Greetings the future
(2000-2004)

Abstract for chapter 7

The HRC was hailed by Vice-Chancellor Ian Chubb on its 30th birthday as a catalyst and national focus for research in the humanities and as ‘a proud part of The Australian National University,’ having attracted some 1000 eminent scholars from 39 countries as visitors. The new WEH Stanner Building was opened to be shared by the HRC and the CCR, and the success of the new Post Graduate programme enabled the HRC to appoint a third senior academic, Dr Paul Pickering.

The Art and Human Rights conference and exhibitions at a number of Canberra institutions, including ANU, the National Gallery and the National Museum of Australia, set off important new collaborations and ‘reverberated throughout the community,’ in the words of National Gallery Director Dr Brian Kennedy.

Iain McCalman was awarded the prestigious Federation Fellowship and resigned as Director. He was succeeded by Professor Adam Shoemaker from August 2003 to January 2004, when first Director Ian Donaldson returned after thirteen years to become again Director of the HRC.

Keywords
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The move from the A.D. Hope Building took place in June 2000. Visiting Fellows were housed in the cottages located in the vicinity of Old Canberra House (OCH) until the new building located behind Old Canberra House, to be known as the WEH Stanner Building, was ready for occupancy in August 2001. There were fewer Visiting Fellows to be accommodated in 2000; but the HRC academic cohort was enhanced by ARC Fellows Professor Bill Gammage and Dr Paul Pickering and Adjuncts including Dr John Docker. Dr Brian Massumi left in 2000 but returned to run one of the HRC’s most successful Graduate courses and conferences on ‘the Biophilosophy of Life’ in 2003 along with former HRC Visiting Fellow Professor Sandra Buckley. One of the most telling demonstrations of the warmth of commitment to the HRC from Fellows and former Fellows has always been their willingness to return and continue to contribute to the Centre’s programmes, especially the teaching programmes in later years.

The theme in 2000 was ‘Law and the Humanities’, and important collaborations occurred with the Faculty of Law and RSSS, some continuing well beyond that year such as Caroline Turner’s ‘Art and Human Rights’ project begun in 2000 in collaboration with Visiting Fellow, distinguished international jurist and Professor of Law at the London School of Economics, Professor Christine Chinkin. Professor Chinkin came in 2000 to convene a conference on *Feminist Explorations of International Law* with Director of the Centre for Public and International Law at ANU, Professor Hilary Charlesworth, one of Australia’s most renowned and respected international lawyers. Other
HRC conferences held under this theme were: *Romancing the Tomes: Feminism, Law and Popular Culture* convened by Professor Margaret Thornton from the School of Law and Legal Studies, La Trobe; *Women and Property in Early Modern England* convened by Dr Nancy Wright from the University of Newcastle and Professor Margaret Ferguson from the University of California; *Those Lasting Alliances of Habits – Law, History and the Humanities in the Imperial World*, convened by Dr Ian Holloway of the Faculty of Law, ANU and Professor John McLaren of the Faculty of Law, University of Victoria, British Columbia; *Natural Law and Sovereignty in Early Modern Europe*, convened by Professor Ian Hunter from the Centre for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, Griffith University; *Constructing Law and Disability*, convened by Ms Lee Ann Marks from the School of Law and Legal Studies, La Trobe and Ms Melinda Jones from the Faculty of Law, University of NSW (this conference leading to the speedy construction by ANU of much needed disabled toilet facilities at Old Canberra House); and *Law in Chinese Culture*, convened by Professor Bill Jenner of the China and Korea Centre, ANU and Dr Benjamin Penny. Non-thematic conferences in 2000 were: *Chinese Art: the Future*, convened by Caroline Turner with the National Gallery of Australia; *Lost in the Whitewash: Aboriginal-Chinese Encounters from Federation to Reconciliation*, convened by Dr Penny Edwards of the CCR and Dr Shen Yuan-fang from the Centre for the Study of the Chinese Southern Diaspora, ANU, (later published as an HRC monograph ‘Lost in the Whitewash’ in 2003); and *Landprints over Boundaries: Celebrating the Work of George Seddon*, convened by Professor Peter Beilharz and Dr Trevor Hogan from La Trobe. Visiting Fellows included Dr Deborah Rose from ANU, Dr Bryan Ward Perkins from Oxford, Dr Peter Sutton from Adelaide, Professor Brian McKnight from the University of Arizona, Professor Alison Mackinnon, Director of the Hawke Institute University of South Australia, Mr Adam Tomkins, from King’s College London, Professor John McLaren from the University of Victoria, British Columbia, Dr Rosalinde Kearsley from Macquarie University, Dr Kevin Knox from the California Institute of Technology, Dr John Gage from Cambridge, Professor E. Ann Kaplan from Stony Brook, Dr Don Watson, Professor Barbara Andaya, University of Hawaii, Dr Barry Godfrey from Keele University, and Dr Ann Genovese from the University of Sydney. Other visitors included Professor Jean Howard from Columbia, Professor Patricia Parker from Stanford, Professor John Sutherland from University College, London and Dr Leslie Witz from the University of Cape Town. The HRC supported six interstate speakers
travelling to conferences and held 11 conferences in all, including one in London, with 536 participants, during a year in which the Centre faced all the upheaval of a major move.

The theme for 2001 was ‘Enlightenment’ and it attracted a very large number of specialist eighteenth century scholars including Professors Andrew Vincent and Martin Fitzpatrick from the University of Wales, Professors Donna and Edward Andrew from Canada, Professor Randall McGowen from the University of Oregon, Dr Joanna deGroot, Professor John Barrell and Dr Harriet Guest from the University of York, Professor Marta Petrusewicz from the City University of New York, Dr Jon Mee from Oxford and Dr Kathleen Wilson from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Seminars included topics on the underside of eighteenth century life as well as its better-known political and social philosophies. Out of theme Visiting Fellows included Joanna Innes and Renaissance specialist Professor Ian Maclean, both from the University of Oxford, Dr Nicholas Mirzoeff, Deputy Director, Humanities Research Centre at Stony Brook and an expert on art and new media, Professor Gabriele Schwab from the University of California Irvine, Professor Nicholas Rogers from the University of York and Professor Candace Slater, Director of the Doreen B. Townsend Center at the University of California Berkeley, who began a major research collaboration with the HRC on rainforests.

Iain McCalman convened the Consortium of Humanities Centres and Institutes (Australia) conference on the theme of Human Rights with Caroline Turner, the eleventh David Nichol Smith conference with Visiting Fellow Dr Christa Knellwolf and a Round Table Meeting ‘Australia: a Knowledge Culture?’ with Dr Lawrence Warner of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. Caroline Turner also convened a conference on Indonesian Art with the Asia Society, a workshop on Art and Human Rights with Christine Clark and a conference on ‘Postcolonialism and Beyond’ with Professor Dipesh Chakrabarty of the University of Chicago. Professor Barry Higman of RSSS convened the 4th Biennial Conference of the Australian Association for Caribbean Studies. Dr Rosamund Dalziell of the CCR convened a Literature Seminar on ‘Selves Crossing Cultures’ and the Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies Reading and Lunch with Dr Jacqueline Lo, also of the CCR; ‘Humanities Exposure’ with Lawrence Warner; and the October Colloquia ‘The Year of Reading’ with Dr Donna Merwick of the HRC. Drs John Docker and Subhash Jaireth convened a conference on Adventures of Dialogue:
CHCI Conference. *Back row:* Professor Iain McCalman and Dr Chandran Kukathus. *Front row:* Professor Alison McKinnon, Professor Mbulelo Mzamane, Dr Caroline Turner, and Professor Candace Slater.

Speakers at the seminar on *Postcolonialism and Beyond.* Professor Dipesh Chakrabarty (*centre front row*), Dr Roger Benjamin (*back row, second from left*), 2002.
Bakhtin and Benjamin, with Professors Katerina Clark from Yale and Meaghan Morris from Hong Kong as keynote speakers. Other activities included a conference on The Importance of Italy, convened by Dr Gino Moliterno of the Department of Art History and Film Studies, which attracted a large number of Italian specialists from throughout Australia as participants, with the launching of Dr Moliterno’s own book on the subject of Italian culture. Over 90 delegates attended despite the conference taking place in the aftermath of 11 September and the collapse of Australia’s second airline Ansett. The conference was supported by the Italian Cassamarca Foundation. The HRC also participated in Women in Asia, convened by Dr Kathryn Robinson from RSPAS with Caroline Turner helping to convene a workshop on art with Dr Jennifer Webb of the University of Canberra and other ANU colleagues. As well there were the conferences Foreign Bodies: Oceania and Racial Science 1750–1940, convened by Drs Chris Ballard and Bronwen Douglas and ‘Constitutions and Human Rights in a
Global Age: an Asia Pacific Perspective’, convened by Professor Tessa Morris-Suzuki, all from RSPAS; Art of Seeing and the Seeing of Art, convened by Dr Geoffrey Henry of the Research School of Biological Sciences which combined science and humanities approaches and for which Turner served on the planning committee as a visual art specialist; Spies and Surveillance in the 18th Century, convened by Professor John Barrell of the University of York with Iain McCalman; Law and the Enlightenment: the British Imperial State at Law, 1689–1832, convened by Professor David Lemmings of the University of Newcastle; and The Libertine Enlightenment, convened by Professor Peter Cryle and Dr Lisa O’Connell of the University of Queensland and held at the University of Queensland.

