, and money-driven initiatives.

Decisions about eligibility for membership of the professional association should only be made by those who identify with its professional objectives, and who understand the values, knowledge and skills entailed in the pursuit of its objectives.

If a proposal to widen the membership criteria for AASW is accepted, long-term irreparable damage would be done in watering down or even demolishing hard-won professional standards. AASW may increase its numerical strength, but at considerable price to the social well-being of Australian society. Australia could no longer claim to have a legitimately described social work profession.

1st June, 2007

Thankfully, the membership requirement did not change. Generally, however, I counselled against the group, as distinct from individuals in the group, becoming active in current affairs.

Being an honorary life member of the AASW, I have continued to receive all of its communications to its members, including its notably improved journal, *ASW*. After a rocky period, the AASW now appears to be developing reasonably well, including taking much greater responsibility in social

action. Its increased membership, to more than 9,000 by mid-2015, has greatly improved its finances and capacity.¹

2.1.2 Book on Ethics and Professional Conduct

In the course of our overseas trip in 1997, I took my completed manuscript of *Argument for Action: Ethics and Professional Conduct*, to discuss with various publishers in New Haven, New York, and London, and subsequently also approached academic publishers in Australia. The process was dispiriting, but confirmed some of the argument in the book. Because of its essentially general nature, relevant readers were apparently difficult to find. People were experts in their specialised fields, and had more than enough to cope with without straying more broadly. The quality of the work apparently was not questioned, but its financial viability for the publisher was. University presses wanted short-term turnovers linked with particular courses. Eventually, I decided to publish with Ashgate in the United Kingdom, who did not want to change the work and were willing to publish it in hard-back.

The book was launched in the UNSW bookshop in March 1999, by Peter Baume (ANU chancellor, UNSW professor of community medicine, and formerly Federal Minister for Health), and Tony Vinson, my closest colleague, also spoke. The flyer for the book described it in these terms:

This book will help professions and professionals to identify their contribution to society and to understand the argument in which they must engage if they are to justify their conduct. Because of their specialised expertise and power, the task is both difficult and pressing.

The work is divided into two parts. Part One discusses the concepts of 'ethics' and 'professional conduct', indicating their dimensions and contested nature. In each case, following examination and analysis of relevant literature, a conceptual framework or model is proposed for locating instances of, in turn, ethics and professional conduct. In Part Two, The model of ethical choice is used to discuss the ethical justification of professional conduct in the various forms, locations, and stages provided by its social setting. In this way, it provides grounding argument for relevant action by professionals and others dealing with professionals. The work concludes with a proposal for a standing commission on the professions.

This important work will be of great interest to all those involved in education for the professions, to those providing leadership in professional associations, and to those who deal with professions and professionals.

“Lawrence’s analysis of the meaning and application of professional ethics provides a much-needed intellectual framework for morally reasoned judgments and actions, not the false reassurance of a simplistic and fixed code. The book focuses on contemporary ethical issues across a broad range of professions and will greatly assist those who aspire to act professionally in the deepest meaning of that term.”

TONY VINSON, EMERITUS PROFESSOR
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK, UNSW

¹ Australian Association of Social Workers, *Annual Report 2014-2015*.

“This is a most interesting book. The author is to be congratulated on the scholarship and wisdom that have gone into its making and which clearly emerge from its pages. There is a genuine interdisciplinary insight, and that is the intellectual way to the future.”

MILES LITTLE, EMERITUS PROFESSOR, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE FOR VALUES, ETHICS AND THE LAW IN MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY



Showing book manuscript to Hal Lewis, New York, 1997

BOOK LAUNCH 1999



Tony Vinson and Peter Baume



RJL, Eileen Baldry, Damien Grace, and Al Willis



RJL, Sheila Truswell, Elspeth Browne, and Peter Baume



Ruth, RJL, and David - family celebration

At the book launch, I spoke briefly thanking the many who had assisted me along the way in the creation of the work, and the four people who had made the occasion possible – Mark Halliday (Manager of the UNSW Bookshop), David Este (the local distributor of Ashgate Publications), Peter Baume and Tony Vinson. I concluded with these comments:

Now what I have written takes on a life of its own. For the sake of the topic, I hope it does well. I am in the fortunate position of not having to rely on it for my future professional career, or for feeding the family. There are obvious reasons in the present intellectual and moral climate, why such a book may not be read or be read with hostility or through narrow specialist eyes. The breadth of its scope suggests either a brash, young author, or someone reflecting towards the end of their career. It's obvious which I am.

My mind, my sense of human responsibility, and my work, have never allowed me to escape the sort of issues covered in this book. Each new generation must confront and make decisions about these issues. My hope is that this project, which has taken up a fair chunk of my time and energy, will help the present and possibly even future generations think more carefully and constructively about morally justified conduct, and, in particular, professional conduct.

In a subsequent letter of appreciation to Peter Baume, I anticipated inviting him, Tony Vinson, Damian Grace, and their respective wives to have a final celebratory dinner with us in our home, after our return from an overseas trip:

Trish and I leave on Sunday for a 2-month trip to Europe – 10 days in Crete, a week in Paris, a week in Geneva, and the rest in Italy. Our son Peter, who is first secretary in the Australian mission to the UN in Geneva, is taking his annual leave so that we can all spend 3 weeks in a villa near Gubbio in Umbria. Trish and I will be seeing a latest grand-daughter for the first time. There is much to look forward to – particularly now the book is behind me.²

I particularly valued a message about the book from Harold Lewis:

Congratulations! Thanks for sending me that handsome book. ... Your work is an important addition to the profession. ...

Ceil joins me in sending warm greetings and love,

Hal

As has been described³, Hal had enabled us to spend a very productive and enjoyable year in New York, 1987/88, and he and his wife Celia had become our good friends in the course of the year. I have indicated how much the book owed to my year at Hunter College and my regular discussions with Hal.

² Letter, John Lawrence to Peter Baume, 8/4/99.

³ In Vol.4, pp. 159–191.

Policing and Professionalism: A Case in Point

Recruited by Tony Vinson, John Hatton was attached to the UNSW School of Social Work in 1996. At a special school seminar on 'Visions for a Better Police Force', in May 1996, he asked – could the police force rise from the ashes? would it return to the same old service? what was the nature of the problem and how would we fix it? As an independent member of the state parliament from 1973 to 1995, he had fought against wrong-doing and corruption in the state's Justice System. In 1994, he had forced the Fahey Government to establish the Wood Royal Commission into Police Corruption, and this had led to reform of the NSW Police Force and the establishment of the Police Integrity Commission. I saw it as a rare, perhaps even unique opportunity, for structural change to achieve a genuinely professional police force, recruiting new people, with different education, community standing and good relations with the public and other professionals. The present emphasis by the new Commissioner on managerial solutions would not succeed. In June, on the suggestion of John Hatton and Tony Vinson I unsuccessfully submitted the following article for the opinion page of the *Sydney Morning Herald*:

At the announcement of his appointment as NSW Police Commissioner, Mr Peter Ryan said he would appeal to the professionalism of police to work with him to rebuild the police service. (See SMH Editorial 12/6/96.) I recently prepared the following comments for the Police Policy Research Unit at the University of New South Wales. They have obvious relevance if the idea of professionalism in relation to police work is to be taken seriously. The editorial claims that 'the key to the successful reconstruction of the police service is ultimately one of good management'. I believe, however, that the key lies not just in better management, but in the development of a professionalism which parallels ideas of professionalism in other socially important occupations, and a management system which is relevant for a professional work-force.

Policing is an important government function which depends upon the values, knowledge and skills of the people who perform it for their living. If they were genuinely professional in their work, they and the community would be likely to benefit.

A large number of occupations in modern democratic societies have adopted professional modes of organisation to provide coherence and justification for their work in the broader society, and fulfilling career paths for their members. Typically this means the development of professional schools located in universities or similar broad-ranging educational institutions. Such schools have knowledge-development or research functions as well as educational functions which socialise people into the values, knowledge and skills of their occupation. Professionalisation also means the development of professional associations in which all the members of the occupation are encouraged to participate.

Ideally, a professional association performs a number of functions. 1. It develops and maintains socially useful standards for the occupation and holds its members accountable in terms of those standards. 2. Together with the professional schools and the organisations which employ the occupation, it keeps the education of its members up-to-date and relevant for the functions of the occupation. 3. It

ensures that the working conditions of its members enable them to perform their professional work effectively and efficiently. 4. It takes collective responsibility to use its professional knowledge to improve the society in which it is operating. Occupations which are strongly professionalised are organised at both national and international levels, and their knowledge-base is both general and specific, with on-going debates about cultural relevance as well as about validity and reliability.

The value components in all professional work are beginning to be addressed more explicitly in professional education in the name of 'ethics'. Codes of conduct, often described as 'codes of ethics', have been a feature of strongly professionalised occupations, at least partly to give public reassurance that the occupation is expected to use its knowledge, power and influence 'in the public interest' rather than just for its own sectional advantage. The emerging widespread serious interest in the teaching of ethics in professional education goes far beyond an interest in just codes of conduct, as people gain greater understanding of the essential interdependence of values, knowledge and skills in occupational conduct.

Despite the obviously demanding nature of much of modern police work – in terms of the knowledge and skills required, and the complex value issues it raises related to fairness, the use of force and fear, the use of deception, the invasion of privacy, the restriction of freedom – policing is not as yet a modern occupation organised on professional lines. It tends to remain occupationally, educationally, and culturally isolated, organised primarily on narrowly bureaucratic lines, with only very local reference points.

There is now an extensive literature on the abuses of professionalism, as well as its potential advantages for society. The alternatives to professionalism – unnecessary ignorance, unchecked managerialism, fragmented technical pluralism, and individual adventurism – can be very socially harmful. Provided a profession is well-educated and not just focused on the more technical aspects of its work, and is socially accountable, it provides a way for society to organise, develop and utilise knowledge in the public interest and not just for personal gain. A professional career can offer a person work that is both socially useful and of intrinsic interest, giving purpose and coherence to the person's working life, far beyond the monetary rewards received.

If policing were to take professionalism seriously, it would:

1. Identify the main social purpose of policing in a democratic society.
2. Differentiate those roles and tasks that require a high level of knowledge and skills, from other tasks which are narrow and can be handled in a routine fashion.
3. Establish in universities, professional schools of policing, which develop and maintain effective relationships with other relevant professional schools in the university, and engage in research, and theoretical and field teaching, which typifies such schools.
4. Recruit people who could work effectively with all sections of the community, who were willing to make a commitment to policing as a demanding modern profession, who had personal and intellectual capacity for the work, and who were willing to accept a reasonable level of mobility entailed in pursuing a professional career.

5. Establish professional associations at state, national and international levels, and these would concern themselves with accountability, educational, industrial, and social action matters.

Apart from press and other media reporting, I do not have knowledge of policing in New South Wales. The current Royal Commission is, however, making it evident that the occupation of policing in this state is calling for major structural reform. The problem is obviously far deeper and more demanding than just keeping the police honest, and building sanctions to achieve this.

If the structural reform is in the direction of the professionalisation of policing, it will take many years to achieve. It will require long-term government commitment, bipartisan political support, and considerable community education about the role of policing in the sort of society in which we are now living, and will be living. It will require sophisticated social planning to get agreement on the goals and objectives being sought, the new structures and processes that will best attain these, and how to move in stages from the present parlous situation to the one that is desired. The government would need to establish a long-term steering group which had sufficient scope, capacity and authority to undertake the task of reform. The group would need to have high community credibility, be sensitive to the interests and futures of existing police, and be knowledgeable about the nature and processes of professional education and professional structures.

Democratic governments, the community, and other professionals with whom police interact, should welcome a policing service which is, and is seen to be, fully professional. When policing is ineffective, inefficient, and corrupt, the social effects can be devastating. A democratic government is in bad moral shape if its policing functions do not have the confidence of the people. Policing the police is a hopeless strategy to achieve this. Professionalisation can build in safeguards at both an individual and a group level to prevent the policing function from being used for private ends. It is apparent to me that the relative neglect, until perhaps recently, of policing as a subject of serious study is connected with its lack of professionalization as an occupation.

The opinion page editor of the SMH did not have immediate room for the article and did not get back to me, as promised. Because I was finally completing the professional ethics book, and did not want a continuing involvement in the area of police reform, I did not chase him up. However, in February 1997, just before going overseas, I did send the article to Commissioner Ryan, after hearing him again refer to the need for professionalism in the police force, in the ABC program 'Australian Story'. He thanked me for my interest and forwarded the article to the Executive Director, Human Resources and Development 'for information and attention'.

In December 2005, *Argument for Action: Ethics and Professional Conduct* served as the basis of my presentation at a quarterly meeting of the Sculptors' Supper Club in Sydney, a serious-minded group which included Paul Selwood (the organiser) and Ron Robertson-Swann.

Sculptors and Ethics

In my own case, I have found the issues discussed in this book inescapable, and I would argue that so too would others who try to justify their conduct as human beings, and in particular as human beings pursuing what they see as a professional occupation.

We are all human beings, and as such are constantly engaged in making choices about the sort of people we shall be and the sort of society we want to live in. Moral or ethical reasoning is the persuading process which determines our decisions. Whether we like it or not, unless we have lost our capacity for reason, we are all engaged in this process in deciding on our conduct and or actions. It entails values or ends, and means to attain the ends. What makes the reasoning ethical is the attempt to give the best justification we can muster in the circumstances of the decision in hand. Genuine moral disagreement may, however, be over factual or empirical matters which, unlike moral disagreements, can be resolved by further relevant evidence.

