Sources

Official records

‘Look at the Basic Papers’
Ross Hohnen to the authors, 1992.

The official records of the University are vast. They include published annual reports of the research schools, faculties and the University as a whole; news publications, the most important of which are the ANU News and its successor the ANU Reporter; and some 400,000 individual files, which we refer to collectively in the notes as the ANU Archives.

The ANU Archives are subject to the provisions of the Commonwealth Archives Act. Most of them are located in the University and are maintained by the Records Section in the University’s Central Administration, pending disposal or transfer to the Australian Archives for permanent retention. They include minutes and papers of Council, the academic boards, the research schools and the faculties; records relating to each research school, faculty and centre; reports and papers relating to internal and external reviews of various parts of the University; subject records; and individual staff and student records.

Further information about the content and arrangement of the ANU Archives is available in A Guide to Central Records, produced by the University in 1992. We have also consulted selected records in research schools and faculties.

The University of Melbourne Registry holds records relating to the Canberra University College.

Papers relating to the early history of the ANU are located in the Australian Archives, especially in the Commonwealth Office of Education record group. Some collections of private papers also include official and semi-official records, including original and duplicate documents.

The Students’ Association keeps minutes of meetings from the 1960s to the present. The two most significant student publications are the annual Orientation Handbook and the newspaper Woroni.

Private records

‘... if the story of any event of importance were derived by historians purely from the official documents there would be no true history’
Sir Mark Oliphant to David Hodgkin, 25 Feb 1969, ANU Archives.

Many people associated with the University have assembled collections of private papers. Some collections relate to specific research projects. Others, more significant from our perspective, relate generally to the making of the University and how the institution works. Some collections comprise only a few files; others occupy many metres of shelf space.

We have perused, either comprehensively or selectively, the following collections:

Australian Archives
H.C. Coombs Papers (M448/1; M1505/1; A4311)
ANU Archives
Correspondence between Hugh Ennor and Sir Howard Florey 1948-56
A.J. Birch Working Papers
H.C. Coombs Papers
J.W. Davidson Papers
F.J. Fenner Papers
W.K. Hancock Papers
D.A. Low Papers
M.L. Oliphant Papers
G. Sawyer Papers

ANU Library
H.W. Florey Papers relating to the ANU

Barr Smith Library, University of Adelaide
W.R. Crocker Papers
M.L. Oliphant Papers

Basser Library, Australian Academy of Science
F.J. Fenner Papers
E.W. Titterton Papers

National Library of Australia
H.C. Coombs Papers (MS802)
Sir Douglas Copland Papers (MS3800)
Sir John Crawford Papers (MS4514)
L.F. Crisp Papers (MS5243)
Charles Daley Papers (MS1946)
John Dedman Papers (MS987)
Sir Frederic Eggleston Papers (MS423)
University Association of Canberra Papers (MS470; MS487)
Jack Waterford Papers (MS7930)
S.C. Yocklunn Papers (MS2064)

Noel Butlin Archives Centre, ANU
L.F. Fitzhardinge Papers
W.K. Hancock Papers (P96)

University of Melbourne Archives
R.D. Wright Papers

Oral history

‘Don’t believe everything they tell you’.
Many people, often.

