



THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
at
LA TROBE UNIVERSITY, BUNDOORA



THE INSTITUTE

The overall aim of the Institute for Advanced Study [IAS] at La Trobe University is to enhance further the reputation and standing of the University as a major research institution – a place to which student and staff of the highest calibre are drawn.

To achieve this, the IAS brings to La Trobe University outstanding scholars who are leaders in their discipline and at the cutting edge of research. By encouraging productive interactions between these scholars, staff, and post graduate students, the climate for research is strengthened as is the profile of the university as a major institution dedicated to the advancement of learning and research. Support for post graduate students is also offered in other ways, including through the *Showcasing the Future* series.

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2003

It is a pleasure to present the Institute for Advanced Study's annual report for 2003. Major activities for the year 2003 are listed below:

IAS Distinguished and Associate Fellows

The following Fellows spent time at the Institute during 2003:

Professor Ryuta Minami	<i>Department of Foreign Language, Aichi University of Education, Japan.</i>
Professor Bernd Heine	<i>Institute fur Afrikanistik, Universtitat zu Koln, Germany</i>
Dr Robert Drugan	<i>Department of Psychology, University of Hampshire, USA</i>
Dr Zhang Chi	<i>Department of Archaeology, Peking University, China</i>
Dr Xingshan Lei	<i>Department of Archaeology, Peking University, China</i>
Professor Eric Jones	<i>Economics, Graduate Centre of International Management, University of Reading, UK</i>
Professor Dianne Neumark-Sztainer	<i>Epidemiology, Public Health, University of Minnesota, USA</i>
Dr Deborah Sell	<i>Speech Pathologist, Ormond Street Hospital, London UK</i>
Professor David Ellis	<i>School of English, Rutherford College, University of Kent, UK</i>
Dr Gerald Bloom	<i>Institute for Development Studies, University of Sussex UK</i>
Professor Robin Williams	<i>School of Engineering, University of Wales, Swansea, UK.</i>

In addition to working on their own research, these scholars interacted productively with staff and higher degree students from the university.

A sample of brief reports submitted by IAS Fellows is appended to this report (see Appendix A).

A copy of the nomination form for IAS Fellows is also attached Appendix B). The form can be downloaded from the IAS Website.

Nominators' feedback

From an embryonic beginning in 2000, the IAS Fellowship scheme has increased steadily. With the passage of time, it is critical to examine the longer term benefits of the scheme from the University's perspective. (As already noted, Fellows' feedback has been obtained since the inception of the scheme.) Details of nominators' affiliation, publications produced as a result of the scheme, and a selection of qualitative evaluations of the scheme provided by the nominators are included in Appendix C.

Showcasing the Future series

Four different events took place (compared with one in 2002). These were:

- *How's Your Thesis Going?* Special post graduate research day for students in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (June 2003)
- "Fireside chat" in association with the *Workshop on Universal Algebraic techniques in Semi Group theory and Algebraic Logic* (September 2003)
- *Plant Biotechnology* Workshop (October 2003)
- *Mycology and Plant Pathology* Symposium (December 2003)

It is noteworthy that each of these events attracted support beyond that offered by the IAS. Selected and abbreviated reflections on these events are included in Appendix D

The Research Centre for Linguistic Typology [RCLT]

Highlights of the RCLT activities for 2003 are summarised below.

The past year has been attended by success, in terms of the excellence of Research Fellows, Visiting Fellows and Doctoral Students, the quality and the quantity of the publications we produce, and the continuing grants and fellowships – including postgraduate fellowships - we attract. The International Workshops we host each year produce seminal volumes that are acknowledged to constitute substantial contributions to the field. RCLT provides a relaxed but intense intellectual milieu which engenders research of the highest order.

Staff and students undertook original fieldwork on previously undocumented languages from Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Malaysia, India, the Philippines and Aboriginal Australia. During the year seven books and seventy five academic papers were published, based on work done by scholars while members of RCLT, with a further twelve books and seventy two papers in press. Members of RCLT participated in international conferences in Australia, Brazil, Czech Republic, and in the United States.

Professor Marianne Mithun, a leading world linguist based at the University of California, Santa Barbara, was presented with the Degree of Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) and delivered a well-received public lecture entitled 'Alternative worlds in peril: what do we lose when a language disappears?'

Further highlights of the year included the publication of Professor Aikhenvald's comprehensive *A Grammar of Tariana, from north-west Amazonia* (720 pp.; Cambridge University Press) and the completion of Professor Dixon's seminal grammar *The Jarawara language of southern Amazonia*, to be published by Oxford University Press in 2004 (660pp), in addition to the volume *Studies in evidentiality* (Amsterdam: John Benjamins, resulting from our 2001 International Workshop).

IAS Administration Building

Stage 2 of the renovations to the IAS administration building was completed in October 2003. Meeting facilities now comprise the large seminar hall, a small meeting room, and larger meeting room with ready access to a remodelled heating and serving kitchen. Since completion of the renovations, there has been a steady demand for these facilities from groups within as well as outside the university. To cope with the additional work load, it has been necessary to increase the position of executive officer to full time. IAS Fellows are also benefiting from this arrangement.

La Trobe House

La Trobe House, located next to the IAS administration building, contains five fully furnished, high quality apartments. They are used extensively: by visiting IAS Fellows and, when available, by other visitors to the university. Accommodation in the apartments as part of the IAS Fellows entitlement is regarded by Fellows as an attractive feature of the scheme.

Other developments

Subject to space availability, the IAS facilities are also being utilized by staff and doctoral students for well defined and short term projects and special research meetings and seminars. Once again several postgraduate students were given office space in the IAS for a limited period to complete the final draft of their thesis. Several visitors to the University were also given access to an office in the IAS for a short period.

A final comment

All of the IAS Fellows have commented gratefully on the support and help provided by the Executive Officer, Julia Anderson. I, too, want to express my thanks to Julia for her unfailing support, flexibility in carrying out an ever increasing range of tasks, and attention to the myriad of details needed to ensure the smooth functioning of activities in the IAS.

Gilah Leder

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<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/ias/>