Only in recent times has developing capacity for moral reasoning become the explicit aim in a child's schooling. At a tertiary level, ethics or moral philosophy almost disappeared for generations, only to reappear at first as metaethics, an analysis of ethical terms and language. In recent times, however, the teaching of normative ethics has re-emerged in philosophy departments and in various professional schools. A new bunch of professionals called ethicists are emerging supposedly with expertise in the normative aspects of human life, and especially professional life. Simon Longstaff of the St James Ethics Centre is perhaps our best known local example. Such people may enrich our reasoning behind human decisions, but if they become just another group of specialists telling us what we ought to do, they are just another set of authorities. A morally justified decision is settled by relevant argument not by reference to authority. None of us can get off the moral hook. Reference to parental, religious or legal authority, still leaves open the further question, but is it morally right or wrong, or morally good or bad what is being ordained. Authorities may be in conflict on an issue or be silent, and in any case moral autonomy is not being respected nor moral responsibility accepted if the agent is only doing as they are told.

The first two chapters of the book are concerned with discussion about the nature of ethics and the dimensions of ethical conduct. A model of ethical conduct and its assessment is used which incorporates planning or rational action to achieve human ends, and the idea of the worth and dignity of every human person. The model can be extended to cover all sentient creatures, and already does for some people like Peter Singer. The model suggested can apply to both individuals and collectivities.

The first strand of the book is this strand on ethics which, it is argued, is a topic and responsibility shared by all of us as responsible adult members of our society. The second strand then concentrates on a particular form of human conduct called professional conduct. Throughout my adult life, I have had a commitment to the social work profession and to the university teaching profession. They have provided me and my family with a comfortable living, opportunities for continuous learning, intellectual and practical stimulus, learning, research, and teaching

opportunities in other countries, numerous professional colleagues and many friends. These are the advantages that come from membership of occupations that have been organised on professional lines. The idea, ideal and reality of 'profession' have played a significant part in my well-being and the well-being of those associated with me. It is not surprising that I felt a continuing special responsibility to justify morally my occupational conduct. The justification lies in assessment of the contribution or otherwise to human well-being in its various aspects.

You are members of a different occupation – sculpting, both as practitioners and teachers. How do you justify this to yourselves, to your families, to the society at large? To what extent has sculpting become a profession with the benefits and responsibilities that arise from professional status?

Having suggested a reasonable basis for the ethical evaluation of any human conduct, the rest of the book focuses on professional conduct and its evaluation. First, the third chapter tackles the elusive question 'What is professional conduct?' It is elusive because of the lack of agreement in the relevant literature on what constitutes a profession. The term is used descriptively for impressions and speculation, or for generalisation soundly based on empirical study. It is also used prescriptively for what an occupation aspires to be, and for what an occupation ought to be morally. The term is, however, used meaningfully in Anglo-American societies, including Australia, for occupations that are organised in particular ways that give them considerable autonomy and power, whose conduct is of special concern because of its impact on the rest of society.

Central to the notion of professionalism is the nature and form of professional education. There is agreement on purpose which is seen to be socially beneficial, on content and on the length of the education, and that it is usually appropriately located in a university. The occupation's claims to specialised knowledge and intellectual skills come from a formal educational process, not just concerned with technical training. The credentialing system is bound up with the institutions of higher education.

A central feature of professionalism is professional associations, which take collective responsibility for education, industrial and social action aspects of the occupation, including external or public recognition of the occupation. Occupations must compete in the money, power and prestige markets of society, using the resources available to them. They compete in three arenas – the legal system, public opinion and the workplace.

The idea of professionals being part of a professional community and culture is highlighted by many writers. One of the central concepts of this culture is the concept of 'career', which involves complete absorption in and devotion to one's work, with work being an end in itself and not primarily for monetary gain. Work is the all-pervading influence in their lives. Other writers have, however, focused on conflicting interests and change within professional groups. There is not really a unity of interest, they observe. Professionalisation has been a major social movement of the 20th century, but so too has been increased bureaucratisation, both private and public, which leads to professionals losing control over their work and becoming mere 'technical workers'. British social historian Harold Perkin talks about *The Rise of Professional Society* which has unprecedented power for creation and destruction. Professional society is human capital created by education and

enhanced by strategies of closure which exclude the unqualified. The backlash against professionalism was already underway, when the free market ideology was revived in the 1980s and began to swamp all our social institutions. On its view, professionalism was an artificial constraint of free trade. During adverse economic conditions in the 1970s and 1980s, special interest groups of all kinds have come under attack, but especially the professions. According to Perkin, the backlash against professions came because of the condescension of professionalism, the suspicion that professions were a conspiracy against the laity, the rivalry and mutual disdain many professions felt for each other.

In our sort of society, then, 'professional conduct' typically refers to the conduct of a professional or a person in a professional role, or it refers to the conduct of a professional collectivity – consisting of members of the same profession, or of members of different professions. The idea of a profession in such a society is an organised occupation with characteristic social structures – educational institutions or schools concerned with the development and transmission of relevant values, knowledge, and skills; a professional association or association with educational, industrial, and social policy functions; and work organisation allowing sufficient autonomy for professional practice. The organised occupation strives for social recognition and respect – in the workplace, in the public arena, and in the legislative and government arena. An occupation organised on professional lines provides a way of organising personal work careers of its members. Although a nation-state has been the usual frame of reference for describing a profession, in fact, a modern profession is increasingly an international phenomenon as well, with its international organisations and international meetings, the development of international missions, development and sharing of professional knowledge across national boundaries, and the opening up of career opportunities beyond a professional's own nation-state.

Turning now to the ancient activity of sculpting, and the ethical issues it raises. It and the other creative arts are noticeably absent in the general literature on professional occupations which I have been citing. In talking about sculpting, I am out of my own territory, but not entirely, because obviously I am a member of the general public in relation to works of art. Also, I have taken a special interest in this form of art, since my wife discovered twenty years ago that she had a capacity for sculpting and has developed an absorbing interest and commitment to sculpting ever since. Her bronze 'Torso Turning' in front of the Chancellery Building at UNSW is a lasting contribution to the visual life of the University, and is part of the significant improvement that has been achieved in recent times to the University's built environment. Trish's work reflects learning ideas and techniques from various schools teaching sculpture – Tom Bass's and Julian Ashton's in Sydney, the Sculpture Center Studios in Manhattan – and from the Artists' Collective Workshop in Stockholm.

Clearly sculpture's persistence for millennia indicates an activity that meets continuing human needs, but what are these needs? What and whose values are being pursued? Are aesthetic values culturally specific or more universal? Are they essentially a matter of personal taste? What part does sculpting play in their fulfilment, compared with other aspects of the built environment? How important are aesthetic values compared with other human values? Are the aesthetics of a

sculpture just incidental or irrelevant to other human values? – power, prestige, community, particular human emotions? Whose values are being expressed or portrayed – the artist's, a group of artists', the profession's, the patron's, the gallery owners', the critics', the governments', the markets', or those of the public at large? There are, of course, many possibilities. Some of these are easier to justify morally than others.

Although I have not researched the matter, I have the impression that sculpting is not strongly organised along professional lines, despite its longevity as a human activity. This may have protected it to some extent from the development of rigid prescribed orthodoxies and society has not been held to ransom by the special interest of well-organised professionals. But the moral cost for lack of appropriate professional organisation can also be high. Emphasis on the autonomy of the individual practitioner fits well in an age where individualism is emphasised and collective responsibilities are downplayed. Without some degree of autonomy, notions of morality are irrelevant. But morally respect for autonomy must be balanced with other moral principles of not doing harm, of doing good, and of being just. These can only be effectively addressed through organised arrangements of collective responsibility – schools, preferably in a university setting because it provides a breadth and continuity of learning and a tradition of intellectual freedom, and occupational associations which have in membership the practising, teaching, research and administrative arms of the occupation.

In these arrangements, the culture of the practice tradition can be clarified, celebrated, morally justified, advanced, defended, and transmitted for future generations. Individuals acting alone cannot possibly undertake the various necessary tasks. Whether we like it or not, we are essentially social creatures embedded in our particular social environments. Unless sculpting becomes better organised as an occupation, which understands and insists on the degree of autonomy it needs, but at the same time takes moral responsibility for its collective existence, it will not make the contribution it could make to human well-being and we will all be the poorer for that. Creative visual artists may literally sell out to the highest financial bidder, and disregard who else should benefit from their socially-obtained education, or they may insist that the fruits of their labour are widely shared and appreciated. Sculpting and ethics is, of course, a huge engrossing topic. Like other fields of professional ethics, I would argue that it can and morally should be addressed more systematically than it has been. To do this you need appropriate organisational and cultural resources.

The models in my book attempt to pin down for any occupation, the main dimensions of ethical choice which need to be systematically addressed, if current members of the occupation are to justify their activities ethically.

The ensuing discussion at the sculptors' dinner group was lively, particularly since it was being mooted that the independent, prestigious National Art School should be incorporated into the university system. Ron Robertson-Swann, head of sculpture, at the School, was a keen participant.

2.1.3 History of the First 25 Years of the SPRC

When the Social Policy Research Centre reached its 25th anniversary in 2005, I decided to write a substantial history of the Centre, to try to ensure that what had been achieved would not be forgotten or disregarded. This was my final contribution to the Centre, UNSW, and the serious study of social policy. It was a far cry from producing my own social policy book, but I realised I was uniquely placed to undertake the task, not least because I had kept in my personal archives all the documentation connected with my multiple involvements with the centre, and full sets of its publications over the years. For me, it was a final professional initiative. I expected no financial payment from the Centre, but the current director Ilan Katz decided it should be published by the Centre in hard copy, an anonymous donor making this possible. Copies were distributed to all of the university libraries in the country, and it was for sale from the Centre and the UNSW bookshop at a reasonable price.

In 2006, the book was launched at the SPRC. I recall being gratified when Professor Emeritus Sol Encel told me, 'It was a very good piece of work'. He had joined the SPRC after his retirement from heading the School of Sociology at UNSW, and his wife Diana Encel also had made a significant contribution to the work of the Centre. Praise from Sol was 'praise, indeed!'.

The title of the book was *Social Policy Research: 25 Years of a National Research Centre*.⁴ The work was 342 fairly packed pages, with a full index which I decided to do myself because of the complexity and importance of having a good index to such a work. The story was told in seven chronological chapters – Origins and Background, The Founding Years 1980-84, Consolidating and New Directions 1985-9, Expansion 1990-94, Achievements 1995-2000, A Positive Review, Loss of Core Funding, Uncertainty 1997-2000, Regaining Momentum – To Where? 2000-4. The final chapter was Social Policy as a University Discipline – a Postscript. My purpose was to leave a full record of what had been accomplished in these years, not just a general historical account. All of the 143 reports and proceedings and research reports available on the SPRC website 2000-2004, were listed in an appendix. I saw it as a working document for social policy scholars generally and anticipated that it would be introductory reading for new staff at the centre.

The preface in the book explained why it was written and its nature:

This is the story of the first 25 years of a unique, national research centre in Australia – the Social Welfare Research Centre 1980-89, the Social Policy Research Centre 1990-2004. It was directly funded by the federal government until 2001, but was not located in the public service. It had a university home, not in one of the traditional universities found in each of the Australian state capitals, nor in the impressive post-war development of the Australian National University, but in the University of New South Wales.

In the course of the post-war years in Sydney, this university rather remarkably emerged from modest beginnings as a small technical institution to become one

4 John Lawrence, *Social Policy Research: 25 Years of a National Research Centre*, Social Policy Research Centre, University of New South Wales, 2006.

of Australia's leading universities, with a strong international reputation. ...

Patrick O'Farrell's lively historical portrait of the University's first fifty years provides a highly readable interpretative account of the university institution of which the research centre was a part ...O'Farrell leaves it to the individual schools and faculties to do justice to their particular histories. (O'Farrell, 1999, p. 4)

The Social Policy Research Centre has obviously not been a school. It was an academic research unit of the University whose prime functions were specified in the four successive Agreements between the University and the Commonwealth Government, 1980-2001 – research and its publication, postgraduate training, and holding seminars and conferences to foster understanding of social welfare issues. In 2003, the Centre was formally placed in the University's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. This was seen to open up the possibility of taking on increased teaching responsibilities. However, at the end of the Centre's first 25 years, 2004, the role of the Centre in its new administrative location was still not settled. One possibility which is considered in a postscript at the end of this study would be for the University to move towards the establishment of a school of social policy, which incorporated the Centre or at least had a special relationship to it.

In recent years, many of the Australian schools of social work have added 'and social policy' to their title. Social work has had a long-standing historical connection with social policy, and, more than any other professional discipline, its curriculum must include substantial teaching about a society's social policies and about social work's role in trying to shape these to its professional ends. Any contemporary school of social work that does not have this content is not worthy of the name. But the educational and research purposes of any professional school cannot realistically be combined with the main intellectual and practical leadership of social policy as an academic discipline. Each can and should make a contribution to the discipline of social policy, according to its experience and insights, but none can realistically combine its particular purposes with the overarching societal frame of reference required to develop the study of social policy.

The development of Australian schools of social policy, with regular professorial appointments, and not just personal chairs, would give full academic recognition to social policy as university discipline. ...