The Director noted in the Annual Report: ‘For the Humanities Research Centre (HRC) 2001 was without precedent in the pace and depth of change’. He might well have said so: a certain slackening of activity would have been natural in such a time of relocation, dislocation and administrative reorganisation. But the Centre had racked up 12 conferences in the year (over 20 if workshops and Freilich colloquia are included), with a total participation of nearly 600.
Other changes had taken place as well: the Advisory Board was reconstituted, comprising Director of the National Portrait Gallery Andrew Sayers as Chair; Director of the National Museum of Australia Dawn Casey, former CEO of Art Exhibitions Australia Ltd Dr Robert Edwards, Director-General of the National Library of Australia Jan Fullerton, Director of the Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies at the University of Queensland Professor Graeme Turner, Director of the National Gallery of Victoria Dr Gerard Vaughan, Assistant Director of the National Gallery of Australia Dr Anna Gray representing the Director of the National Gallery Dr Brian Kennedy, and Director of the Canberra School of Art, National Institute of the Arts, Professor David Williams.

The Centre also revived its tradition of summer schools in 2001. In 2000 the report of the National Inquiry into School History Teaching entitled ‘The Future of the Past’ concluded that participation of secondary school students in Australian history was declining. Emeritus Professor historian John Molony believed that there was no better way to respond to the crisis in Australian history in schools than by the HRC sponsoring school teachers from all over Australia to a summer school which would promote new ideas and methods by enabling teachers to have contact with leading history scholars and their research. The project was supported by the Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Chubb and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) Professor Malcolm Gillies for two years, with great support from the Emeritus Faculty, especially Emeritus Professors Molony and Beryl Rawson. Eminent lecturers such as Professors John Mulvaney, Bill Gammage and Iain McCalman offered their services. The teachers applied in great numbers, and their enthusiastic praise for the project
Above: Professor Bill Gammage (front right) and students at the HRC Summer School, 2004. Professor Mulvany at right.

Below: Dr Glen St John Barclay.
at the first Summer School in 2002 encouraged the HRC to repeat the summer school in 2003 and 2004 with the National Institute of Social Sciences as sponsor and Dr Paul Pickering as Convener. HRC Fellows and scholars of history, Professor Gammage, Dr Alastair Maclachlan and Dr Glen Barclay took part.

Iain McCalman was in addition to all this intensely involved in 2000 and 2001 with projects for the National Library and the new Launch of Gold: Forgotten histories and lost objects of Australia by Professor Ian Chubb, Vice-Chancellor, ANU, 2001.
National Museum of Australia. He was appointed to the Council of the National Library and the Library’s Committee for Harold White Fellowships, and was commissioning editor of the publication *Cook and Omai: The Cult of the South Seas* as part of a major publication collaboration between the National Library and the HRC to accompany an exhibition of the same name. The exhibition was curated by McCalman with Michelle Hetherington of the National Library and Alexander Cook and Caroline Turner of the HRC, drawing on the Library’s superb collections of eighteenth century voyage material, and attracted a very large number of visitors. McCalman was also on the Advisory Committee of the new National Museum of Australia, co-curator for a major exhibition to mark its opening, and general editor with Alexander Cook and Andrew Reeves of ‘Gold: Forgotten Histories and Lost Objects of Australia’.

Caroline Turner recalls that one of her most significant tasks as Deputy Director from 2000 was to strengthen links with the rest of the University, inevitably disrupted by the move from the A.D. Hope Building, by working on projects across the many disciplines, especially with the Faculty of Arts, RSPAS and RSSS, both to guard the HRC against isolation on the Acton peninsula and also to include ANU colleagues through consultation in forward planning for activities of the Centre. This had always been one of

the HRC’s most critical roles – to work across the University and to put together interdisciplinary collaborations to achieve important research links and synergies. At the same time a new relationship was being forged with the National Museum of Australia, which had opened in March 2001, through the exhibitions McCalman and later Turner worked on and by means of an ARC Linkages grant in that year for research on Asia-Pacific museums awarded to Turner and a team which included Program Director of the Gallery of First Australians at the Museum Margo Neale and Alison Carroll from the University of Melbourne’s Asialink. Director of the National Museum Dawn Casey was deeply committed to research collaborations between the Museum and University scholars, and the HRC became closely aligned to the Museum through her efforts to extend scholarly and public debate about the issues of social history presented in the exhibitions and displays. Much older relationships of the HRC with the National Library and National Gallery were meanwhile maintained and expanded. The directors of those institutions, Dr Brian Kennedy and Jan Fullerton, were especially supportive of the extensive research collaborations being developed with the HRC in the early years of the century. Turner also undertook a highly successful planning workshop for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Australia-Japan Foundation on Australia’s cultural relations with Japan, and conferences and exhibition development for the Asia Society on contemporary Indonesian art. The resulting exhibition, which toured Australia in 2003, proved more significant than could have been imagined in the planning stages, occurring as it did at a particularly difficult time for relations with Indonesia in the aftermath of the Bali bombing. These projects arose naturally from Turner’s previous Australian Government appointments to the Australian Government’s Australia-China Council, the Australia-Indonesia Institute and Australia Abroad Council, all based in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and which spearheaded Australia’s cultural relations with those countries, and leading an official cultural delegation to China and another to Japan. Her interest in Asia-Pacific art and culture also enabled the HRC to begin extensive new collaborations from 2000 with RSPAS (especially through the collaborations with Professor Amareswar Galla, an international authority on sustainable heritage development) and the School of Art and the Drill Hall Gallery at ANU, the National Gallery and National Museum and to begin a series of new research projects related to visual culture, art and society.
The School of Art had been, under Director Professor David Williams, a pioneer in Australia in exhibiting contemporary art of Asia and the Pacific, and had played a major role as an internationally recognised leader in this area through its artist-in-residence programme and exchanges with art colleges and universities. David Williams was now serving on the Advisory Board of the HRC and Turner had previously worked with him on the National Committee for the Asia-Pacific Triennial in Brisbane. Other collaborations between the HRC and the School of Art followed in 2000-2003, particularly in the field of Asian and Pacific art.

The WEH Stanner Building to be shared by the HRC with the CCR, as Old Canberra House was already shared, opened in August 2001 and provided much needed space for staff, Visiting Fellows and students of the two Centres, as well as housing the most congenial Ralph Elliott Library. It was named by Chancellor of ANU Emeritus Professor Peter Baume AO on 30 November after the great anthropologist WEH (Bill) Stanner (1905-1981) whose researches had extended from Aboriginal Australia and the Pacific to East Africa. The ceremony was attended by Vice-Chancellor Ian Chubb, Professor Stanner’s widow, Mrs Patricia Stanner, and former Vice-Chancellor
Opening of the WEH Stanner Building. *Left to right*: Professor Deane Terrell, former Vice-Chancellor; Professor Iain McCalman, HRC Director; Professor Ian Chubb, Vice-Chancellor; Professor Howard Morphy, CCR Director, in front of the sculpture ‘Winged Harvest’ by Fiona Foley, 2001.

HRC staff and Visiting Fellows on the verandah of Constable’s Cottage, Christmas 2001.
Deane Terrell. The building was designed by Canberra architects Alastair MacCallum and David Cook and reflected a number of traditional elements to be in sympathy with OCH, enhanced by energy saving innovations such as zonal air conditioning and double glazed windows, needed because of its overlooking a freeway tolerably active by Canberra standards. Budget problems entailed a regrettable reduction of the original space but the building has proved a most admirable design. The European-style gardens of Old Canberra House were complemented by native gardens around the Stanner Building designed by Paul Cox. Queensland-based artist Fiona Foley was commissioned by the public art committee chaired by Warwick Williams to do a public sculpture named ‘Winged Harvest’ for the area between the two buildings with landscaping inspired by Aboriginal plantings. This referred to aspects of Indigenous history and especially to the Ngunnawal people of the district and elements of their history, particularly feasts for the bogong moths which had brought generations of ancient Aboriginal inhabitants to Canberra. The former chauffeur’s cottage at the rear of Old Canberra House was also restored as office space for staff and students, and the HRC retained the use of one of the cottages which had been utilised while the Stanner Building was built – Constable’s Cottage, a charming old building overlooking the lake where it was said prisoners had been housed in the outbuildings on their way to gaol in Goulburn and elsewhere. Another important addition to the precinct came when the University, at the instigation of David Williams, declared a Sculpture Park at the foot of the gardens at OCH. Anne Rochette from the Ecole nationale supérieure des beaux arts, Paris, Australian Christine O’Loughlin, Lucia Pacenza from Argentina and Indigenous artist Djon Mundine completed the first sculptural works in situ.

Despite the rather cramped conditions until the Stanner Building was ready, the HRC staff continued to receive accolades from Visiting Fellows whose own distinguished careers shed lustre on the HRC, even though one did complain there were now too many non-humanities people at the two Centres. Fellowships continued to be the HRC’s ‘core public business’, and it became apparent that one of the ways in which the HRC Fellows could find the most stimulating atmosphere for their work and interact with other scholars across ANU in the new location was through the conference programme. The conferences introduced the Fellows publicly and they then formed important links across campus, often resulting in new research opportunities for ANU. This was important because the Acton
Peninsula location did make it necessary to put more work into links across campus than had been the case in the A.D. Hope Building.