The ANU Oral History Project
Notwithstanding the warnings, we have benefited greatly from the oral reminiscences of people associated with the University. In 1990 the University initiated an oral history project, which later merged into our research for this book. Interviews were conducted by Daniel Connell (DC), S.G. Foster (SGF) and Mary T.N. Varghese (MNV). A series of four interviews conducted by R.A. Gollan in 1982 were transcribed and incorporated in the project.
The tapes and transcripts are held in the ANU Archives. Some interviews are subject to restricted access.
Arndt, Heinz Wolfgang 1990 (DC)
Binns, Joan Linnett 1994 (SGF)
Borrie, Wilfred David (Mick) 1982 (RAG)
Bouquet, Mary Grace Cummings (Molly) 1990 (DC)
Burton, Herbert (Joe) 1982 (RAG)
Butlin, Noel George 1990 (SGF)
Catcheside, David Guthrie 1991 (SGF)
Clark, Charles Manning Hope 1991 (SGF)
Coombs, Herbert Cole (Nugget) 1992 (SGF)
Craig, David Parker 1991 (SGF)
Crocker, Sir Walter 1991 (SGF)
Croft, Patricia 1982 (RAG)
Cumpston, Helen 1991 (DC)
Curtis, David Roderick 1992 (SGF)
Fenner, Frank John 1990 (DC)
FitzGerald, Charles Patrick 1991 (SGF)
Fitzhardinge, Laurence Frederic 1982 (RAG) and 1992 (SGF)
Gasgoigne, Sidney Charles Bartholomew (Ben) 1990 (DC)
Gibb, Cecil Austin 1991 (SGF)
Gollan, Robin Allenby 1993 (SGF)
Hambly, Arthur Neville 1990 (DC)
Hamilton, William Stenhouse 1994 (SGF)
Karmel, Peter Henry 1995 (SGF)
Kent, Ann Elizabeth and Ward, Robin Lynette 1994 (MNV)
Low, Donald Anthony 1994 (SGF)
Mathews, Russell Lloyd 1991 (SGF)
McCullagh, Peter John 1992 (SGF)
McQueen, Humphrey Denis 1994 (SGF)
Melville, Sir Leslie 1990 (DC)
Nichol, Lawrence Walter 1995 (SGF)
O'Brien, Elizabeth; and Riddell, Diana Betty 1994 (SGF)
Oliphant, Sir Mark 1990 (DC)
Packard, William Percival 1994 (MNV)
Padgham, Stephen; Robinson, Ashton Scott; and Swinbank, Christopher John 1994 (SGF)
Passmore, John Arthur 1991 (SGF)
Plowman, Colin George 1994 (SGF)
Robertson, Sir Rutherford (Bob) 1990 (DC)
Rosenberg, Harry 1992 (SGF)
Ross, Ian Gordon 1994 (SGF)
Sawer, Geoffrey 1990 (DC)
Spate, Oskar Hermann Krishian 1990 (DC)
Walsh, Gerald Patrick 1994 (SGF)
Wang Gungwu 1994 (SGF)
White, Patricia Marie 1991 (SGF)
Whitten, Wesley Kingston 1992 (SGF)

In addition, Alan Manning conducted a series of interviews with senior members of the University in 1963: a transcript is held in the ANU Archives. The University also holds television and radio interviews with prominent members of staff.

*Interview in the Basser Library, Australian Academy of Science*
Titterton, Ernest William (1980)
Interviews in the National Library of Australia
Burton, Herbert (Joe) (1982)
Carver, John Henry (1976)
Copland, Sir Douglas (1967-68)
Firth, Sir Raymond (1974)
Florey, Howard Walter, Lord (1967)
Huxley, Sir Leonard George Holden (1971)
Melville, Sir Leslie Galfreid (1973)
Wheare, Sir Kenneth (1975)
Wright, Roy Douglas (Pansy) (1976)

Interview in the University of Melbourne Archives
Wright, Sir (Roy) Douglas (Pansy) (1986)

Bibliographies

Two bibliographies of published sources have been especially valuable:

Naomi Caidden, 'A Bibliography for Australian Universities', in E.L. Wheelwright (ed.), Higher Education in Australia, Cheshire, Melbourne, 1965; and


Sources of illustrations

Most of the illustrations in this book are taken from what we loosely refer to as the 'ANU Collection'. This is spread around various parts of the University, especially the Public Affairs Division, the Records Section and ANU Photography. The term also includes smaller collections in JCSMR (which, in the early years, provided photographic services to the whole University), MSSSO, the Buildings and Grounds Division, and several other divisions or departments. Where no source is indicated, the original illustration is located within the ANU Collection and may be traced through the Public Affairs Division.

Early chapters make extensive use of photographs taken by the Commonwealth Department of Information (1939-49), which are described as 'Australian Official Photographs', and the Australian News and Information Bureau (1949-72). These were often commissioned by the University and do not form part of the collection of official photographs held by Australian Archives. We therefore describe them as forming part of the ANU Collection.

Where possible we have provided the date or approximate date of each photograph and have acknowledged its photographer. We apologise to photographers whose work appears without acknowledgement.