Whatever the future holds for the Centre, its first twenty five years have been of unique significance in the Australian scene. For the first time, Australians established an academic institution whose mission was the national development of social policy research, and laid the ground for the possible recognition of social policy as an academic discipline in its own right. It is quite remarkable that social policy is not amongst the scores of disciplines found in the universities of Australia, and most other countries in the world, despite the extensive growth of actual social policies in modern society and the specialised research and teaching with focuses on various of them.

The work and experience of the Centre warrants a research monograph of the kind envisaged by Patrick O'Farrell. If it had been available to him, the special national significance of the Centre would surely have featured in his book.

Because the substance of the Centre's work has lain in the detail of its various activities, the account that follows has included details, for example of topics and speakers at conferences and seminars, which may not attract a general reader.

The details do enrich the historical account and can easily be skipped, according to the particular interest of the reader. Their omission would have reduced the utility of the study as historical record. A deliberate purpose of the study has been to preserve for posterity a reasonably detailed consolidated record of the Centre's first 25 years.

The study should of particular interest to many of the hundreds of people, both in Australia and in other countries, who have been involved in the work of the Centre, to scholars and students engaged in studying social policy as a prime concern, to people contemplating an academic career in social policy, and to social welfare historians. It should also be of general interest to socially-concerned citizens, politicians, and historians of the changing academy. ...

Tackling recent history has obvious hazards, especially when the author has been involved. This historical study has not been commissioned by the Centre. It is a result of an initiative by the author who has had a long-standing belief in the importance of informed social action for the advancement of human well-being.

I acknowledged helpful comments I had received from Peter Saunders and Sheila Shaver on a draft manuscript, and from Adam Graycar on the first two chapters of the draft and on the final manuscript. On the back cover of the book were printed comments to the author about the book:

Your history of the SWRC/SPRC is, it goes without saying, well and thoroughly researched, clearly and expressively written, and passionately argued! ... I thought you handled one of the trickiest aspects ... – your own centrality in the story – with excellent taste and balance. ... There is, overall, a rich appreciation of the leadership and working researchers without losing sight of the larger argument that you want to make.

(Professor Sheila Shaver, Deputy Director, SPRC, 1990-2003)

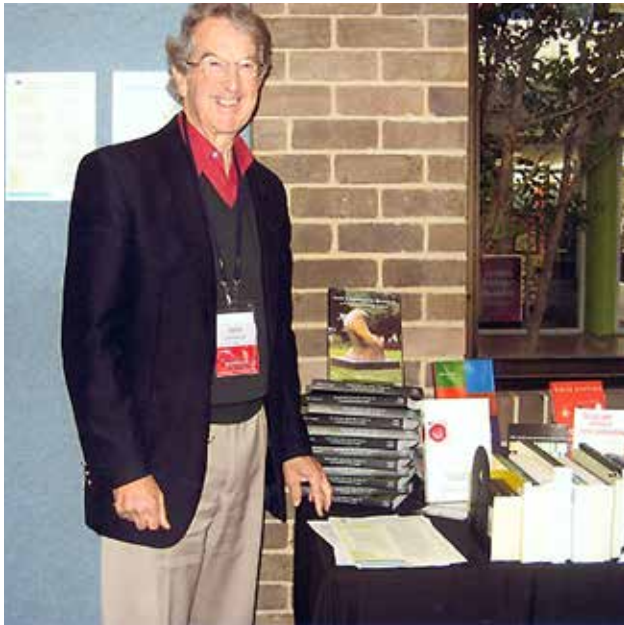
You tell the story well, and there is a great deal of scholarship and perception in the way you assemble and analyse the material. It is an excellent and worthwhile read. I think it is very exciting.

(Dr Adam Graycar, Head, Cabinet Office, Government of South Australia, formerly Director of the Australian Institute of Criminology 1994-2003, and founding Director, SWRC, 1980-85.)

On the front cover was a striking coloured photograph of Trish's bronze sculpture, *Torso Turning*, 176 x 133 x 113 cm., installed at UNSW in 1993, on the lawn in front of the northern wing of the Chancellery Building. This sculpture had been chosen by John Niland as part of the visual refurbishment of UNSW in the 1990s to match its national and international standing. I explained, at the end of the preface:

Peter Townsend suggested in his plenary address to the 1999 National Conference that (this sculpture) could well serve as a symbol for the Centre. He first saw it floodlit and commented on its humanity, integrity, tension and interest when viewed from all angles. It was a generous comment from a renowned international visitor, but in fact no single human image can possibly convey the interconnect-edness of human existence. That is the characteristic focus of all social policy.

I have not attended the last couple of SPRC national conferences, but have continued to read its newsletter. The Centre has grown considerably in numbers of projects and staff and is clearly well established in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at UNSW, but it has not developed into or been closely associated with the development of a school of social policy. A devastating fire in 2010 destroyed the historical records of the centre, so I was especially grateful I had written a history of its first 25 years and distributed copies to libraries. Fortunately, the Centre's current work was not badly affected because it was contained in available computer files. I was, however, especially disappointed to learn that a number of boxes holding additional copies of the history, still for sale and assumedly for distribution to new staff, had also gone up in smoke!



Book on sale at SPRC Conference, 2007

2.1.4 An Abortive Proposal to the Rudd Government

In 2008, an early initiative of the Rudd Labor government was convening the Australia 2020 Summit on 19-20 April in Canberra, to 'help shape a long-term strategy for the nation's future'. Ideas and proposals were invited from all members of the community, but they were to be required to be within 10 critical policy areas:

1. Productivity – including education, skills, training, science and innovation
2. Economy – including infrastructure and the digital economy
3. Sustainability and climate change
4. Rural Australia – focusing on industries and communities
5. Health and ageing
6. Communities and families
7. Indigenous Australia
8. Creative Australia – the arts, film and design
9. Australian governance, democracy and citizenship
10. Security and prosperity – including foreign affairs and trade

At the convention, each policy area was considered by a working group of 100 selected participants.

Should I try to make a contribution to such an initiative? I was no longer professionally active and in any case the future was the responsibility for the next generations. Also, I was aware that the new national government was having to cope with the great pressure of the global financial crisis which was at its peak in 2007-8; the limited bipartisan support for the convention by the coalition political parties; the inadequate preparation time; and problems with the conceptual structure and composition of the convention. However, we now had a national government interested in community-based policy discussions about the future; I had recently completed a history of the first 25 years of a national social policy centre;⁵ and the convention could be an opportunity to increase interest in social policy as a discipline which could give greater coherence and substance to policy debates and decisions.

On 20 February, 2008, I wrote to the prime minister Kevin Rudd:⁶

A Proposal for Standing Commissions to inform Australian Social Policy

I welcome your initiative inviting Australians to contribute to a discussion about a series of long-term challenges facing our society, and your real desire to turn a new page in our history.

I have decided not to nominate for the Summit, but do wish to make a Submission to you based on a long experience of teaching social policy in Australian and overseas universities (I was appointed to Australia's first lectureship in social policy in 1961), and unique experience in the establishment and governance of the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of NSW, a national centre based on federal government funding from 1980 to 2000 (you may recall that I wrote its

5 I had sent complimentary copies of this to both Julia Gillard and Kevin Rudd before the 2007 election, but neither had responded.

6 Letter, John Lawrence to Kevin Rudd, 20/2/08.

history to 2004 and sent you and Julia Gillard a copy prior to the federal election).

As you will see, this Submission does not fit neatly into the way the Summit is being organised, although it is clearly relevant for a number of the 10 areas chosen for the Summit. Summit Area 9 may be thought to be suitable, but there the focus is mainly on government and not on all the forms of policy-making or 'governance' in society. The Submission is made in 698 words. Given its scope, it could not easily be confined within the 500-word limit set for contributions in one of the selected discussion areas. I trust, however, that this will not preclude it being considered by people at the Summit and/or by your government.

The nature of the Submission has led me to send it directly to you as head of the Australian government, and also as co-chair of *Australia 2020* Summit. I have completed the first page of the Summit Submission form, with contact details, if you and others wish to have discussion with me of this particular Submission.

With very best wishes for your time in government, and in this present venture.

John Lawrence AM

Emeritus Professor of Social Work, University of NSW -

Appointed to the first Australian Chair of Social Work in 1968

Attached to this letter was the following submission:

A Proposal for Standing Commissions to inform Australian Social Policy
A Submission to the Prime Minister of Australia, and to the
Australia 2020 Summit
The Continuing Moral Challenge

The Australian nation is a population living together in a defined geographic area, through political, economic and other social arrangements organised locally, nationally and internationally. At the highest level of generality, the ongoing challenge for every nation is to develop and maintain institutions based on current moral or ethical reasoning. A population's social arrangements can obviously be explained by the historical processes that have produced them, but this does not provide a current moral justification for them. Current rationales are often absent or are in terms difficult to justify morally. In a national society like Australia, politically organised on democratic lines, political discussion and action can lead to morally justifiable action by governments and others. Increasingly, the underlying value of moral justification for human action is human well-being. How does the proposed action impact on human beings, not just on oneself, or one's family, or one's nation, but on humanity present and future? And some insist upon extending the scope of moral concern to all sentient creatures and not just humans.

Standing Commissions to Inform Australian Social Policy

If the continuing moral challenge for people living in Australia is to enhance human well-being, with due regard to the claims of all sentient beings, what might increase our capacity to do this?

The Australian Parliament should pass legislation to establish a number of Standing Commissions in major societal policy areas. Each Commission would report regularly to the Parliament and to the people at large its ongoing findings. The purpose would be to improve the knowledge and capacity of the society's

policy-makers – at different levels of government, in the voluntary sector, in commercial activities, and in the rest of Australian society – in the designated policy area.

The focus of each Commission would be on the whole policy system of the society in relation to the major value being pursued, and how this shapes and influences human well-being in Australia and elsewhere in the world. A Commission's brief will be to monitor and assess the available knowledge about the policy area, historical and contemporary, including knowledge of policy systems in other societies.

Each Commission would need to develop ongoing constructive cooperative relationships with the extensive array of people and organisations operating in the policy area. It would draw on but not replace existing research and policy units in universities, government departments, the voluntary sector, the professions, think-tanks and political parties. As part of their education, people from these could spend periods working for the relevant Commission.

The most obvious policy areas for Standing Commissions would be: the functional areas of Income Security, Health, Housing, Education, Employment, and Recreation; and the general well-being of selected population groups – Children, the Ageing, the Disabled, the Indigenous population, and Migrants. One other Standing Commission, with a policy focus which clearly relates to all of the other policy systems in a society, would concentrate on Population Policies – that is the policy system that shapes the size, composition and location of our population.

The most relevant federal minister could have ministerial responsibility for each Commission. Alternatively all of the Commissions could be directly accountable to the Prime Minister, or to the Minister for Education. Wherever the Commissions are located for budgetary and general administrative purposes, they must, however, have independence and objectivity to pursue their ongoing societal brief. Members of a Commission and its staff would be recognised experts, disseminating their knowledge through traditional and electronic means.

These Commissions could make a significant contribution to better informed policy debate, to knowing about policy successes and policy failures past and present, in our society and in comparable societies, to thinking broadly and long-term, across sectors within our society and across societies, to the general education of the Australian people, and to the development of social policy as a university discipline. The Commissions would become an integral part of the social infrastructure of our democratic society, providing a greatly improved intelligence system for policy-makers in policy areas essential to human well-being.

February 2008

In June 2008, I again wrote to the prime minister:⁷

In February, I wrote a submission to you as head of the Federal Government, proposing the establishment of Standing Commissions in twelve important areas of social policy-making in our society. (Copies of my letter and the Submission are enclosed.) The proposal was not included amongst the many submissions on the Australia 20/20 website, because it could not be fitted into the prescribed

7 Letter, John Lawrence to Kevin Rudd, 2/6/08.

format. It should not, however, be lost or lightly discarded because of this. Various professorial colleagues, like Michael Pusey, Tony Vinson, Peter Saunders and Peter Baume, have given the idea strong support, when I have raised it with them.

The purpose of this letter is to make sure the Rudd Government is aware of the proposal amid the plethora of ideas stimulated by the recent Summit, and in due course is willing to give it serious consideration. It would constitute an impressive new addition to our social infrastructure, encouraging societal, long-term and comparative thinking. It could give our social policy-making much greater empirical strength, providing informed underpinning for each generation as it tackles its major social choices.

I received no response – not even an acknowledgement by some official that my letters and submission had been received. I decided it was a waste of time trying to pursue the matter any further. In April 2009, only 9 of the 962 recommendations from the Summit were cherry-picked for action by the Rudd government. The initial enthusiasm and goodwill stimulated by and evident in the Summit was soon lost. Although not widely appreciated at the time by the general population, the national government was, however, successfully minimising the impact of the global financial crisis on Australia.

2.2 Other Activities and Interests

2008 proved to be something of a watershed in my personal life. I began playing lawn bowls at the local Warrawee Bowling Club, on the urging of Gareth Roberts a past president of the club. For many years, we travelled together to the bi-annual emeritus professors' luncheons at UNSW, taking turns to drive. I had known Gareth since we played squash together in Canberra soon after he arrived from the UK to work in the National Capital Development Commission. Since then, I have enjoyed improving my bowling skills and the companionship at the club. Sadly, Gareth died suddenly at the age of 80 a couple of years after I joined.

