

Interview with Mrs. Scott (daughter of the Registrar JHR Cruickshank) 1978 Hobart

Interview conducted by John Roberts (Mrs Scott was then aged about 90)

What can you remember of UTAS as a young girl?

Well, firstly it wasn't very new... It had been a school... it had been a boy's school for some years I think... and father was made assistant Registrar, first of all and then he was made Registrar... and he carried on as that and loved it! He was very keen about languages, and I don't know how many languages he didn't know... and he loved meeting the young people... he was a great help to them.

You lived in the University building?

Yes... we lived in the University building... there were three stories... in the bottom one we had the kitchen... and father's office was there, as was the student common room, on that floor.

Looking at a photograph of the University building

There are the three stories I was talking about, the student common room was looking out toward the back, and father's office was on the ground floor, and my bedroom was at the top in a little room off my father and mother's room.. and beyond was the boy's room and it opened onto the landing... the building was divided by a lovely staircase with banisters to slide down... which we did, when we not caught... and the front hedge I used to run along the top because it was nice and firm... it was beautifully thick... and they had a good gardener, who kept it clipped... we were not supposed to run along.

How old were you?

I was there from eleven to thirteen years of age... two years, and the classrooms were on the first floor with the library, and I remember they had an entertainment there, and I can remember being allowed to peep over the banisters to see the ladies arrive in their lovely clothes.

Looking at a photograph of the University library

Yes, that's my father... and these young ladies were wearing academic dress... they had to wear them, as far as I knew and can remember... that was the library, on the floor where most of the classrooms were.

What about the students? Was it difficult to get into Uni?

I don't know at all... we didn't have any contact with them... because if we played around the front, the windows would go up, and we were told ' ... go away! there's a class!'

Were there many women students?

Mostly men, mostly boys... I don't really remember the women... but I do remember Professor Flynn... I remember him and his wife... a lovely woman, **beautiful**, and his son was Erroll Flynn... yes! There was a limerick about Professor Flynn:

Prof Flynn sir... Tall and thin sir... Lectured in Biology... Tortured dogs sir... Pickled frogs sir... Sent them all the way to ???? sir

The limerick used to be sung after the student commemoration.

What about other staff?

Professor Williams was a different type:

Prof Bill sir... makes us ill sir!

He was on the other side of the University... and his family lived there... and his boys had the top room, and they used to meet our boys on the landing and have pillow fights. Great fun!

Was the University a friendly place?

Well no!... because we were kept away... we were too naughty... we were regarded as a nuisance... like a special school.

We used to go to our school from there [University]... to our school at the Anglesea Barracks, a girl's high school.

My great friend was Sarah Dunbabin... she was very good at languages, and she could write!... during the war she wrote to the Poles... and received letters from them, right up until her death! She was an early MA graduate... she was too retiring to take part in life at the University... she was a shy girl but very clever... brilliant!

She had a brilliant family as her cousin was a professor... Professor Dunbabin... and her brother was the editor of a newspaper, and was a Rhodes scholar.. very clever too!

Was academic dress worn?

They [the students] would change into academic dress at the University.

Looking at a photograph of the University faculty staff and students

That's my father there, and Mr Kingsmill, my brother in law... he married my sister... Mr Kingsmill was very clever... don't know what he did.. and there are some lady undergraduates

Looking at another photograph of the University staff

I can only recognise Professor Macdougall (law)

What was the impact of the University on Hobart?

I'm afraid I can't remember that... I was not clever enough... I came to the University in 1903... and I used to walk down to the train, about a mile, and into Macquarie Street, and then walked another mile to the Barracks, and I did that all through my academic years... four miles a day... so I had good walking capacity.. I loved my school, and loved our teachers... [I was] not clever enough to go to University.. it was right beyond me.... glad to take on kinder teaching

What did you do in your spare time in Hobart?

In Glenorchy I had a horse... and would go tramping into the hills and mountains around Hobart...people were keen about exploring... we made our entertainments... I went to my first film when I was aged seventeen... we went by dray to Moonah, then by double-decker tram into the theatre in Hobart... the Theatre Royal... we saw moving pictures, they had only just come out... that was in 1904.

Connections between the University and Hobart?

I didn't really take part... so I don't know much of that... I led a quiet life.. I never had much money.

We [my brother and I] were really glad to get away from it [the University]... because I remember we moved first to Newtown, and I can remember shouting at the top of our voices... we had to be so quiet at the University... if we made a noise it would be banging a door or something like that... so we were glad to get away and have some freedom... it was great having brothers too, we played out of doors...