

(Starts 008)

Student life 1948-51

Burnie High School student. "The Burnie boys".

Jaeger, Macauley, Kirth

The Pitman syllabus

Maurice Atkinson a contemporary

Most north-coasters went to Melbourne University then. Half class in first year were exservicemen. Schoolboys and men - former helping latter in mathematics, latter helping former in engineering concepts. Much sharing. Mac Urquhart "always spoke widely about the mathematics he was going to put up". Lectured by Professor Alan Burn in later years. Very hard work, but intellectually very stimulating. The schoolboys did a lot of discussing - on their pushbikes.

Not enough of the humanities. One would have liked more. Didn't mix enough with the Arts students. Found them a bit flippant.

Not much time for social life within the University.

Transport very difficult - coming home late and wet from late classes on a pushbike - Sandy Bay to Glenorchy.

Not much interest in political debate.

Graduated - took responsible job at age 20 in Devonport - Marine Board.

Everyone got good jobs in those days.

Excellence of Tasmanian engineering course.

Staff Appointment

Working in Scottish Highlands for a contractor in 1955. Received letter from Professor Burn asking whether he would be interested in coming back as a lecturer as he couldn't get anybody else - to tackle for one or two years. "The old Tas. Board of Management" would employ him as a lecturer.

450 Details of testing and measurement - core of academic work and research - publications immediately.

500 Comparison of his own teaching with what he had been taught.
Appointed with first degree only; enrolled for Ph.D. in Engineering (the first). Topic selected was "far too specific". (Details)
Completed part-time in four years (AND did Arts course at same time.)
Details of books written. Study leave at Cambridge because he knew nothing about any other university.

2.

Emphasis on technology here, producing very valuable students. Ford Foundation Scholarship to Toronto because of need to experience North-American university - undergraduate courses particularly.

Publications.

670 Descriptions of full-time Engineering day, plus Ph.D., plus Arts course, plus publishing. Not much time for social life in the University.

Move into workshops on Sandy Bay site.

SIDE 2 To be repeated - tape did not record

6/10/82 On second thoughts, has decided against.