Also in 2008, John Yiannikas, my cardiologist who had treated me since the early 1990s for atrial fibrillation, decided the time had come to see if ablation could remove the condition. For years, I had kept a careful record of my periods in fibrillation and they increased in frequency and duration, and the ablation procedure was not usually tried out on people once they had reached 80 years of age. A specialist at Westmead Private hospital finally succeeded, after four hospital admissions in the course of a few months, to get rid of the condition. When in fibrillation, I had reduced energy and stamina, so this was a great relief. Since 2008, I have been fortunate that the condition has not returned, and my health has been reasonably good, making the tackling of my autobiography a realistic idea.

At a birthday lunch in 2008 provided for us by Jim and Sheila, Derek Anderson urged me to write my autobiography⁸. I knew that my substantial personal archives and library should be made available for historical research, but had had no intention of revisiting this material myself. I had done my dash, and had plenty of other things to enjoy in the later stages of my existence. However, with good health and a still active, curious mind not ready to disengage professionally, I began to reconsider whether I had a responsibility to give some account for the historical record of what had turned out to be a challenging, interesting life embedded in social concerns. Modern technology, including the possibility of publishing the autobiography on the website, made the undertaking at least technically feasible.

The past 25 years of our lives have been mainly occupied by activities not directly connected with my professional concerns:

- The further development of Trish's sculpting career.
- The growth and development of our extended family.
- Enjoyment by us, our families, friends and overseas visitors of our holiday house at Pearl Beach, and its superb natural environment.
- Interstate trips to visit friends and family – in South Australia, the ACT, Victoria and Tasmania, and
- 6 overseas trips

⁸ Derek's birthday was a day before mine. An emeritus professor of both UNSW and the University of Sydney he was a mutual friend whom we both held in high regard. (At UNSW, he had been professor of botany, 1972-92, president, Academic Board, 1988-92; at, University of Sydney, deputy vice-chancellor 1992-99, vice-chancellor 1996.)

However significant these activities were personally, they will not be covered in any narrative detail. Instead, I have chosen to provide glimpses of them through a selection of photos. The fulfilling and varied nature of our later lives together will be evident. I have always enjoyed photography as a creative and potentially aesthetic way of making a visual record of worthwhile things and events. Hopefully, many of the photos will provide more than just a narrative significance for those involved and will be of more general interest.

In what follows, only sections on Trish's sculpting and the family have any narrative; all the rest is told in photos, grouped by topics: Trish's sculptures (8 pages), family (24), friends (9), overseas visitors (16), Pearl Beach and its natural environment (13), and Flora in Brisbane Water National Park (7). These are followed by the overseas trips – 1993/94 to USA (5), 1997 to USA, UK, Switzerland, France, & USA (14), 1999 to Crete, Paris, Geneva, Gubbio and Florence (16), 2003 to Sicily, Spain, Venice, UK, Paris (15), 2006 to Milan, Rapallo, Siena, Rome (11), and 2013 to Paris, Amsterdam, Tilburg (11).

2.2.1 Trish's Sculpting

A most gratifying feature in this later period of our lives has been the further development of Trish's sculpting career, which had begun in 1983 when we were on sabbatical in the USA. In 2012, with the assistance of our grandson, Alexander Karski and his father Pierre, Trish opened a web-site, which provides information on her biography, exhibitions, and work. Since 1991, her work has been shown and sold at the Robin Gibson Gallery in Darlinghurst, Sydney, and since 1993 at Beaver Galleries in Deakin, Canberra. Both galleries hold some of her work in their stock rooms. Each year starting in 1991, she has exhibited in the annual group sculpture exhibition at Robin Gibson's gallery, and in 2010 and 2016 had solo exhibitions there. In all, she has produced 190 sculptures, with about half of them being sold despite the cost of most of them being in bronze. Alan Crawford and now his son Matthew, at Crawford's Casting, have been particularly reliable, helpful, and skilful. Trish's weekly Pilates lessons, her gardening, and our regular walking have enabled her to maintain the fitness required by the sometimes very physical demands of her sculpting. In recent years, Trish's great friend Anne Linklater has discovered she has a talent for painting. Whenever possible, she and Trish meet after Trish's Pilates class and they go for a gallery crawl in Sydney, viewing the latest exhibitions, extending their art education and critical capacities. Few in Sydney could now be more informed about the local art scene, and some of the gallery owners now talk with them on their welcome visits.

Being a sculpture's assistant when asked has been an enjoyable part of my later life, and going to exhibitions and museums has, as has been indicated, always been a feature in our lives, at home and elsewhere. For a while, 2005-2008, we attended interesting lunches organised by the Painters and Sculptors Society, and in particular got to know and appreciate Peter Pinson, secretary of the society and emeritus professor of fine arts at UNSW, and Paul Selwood, a sculptor who produces remarkable work from single sheets of steel. Paul has exhibited regularly with the Watters Gallery in Sydney and has his own open-air gallery at Wollombi in the Hunter Valley. After an extended discussion with Paul about ethics at one of the lunches, Paul invited me to meet with a group of fellow sculptors who met periodically, and make a presentation on ethics and sculpting. A very lively issue at the time was the future of the National Art School in Sydney and whether or not a university location was appropriate to train artists. I pointed to the long tradition of professional education being located in universities.

The Sculptures of Patricia Lawrence

Most of the sculptures sold by Trish are in private hands, but a few have been purchased by public institutions.

In 1992, the Faculty of Professional Studies at UNSW purchased *Torso Turning* (bronze, 32 cm) to enhance its board table. The dean of the faculty, Tony Vinson, brought this to the attention of John Niland, the vice-chancellor, suggesting the university consider a larger version of it for the sculpture area in front of the Chancellery. A visit to Trish's studio in our garage from John

Niland and Ken Reinhard (professor of fine arts) to view her plaster cast of a larger version (176 cm) proved persuasive and the work was subsequently commissioned by the university. Trish spent some weeks at the Austral Brass Foundry in Redfern working on the final patina and polishing stages of the bronze sculpture, with excellent results. Since its installation in 1993, someone in the administration has made sure that periodically it receives a careful polish. Because of its beauty and proximity to the Clancy Auditorium, it has provided a suitable background for photos of new graduates in their academic gowns and hoods. I have already mentioned (p. 37) that I chose a photo of it to grace the cover of my history of the SPRC.

Father and Child (69 cm), was first cast in bronze in 1990 and purchased in 1993, by our friends, Doug and Susie Hirst. It was a focal point in their wonderful garden in Turrumurra, especially when one of their grandchildren died fairly recently. Doug asked me to provide a selection of my photos of Australian wild flowers for the walls of his glass house in the garden. He was a larger-than-life person, a great supporter of the Brandenburg orchestra and good friend of Paul Dyer its leader. (Paul was organist at Doug's burial service at St James Church, Turrumurra, when Doug died recently from a brain tumour.) The Hirsts were great friends of Bob and Pippa Cotton. We originally knew all four of them through the local church, and over the years enjoyed many evenings with them. In 1996, another edition of *Father and Child* went to the new Children's Hospital at Westmead for location outside the schoolroom there – at just the cost of the bronze.

The Haitian (tall head) (120 cm), was purchased in 1998 in a collection by the architects for a city building in Clarence Street in the city, just opposite the Queen Victoria Building.

In November 2007, Ann and Alan Pettigrew saw Trish's *Woman Reading* (bronze, 19 cm) at the Uralla Arts Sculpture Prize and Exhibition. Alan was vice-chancellor of the University of Newcastle. On 23 December, Ann informed Trish that the university wished to purchase a larger bronze version (135 cm) which Trish already had under way in plaster form. 'The Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Services), Eve Woodberry, would like to have the work installed in conjunction with a library project, which is developing a new 'e-commons' learning area.'

If all goes to plan, Alan and I would like to invite you to come to UNE to attend the opening of the new library facility. If you wish, we would be very happy if you would stay with us here at Trevena. It is a beautiful old house which you may enjoy seeing and we have a magnificent garden.

In addition, Alan and I would like to purchase the small bronze of *Woman Reading* ... We think it would be lovely to have this as our own example of your beautiful work.

... We are all very excited at the prospect of providing a 'home' for your lovely *Woman Reading*.⁹

Funding for the sculpture came from the UNE Library Endowment Funds.

9 Letter, Ann Pettigrew to Patricia Lawrence, 23/12/07.

It was 1.5 times life-size and weighed 165 kilograms. Trish accompanied Matt Crawford when he transported it to Armidale by trailer on 15 May. With the help of 6 men, the installation was completed by the evening amidst great joy and relief. The reception from university people and others was very enthusiastic. On 22 July, Julia Gillard, deputy prime minister and minister for education, visited UNE to officially open three new educational facilities – the School of Rural Medicine, the new building of the Oorala Aboriginal Centre, and the Dixon Library's Learning Commons, all substantially funded by the Australian government. Scheduled for her walk between her opening of the Centre and the new library facility was a pause to view *Woman Reading* and talking with its creator.

We very much enjoyed staying with the Pettigrews for this event, but had to travel by train because just a week before I had had one kidney removed! We realised it could not have been easy for the Pettigrews to have us and their other guests at the time, because Alan was, in fact, in the middle of a publicised tense conflict with the UNE Chancellor, businessman John Cassidy, over the running of the university. (Alan eventually prevailed. John Cassidy was not re-nominated as chancellor.) The Pettigrews have continued to express interest in Trish's work, and Alan and I have had good discussions about academic affairs when we have met a couple of times since their retirement to live in Canberra.

In 2011, Professor Beryl Rawston bequested *Joie de Vivre*, to the Australian National University art collection. She had purchased this in 2003 in commemoration of her husband, historian Allan Martin, formerly married to Jean Martin whom I had known. In 2012, the Wilderness School in Adelaide placed *My Highly-Strung Aunt Kate* (108 cm) outside their new Music Centre, and adjacent to the original Assembly Hall which was designed by her father, Dean Berry, and who had been chairman of the school's Council for so many years. The sculpture's name came from one of Trish's very upright great aunts who lived in the house at Blackwood which we had occupied when first married.

2.2.2 Family

Our family relationships and responsibilities have grown, developed and changed over the years. Each of our children, David, Peter and Ruth, have had their work careers and partnerships which have produced our grandchildren. We have kept in reasonable touch with all of them, wherever they are located. Family get-togethers at Christmas, Easter, special birthdays, and other times have been genuinely enjoyable occasions. At Trish's 80th birthday, particular tribute was paid to her great capacity to stay calm and supportive, whatever difficulties were being experienced by particular family members. The changing pattern of our family situation is indicated by the following brief sketches, illustrated by a selection of photos.

David and Ruth Rosamond have two children – Naomi (b. in Oxford, 1983) and Jonathan (b. in Sydney, 1986). Peter and Anja Hilkemeijer have had four children – Hannah (b. in Geneva, 1997), Sylvia (b. in Geneva, 1998), Emma (b. in Canberra, 2001; d. in Hobart, 2010), and Margaret (b. in Canberra, 2003). Ruth Lawrence and Pierre Karski have two children – Alexander (b. in San Leandro, USA, 1994) and Camille (b. in Castro Valley, 1996). They came to live in Sydney in 1998, but subsequently divorced with Pierre returning to France to live. In 2010, Ruth and her partner Peter Martin bought a house in Sydney.

David has remained based in Sydney, working in a variety of jobs associated with the building industry, where his industrial design expertise has been valued. These have included: manager of the Australian Design Awards, Australian Design Council, 1986-89; and Archicentre state manager (NSW and the ACT), 1999-2006. While with Archicentre, his Mosman Green project was particularly noteworthy, and he became an effective television commentator on building issues. In June 2016, he resigned his job as senior consultant for the Housing Industry of Australia (HIA).

On returning from England in 1984, David and Ruth rented various houses before buying one at Parramatta. In 1998, after renovating this house and its garden, they sold it, bought a caravan, prepared their Commodore to tow it, and went for a 5-month trip to see Australia – a courageous bold decision which we respected, despite our apprehensions. Ruth schooled the children through correspondence, and their school supported the general educational value of the venture. After the tour, the family visited England and Scotland. It was then back to renting for a period in the Carlingford area, before buying a house in the same area. That house greatly renovated, and another smaller one substantially built by David and Naomi, was sold in May 2016, and the family has moved to the Nelson area in New Zealand.

Over the years, we have very much appreciated David's willing practical help to us in relation to the maintenance of our two properties, the purchase of a car, and so on. He is hard-working, knows what he is doing, and has always had a very generous disposition. Naomi is a very well-qualified nurse, with a BSc in psychology from Macquarie University and a Masters of Nursing from the University of Sydney. She has worked in operating theatres, management and in clinical settings. Naomi and her mother are firmly committed to living in New Zealand. The family very much hopes we can visit them once they are settled

there. Jonathan has a music degree from the University of Western Sydney. He has embarked on a hazardous but promising career playing the guitar and bass in gigs in Sweden, Australia and elsewhere. As well as primarily playing the bass guitar at a very high level, he composes, teaches and organises gigs.

Our son Peter worked as an officer of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 1989-2004, after completion of his LL.M at LSE and admission as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales in 1989. He was based in Canberra, but from 1996 to 1999, was First Secretary of the Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, where (as indicated) his first two daughters were born. In 2001 Emma was born, with beautiful blue eyes but severely disabled. In 2004, the family moved to Hobart when Peter was appointed Senior Lecturer in International Law at the University of Tasmania. A highlight of our lives was a recent, 2-week trip to Europe, to witness Peter giving his public defence of his PhD at the University of Tilburg in the Netherlands in 2013. His book, *Justice for Future Generations: Climate Change and International Law*, was published by Edward Elgar in 2014. It was described as breaking 'new ground by discussing what ethical obligations current generations have towards future generations in addressing the threat of climate change and how such obligations should be embodied in international law'. In the book's acknowledgements, I received a mention, and inscribed in our copy is: 'Dear Mum and Dad, Here it is at last! Thank you Dad for all your help with this, the origins of which included lively debates around the dinner table'.