The Visiting Fellows who came to Canberra to the HRC in the years 2000–2003 continued to praise the HRC for its intellectual milieu and breadth of programmes. For example, Professor E. Ann Kaplan, Director of the Humanities Centre at the University of New York at Stony Brook and an expert on feminist film wrote: ‘I do want to thank Iain McCalman and Caroline Turner for inviting me to the HRC and giving me this unique opportunity to undertake my research in an inspiring environment, intellectually, socially and physically . . .’ Dr Kieran Dolin from the University of Western Australia similarly wished ‘to acknowledge the high level of intellectual engagement which prevails among the staff and fellows of the HRC . . . This interdisciplinary dialogue has taken place in an atmosphere of great friendliness and support nurtured by Iain McCalman and Caroline Turner . . .’ Eminent philosopher Professor William Connolly from Johns Hopkins, Baltimore declared that he had ‘been inordinately pleased with my visit to the HRC. The staff at all levels have been helpful and supportive. Indeed the hospitality of the Centre combines with its positive intellectual atmosphere to render it distinctive among the centers I have visited including the Center for Advanced Study [at Princeton] . . .’ He mentioned John Docker in particular among the Adjunct and Visiting Fellows for his contributions to the positive intellectual atmosphere. Professor Barbara Donagan from the Huntington Library, California, was ‘especially grateful to Iain

Dr Benjamin Penny, Executive Officer with Professor Donald Akenson, Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario the Third Freilich Foundation Eminent Lecturer 2003.
McCalman for making my visit possible and for the stimulating milieu he has nurtured and to Caroline Turner for her unfailingly helpful presence . . . ’ Professor Ian MacLean from All Souls Oxford 2001 similarly reported that the ‘Acting Director and Deputy Director [Turner and Pickering] were both extremely attentive to the needs of the Fellows. . .’ Almost all mentioned Leena Messina. Accolades continued through the time of writing in 2003. Joanna Innes from Oxford commented particularly on Dr Paul Pickering’s intellectual contributions and presence at the Centre and Professor John Keane from the University of Westminster extended ‘special thanks to Dr Caroline Turner for her generous and effective support throughout my visit’. Dr Minoru Hokari from Keio University, Japan wrote that:

I was truly fortunate . . . First I enjoyed and appreciated having such a great opportunity to hold constant discussions with staff and students of the HRC (and CCR) about my research. I especially thank Dr Caroline Turner, Dr John Docker, Ms Christine Clark . . . I do not know how to thank Ms Leena Messina for her expert knowledge and generous support of my first experience as convener.

The Freilich Foundation attached to the HRC proved in the years from 2000 to 2003 an example of very successful philanthropy. The Freilichs were highly committed to expressing their concerns about bigotry and, as Benjamin Penny the Executive Officer pointed out in a talk in 1999, those concerns were not confined to the humanities and they also wished to reach an audience beyond the University. Particularly popular were the annual lectures begun in 1997, with broadcaster and columnist Philip Adams, followed by human rights advocate, lawyer and Jesuit priest Father Frank Brennan on Indigenous rights, then by journalist David Marr on homophobia. An eminent lecture series was inaugurated by Professor Henry Reynolds, who gave four lectures related to issues of Indigenous and settler history and human rights in 1999. The Freilich Foundation programmes were some of the HRC’s most successful and the facilities at Old Canberra House allowed for more general public attendance. Benjamin Penny estimates that attendances at conferences and other, always very well attended Freilich events, ranged from 50 to 120 people and that the majority of attendees have been non-University people. He says of the Foundation:

In the seven years since our first public lecture, the Freilich Foundation has developed into a strong locus for
activities that bring the issues of bigotry, prejudice and discrimination to the academic world and to the general public. With our seven annual public lectures, the three lecture series by internationally eminent scholars, and our seven conferences in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide as well as Canberra, the Foundation has begun to establish a national profile. Recently, the Foundation has decided to broaden its activities to focus more specifically on the education system through programs for school students and their teachers reasoning that early awareness of the issues surrounding bigotry, prejudice and discrimination is probably the most effective way to elicit positive social change.²

The National Europe Centre (NEC) became a reality in 2001 as the European Commission’s Centenary of Federation gift to Australia, opening in new quarters close to OCH in 2002, with the potential for another new building if the Commission renewed funding for the NEC. The HRC played a role because of its deep commitment
and contributions nationally and internationally to European studies over 30 years; and there was excellent collaboration with Foundation Director of the NEC, Professor Elim Papadakis, Professor of Modern European Studies at ANU, whose areas of research include policy related to environmental movements and the welfare state, political sociology and social theory, and his Deputy John Gage, an economic historian with research interests in international trade and trade policy, the European Union and Latin America, together with Administrator Helen Fairbrother. McCalman and Turner both served on the NEC Advisory Board, each acting as Chair of the Board. However, the NEC had developed its own line of funding from the European Commission and would concentrate on EU policies in relation to contemporary Europe with a strong social sciences emphasis. The HRC programmes with a strong humanities, arts and historical emphasis complemented those of the NEC extremely well, and the two Centres collaborated on many projects in a particularly fruitful manner and in particular in 2001/2002 in planning ‘The Europeans’ with the University of Western Australia. Collaborations continue at the time of writing with Professor Papadakis’ successor as Director, Simon Bronitt, a Reader in Law and expert on European and Comparative Law, Criminal Justice and Human Rights, Terrorism and Cross Border Investigation.3

The HRC was remarkably successful in the five years to 2003 in attracting grants and donations to ANU and utilising joint funding with other institutions to realise its projects. The Centre’s role and reputation over 30 years in which it functioned as a centre of excellence in the humanities and a national resource was the major factor in this success. It had played the key role in achieving the Centre for Cross-Cultural Research for ANU; an important role in achieving the National Europe Centre for the University; and the key role in bringing to fruition the Freilich Foundation and other donations. The HRC’s record in achieving competitive grants remains impressive: in the critical area of competitive research grants the Director and Deputy Director of HRC both held more than one ARC grant. The HRC also attracted a collaborative grant from the Humanities Research Institute, University of California, which funds six senior academics for six month research grants in the USA and Australia. The HRC was in addition very successful in obtaining grants and sponsorships for its events, totalling several hundred thousand dollars including bequests from two retired staff at ANU and substantial in-kind and actual external support.

The new facilities at OCH were superb for conferences and attracted
excellent attendances. The premises were much in demand from other University departments for their conferences and meetings, but these naturally were supplied without charge. Indeed the move from the A.D. Hope Building now meant the University was charging the HRC for electricity, cleaning and other costs which, in the past, had been in part subsumed into the A.D. Hope Building budget, and the need for excellent IT and computer services meant employing an IT officer. Glenn Schultz was superb in that role and his services and those of Anna Foxcroft who joined in 2003 were much praised by Fellows. Some of these extra costs were shared with the CCR but the advent of the CCR had not brought any extra funds into the HRC in the long term as Iain McCalman’s salary had now reverted to being the HRC’s responsibility. The CCR meantime was itself focussed on seeking additional funds to support its own extensive and expanding programmes. The CCR had always stated that the ARC grant would not be sufficient for its programmes. The HRC’s core budget from the University in 2003 was not significantly different, except for money earned by the HRC from grants and students, from that allocated by the University in the previous five years.4

Any move and changes of the magnitude of those faced by the HRC inevitably lead to a certain amount of dislocation. There were increasing pressures on staff at the two Centres, the HRC and

Staff, Fellows and students of the HRC and CCR 2004 at welcome barbeque for new students.
CCR in 2001 due to expanding programmes. Two reviews were accordingly undertaken to consider ‘our changing structural and strategic relationship with our affiliated twin centre [the CCR’], as McCalman reported, resulting in ‘a series of organisational refinements to staff positions and responsibilities in order to give greater autonomy to each Centre in line with their different strategic roles, while preserving and enhancing a high degree of collaboration and interaction between them’. Julie Gorrell, who had overseen the CCR ARC bid and the restoration of Old Canberra House, became Assistant Director and Executive Officer for the expanding CCR and Felicity Bowskill was appointed HRC Executive Officer. Her departure the following year when her husband was transferred to Perth was greatly regretted. She was succeeded by Garrett Purtill who went to a job in the ACT Government in 2003 and was in turn succeeded as HRC Executive Officer and Business Manager by Michelle McGinness, a much respected and experienced finance officer from RSSS. Georgina Fitzpatrick, a highly qualified researcher joined the staff as Research Assistant to Iain McCalman, replacing Alexander Cook who was awarded a prestigious scholarship to undertake his PhD at Cambridge; and Christine Clark, a curator and art management expert joined from Queensland as Research Assistant to Caroline Turner, all three paid out of ARC grants.

The HRC and CCR of course continued to collaborate, as for example with shared Visiting Fellows, conferences and publications and a joint journal with alternating editors from each Centre and the HRC providing the layout and design through its Publications Officer, Misty Cook and later Lindy Shultz. The HRC gave support to CCR initiatives such as the CCR’s important ‘Fusion’ year of exhibitions and conferences in 2003. The Centres worked together on a new media consultancy CRIO, a concept of McCalman’s, a bid for a special research centre in new media and a new highly successful joint Graduate course in Interdisciplinary Cross-Cultural Research. Synergies and intellectual exchanges were possible at all times and HRC Visiting Fellows interacted with CCR staff and students. The CCR had adopted specific and focussed streams of research in line with ARC requirements and had a special emphasis on Australia and the Asia-Pacific region and on contemporary issues. Iain McCalman had stated at the formation of the CCR that in attempting synergies each Centre would retain its distinct identity, and that only one third of HRC projects would coincide with those of the CCR. There continued to be very important shared interests between the HRC and

HRC Graduate student Tina Parolin (left) and HRC Executive Officer, Michelle McGinness, 2004.

