Arrived in University (as student) on day Professor Orr was dismissed. Subsequent interest and active involvement.

Role of Convocation.

The influence of MAC URQUHART, a mathematician in the University. An original thinker - radical environmentalist. Advocate of wind energy as alternative to oil. Was never promoted in department. (Professor Pitman head).

Professor Pitman.

Professor L. McAuley - an inspiring person, not a good teacher. Cosmic ray research group, set up by him, still continuing today. Setting up of optical annexe. Details.

Work of Hans Buchdahl (now Professor of Theoretical Physics, A.N.U.) who loved Tasmania and wanted to stay, but couldn't get promotion here.

Influence of McAuley still felt - department still accused of being "ingrown", because so many staff are former students. Department has tended to specialise in astronomy, optics work, biophysics research. Recent appointment of Professor in Theoretical Particle Physics. Outstanding applicants.

Method of appointment, difference of opinions about appointment - a new area, a field which doesn't relate in any way to what is being done already in department.

Present contraction in department owing to financial restrictions on staffing - ancillary staff being lost. Student numbers keeping up. ARG C grants continue, but if too much time is spent by staff doing work of ancillary staff, then these ARG C grants would not continue, as they depend on high standard of research and publications being kept up.
MAC URQUHART's alternative plan for University (according to Michael Roe he wanted the University to be in one-storey chalets at Bothwell.)

The takeover of the TCAE - a mistake for the University to become more of a comprehensive institution. Belief in the University keeping "aloof from the world to some extent" - danger to the pursuit of excellence in too much community involvement, too involved in professional training.

The role of the Vice-Chancellor - changes in emphasis from academics to administrators to academics.

Advantages of smallness of university. Method of collaboration with overseas group in research project which helps to overcome disadvantage of smallness.

Involvement with ANTARCTIC - personal anecdotes (1963).

Story of transfers between Hobart and Melbourne of Antarctic Division cosmic ray section. Influence of John Coates.

Likelihood of building up a "centre of excellence" in Antarctic research in Hobart. The Physics Department is not specially interested in these areas at present, but there may be a resurgence of interest.

Outstanding students: Don Melrose, who now has Chair at Sydney University.