I have been delighted by Peter's central interest in such a vital topic of universal significance, and have appreciated the periodic opportunity to provide feed-back on his ideas, structure, and drafts along the way. With his developing interest in ethics combined with his expertise and experience in international law, Peter has become part of an international group of impressive scholars addressing the climate change issue, feeding into the climate change policy-makers.

Regular visits to our Hobart family have featured in our lives since 2004. Peter has regularly consulted us about their sometimes very difficult family situation in relation to Emma. On our Christmas visit in 2015, the two oldest girls received their higher school certificate results. Hannah scored well with almost 90% and is taking a year off before going on to university. Her three superb drawings (bird, wombat and sea dragon) for her HSC project were included in a touring exhibition while we were there. Their incredible detail is reminiscent of Audobon's work in the USA. Sylvia came top of the state and is now studying Arts/Law at the University of Tasmania on a Chancellor's scholarship. She is a keen photographer and has a developing photography business. Margaret has entered high school in 2016 and is keen on many sporting activities which now include AFL.

On the basis of her two first-class honours degrees from the University of Sydney (1980-86), and her social work experience at Burnside in Sydney (1987-90), Ruth was granted an equivalency of MSW by the American Council on Social Work Education in 1992. This enabled her to get enrolment for a PhD at the School of Social Welfare, University of California at Berkeley. Twice

we visited her and her family at Berkeley – in 1993/4 and 1997. In 1998, the family came to live in Sydney. They lived for periods at Castle Cove and Roseville (with Pierre), and then independently at Petersham and in their current home further south. Ruth has considerable social research and policy expertise. First, for a brief period, she worked part-time locating and organising reading material for a new master's degree in peace studies, developed by Stuart Rees at the University of Sydney. Then followed four jobs in the NSW Public Service – at the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, at the Children's Commission, the Attorney-General's Department, and Treasury. While at the Attorney-General's Department, she was responsible for the Secretariat of the National Justice CEOs Group, which meets prior to the national meeting of the attorney-generals.

Ruth's current position is with KPMG doing research and policy work 'outsourced' by government departments, non-government organisations and other sources. She is not free to discuss most of this in any detail, but she is obviously doing well in a pressured environment. In 2016, she presented to the Cabinet Office in Japan a social investment project, making another presentation of it in Toronto; with further presentations in London and again in Japan in 2017. Projects involving the welfare of our indigenous population have given her particular satisfaction. It is evident that she relates especially well with Aboriginal people. She is, however, more than ready for a senior position in government, particularly now her children have finished their schooling. In October 2011, she graduated, with distinction, at the University of Sydney with an EMPA (Executive Master of Public Administration) degree from the Australian and New Zealand School of Government. This has been designed for middle-level executives in the public service.

Ruth's children have left secondary school. Since 2012, Alexander has been living in France with his father; he has been teaching English, and is now enrolled in university studies in France. He is an impressive, mature young man and we enjoy being able to keep in touch with him occasionally through Skype. His sister Camille had a particularly good education for the latter part of her secondary schooling at a Steiner school in Castle Cove. After spending time with Alexander and her father in France, she has returned to Sydney in 2016 and will be studying at Sydney University in 2017.

Life Goes On

This the end of a very long text, and, like so many French movies, the work deliberately has no climactic ending or final summing up. Life goes on in all its variety and richness, knowing it will not last much longer for this particular participant. But so what? I have been lucky enough to have had a thoroughly worthwhile, satisfying life, thanks to so many of my fellow human-beings. I wish it were the case for all of humanity.

Chapter 3

Photos

PDL PUBLIC SCULPTURES



Torso Turning 1993, 176 cm – University of New South Wales



Father Child 1989, 69cm



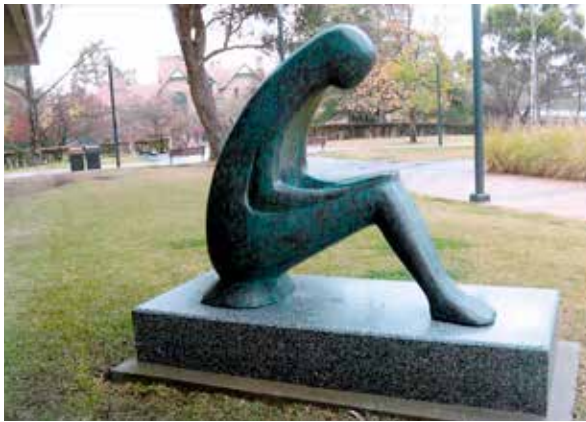
Naomi and RJL – its inspiration, Children's Hospital, Westmead, 1996



Bust of a Woman 1990, 33 cm
- Wilfrid Laurier University, Ontario



The Haitian 1998, 12 cm



Woman Reading 2008, 135 cm - University of New England



Alan Pettigrew, Julia Gillard, and PDL
- opening, UNE's new library facility July
2008



Susie Beaver and PDL - *Joie de Vivre* 1999, 115 cm (bequeathed to ANU art collection 2011)



My highly strung Great Aunt Kate, 108 cm - Wilderness School, Adelaide, 2012

OTHER PDL SCULPTURES (IN BRONZE)



Seated Woman 1985, 42 cm



Leon 1989, 32 cm



Head of a Baby 1989, 15 cm



Like the Wind 1994, 38 cm



Kindred Spirits 1991, 50 cm



Torso Head 1990, 43 cm



Girl's Head 1994, 32 cm



Medieval Man 1996, 30 cm



Young Torso 1996, 80 cm



Group of Six Figures 2000, about 50 cm



Girl by the Sea 1997, 39 cm



*Man with a Twisted Face
(Survivor) 1996, 39 cm*



Lovers Dancing (Dancing figures) 2003, 222 cm



Contemplating 2003, 25 cm



Woman 2006, 94 cm



Mother and Child Reading 2008, 29 cm



Family 2005, 115 cm



Young Woman Reading Cross-Legged 2008, 44 cm



Sylvia Reading 2008, 13 cm



Isobel Reading 2008/12, 18 cm



Lying Reading 2009, 7 cm



Sitting 2009, 56 cm



The Swing 2009, 32 cm



Diver 2011, 121 cm



The Dancer 2012, 178 cm



Le Chapeau 2013, 20 cm



Synchronicity 2014, 55 cm



Seed Pod 2014, 17 cm



Interplay 2015, 81 cm

SCULPTURES IN STONE



Limestone, 1988



Sandstone, 1999



Marble, 1992



Soapstone, 2013

FAMILY

1991



Wedding of Susie Gordon and Martin Beaver - Bateman's Bay

1992



Margaret Berry - visiting Sydney, April

1994



Jonathan and Naomi roller skating



David's cubby house, Parramatta house, December



Ruth, Trish, Jonathan, David, and Naomi

1995



Alexander examining Trish's sculpture, June



RJL with Alexander at our piano



*Peter and RJL -
Floride, Canberra,
September*



Anja's family shop, Rotterdam



Peter, Anja - Zermat Switzerland, December

1996



Anne Gordon, Kate Brown, Margaret and Mary Berry, Priscilla Brown – Wahroonga



Anne and Murray Gordon, Janet Stonier, Trish, Ken Stonier – Wahroonga, October



Trish, Anne, Peter and Janet Linklater, Dawn Linklater, Dawn's mother, Naomi, Ruth, David, Jonathan and Rodney Linklater – Christmas dinner



1997

At Jim's retirement dinner, University of Sydney



Jim's portrait (painted by South Australian Robert Hannaford) - on display at the dinner



Jim, Marg, R.J.L (my siblings) - Australia Club, March



With Governor Gordon Samuels – Order of Australia Awards, Government House, September



David and Ruth's Parramatta house for sale



Pierre, Alexander, Ruth and Camille arrive from USA to settle in Australia – 26 December

1998



Our families with Michael Hogan and Alexis Hailstones and children – New Year's Day



Caravan in our driveway



Farewell Party, February



Ruth, Naomi, Jonathan and David – the travellers returned from touring Australia, July



*Wim and Hannie Hilkemeijer,
Peter and Anja, RJL and PDL –
the Hilkemeijer home, Jaspers
Flat, near Berry, July*



*Family gathering for Trish's
birthday, 20 October*

1999



Trish, Sue and Ken Stevens, Tony Hodgkinson, Elspeth Wells, Anne and Murray Gordon, Anne Hodgkinson – Murray Gordon's 70th birthday, July – Wahroonga



Trish, Mary Berry and Anne Gordon – sisters



Family meal, 27 December

2000



Family visit to Toronga Park Zoo, May



RJL, sister Marg, and brother Jim – February



Easter egg hunt, Pearl Beach house, April



Sydney Olympics with Ruth and children,
14 September.



Gymnastics in progress



Peter singing, Canberra group, International Jazz
Festival, Manly, 23 September



Table-tennis semi-final, seen with Peter,
24 September



Peggy and Anthony Barker – guests for Olympics



Closing fireworks, 1 October



Trish's 70th birthday lunch – De Beers Restaurant,
20 October



Our children on Whale Beach afterwards

2001



Family gathering (with the Linklaters) - RJL's 70th birthday, 24 April



Mark Richards playing his violin, Camille's birthday party - Petersham, July



Ruth's parties were great fun - for everyone



Naomi's school certificate, Carlingford High School, September



Family, Narrabundah, Canberra, October

2002



Peter, Anja and family visiting from Canberra, May



Accompanying Peter singing (We even competed once in a Sydney Eistedford - a scary but satisfying experience.)



Richard, Catherine, Tom and Penny Minife, with Trish - their home near Maitland, August



David, Jonathan, a friend, and Peter, Dee Why beach, December



Naomi - Boxing Day get-together



Peter and children in a park, Homebush

2003



Family in front of Parliament House, Canberra, March



RJL, Noel and Brian Stonier - Merricks, Mornington Peninsular, Victoria, 6 April



Stonier prize-winning Winery



Trish, Jason and Mary - Port Elliot, April



Louise Lipman, Jason, PDL - Jason's 30th



Kate and Pricilla Brown, Adelaide



Margaret Lawrence, Canberra, October



Anja, Peter, and their daughters – on a track in the Pearl Beach area, December



Lunch on our terrace with Hilkemeijers

2004



Chris and Susie Lawrence's farm, near Hobart, August



Jonathan (guitar), school band, graduation day, Carlingford High School, November



Peter and Alexander racing home-made yachts, Kingston Beach, Tasmania, January



Peter surfing near Hobart, July



Naomi and David - his Archicentre demonstration project, Mosman Green - October



Christmas time



Sylvia and R.J.L.



Hannah and Sylvia

2006



Dean and Ian Southwood preparing for Deano's cup, Adelaide, March



Anthony Barker - his property 'Baldina', the Burra, S.A., March



R.J.L.'s 75th birthday, April



Anja, Sylvia, Margaret, Hannah, Pluto, August



*Our wedding party - 50 years later,
25 August*



*With Barbie and Geoff Sharman, meeting
up in Ross, Tasmania, August*



*Richard Minifie, Trish and Tom - tile factory,
Maitland, where Richard worked, October*



David and Ruth's house, Carlingford, November

2007



*With Richard and
Penny Minifie - Penny's
50th birthday dinner,
Maitland, March*



Car ferry to Bruny Island, Tasmania, April



Fishing, Bruny Island



The family's new home, West Hobart, April



Great harbour view from back balcony



Family holiday, Spring Beach, east coast of Tasmania, 80 km from Hobart, 17 December



Margaret running with Grannie, Spring Beach



The Hobart family at Christmas



Emma's Christmas. (Emma was unable to walk, talk, or feed herself.)



Family holiday, Adventure Bay, Bruny Island, 29 December

2008



'Wild Oats', winner, Sydney-Hobart Yacht Race, 1 January



Hannah's 'The Weedy Dragon, entrance Taste Pavilion Community Festival, 1 January



Peter singing in their sitting room, with an excellent view of the harbour



Family group on the terrace of Jim and Sheila's home in Turrumurra, November

2009



Tom Minifie, cox, winning Shore crew, about to receive the trophy, March



Ruth and Peter Martin (Tin Man) – fancy dress, Drummoyne Sailing Club, March



Catherine Minifie in netball action, May



Naomi's overseas birthing kit project, Nursing School, University of Sydney, August



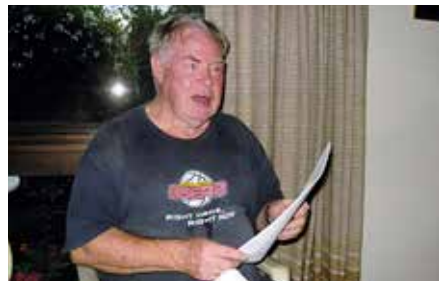
Naomi with her birthing kit team



Jonathan surfing, August



With sister Marg Southwood – gazebo (our accommodation on Adelaide visits), October



Dean Southwood (ENT specialist)



Board, University of Adelaide Rhodes Scholars – main administration building, North Terrace, Adelaide, 30 October



Sylvia and Hannah – their front garden, Hobart, November



Above: Emma in the pool at her special school, November
Left: Peter giving a recital – Stanley Burbury Theatre, University of Tasmania. November



Richard and Tom Minifie, Penny Baynes (nee Barker), RJL, Penny and Catherine Minifie, and Bill Baynes (retired Quantas pilot)

2010



Peter, law school seminar, University of Sydney, May



Trish and Peter – Hornsby shopping centre, May



Trish's 80th birthday party, 20 October



With our grandchildren – Jonathan, Sylvia, Naomi, Margaret, Camille, Alexander and Hannah



Family members, Linklaters, De Graaffs, Beth Cliffe, and Jonathan Hartwig – Trish's 80th birthday

Emma's Memorials



The mobile memorial to Emma above the pool, Southern Support School.
(Emma clearly enjoyed her time in the pool.)