Graduate Students. Above, left: Anna Lawrenson and Dr Mandy Thomas (CCR Deputy Director). Right: Michelle Antoinette.
CCR in specific specialist areas such as the conference on Aboriginal-Chinese relations in Australia. Shared interests in visual culture and Asian culture between the two Centres also coincided, in particular when Dr Mandy Thomas, an anthropologist with extensive expertise in migrant cultures and especially youth and Vietnam, joined the CCR as Deputy Director in May 2002 from a research position at the Institute of Cultural Research at the University of Western Sydney. Dr Thomas took a strong leadership role in developing CCR programmes, particularly the Postdoctoral and Graduate programmes and in heading the CCR research focus on ‘The Cultural Impact of Migration to Australia’.

The mandate of the HRC continued to be to cover the whole of the humanities and work across the entire University in an interdisciplinary manner, such as in the themes years devoted to science and law. The HRC continued to have a wide historical brief (from ancient times to the present) and geographical spread (literally the world). The HRC continued to have European literature, philosophy, art and history as its core disciplines, as well as Australian history and culture and now as well Asia-Pacific history and culture. The HRC, through its themes and conferences, did, of course, also welcome many scholars outside the humanities and social sciences and had embraced with enthusiasm research foci such as Asia, Africa and Latin America as well as interdisciplinary collaborations in science, medicine, environment and the law. Interestingly the non-HRC attendees at HRC seminars continued to come in the main from the Faculty of Arts, RSSS and RSPAS and the Faculty of Asian Studies with some from the National Museum and National Gallery. HRC international Visiting Fellows and conference visitors in those years still tended to come in the main from the UK, USA and Europe. Many continued to come in response to requests from colleagues at ANU or other universities working collaboratively with the HRC. The simple fact was that scholars within ANU expected the HRC to continue its European humanities projects and its leadership role in Australia in the area of European humanities research (despite the recent establishment of the National Europe Centre which, as stated, had a more contemporary policy and social sciences emphasis as required by the European Commission) as well as to respond to ideas for collaboration from across the University in interdisciplinary research projects as it had been doing for more than 30 years. As well the HRC also tried to work in ways which improved the situation of the humanities nationally.
'Latin America' was the theme for 2002, chosen as the Africa year had been to play a national as well as local role in supporting an important field of study under threat in Australia. The HRC had in fact been requested by colleagues to try to provide a stimulus in Latin American studies as it had with African studies. And it is vitally important that parochial narrowness does not tend to exclude such critical stimuli. The year was highly successful especially through the synergies with the National Museum whose staff were particularly keen to work on heritage and archaeology research with several Visiting Fellows brought out by the HRC. It opened dramatically with Telenovelas, a lively conference on Latin American popular culture and soap opera, convened by Professor Christiana Slade of the University of Canberra; Landscape and Symbol in the Inka State convened by Dr Ian Farrington of the Faculty of Arts, ANU which was a groundbreaking event bringing together the foremost scholars in the world in Inka studies with the papers published in a major book; an Art and Human Rights in Latin America Workshop convened by Dr Caroline Turner and Christine Clark; The Diaspora of the Latin American Imagination convened by Professor Peter Read of the CCR and Dr Marivic Wyndham of ANU with papers published in the HRC/CCR’s new electronic journal in 2003; National Narratives and Identities in a Global World: The Latin American Case convened by Dr Barry Carr of La Trobe University, which is Australia’s major centre for Latin American Studies and for which this was a major event; and New World, First Nations: Native Peoples of Mesoamerica and the Andes under Colonial Rule convened in Sydney by Dr David Cahill of the University of NSW which is also one of the few to espouse Latin American studies. There were also the exhibition ‘Tar Babies’, the work of artist and HRC Visiting Fellow and expert on Caribbean slavery Dr Marcus Wood at the Canberra School of Art Gallery, and four exhibitions of Latin American Art curated and organised by Mrs Nancy Sever, Director of the ANU Drill Hall Gallery, on the work of Omar Rayo (Colombia), Betsabee Romero (Mexico), Juan Davila, an Australian artist of Chilean background, and the Latin America Drawing Biennale. All these exhibitions received significant help from the Latin American Ambassadors and provided an important public and community face for the year’s focus.

Non-thematic conferences in 2002 were: The Dialectic Interpretation of Religious Phenomena convened by Emeritus Professor Hans Mol as a result of his bequest to the University; New Feminist Histories of Gender and Colonialism convened by Dr Fiona Paisley of ANU and Professor Angela Woollacott an HRC Visiting Fellow from Case
Western University; Locations of Spirituality: ‘Experiences’ and ‘Writings’ of the Sacred convened by Dr Minoru Hokari an HRC Visiting Fellow from Keio University, Japan; The Theory and Practice of Early Modern Autobiography convened by Dr Philippa Kelly of the University of NSW, ADFA; The Enlightenment World a workshop convened by Dr Christa Knellwolf of the HRC, and the 2002 History Teachers’ Summer School convened by Emeritus Professor John Molony and Dr Paul Pickering. The Freilich Foundation also had one of its most active years with a number of conferences and workshops including for teachers. Visiting Fellows in 2002 included a number of Latin American specialists, several from Latin America: Dr Miriam Estrada, UN Special Advisor on Human Rights, Ecuador; Dr Maria Hernandez-Llosas of the National Council of Scientific and Technical Research of Argentina; Dr Hilda Araujo, Director of the Centre of Research and technology for the Andean Countries, Peru; Dr John Earls from the Catholic University Peru; Dr Marsha Meskimmon from Loughborough University (the latter working on Latin American women artists), UK; Mr Ruben Stehberg of the National Museum, Chile; and Dr Brigida Pastor from the University of Glasgow (a specialist on Spanish literature). Non-thematic Visitors included Emeritus Professor David Fieldhouse and Dr Vic Gatrell from Cambridge, Professor Alan Gross from the University of Minnesota, Professor Peter Jones from

![Image](image_url)

Professor Adam Shoemaker, Dr S. Timothy Maloney and Mr Gaston Barban, Deputy Canadian High Commissioner, at the inaugural National Institute of the Humanities/HRC lecture given by Dr Maloney, 2002.
Edinburgh, and Dr Isabelle Merle from the Centre de Récherche et de Documentation sur l’Océanie, France.

A new initiative of Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Chubb in 2002 was the establishment of a series of National Institutes which all members of ANU were invited to join. The HRC staff joined several with enthusiasm. These National Institutes were intended to cross the divide between the faculties and research schools and to provide a coherent vehicle for highlighting the research and teaching strengths of the whole University. The project proved highly successful. The Director and Deputy Director of the HRC served on the steering committee of the National Institute of the Humanities (later, in September 2003, to become the National Institute of the Humanities and Creative Arts). The HRC had many connections with the National Institute of the Arts and the National Institute of Social Sciences (later National Institute of Social Sciences and Law), and Turner served on the inaugural steering committee for the National Institute for Asia and the Pacific. Dr Paul Pickering of the HRC worked closely with the National Institute of Social Sciences and Law, especially in teaching programmes, and joined the Board in 2003. Logically, the HRC was particularly involved with the National Institute of the Humanities and its inaugural event was a joint lecture held at Old Canberra House in November 2001. Delivered by an eminent musicologist from the National Library of Canada – Dr Timothy Maloney – the presentation was a fascinating analysis of the contribution of Canadians Glenn Gould, Northrop Frye and Marshall McLuhan to the world of ideas.7

The National Institute of the Humanities (NIH) had a splendid start at ANU through 2002-2003 with Professor Adam Shoemaker, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, as convener. Among its achievements were a significant expansion of the number of summer research scholarships in the humanities for third year Australian and New Zealand students and a spectacular range of outreach programmes in which the HRC participated actively. Professor Shoemaker also accepted the challenge of broadcasting and disseminating ANU’s research strengths to the wider world through many exciting endeavours which otherwise could not have happened, including a highly successful National Arts Research Showcase held over a two-day period in August 2003 at Parliament House. It was designed to introduce 12 exemplary research projects in the Arts, Creative Arts and Humanities from all over Australia to 130 Senators, members, Research Staff and Parliamentary Officials.8 The Showcase also acted as a catalyst for a project being pursued by the Academies of Humanities and of Social Sciences which
resulted in 2003 in funding for a Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS) to act as a lobby group to government on behalf of these areas. The HRC worked highly effectively with the NIH – and, indeed, in harmony with all National Institutes, helped by excellent relations especially with the two conveners, in particular Professors David Williams at the National Institute of the Arts and Professor Adam Shoemaker at the National Institute of the Humanities. This allowed the HRC to concentrate on new long-term research initiatives and new teaching programmes. Professor Shoemaker stated that

A renewed focus on the centrality of the humanities to national and international life has been one of the signal features of Ian Chubb’s Vice-Chancellorship. The depth, breadth and passion of arts and humanities scholars has been given room to move in new ways – such as cultural informatics and the art of documentary film – and the reaction to this movement beyond the borders of the ANU has been tremendous.⁹

Professor Bruce Bennett, an Adjunct Professor at the HRC since 2003 has noted the HRC’s continuing role at ANU:

Under Ian Donaldson’s and Iain McCalman’s leadership the Humanities Research Centre at ANU has been an
oasis of Humanities scholarship. Supported by enlightened policies which support high-quality researchers, the HRC has attracted outstanding Visiting Fellows from around the world, whose published work testifies to the stimulating and supportive research environment they have found in Canberra.