Plaque on the wall outside the pool

2011



Lunch in the city – Peter visiting, 21 January



Naomi speaking on behalf of the nursing graduates, University of Sydney, February



My 80th birthday dinner – at home, April



The Hilkemeijer's at Jasper's Brush near Berry, September



Ruth receiving her EMPA degree from Chancellor Marie Basheer, University of Sydney, October



Alexander, Camille, Ruth, Peter Martin, PDL and RJL afterwards

2012



Alexander off to France -
farewell lunch, March



Ruth and Peter Martin entertaining, April



Hannah and her horse Delta, 22 April



Peter's Concert, Fahan School, Hobart (His
program included Schumann's Dichterliebe,
a cycle of 16 songs.)



Mary's 80th birthday, Port Elliot, S.A., August



Naomi and Jonathan,
September

2013



Wedding reception, Newcastle – nephew Richard Lawrence and Alison, November



Camille, Alexander (visiting from France), PDL and Ruth, December

FAMILY BOATS



David's Catamaran, Patonga Beach, April 2001



David sailing off Pearl Beach, September 2006



Steve Waite and Peter working on their Catamaran – Lauderdale Yacht Club Tasmania, December 2007



Launching 'Unhinged' – Frederick Henry Bay



Ruth skippering her S18 (under spinnaker), race on Sydney Harbour off Bradley's Point



Ruth visiting Patonga, January 2013



Ruth skippering her yacht, Sydney Harbour, 26 January, 2014, Australia Day (busiest day of the year). We moored nearby - wonderful view of the boat parade. (Peter was visiting from Hobart.)



Ruth guest skipper (boat on left), regatta on Port Phillip Bay, Melbourne, 2015

FRIENDS

1992



PDL, Mary McLelland and Joan McClintock – Mary's apartment, Kirribilli, October



PDL, John and Beth Cliffe (née Ward) – our house at Pearl Beach. (John was a retired Cw. public servant.)

1994



RJL, Norma Parker and PDL



Susie and Doug Hirst – in their garden, Turramurra. (Trish's sculpture, distant right)

1995



Diane Barnes and Tony Vinson – School of Social Work, UNSW



PDL and Claire Bunday – Pearl Beach area, July

1996



Trish and Marta Sved, January



Janet, James, and Anne Linklater, and Anne Looby (actress, James's wife), July



The Linklater property at Willow Vale

1998



Willow Vale with the Linklaters, January



PDL, Janet Chan and Peter Saunders, April



Visiting Ray and Jenny Greet - Adelaide, July



Noel Hayman, PDL, Jean and John Tregenza, and David Hayman - Adelaide, July

1999



Graeme and Lauris De Graaff, Graham (their friend), and PDL – the Hawkesbury, October



Geoff Sharman (retired from Macquarie University) – Evandale, Tasmania. A picture of the farm in Tasmania, where he was brought up



The home of the Sharmans in Evandale. We were house guests in November, hired a car and toured in Tasmania (our first visit there), returning briefly to the Sharmans before returning to the mainland in December



Visiting Rod and Judy McDonald and family in Hobart. (They were good friends of Peter and Ruth. They had asked me to speak at their wedding. Rod is a professional musician, playing viola for the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra)

2000



Elery Hamilton-Smith, birthday celebration - Wombean Caves, February

2002



Rodney Linklater, Noel Hayman, Anne Linklater, David Hayman, Trish, Peter Linklater - Randwick, October



2003

Millie Mills, Claire Bunday and Beth Cliffe



Alf and Peta Lewis, Jim, Trish, and Sheila, March. (We knew the Lewises sitting beside them at Musica Viva Concerts. Alf, colleague of Jim's, Concord Hospital.)



Helen and Johnnie Thwaites, and PDL - near home, Port Lonsdale, Victoria. (Son John deputy premier of Victoria.) April



PDL and Helen - Federation Square, Melbourne. (Helen an accomplished painter.)



With Enid and Dick Bennett - their apartment, Kew, Melbourne. (Dick, retired professor of surgery, St Vincent's Hospital.) April



David and Noel Hayman, PDL, and Jean Tregenza - Adelaide, April



David and Jean Prest, beach house, Pt Willunga, S.A..(Dave, retired headmaster, Wesley College, Melbourne.) April



50th wedding anniversary of Johnnie and Helen Thwaites - Pt Lonsdale. (They were on their honeymoon on the ship to England with us in 1953. Trish lived with them for a period in Oxford.) December

2004



Linklaters, PDL, Ann Marsden and friend – Doyle's fish restaurant, Watson Bay, April



George Szekeres (b.1911, Hungary) and PDL, his maths pupil, University of Adelaide, early 1950s. (George and Esther lived in Turramurra. They were our good friends.)

2006



Werribee Park mansion – visit to the Thwaites, August

2007



Pippa Cotton, Peter Low, and PDL viewing Woman Reading sculpture, August



Fully, Trish and Bob Cotton – on our terrace (20 October, 2002) (The Cottons were good local friends.)



Jim with his medical colleagues and friends – Dick Bennett and Leon Gilham. (Leon lived near my family in Adelaide during his student days and was a regular visitor.)

2008



PDL, Barry Egan, Jim and Sheila, January



Austin and Muriel Hukins, May



Tony and Diana Vinson – their 50th wedding anniversary, August



PDL with Beverley Kingston and Jill Roe (our academic historian friends) Pearl Beach, May

2009



Isabel and Geoff Sonley (Balgowlagh Hts neighbours 1961–68) – visiting from UK



John and Deidre Adams (centre) – other Balgowlah Hts neighbours



Trish and Lauris Elms – joint birthday lunch, S. H. Irving Gallery, 20 October



Lauris, Anne Linklater, Graeme de Graaff, and PDL in the Gallery



Jill and Leigh Wilson – their home in Medindie, Adelaide (Leigh, the only school friend I maintained contact with. He was now a retired renal physician.)

2010



Sheila, Derek Anderson, PDL, Jim, and Derek's partner Ronnie – birthday lunch by Jim and Sheila for Derek and RJL, April

2011



Taken to lunch by Millie and Beth



Lauris's 80th birthday – Old Government House, Parramatta, 20 October

2012



PDL, RJL and Jane Miller (visiting to discuss her PhD on social work history, University of Melbourne; submitted in 2015)

2013



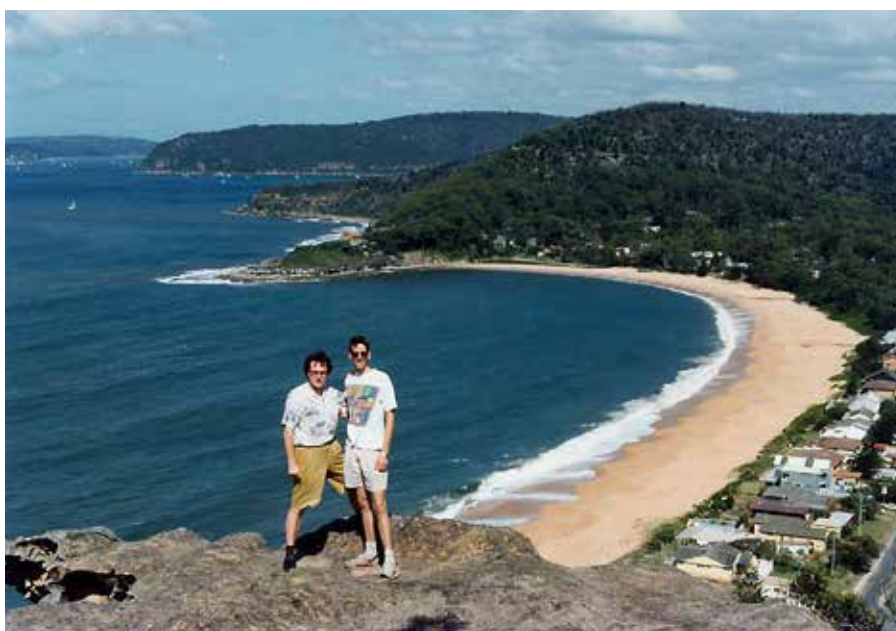
Our dear friend Beth Cliffe (b.1916 (still living in her apartment) – looking at our recent European photos, November

OVERSEAS VISITORS

1992



Trish with Sheila Ney-Smith (University of Toronto School of Social Work, visiting SPRC), Michael (Sheila's partner, a gold geologist), and Laurie (Sheila's neice), April



Holger Buck (from Germany) and Peter - overlooking Pearl Beach, 14 April



Len Brown (Rutgers School of Social Work, group work), and his wife Millie - Pearl Beach house, May



Ron and Karin Baker (UK), and R.J.L. - cooking a barbecue at Pearl Beach house, 15 May



With Trish, the Lindstein family from Sweden, Lina, Thomas, Siev, Nicklaus and in front, Hanne - the Hawkesbury River in the background, July



Siev and Thomas Lindstein - walking in Bouddi national park



Laurie and Werner Boehm (USA) - Warrah Trig point, October

1993



Carol and Jonathan Bradshaw (SPRC visitors from the UK). We first met Jonathan at York University in 1974, February

1994



Tony and Diana Vinson, Trish, and Thomas and Siev Lindstein - on Pearl Beach, March. Thomas and Siev continued contacting us on their annual trip from Sweden to New Zealand where Thomas wrote up his research. We became good friends.

1995



Britt and Sten Ronneburg (University of Stockholm), April



Ulla Pettersson (Sweden), April. We had exchanged houses with her, 1990

1996



David and Armored Knight, PDL - Blue Mountains lookout, April



1997

Siev and Thomas – on their annual visit on the way to NZ, February

1998



Gunvor Brettschneider (Sweden and Finland) and partner, November

1999

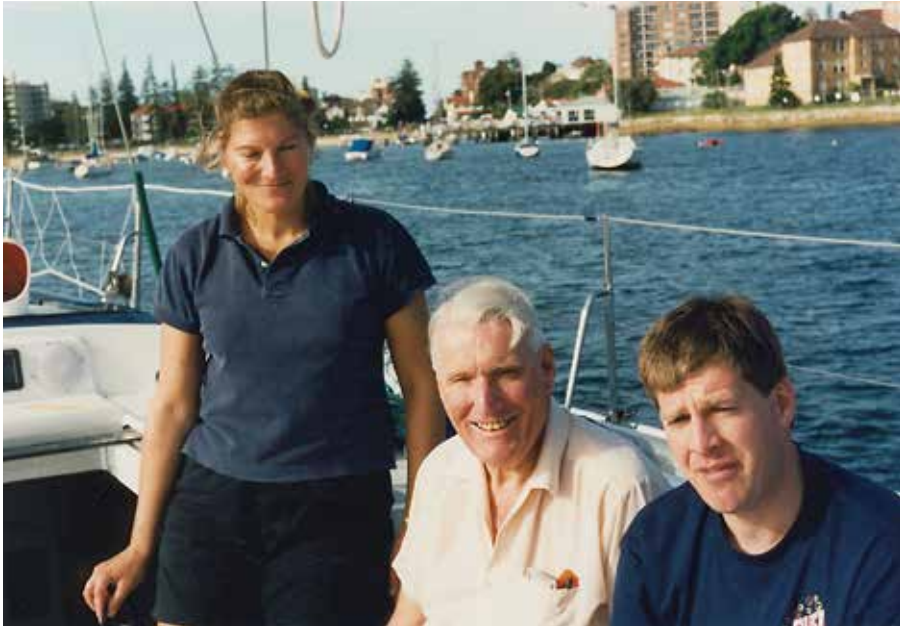


Michael, Trish and Sheila Ney-Smith, March

2000



Fiona Harper, crew-member, Round the World Yacht Race - Darling Harbour, April



Fiona, James and James Harper (UK) – at Manly, our yacht tour of Sydney Harbour. I played cricket with Jim Harper at Magdalen, 1954/5. He was a lawyer.



Fiona, R JL, PDL and Chris Inglefield – the wedding breakfast brought to us by a singing waiter! Fiona and Chris asked us to act as witnesses for their marriage on a Sydney Harbour beach in the grounds of Strickland House, Vaucluse. Both were crew-members on the yacht; both were doctors.

2002



Christoph (teacher) and Holger (law professor), friends from Germany – NSW Art Gallery. July



Tommy Berglind and partner (Sweden), November

2004



Trish with Terry and Dorothy Hokenstad (USA), September



Viewing the Sydney Opera House with the Hokenstads



RJL and Lynne Healey (USA, international social work), October



With the Healeys after a day of sight-seeing - Manly restaurant

2005



John and Pam Hitchcocks (old Canadian friends) – Darling Harbour restaurant

2007



Peter and Katie Basquin (USA). Friends from New York, on their first visit to Australia. They stayed with us in November.



Trish, Peta Lewis, Peter Basquin, and Alf Lewis – our lunch with music lovers. Peter Lewis, professor of piano at CUNY, played our Steinway, and we listened to wonderful recordings of our friend Lauris Elms singing opera, 18 November



Graeme De Graaff, Jim, Lauris De Graaff (nee Elms) and Katie Basquin – our special music lunch



Peter Basquin playing our Steinway, 19 November



Visiting wineries in the Hunter Valley, organised by Jim, 21 November

2008



Seiv and Thomas – on the way to NZ. February

2012



RJL and Thomas Lindstein at our last get-together – an Italian restaurant at Circular Quay

PEARL BEACH HOUSE

The Front Garden



The Back Garden



Through the bathroom window



Turkey nest, August 2001, devastated backyard



An unusual visitor, April 2000



The barbecue, April 1996



David's new, very efficient barbecue, October, 2010



Jig-saw Puzzles in the House at Pearl Beach (One was always on a table in the sitting room. I received a puzzle at least each Christmas.)



Jackson Pollock's 'Blue Poles' – a great challenge



PEARL BEACH AREA (Walks, Trees, Rocks, Nearby Places and Events)

Walks



Mt Ettalong walk, north end of Pearl Beach



The 'pearls' of Pearl Beach – lookout, the Mt Ettalong walk



Umina beach - the Mt Ettalong lookout (Brisbane Water in the distance)



The 1.2 km track, Pearl Beach to the Warrah Trig Point (midway between PB and Patonga)



Besides the track - rejuvenation after the 2001 bushfire



From the track - in the distance, Ettalong beach and entrance to Brisbane water



A favourite walk – in Bouddi Park, a 15 minute drive from Pearl Beach



The bush at the end of the walk



Tallow beach – walking track to Boxhead Lookout (3.1km from carpark), January 1995. (Done the walk three times.)



Boxhead Lookout – to Broken Bay, Lion Island, Hawkesbury River, and Pearl Beach



Left and above: Angophora gums on Boxhead

Trees



Angophoras



The Arboretum at Pearl Beach



Paperbarks - small park, foreshore, Pearl Beach

The Effects of Bushfires



1991



1991



January 2002



January 2006



December 2001



December 2001

Textures and Colours of Tree Trunks





Rocks



Above track, PB to the Warrah Trig Point



On the great north walk through Brisbane Water National Park



Besides walking track, N. of Patonga Dr.



Elephant Rock - track, S. of Patonga Dr.



Off bush track, N. of Patonga Dr, to above Patonga Creek



Naturally-paved rock area, track N. of Patonga Dr. to hanging swamp



Rocks and sea – south of Pearl Beach

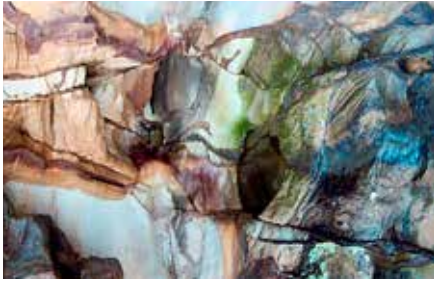


Honey-combed sandstone – Pearl Beach



The artistry of sandstone rocks at the east end of Patonga Beach, Hawkesbury River





Nearby Places to Visit



Patonga beach



Our surfing beach, Umina – family soccer



*Killcare surfing beach,
17 km from Pearl
Beach*



Gallery 460 Sculpture Park, Green Point



Feeding crocodile, Reptile Pk, Somersby



Gosford Japanese Garden and Gallery



Fisherman's Wharf restaurant, Woy Woy



Opera, Arboretum, Pearl Beach, January 2007



Family - Spring-time Flora Festival, Mt Penang Parklands, September 2007



Australian Wildflower Pavilion at the Festival - always worth a visit



Mount Penang Gardens, Kariang - an 8-hectare Australian native garden, with over 1,000 species organised into 12 different garden 'rooms', opened in 2003. Australian water lilies were a feature



FLORA IN BRISBANE WATER NATIONAL PARK



The Warratah patch north off Patonga Drive



Christmas Bells





Banksias



Baronias



Bush Rose



Australian Orchids



Flannel Flowers





Fringe Lillies



Grasses beside one of our favourite walks – a track from Patonga Drive to Warrah Trig Point overlooking the Hawkesbury. Most of the above selected photos were taken in the course of this walk over many years



Gazanias (The foreshore at Patonga has an extensive area of *Gazanias*, native to South Africa.)

TRIPS OVERSEAS

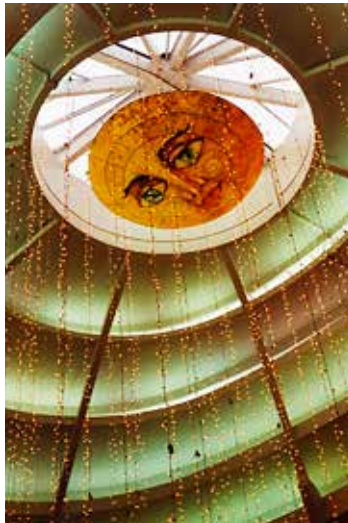
1993-4 – SAN FRANCISCO, YOSEMITE

San Francisco – December 1993



Above: SF cable trams

Left: Union Square Christmas tree



Nordstrom's Christmas display



SFSO practising – Davies Hall



U of California Berkeley – from Ruth's office



Singing in a Berkeley choir – Ghiradelli Square



Ruth's home, San Leandro (eastern shore, San Francisco Bay)

Yosemite National Park (in the Sierra Leone mountains about 160 miles east)



Putting on snow chains



Yosemite waterfalls



Our cabin



PDL and RJL near the cabin



The Half Dome



Walk to Mirror Lake



A reindeer



Merced River



Reflections in Merced River



Merced River - more reflections



Christmas 1993



Golden Gate State Park, 31 December, 1993



Stanford University chapel



Ruth in quadrangle - Stanford University



Rodin



Point Keyes, 30 miles WNW of San Francisco



Beach north of Point Keyes



Left: Sculpture inside the SF Hilton Hotel

Far left: Dubuffet sculpture – San Francisco



Ruth – in San Francisco



New San Francisco Museum of Modern Art



Art Museum, Berkeley



Museum from Campanile



Faculty Club, Berkeley, where I had lunch with respected social work colleague Harry Specht, dean of the School of Social Welfare. (He died in 1995.)

1997 – USA, UK, SWITZERLAND AND FRANCE

MARCH

USA



With grand-children Camille and Alexander – Californian redwood forest



Grand Canyon National Park, Colorado



Ludwig and Shirley Geismar, Laurie and Werner Boehm, and Trish – staying with the Boehms in New Brunswick, New Jersey



Isabel and Mel Wolock



Werner and RJL – steps of the School of Social Work, Rutgers University



Trish and Katherine Kendall-Washington



Rosemary Sarri, Susanne and Henry Meyer, Trish and Ed Thomas – staying with the Meyers in Ann Arbor, Michigan

Our 1967 Homes in Ann Arbor



1508 Shadford



1306 Olivia



New Sculpture, North Campus, U of Michigan, Ann Arbor

APRIL



The Green, New Haven – staying in Graduates Club nearby



Guido Calabresi's office in tall building. Court House next door.



Guido Calabresi in his office. (He was dean of the Yale Law School 1985–94, then, appointed by Bill Clinton, judge of the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit 1994-2009.)

New York



Carnegie Hall



Sculpture court, Metropolitan Museum



Central Park



Central Park



Katie and Peter Basquin (Music Dept, Hunter)



Hunter College School of Social Work

Hunter SSW Friends and Former Colleagues



Florence Vigilante (and Joe)



With Chuck Guzetta



Hal and Celia Lewis, and PDL



Times Square



New York apartments

London



Guests of Ron and Karin Baker – Hampstead Garden Suburb, 12-17 April



*Left: St Martin in the Fields
Right: Globe Theatre*





Tower Bridge



Houses of Parliament



London Marathon - opposite Festival Hall



Walk along the south bank of the Thames



Greenwich



British Museum



Shopping



Oxted, Surrey, 18-21 April



David and Armored Knight – our hosts



Chartwell, Churchill's home, Westerham, Kent



Blue bells in Bowzell Wood, Kent

Nostalgic day-trip to Oxford from Oxted, 20 April

(David Knight had attended Balliol College in the mid-1950s)



Magdalen Tower



Open-air pulpit – access from my former room, Magdalen



Left: Magdalen Cricket Pavilion
 Right: Magdalen punts, River Cherwell



New Building - from Addison's Walk



Fritillaries in Magdalen Meadow



The garden at Rhodes House



Sylvia and David Worswick (my economics tutor at Magdalen) - retired, Beechcroft Rd Nth Oxford - opposite our 1956 digs



RJL with Pat and Cyril Rosamonde - Oundle



Nearby Peterborough Cathedral



Geneva (staying with family)



Peter, PDL and Hannah (in pram) - lakeside



Geneva Fountain



Peter, Anja, PDL and RJL - eating out

Provence – Family Holiday in France



Main street – Avignon



Papal Palace – Avignon



L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue



Our rented house in nearby countryside



Fontaine de Vaucluse



River Sorgue



Gourdes



Gourdes



Sénanque Abbey near Gourdes



Robion



Menerbes



RJL with Hannah



Lunch at Le Fournil restaurant - Bonnieux



Bonnieux



Ochre cliffs of Roussillon



The village of Roussillon



Market, La Sorgue, 1 May



Red poppies on the way to St Remy



Chestnut trees – old square in St Remy



Olive grove on the way to Arles



The Roman Arena, Arles



PDL – cloisters, Arles Cathedral

Geneva



Beside Lake Geneva, 8 May



WHO meeting-Palais de Nations, Geneva



Near Montreux - train trip beside the Lake



PDL - Gstaad village



Yvoire, medieval village, Lake Geneva - 10May



From Mount Saleve, above Geneva

San Leandro, California



Ruth, Alexander, Camille and PDL - in their home at San Leandro, California



Ruth after her PhD graduation at Berkeley, 17 May 1997



Family



Proud parents



Ruth in the gateway to Berkeley, 20 May

1999 – CRETE, PARIS, GENEVA, GUBBIO AND FLORENCE

APRIL Crete



Old Harbour, Heraklion – from hotel window



The lion fountain, Heraklion



Archeological Museum Heraklion – Minoan pottery



Fresco of the bull leapers from Knossos



Our car – collected in Heraklion



Knossos



Dolphin fresco (reproduced) at Knossos



Lesithi Plateau



Agios Nikolaos (65 km from Heraklion)



Further east along the north coast – Agios



Going to Sitia



North coast wild flowers



Minoan site, Gournia



Mersini



Sitia (147km from Heraklion)



Above and above right: Going to the south coast



Near Ano Viannos (66km SE from Heraklion)



Inside church, Ano Viannos



Roman Odeum, Gortyn (51km S from Heraklion)



Recorded legal code



Minoan ruins at Festos



View from Festos



Rethymno (51 km W from Heraklion)



Rethymno Fortress



Sarcophogus-Rythymno Archeological M.



Spili, village near Rythymno



Koutaliotiko Gorge, SW Crete



The south coast



Chora Sfakion - evacuation of British and ANZAC forces, May 1941



Imbros Gorge



South west from Hania to Alikeanos



Gorse



Omelos Plateau



Crocus on Omelos Plateau



Lookout, Samaria Gorge



Towards Hania from Samaria Gorge



Harbour at Hania - hotel behind



Weaver near our hotel



From the inner harbour, Hania



Archeological Museum

Geneva



Brief stay with Peter's family in Geneva – PDL, RJL, Anja, Holger Buck and Peter Hayward (Australian diplomat) celebrating my 68th birthday, 24 April, 1999.

Paris



PDL outside the Louvre



Egyptian section in the Louvre



Tuileries Garden



Tuileries Garden



Place des Vosges, Marais (near our hotel)

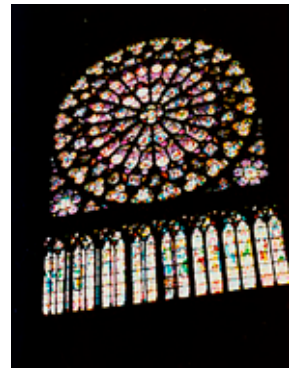


Picasso Museum, Marais



Behind Notre Dame Cathedral

*Rose window,
Notre Dame*



*Michael Müller with Madame Du Barry – Louvre.
(Michael was an art historian friend of Peter)*



Voltaire – Louvre



Les Invalides



La Défense business district



La Défense business district



Eiffel Tower



La Défense business district



Musée d'Art Modern de la Ville



The Marais district

Geneva

MAY



Hannah, RJL and Sylvia – family apartment



Circus, 1 May



Picnic with the Petraseks (David [human rights lawyer], Christina and children)

Tulip display – Botanical Gardens

Italy



By train to Perugia through the Alps

*Perugia,
Umbria*



*Hotel
Fortuna*



The main street



National Gallery of Umbria – Benozzo Gozzoli



Palazzo dei Priori

Gubbio (40km north from Perugia)



Our rented house – Ferratelle, near Gubbio



Electric piano in the house



Gubbio



Gubbio – east end



Ceri in Palazzo dei Consuli



Ducal Palace



Sylvia the centre of attention for teenagers



Raising of the Ceri, Consuls Palace



Festival of Ceri - 15 May



The annual Corsa dei Ceri - teams race 3 statues of saints from the square in front of the Consuls Palace up the mountain to the basilica of St Ulbaldo.