The HRC remains a beacon for early career and experienced researchers and a strong group of PhD students indicate the longer-term sustainability of Humanities research in Australia.\(^\text{10}\)

Cross-university interaction was more intensive than ever for the HRC in 2002. The Centre collaborated with the National Institute of the Arts in an exhibition with joint fellow Dr Marcus Wood and shared international guest lecturers Heri Dono from Indonesia and Nalini Malani from India; with the National Institute of the Humanities in public lectures and a book launch; with RSSS and the Faculty of Arts in a Cross-Campus History Seminar Program (now an annual fixture) and the Tanner lectures; with RSPAS in the ‘Women in Asia’ Conference and a Masters Course in Sustainable Heritage Development; with the Drill Hall Gallery in five exhibitions on Latin America and planning for a joint exhibition in 2003; with the Centre for International and Public Law in planning the Art and Human Rights conference for 2003; with the Faculty of Arts in an Archaeology conference on Inkas and three joint sabbatical fellows, and in developing honours and postgraduate programs in Advanced Museology; with the CCR in the Diasporas of the Latin American Imagination conference, a shared PhD course, and four shared Fellows; with the National Europe Centre in ‘The Europeans’ conference programme; and with the Centre for Resource and Environment Studies (CRES) in the joint appointment of Professor Tim Bonyhady.

The Director and Deputy Director both served on the following University committees and boards in the period 2000-2003: the Steering Committee of The National Institute of the Humanities; two Library Advisory Committees; the Academic Board; the Board of the Freilich Foundation; the Board of the National Europe Centre; the Deans, Directors and Centre Heads Group, the Heads of Centres Group. Iain McCalman served on the Education Committee; the Research Working Policy Group; the National Advisory Board of the CCR; the National Dictionary Centre and the Tanner Lectures Committee of the RSSS. Caroline Turner served on the Board of the Institute of the Arts chaired by Emeritus Professor Peter Karmel, the Steering Committee
for the National Institute of Asia and the Pacific, the Coombs Creative Arts Fellowship Committee, the Gallery Advisory Committee of the School of Art, and the Undergraduate Review Committee chaired by Professor Malcolm Gillies. External collaborations with national and international cultural institutions comprised: a joint conference, the DNS, joint lectures and symposia, joint Fellows, and exhibition projects with the National Library of Australia; conferences with the National Gallery of Australia; the Museum’s Curatorial Committees for several exhibitions, joint conferences and symposia, a joint ARC Linkages grant; and a joint postgraduate programme with the National Museum. Collaboration with other humanities bodies included, apart from those already documented, joint symposia and a young scholars seminar series with the Australian Academy of the Humanities, and convenership and a conference with the Consortium of Humanities Centres and Institutes of Australia.

Meanwhile the Centre was vigorously maintaining its international role: important research projects and research collaborations and links were set in place with the Huntington Library, California; Lingnan University Hong Kong; the Getty; the Yale Center for British Art; and Cambridge University. McCalman was advisor and participant on the BBC and History Channel TV series ‘The Ship’, and advisor on the BBC TV series ‘Nelson and Emma Hamilton’. He travelled extensively on leave to Europe, the United Kingdom, North America and Hong Kong, giving lectures and addressing the British Academy Centenary Conference in London. Caroline Turner served as Acting Director with Paul Pickering as Acting Deputy for several months in 2001, 2002 and 2003 during McCalman’s absences; and Turner herself gave a paper at the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes at the University of California Berkeley; was an invited speaker at an International Council of Museums meeting in Shanghai; and consulted with colleagues in China, Korea, Japan, Singapore and Europe as part of her ARC grant research.

Despite all its activities and achievements, the HRC nonetheless faced its thirtieth birthday as it had its first, understaffed, overstretched and underfunded for its international outreach. But there was still so much to celebrate. Donaldson, Clarke, Elliott, McCalman and Caroline Turner gathered with some two hundred guests in the beautiful grounds of Old Canberra House on a typically chilly Canberra spring day of 8 September 2003 to do just that on the occasion of the twenty-ninth anniversary of Sir John Crawford’s announcement that The Australian National University proposed with the approval of
the Australian Universities Commission to establish a Humanities Research Centre. Vice-Chancellor Ian Chubb reminded the occasionally shivering audience that the HRC was the only centre of its kind in

At the HRC's 30th birthday celebrations. Left to right: Dipesh Chakrabarty, Garrett Purtill, Margo Neale (back), Margaret Elliott, Deborah Hart, Grazia Gunn, Paul Pickering, Debjani Ganguly, Donna Merwick, Stephanie Stockdill, Jodi Parvey, Greg Dening, Roger Hillman, Margaret Jolly, 2002.

At the HRC's 30th birthday celebrations. Left to right: Professor David Williams, Dr Robert Edwards, Professor Ian Donaldson, Professor Ian Chubb (Vice-Chancellor), Professor Iain McCalman, Ms Jan Fullerton and Dr Caroline Turner, 2002.
Australia, one of the oldest centres of its kind in the world and the model for centres established subsequently in Oxford and Cambridge, as well as a large number in North America. It had been designed to be a catalyst and national focus for research in the humanities throughout Australia, and to that end had attracted in the course of its thirty years of operation over 1000 eminent scholars from Australia and from 39 countries overseas. Professor Chubb referred among the other achievements of the HRC in the past year to the Cook and Omai exhibition at the National Library, which had drawn 30 000 visitors; the exhibitions of Latin American artists at the Drill Hall Gallery during the HRC’s Latin America year; the exhibition of ‘Oceanic Tarbabies’ held with the School of Art; and in particular to the new graduate teaching program, and the two collaborative initiatives in museology and heritage studies to be undertaken by RSPAS and the National Museum. Such a record, he considered, showed that the confidence of the founders of the Centre had been amply justified, and served to establish the Centre firmly as a proud part of The Australian National University. It was what all those who had given their devotion to the HRC in the past and were still giving it in the present most wanted to hear.11

Donaldson and McCalman both delivered addresses on reconfiguring the humanities four days later at the National Library, in which McCalman pleaded passionately that

the knowledge base of the nation not be impoverished, nor the intellectual integrity of the education system undermined, by an excessive focus on science and technology . . . We must recognise the value to the innovative knowledge economy and a tolerant democracy of the contribution of language scholars, historians, authors, anthropologists, poets, playwrights, designers, dancers, composers, musicians, artists and others.

The experience and skills of humanist scholars, he argued, were ‘relevant to whether or not this will be a decent, fair, humane and civilised country for all its citizens’.12 It was the same appeal that Max Crawford had made back in 1963, when the proposal for a Humanities Research Centre had first been mooted. It was the same that had been made by the US Commission on the Humanities in 1954 and by the Canadian Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences in 1951. It was the same that had been made by Prime Minister Menzies in 1939, when Australia lay under the threat
of war, as it did again at the time when McCalman was speaking.

The appeal obviously needed making more than ever. Menzies had been a champion of humanities research and had authorised the greatest expansion in government funding for tertiary education in Australian history. But government funding for tertiary education had been falling for decades, to the extent that *The Sydney Morning Herald* estimated that it would have taken a 17 per cent increase above the level in 2002 even to restore university income to the level of the mid-1990s. The question as always was ‘What is to be done?’ in the words Lenin borrowed from the novelist Chernyshevsky.

What might be done could be suggested by what had been done: over 1000 visiting academics, 422 of them from 39 different countries outside Australia; 16 monographs, with two more in process; hundreds of additional publications produced at and credited to the Centre; the organising of many hundreds of conferences and colloquia, many deemed groundbreaking; several major exhibition projects; a journal with a readership of at least 3000; ongoing collaborations with more than 20 national and many international cultural institutions; national leadership of humanities centres in Australia; an international reputation for its research; the conduit for over $2 million in bequests to the University; well over that sum in ARC grants; Iain McCalman’s

Ralph Elliott, Ian Donaldson, Graeme Clark, Ian McCalman in the Ian Donaldson Common Room, Old Canberra House with posters from theme years in the background.
initial achievement of the CCR and the work towards the creation of the National Europe Centre; the Summer Schools for teachers; the Freilich Foundation; ten current ongoing collaborative international and national research projects; service by the current Director and Deputy Director on some 15 University Committees and Boards, and so on and so on. And the international recognition: unreserved is indeed a faint term for expressions in some of the 30th birthday greetings that poured in from Visiting Fellows, some of which would be applicable to a vision of Heaven, assuming that such a vision included the ever-present aroma and ever-available savour of coffee. This was literally so in the case of David Gallop, Professor of Classics at Trent University, Ontario, who was inspired to hail the HRC in verse as ‘Heaven – in Oz!’ Other plaudits in prose went about as far. Peter Quartermaine, Professor of American and Commonwealth Arts Studies at Exeter, said that his time as a Visiting Fellow in 1974 had provided the happiest memories of his life, which was the more remarkable as the accommodation available for Visiting Fellows then was the somewhat down-market prefabs in Childers Street.

Marilyn Gaddis Rose, Distinguished Service Professor of Comparative Literature at the State University of New York, a Visiting Fellow in 1977, said that the HRC had ‘provided a supportive collegial atmosphere, excellent scholarly resources, and a physical environment that will be my life embodiment of Never-Never-Land’. The mighty Professor Edmund S. Morgan of Yale wished that he could relive every moment of the time he had spent at the HRC. For S. Beynon John, Reader Emeritus in French at the University of Sussex, the HRC ‘in a word . . . was a haven’. Professor Bob White of the Department of English at the University of Western Australia declared that his period at the HRC ‘stands out in memory as a beautiful Arcadian interlude, which changed my life in many ways’. Professor Michael Lützeler, Rosa May Distinguished University Professor in the Humanities, Department of German, at Washington University, St Louis, Missouri, found the working conditions at the Centre ‘truly ideal’. And Patrick O’Farrell, Emeritus Scientia Professor, School of History, University of New South Wales, announced that he

would like to bear witness to my personal gratitude for the existence of an academic retreat house where one might refresh the soul. All this is noxious thinking in a utilitarian results-oriented age, but I affirm its absolute necessity and the Centre as being a place where it is, thank God, still possible.
Thank God, indeed. But the immediate issue was how to keep the Centre as such a place. McCalman had a couple of answers. One was the proposal by the National Academy of the Humanities that ‘Australia adopt a positive structure by which the public can benefit from the innovative research occurring in the humanistic and creative fields’, of which the HRC itself was an outstanding exemplar. This was to be achieved through the development of Collaborative Research Innovative Centres, the core principle of which was that ‘participants can achieve their strategic objectives more successfully by working in collaborative and interdisciplinary environments’. Such Centres could ‘be mobilised to address problems, needs and opportunities of the sector’, including fostering the growth of ‘new fields and commercial applications such as new media and informatics . . . documentary film . . . CD-ROM game applications . . . digital immersion technology and so on’.14 This was excellently forward-looking, high-tech and generally state-of-the-art; and McCalman gave a typically vivid personal illustration of collaborative research in the field of documentary film and also to a degree of immersion with an account of his participation in a historical re-enactment for BBC Television of Cook’s voyage up the coast of Australia, which demonstrated for the participants the validity of Uncle Gordon’s observation in Robert Louis Stevenson’s The Merry Men, that ‘it’s an unco life to be a sailor . . . a cauld, wanchancy life’. McCalman claimed that he had never had a more creative and collaborative intellectual experience. Nor, one would trust from his own account, a more disagreeable physical one.

A less physically demanding approach was for the HRC to pursue the project which McCalman had raised with Deane Terrell in 1994 of ‘developing a . . . postgraduate degree in cultural studies with a strong coursework component’. After years of trying, the HRC was in 2002 finally permitted to enrol Graduate students in the programme it jointly developed, ‘Interdisciplinary Cross-cultural Research’. By 2003 the Centre had 6.5 graduate students, with numbers increasing to 11.5 by early 2004 and was also supervising a further four PhD students for other programmes. Demand for postgraduate placement at the HRC was high especially in the joint course with CCR but also in traditional disciplines and especially interdisciplinary areas which were the HRC’s strength. Students were attracted also by the Visiting Fellows at the HRC and a level of interdisciplinary research that as one stated was just not possible anywhere else, even at ANU. The calibre and contributions of the students are excellent, many being senior or mid-career professionals, such as the former Director of the Canberra Museum and Gallery, the
former Director of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney and the Senior Curator of Decorative Arts at the National Gallery of Australia, and a national expert on new multimedia. Their presence quickly made a substantial impact on the HRC's intellectual climate.

The HRC also helped pioneer short-course interdisciplinary teaching for postgraduates (proposed to the Australian Government's 2003 Nelson review of Higher Education as a national model of excellence), an example being an HRC philosophy/science short course for Graduate and Honours students ‘The Biophilosophy of Life’ held at Kioloa Coastal Campus in 2003 for which the HRC received a Joy London Foundation Grant. The HRC continued plans for more short courses, including in 2004 by McCalman on history, television and re-enactment, dubbed by some extreme history. The HRC also launched two major collaborative initiatives to develop postgraduate teaching in advanced museology and heritage studies: a Masters Degree by thesis, coursework and web based delivery with RSPAS on ‘Sustainable Heritage Development in the Asia-Pacific,’ to begin in 2003 on web based delivery; and a PhD, Graduate diploma and Masters programme in ‘Advanced Museology and Heritage Studies’ with the National Museum of Australia and Faculty of Arts, to begin in 2004. And it organised and ran three summer schools for teachers of history in January, which have become a national model, while continuing to participate in the Summer Scholarship scheme for undergraduates. Students, of course, as well as academic enrichment meant money in the prevailing academic environment of economic rationalism, and the great benefit of these ventures into teaching was that they would generate an income stream, which would enable the Centre to acquire at last its long-desired third tenured academic: for the first time in its existence the HRC might not have to make an agonising choice between human resources and financial resources. It was, of course, true that students in the humanities attracted far less funding than science students, reaffirming A.D. Hope’s complaint, forty years before, that the humanities had come to accept a position that the sciences would not tolerate for a moment, when they could have had all they needed for the cost of a single cyclotron. But the appointment of Dr Paul Pickering meant that the Centre could at last embark on a serious and consistent teaching role to begin when he took up his appointment in early 2004, despite the fact the Director and Deputy Director were then already supervising four PhD students each. It was in fact an enormous reinforcement in every way: he had been an ARC Queen Elizabeth II Fellow at the HRC since 2000; he was the Convener of the Graduate Program in Social Sciences and
HRC staff 2004. Left to right: Glenn Schultz, Leena Messina, Christine Clark, Georgina Fitzpatrick, Anna Foxcroft and Judy Buchanan.

Morning tea in the Ian Donaldson Common Room, Old Canberra House. Back from left: Bernice Murphy, Dr Alastair MacLachlan, Sylvia Marchant, Dr Paul Pickering. Front: Professor Marilyn Lake, Professor Wilfred Prest, 2004.
Law and Graduate Academic Advisor for History at ANU; he had published extensively on Australian, British and Irish social, political and cultural history; his articles had appeared in leading academic journals in Australia and overseas; and he was developing a fruitful research interest in an area most important for the HRC of public history, addressing the relationship between public memory, heritage and history. As Paul Pickering said:

In important respects the HRC is a victim of its own success. Few people realise that so much is accomplished for so little – the place runs on the smell of an oily rag. It is ironic that a Centre that has been more or less constantly threatened by the commodification of the university sector is actually a paragon of efficiency and productivity. The economic rationalists ought to love us much more than they do. Teaching was the logical next step for the Centre and we have embraced the challenge with characteristic fervour. I have no doubt that we have already begun to build a reputation for excellence in teaching as well as research.¹⁵

Through 2000–2003 the HRC continued to produce the refereed journal *Humanities Research*, jointly with CCR, and edited by Turner since 2000, with a reach of 3000 readers. In 2003 it was also published electronically. Eight issues have been published since commencement in 1997. Its predecessor the *HRC Bulletin* ran to eighty-four issues,
publishing conference proceedings and other scholarly papers. The HRC published the fourteenth in its monograph series, ‘The World Turned Upside Down’, and the fifteenth, ‘Lost in the Whitewash’, in 2002 and 2003 respectively. The HRC collaborated extensively with outside publishers including most recently Oxford and Cambridge University Presses, and the new ANU E Press. 30 publications in all were approved for Department of Education, Science and Training publications from 2000 to 2002, in addition to considerable output in areas not accepted by the Department, including exhibition curation and catalogues and industry partner publications in areas such as art and museology.