Gubbio from the finicular



Family visit to Ducal Palace, Urbino



Our hired car – Red Rover 200



National park near Gubbio

Spoletto



Spoletto castle and viaduct



Narrow street



Balcony, School for Professionals



Start of street 'car' race



RJL and Hannah-Porto Fino, east coast



Walking, national park near Gubbio



Red poppies in the national park



Peter and Trish in the Piazza at Gubbio

On our way to Florence after leaving our family in Gubbio



Basilica of St Francis, Assisi



Library, Cortona Archeological Museum

Florence



Florence Cathedral



Panel of the door of the Baptistry - Ghiberti



Parade of ancient football teams



Piazza dei Repubblica - near our hotel



Bargello Palace



San Spirito



Donatello



Della Robbia



Marini Museum



South bank of Arno River



Palazzo Vecchio



Michelangelo's David, slaves - Accademia Gallery



Sculptures - Accademia Gallery



Botticelli - Accademia Gallery



Square near Accademia Gallery



PDL in the Uffizi Gallery



Duke of Moltefalcro – Piero della Francesca, Uffizi Gallery



Leonardo Da Vinci, Uffizi Gallery

Bologne



Bologne square and arcades



Political rally-European Parliament



Museum of Modern Art – Bologne



Multipulciano – our last town

2003 – SICILY, SPAIN, VENICE, UK AND PARIS

27 MAY – 13 JULY

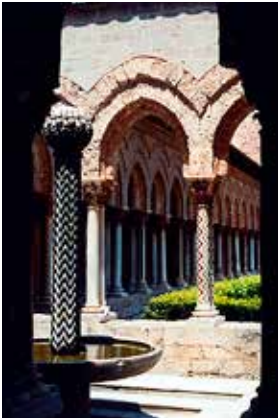
Sicily, Palermo*Archeological Museum**Solunto (Graeco-Roman arch. site 16km from Palermo)**Solunto room**Ram (bronze) – Ariete Siracusa, 111 sec. a.c.**Cathedral**Painted carts*



Cathedral, Monreale



Cathedral Ceiling



Cloisters



View from Erice



Selinunte, 5th century BC



Telamon, Valley of the Temples, Agrigento



Roman Villa, Casale, 3rd-4th century AD



Between Casale and Siracusa



Near our hotel, Ortygia, Siracusa



PDL in Piazza Archimede, Ortygia



Near fountain of Arethusa



Jano Lauretta exhibition



Sunset -Ortygia



Mount Etna from hotel room, Taormina



Local band, Taormina



Piazza Santa Caterina, Taormina

Spain, Barcelona



Covered market, La Rambla



Peninsula Hotel - old convent



Gaudi's Casa Mila



Gaudi's Casa Mila



Art Moderna – Passeig de Gracia



Gaudi's Sagrada Familia



Inside Sagra Familia



Workshop, Sagra Familia



Gaudi's Guell Park



From the steps, National Museum of Catalonia Art



Miro Foundation



Calatrava – Barcelona Harbour



In Las Ramblas



Calatrava's Tower, Olympics site



Gehry's Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao



Richard Serra snake sculpture, Guggenheim



Seville Cathedral



Alcazar royal palace from bell tower of Cathedral



Alcazar royal palace



Alcazar royal palace



Carthusian monastery - M. of Contemp. Art



Torre del Oro, Seville



Mezquita, Mosque-Cathedral, Cordoba



Roman bridge and water wheel, Cordoba



Archbishop's palace -from Roman bridge



Castle of the Kings - Cordoba



Garden, Castle of the Kings, Cordoba



Place del Potro, Cordoba

Madrid



Entrance to the Prado Museum



El Greco portrait, 1610



Plaza Mayor



Columbus Cultural Centre



Royal Palace



Cathedral organ



Arch. Museum

Italy



Toledo street, Cathedral



Flying into Venice

Venice



The Grand Canal



Our hotel (Orion) over street off St Mark's Square



Medieval parade - St Mark's Square



The Doge and city elders-medieval parade



Roman Dock at the Arsenale of Venice



A Venetian canal with gondolas



Australian pavilion (Philip Cox), Biennale



Outside Peggy Guggenheim's Gallery



Campanile, basilica of St Mark, and Doges Palace

England



*With David and Armorel Knight, Oxted, Surrey
(26/6/03)*



George and Dragon Pub



Sissinghurst Castle Garden, Kent



Royal Agricultural Society Garden, Wisley, Surrey

London and Oxford (Centenary Celebrations, Rhodes Scholarships)



St Paul's Bridge to Tate Modern gallery

Oxford



Tony Smith (Magdalen President), Graham and Elisabeth Jeffries, PDL and RJL



PDL in Cast Gallery, Ashmolean



Turner's painting of The High, Ashmolean



The High in 2003



Above: Cricket in the Parks - Authentics game
Right: Magdalen Tower



RJL - Magdalen College garden



Magdalen Bridge - punts

France

JULY

Paris



From the balcony of Hotel de Roubaix (our hotel)



Gears 1855-1880 - Musée des Arts and Métiers (near our hotel)



Bicycles 1887-79-68-65 - Musée des Arts and Métiers



Musée D'Orsay



Woman in Black, Toulouse-Lautrec



The Card Players – Cézanne



Room of Vincent Van Gogh, Arles, 1889



Bal du Moulin de la Gallette, 1876



Tuileries Garden entrance



Place de la Concorde Fountain



Porte St Denis



Galerie Vivienne



Jardin du Palais Royal, Nikki de St Phalle



Arcades around Jardin du Palais Royal



Charles de Gaulle Airport

Flying Home



Australian coastline



Salt pans



Ayers Rock

2006 – MILAN, RAPALLO, SIENA AND ROME

September (Celebration of 50th Wedding Anniversary)

Italy, Milan



Italian Alps (5/9/06)



Duomo – Milan



Galleria Vittorio Emmanuele



Inside Galleria



Pinocoteca de Brera



Marini sculpture



Castello Sforzesco



Milan Street

Based in Rapallo, Cinque Terre



Walk, Riomaggiore to Manarola (8/9/06)



Manarola



Monterrosa (9/9/06)



Walk, Monterrosa to Vernazza



PDL - overlooking Vernazza



Vernazza harbour



Santa Margherita (walk from Rappallo)



Rapallo - from the finicular (11/9/06)



Portofino - from Castello Brown



PDL in bus, Portfino to Rapallo

Siena



View from our hotel room



Street scenes, Siena



Fonte Gala, Piazza del Campo





Torre



Piazza del Campo



Duomo - library ceiling



Duomo - marble inlaid floor



Duomo interior



Market - Volterra (58km W by bus from Siena)



Etruscan excavations – Volterra



Alabaster museum – Volterra



Cloisters, Faculty of Economic, Siena



Florence Duomo (70km N by bus from Siena)



Panel, Baptistry door – Ghiberti, Florence



Marini Museum – Florence



Anna Esposito, language student – Siena



Contrade flags, Palazzo Pubblico

Rome



Piazza di Spagna



Italian veterans' celebrations, Piazza di Spagna



Shoe and bag shop – near Spanish Steps



Arch of Constantine



Inside the Colosseum



Palatine Hill area



Caesar's Forum



Piazza di Repubblica



Santa Maria degli Angeli



John the Baptist - Igor Mitora



Villa Borghese



Bernini Fountain, Villa Borghese



Sydney Welsh choir - Beth Cambridge BSW UNSW



Castel Sant'Angelo



St Peter's from Caste Sant'Angelo



Santa Maria in Trastevere



Garibaldi



Rome from Piazza Garibaldi



Etruscan gallery, Museo Giulia



The Vatican Papal Palace



St Peter's Basilica



Castel Sant'Angelo Tiber bridge



Entrance, Piazza del Campidoglio



Capitoline Museum, Palazzo dei Conservatori



Marcus Aurelius



Woman's Head



Emperors



Philosophers



Roman Forum



San Giovanni in Latero



Cloisters, San Giovanni in Latero



Bernini Fountain, Piazza Barberini



Trajan's Column



Trajan's Column - detail



Maps showing stages in the spread of the Roman Empire (in white)



Appian Way



Bernini's last sculpture – Church of St Peter and St Paul



Our last night – with German friends (Holger, Christoph's sister and friend)



Rome Airport



Hong Kong Airport

2013 – PARIS, AMSTERDAM AND TILBURG

(To Peter’s public defence of his PhD – *Justice for Future Generations; Climate Change and International Law*, University of Tilburg, Netherlands. Published as a book by Edward Elgar, UK, 2014.)

Paris

OCTOBER 16-23



Singapore Airport



Our hotel-Millennium Hotel Paris Opera, Haussmann Blvd



Metro station near our hotel



Paris from top of Pompidou Centre



Musée National des Arts Asiatique – Guimet



History of Architecture Museum



Glass Exhibition Building



Side of History of Architecture Museum



Children playing in park near Eiffel Tower



Les Invalides gardens



Camille Claudel's work, Musée Rodin



PDL, Burghers of Calais - Rodin



Shopping arcade



Place des Vosges



Cartier Foundation – left bank (our companions in a very long queue)



Bourdelle Museum – left bank



Luxembourg Gardens



Luxembourg Palace



Houseboats on a small canal



The Seine and Notre Dame



Railway station wall



Notre Dame



Bookshop along the Seine



Love-locks on Pont des Arts



Tuileries Gardens



Italian restaurant, Haussmann Blvd



Shopping arcade, Haussmann Blvd



Royal Palace Arcade



Birthday dinner – PDL (83), French father and son (17), in an arcade restaurant

Amsterdam

OCTOBER 23-27, 29-30



The Train Station in Amsterdam



Our hotel



Where we had breakfast each day



Rijksmuseum, museum of the Netherlands



Frans Starke sculpture (1820)



Fishing Pinks in Breaking Waves - Henrik Mesdag



The Night Watch - Rembrandt (1642)



The Drapers' Guild - Rembrandt (1662)



The Milkmaid - Johannes Vermeer (1660)



Tomb figures on horses - China (650-750)



Violin, Delft (1708)



Table top - Lydian stone (1650)

PDL - Hotel Droog garden (some flowers made of chicken-wire by a couple from Denmark)



Van Gogh Gallery



Self Portrait (1887)



Peasant Woman Digging (1885)



Wheatfields under Thunderclouds (1890)



Henry Moore sculpture - outside Rijksmuseum



The bicycles of Amsterdam



The bridges of Amsterdam



Canal tours

Stedelijk Museum (museum of modern & contemporary art & design)



Entrance Hall



Improvisation – Kandinski (1913)



Leba Harbour – Mark Pechstein (1922)



Floor Polishers – Malevich (1911)



Outdoor chess



PDL – in Vondel Park opposite our hotel

Tilburg – (for Peter’s PhD defence)

OCTOBER 27-29



Peter, Holger Buck and Matthias Hartwig (old German friends) – train to Breda



Michael Müller,RJL, Peter, PDL, Samuel H and Holger – park in Breda after lunch



Sight-seeing in Breda



Italian dinner in Tilburg

The Defence at the University of Tilburg

OCTOBER 28



Samuel and Matthias Hartwig – in the foyer of our hotel Ibis beforehand



Arriving at University of Tilburg campus



University notice of Peter's PhD defence



Peter's presentation of his thesis



The 3 interrogating examiners (on the right)



Peter responding (flanked by his 'paranymphs', Holger and Matthias)



Peter singing Donizetti aria - waiting for examiners' decision



Supervisor Jonathan Verschuuren talking about Peter's thesis after PhD conferred





Peter's 'doctoral hat' – from Hartwig family (messages and photos on it)



Two of Peter's ex-students came from The Hague – Will Underwood and Bridget Dunne



Lost in the woods – walk to Peter's hotel



Drinks before celebratory dinner



Peter with his PhD supervisor Jonathan Verschuuren

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A Cumulative Index for the autobiography is at the end of this volume and is also available on-line.

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Appointed an emeritus professor on his retirement from UNSW in 1991, the author's professional work commitments extended into the 1990s - particularly chairing the Management Board of the national Social Policy Research Centre, and completing his general book on ethics and professional conduct. Life was enriched by a growing, geographically dispersed family, and the development of Patricia Lawrence's career as a sculptor. Six overseas trips, to the USA and Europe, kept alive their international friendships and interests.



John Lawrence has taught social policy for thirty years, taking a special interest in the ethical justification of policy and professional intervention. He is a graduate of the Universities of Adelaide and Oxford, and the Australian National University. Australia's first Professor of Social Work, he headed the School of Social Work at the University of New South Wales for fourteen years, chaired the University's Faculty of Professional Studies, was a member of the University Council, and was directly involved in the development of its Social Policy Research Centre, a national centre directly funded by the Australian Government. A former federal president and life member of the Australian Association of Social Workers, he served on its National Ethics Committee. For eight years, he was an elected member of the Executive Board of the International Association of Schools of Social Work. He has had membership of the governing bodies of community agencies, including a vice-presidency of ACOSS (Australian Council of Social Service). He is a firm advocate of international experience, and has spent almost seven years away from his native Australia, studying, researching, teaching and acting as a consultant in England, the United States, Canada, Thailand and Sweden. This has been assisted by various awards – a Rhodes Scholarship, Fulbright senior awards, the Moses Distinguished Professorship at Hunter College in New York, and a Canadian Commonwealth Fellowship – and university study leave and exchange arrangements. He is a member of the Order of Australia.