The theme for 2003 was ‘Culture, Environment and Human Rights’. It proved to be one of the HRC’s most successful years with audiences matching those of the famous Feminism and Sexuality events. The major themed HRC conferences were: 23 Degrees South: The Archaeology and Environmental History of Southern Deserts convened by Dr Mike Smith of the National Museum of Australia; Books and Empire: Textual Productions, distribution and consumption in Colonial and Postcolonial countries convened in Sydney by Professor Elizabeth Webby of the University of Sydney and Professor Paul Eggert of the University of NSW at ADFA; Art Museums: Sites of Communication convened by Ms Susan Herbert and Ms Pamela McClelland Gray of the National Gallery of Australia and National Portrait Gallery of Australia respectively; Frankenstein’s Science: Theories of Human Nature from 1700 to 1839 convened by Dr Christa Knellwolf of the HRC and Dr Jane Goodall of the University of Western Sydney; History Television Workshop convened in Sydney for the ABC by Iain McCalman; Forest, Desert, and Sea convened in Townsville by Professor Paul Turnbull; Genocide and Colonialism convened in Sydney by Dr Dirk Moses of the University of Sydney; Envisaging the Future: Digital Research and Scholarship in the Humanities convened by Professor Paul Turnbull; Toward an Ecology of Practices convened by Professor Brian Massumi of the University of Montreal, Professor Sandra Buckley and Stephen Zagala; Art and Human Rights at ANU, the National Gallery and National Museum, convened by Caroline Turner and Christine Clark with Professor Christine Chinkin of the London School of Economics, Margo Neale of the National Museum of Australia, Dr Jennifer Webb of the University of Canberra and Dr Pat Hoffie of Griffith University; South Africa Focus convened by Professor Mbulelo Mzamane of the University of Fort Hare and Christine Clark of the HRC with Dr Jennifer Webb of the University of Canberra, supported by the
National Institute of the Humanities and the South African High Commission. The HRC also gave support to the National Institute of the Humanities’ conference and film festival *Art of the Documentary*, the inspiration of Professor Adam Shoemaker and convened by him with Dr Catherine Summerhayes of the National Institute of the Humanities. There were the ‘Art and Human Rights’ exhibitions at the Drill Hall Gallery, the School of Art Gallery, the National Museum, the Canberra Contemporary Art Space and the National Gallery of Australia and the 2003 History Teachers’ Summer School convened by Dr Paul Pickering and a Visiting Scholar course ‘The Biophilosophy of Life’ for PhD and Fourth Year Honours students convened by Brian Massumi, Stephen Zagala and Sandra Buckley with some very eminent speakers including Professors Isabelle Stengers from Brussels, Simon Penny from the University of California, Irvine, Maria Hernandez from Cornell and artist Stelarc, which was held at Kioloa as well as in Canberra. There was also a series of collaborations with the University of Western Australia on a programme ‘The Europeans’ inaugurated by Deryck Schreuder, now Vice-Chancellor of that University. Visiting Fellows in 2003 included Dr Norbert Finzsch from the University of Cologne, Professor Lily Kong from the University of Singapore, Professor Sidonie Smith from the University of Michigan, Professor Kay Schaffer from the University of Adelaide, Professor John Keane from the University of Westminster, Professor Julie Graham from the University of Massachusetts, Dr Petra ten-Doesschate Chu from Seton Hall University, Professor Ben Kiernan from Yale, Professor Jack Barbalet from the University of Leicester; and, as keynote speakers at the *Art and Human Rights* conference, Professor Barbara Stafford from the University of Chicago, Professor Mbulelo Mzamane from Fort Hare University, South Africa, Dr Charles Merewether from the Getty and Professor Ihab Hassan from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Professor Hassan is an example of a distinguished scholar who was returning to the HRC on his second Fellowship and continuing links with Australian culture developed on that Fellowship. He had been a visitor also in 1990, when he had come to speak as one of the pre-eminent scholars of post-modernism.

Long term Fellows attached to the HRC between 2001 and 2003 who greatly enhanced its research and outreach included Dr John Docker, Professor Bill Gammage, Dr David Pear, Professor Amareswar Galla, Dr Alastair Maclachlan, Dr Glen Barclay, Emeritus Professor Ken Taylor, with Emeritus Professor Ralph Elliott, Mrs Betty Churcher and Dr Donna Merwick remaining as Adjuncts and being joined by
Professor Bruce Bennett.

The *Art and Human Rights* conference was part of a larger interdisciplinary endeavour begun in 2000 by Turner with Professor Christine Chinkin of the London School of Economics. Its aim was a research collaboration, bringing together international scholars in the humanities, social sciences, arts and law, which is a continuing project and has resulted in an ARC grant. In the first three years of the project there were workshops in 2001 and 2002; an international conference and exhibitions in 2003; and publications, all related to the subject of art and human rights, which has emerged against all expectation as perhaps the most important single issue of the twenty-first century. It was all the more pertinent in an Australian context because of the way in which the *Tampa* and ‘children overboard’ incidents had inspired artists to express concern for refugees disadvantaged by the policies of the Howard Government. The exhibitions held at the Drill Hall Gallery, the Canberra School of Art, the Canberra Contemporary Art Space, the National Museum and the National Gallery included 15 artists from North and South America, Africa, Australia and Asia. The exhibition was shown at a number of venues and was curated by Turner with Director of the Drill Hall Gallery Nancy Sever, Christine Clark, David Williams and Bronwen Sandland from the School of Art

At the HRC 30th birthday function. *Left to right*: Dr Paul Pickering, Professor Iain McCalman and Professor Greg Dening, 2002.
and Lisa Byrne from the Canberra Contemporary Art Space. Several of the international artists, including Dadang Christanto, Guan Wei, Michel Tuffery and Mella Jaarsma, participated in residencies at the School of Art working with students. The impact of these events is perhaps best conveyed by a gracious letter to the Vice-Chancellor from Director of the National Gallery Dr Brian Kennedy, in which Kennedy said that the conference was, in his opinion, an important one, which had ‘reverberated throughout the community with a series of exhibitions, performances, openings and lectures . . . It was a great example of team collaboration and inspired leadership’. He went on to say that events such as this Conference and related programs ‘take the ANU out of its campus and into the city in such a wonderful way’. 

Professor Hilary Charlesworth was particularly pleased with the interactions between students in her area of law and the humanities through the Conference. She wrote:

I think it’s the single best conference I’ve ever attended and was full of interdisciplinary stimulation for me and my law colleagues who attended. Some of my students who came along were euphoric about the papers at the edge of the two areas. It was especially good to hear directly from the artists involved.

The exhibitions and conference were supported by the National Gallery and the National Museum, the Royal Netherlands Embassy, the French Embassy, the National Institute of the Arts and the National Institute of the Humanities and the National Europe Centre at ANU. The National Europe Centre was a major supporter of the art and human rights exhibitions, assisting the HRC in obtaining works of the famed European artists Christian Boltanski and Luc Tuymans, reflecting the strong emphasis of the EU on human rights issues.

A critical issue in these years was the move towards ‘research priorities’ at a national level, mirrored by the need for these to be developed at a university and local area or centre level. The HRC had always had its own research priorities but government priorities were heavily weighted towards the sciences. Nevertheless the HRC moved to consolidate and define priorities for its longer research projects in line with policy while maintaining as far as possible a broad programme of events and activities outside the more narrowly defined frameworks of the research priorities. Iain McCalman and the HRC took the lead among humanities institutions in Australia including convening a meeting in Adelaide in early 2003 to try to
work out national priorities for the humanities and respond to the issues. McCalman was successful in presenting a vigorous case and in having some of the priorities expanded to relate to the humanities. The danger with these moves of course was not only that the humanities would be left out and thus even less funded, but that from the HRC’s point of view the priorities would be too narrowly conceived. This concern was naturally shared in other areas of the University as well: one distinguished scientist at ANU pointed out in a meeting that a government-preferred area of science/technology was one in which Australia would now never be able to catch up and that the field had moved on in any case – in other words the emphases could be wrong or unachievable.

All this was of particular concern at a time when in Australia as a whole classics, European languages and now even Asian languages and studies were being cut back due to funding shortages. And many in the humanities feared that this would lead to even greater losses of funded subject areas: as Professor Ralph Elliott put it at an HRC staff meeting when priorities were discussed, ‘Does this mean that there would be no room for a medievalist in a future HRC?’ The HRC’s concerns had always been to nourish the best in human scholarly work in whatever field in the humanities and creative arts as well as to take the lead in bringing forward new fields and ideas. These swirls and eddies were a major preoccupation for the HRC as it attempted to meet University and government guidelines.

The theme ‘Culture, Environment and Human Rights’ provided the HRC with its headiest year in terms of numbers for almost a decade. It seems that the focus on this theme struck a very strong chord. Visitors had research interests that spread from ancient hunter/gatherer societies, through Medieval and Renaissance studies, theories of human nature in the early modern world, colonial and far more recent genocides, as well as issues of great contemporary relevance in a rapidly changing world related to understanding technological impacts in computer sciences, Bioscience and ‘Biophilosophy’, new media, the environment and, of course, human rights. By November 2003 the total conference attendance for the year was over 1000, the best overall year’s attendances for conferences in the decade since the Sexualities year in 1993 which also had over 1000 attendees. Annual attendances for conferences over the previous decade (attendance records for conferences pre 1991 are incomplete) had previously hovered around 500, except in 1996 where the very large 276 attendance for the Bernard Smith conference sent conference attendances for the
year to 790 and in 1998 when the figure of 250 for the Ireland and Australia conference brought the year’s total to 746. The most popular conferences in the decade apart from these and a conference in 2003 on Art Museum education which had over 200 attendees, and apart from the blockbusters of the Sexualities year in 1993, *Lips of Coral* (245), *The Jane Gallop Seminar* (114), *Regimes of Sexuality* (250), *Breath of Balsam* (122), *Forces of Desire* (205), were *Indigenous Rights and Political Theory 1997* (214); *Science and other knowledge traditions* (about Indigenous knowledge) 1996 (153), and *Art and Human Rights 2003* (151).

There had also been a conference which McCalman and Caroline Turner convened, although it was not strictly only an HRC conference: ‘Beyond the Future: The Third Asia-Pacific Triennial Conference’ 1999 (700). This was the highest figure for any HRC conference in the 30 years. As well, in 2003 the HRC supported a conference run by the National Institute of the Humanities and the Creative Arts ‘Art of the Documentary’ which reached 170.18

It seems then, apart from the Irish and conferences of specific academic associations such as the DNS, that the most attended conferences were those that connected with issues of critical importance in Australian society or which broke new ground in introducing new ideas particularly in interdisciplinary ways. Unfortunately it is not really
possible to compare attendances with other Australian universities but those held by the HRC at other universities show that the HRC conferences appear to have excellent attendances. Certainly the HRC work-in-progress seminars always had very high attendances by ANU standards even immediately after the move and by 2003 were again averaging 50 while average attendances elsewhere on the campus were often less than 20 attending for weekly seminars. The overall figures for 2003 did not include the public lectures or Freilich attendances or exhibition attendances. Overall attendances each year at the HRC for combined conferences and seminars as well as public lectures would have averaged over 1000 and some years were well over that figure. We might therefore estimate a total of people reached of at least 50000–60000 and, with exhibitions added, well into the hundreds of thousands. Not bad for a research-only centre with two permanent academic staff, a third to come in 2004 and only a part-time Executive Officer for the very successful Freilich programme.
No Director of the HRC was ever just a Director of the HRC. Iain McCalman was also engaged as President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities with a number of major issues. And this was in addition to McCalman’s other roles as Executive Member of the International Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes, now situated at Harvard; member of the International Advisory Committee for the Humanities Research Institute, University of California; President of the Australian Chapter of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes; Council member of the National Academies Forum; member of the Reference Committee of the Commonwealth Review of Higher Education, the consulting committee of the Commonwealth National Research Priorities, the Advisory Board of the Research Institute in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Sydney University, the Executive of the National Science Communication Committee and the National Symposium on Innovation, Melbourne. He had also delivered the British Academy, Centenary Conference address, June 2002; was a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, of the Australian Academy of the Social Sciences and the Australian Academy of the Humanities; and had held many Visiting Research Fellowships in the United States and the United Kingdom, most recently at All Souls, Oxford. Then in 2003 he became one of only 24 Australian scholars of national and international eminence to receive the prestigious Federation Fellowship, a move by the Federal Government to persuade such eminent Australians to remain in the country. His project would be to explore the work of Philippe de Loutherbourg, an eighteenth century European artist, scientist, engineer and set-designer who pioneered revolutionary developments in the technique and culture of multimedia through the agency of ‘spectacles.’ It was to culminate in a book, a video film and a digital CD-ROM/DVD publication. De Loutherbourg would have been immensely gratified. So presumably would another idiosyncratic eighteenth century identity, Giuseppe Balsamo, self-styled Count Cagliostro and snake-oil merchant of renown, whose story McCalman told through the eyes of Cagliostro’s contemporaries in *The Seven Ordeals of Count Cagliostro*, published by HarperCollins in 2003 and praised for its wit and elegance by among others Norman Davies, author of *Europe: a History*, and no mean practitioner of those arts himself. That publication was translated into a number of languages including French, German and Japanese.

McCalman’s award of the Federation Fellowship meant of necessity the end of his term as Director of the HRC. However, it was to the
HRC’s enormous benefit and a great enhancement of its intellectual base that Iain McCalman would be staying at the HRC as a Federation Fellow. Professor Adam Shoemaker was appointed as Director in August 2003 for six months, given his profound interest in all aspects of humanities scholarship at the University. A former Commonwealth Scholar who had completed his doctorate on Aboriginal Literature at ANU under Bob Brissenden in the early 1980s, Shoemaker returned to the University in 2001 after 15 years spent working in Toulouse, Antwerp, Ottawa and Brisbane in positions as varied as Deputy Director of the European Community Pavilion at World Expo 88 and Pro Vice-Chancellor at the Queensland University of Technology in 1999-2000. Shoemaker brought with him a total belief in, as he put it, ‘the persuasive power of the Arts’ and a strong commitment to enhancing the core role of the HRC as a progenitor of the humanities both within, and beyond, the academy.

During his six-month tenure he emphasised the need for communication and clarity in conveying the message of the HRC to the world via its publications, its website, its scholarship and its administrative structure. Shoemaker concentrated the Centre’s external activities by securing backing for outreach courses on ‘Re-enactment History’ in Sydney and Melbourne, raised funds for the potential creation of a new HRC Postdoctoral Award and oversaw the establishment of an administrative alliance with the Faculty of Arts. Perhaps most important, the major conference, festival and film competition ‘AD – The Art of the Documentary’ occurred in late November 2003 during his tenure as Director. As he stated, ‘Along with the landmark HRC conference and exhibition “Art and Human Rights” in August of the same year (so successfully convened by Caroline Turner) “AD” was one of the largest, most international and most diverse academic events of its type ever held at the ANU.’ Its convener and Artistic Director, Dr Catherine Summerhayes, worked closely with the HRC to secure the participation of, inter alia, Alexander Sokurov, director of the acclaimed film Russian Ark, as well as scholars and film-makers from India, Canada, New Zealand, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the United States and France. As Shoemaker put it ‘there are turning points which remind us that Universities can play a very important part in divining – and defining – future trends relating to artistic and intellectual practice. The Art of the Documentary was one such event.’

Considering the future of humanities research and the HRC, Professor Shoemaker noted that
often observers dwell upon the difficulties faced by scholars and practitioners in the Creative Arts and Humanities. But, to cite a contrary example, it is worth reminding ourselves that a fascination with creative performance in society (both past and present) is as strong now as it has ever been, whether the performance is live, recorded digitally or computer-generated. I believe that this offers a tremendous opportunity for Humanities scholars to, once again, show just how important their insights can be: they analyse why and how we are fascinated by these phenomena. And they do so in a way which is – at its best – relevant, lucid and powerful. To my mind those last three words summarise the qualities of what staff, postgraduates and research visitors to the HRC achieve with their work every day.  

The successor to McCalman and Shoemaker, to take up appointment in February 2004, in one of those turns of fate which even a Victorian sensation novelist might have hesitated to employ, was to be none other than the HRC’s first Director, recently retired as Director of the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities, blessed with the felicitous acronym CRASSH at Cambridge and modelled on the HRC. It may be said that this decision by the Vice-Chancellor Ian Chubb to appoint Professor Donaldson was received with signal acclaim. And Donaldson would be returning to a Centre which more than fitted his description of such Centres as ‘vital agencies of change for the universities, a principal avenue through which, even in times of great financial hardship, new people, new ideas, new ways of thinking are constantly introduced into the academy’.  

A glimpse of what was to come can perhaps be gained by looking at what Donaldson himself had been doing for the last ten years – continuing his own exemplary scholarship at Edinburgh and Cambridge and also founding a new centre at the latter university. Among the activities of CRASSH were four lectures in 2002 by the late Edward Said, who had been sadly prevented by the fatal illness of his mother from taking up an invitation to the HRC in 1987. ‘Humanism and Knowledge’ was the topic of Said’s lectures, parts of which were televised by the BBC. His timely lesson was that liberal-minded western scholars had ‘grown accustomed to lamenting the failure of humanism and the humanities’, but that the issue was rather, as was reported on the Centre website, the narrowness with which, ‘such scholars envisaged these terms’. 
Many did not think beyond the particular academic disciplines or social and cultural transitions in which they themselves happened to have grown up, and their view of humanism and the humanities was often as a consequence elitist, defensive, partial and despondent. Said offered a more optimistic, open, and pluralistic view of a humanism that embraced forms of knowledge eastern and western, contemporary as well as social and political as well as literary.\textsuperscript{21}

CRASSH itself was doing just that already under Donaldson’s Directorship, offering national and international connections and wide-ranging research projects that also embraced the arts with theatre, music and visual arts as well as new media initiatives, and included as well, science’s view of humanism. This of course was what Donaldson had been doing while Director of the HRC. Themes at CRASSH such as the ‘Organisation of Knowledge’ brought a broad range of scholars from many disciplines, including the sciences, and countries, as well as reaching out to those beyond the academy and into schools, bringing scholars in the universities, libraries and other cultural institutions together, contributing to the formation of government policy in areas such as the UK government report into creativity, reaching back in the past, heading and helping to build a European network of the humanities (CHCI) and above all extending the definitions and crossing barriers to knowledge caused by narrow disciplinary definitions. Donaldson proclaimed his goal when commenting during the first birthday celebrations of CRASSH on the report ‘Imagination and Understanding’ prepared by CRASSH management committee member Emma Rothschild for the UK Council of Science and Technology on the relationship of the arts and humanities to science and technology. Rothschild had spoken of the necessity to ‘communicate in two languages’, much as Sir Charles Snow had said in his Rede lecture \textit{The Two Cultures}, some forty years before. We do not seem to have progressed much – possibly the reverse, in fact. But Donaldson was trying to do something about it. ‘The central philosophy of the Rothschild report’, he said, ‘is in some ways comparable with that which led to the establishment of CRASSH. Both the report and the centre are driven by a strong wish to pursue intellectual enquiry across traditional disciplinary boundaries’.\textsuperscript{22} In the 2001 annual report he had said:

The massive acceleration of academic research over recent years, combined with the increasing pressures of
university life, have led ironically to a wider fragmentation of knowledge, and ever more intense specialization. Colleagues in neighbouring disciplines are not always fully aware of the nature of each others’ work, or able fully to benefit from their expertise. It has therefore become increasingly urgent to think of ways of enlivening and reconfiguring knowledge both within and beyond the University; of enabling academics to learn about and build upon each others’ ideas, and to share their knowledge and research interests more widely between institutions and within the global community . . . CRASSH has been created precisely to meet this challenge.

These included encouraging such interdisciplinary connections as collaboration with the Newton Institute of Mathematical Sciences.23
Back at the HRC, plans were already in train for 2004, 2005 and beyond through strategic planning undertaken over the previous two years, just as Donaldson would have wished. The themes will be ‘Asia-Pacific’ and ‘Cultural Landscapes’ respectively. The aim is just such a broad interdisciplinary approach which had always distinguished the HRC and the focus will be as diverse as Islamic gardens, British art and the contemporary megacities of China. A joint project on gardens is already in train between the HRC and CRASSH as well as the Huntington Library, California, The Yale Center for British Art, the Mellon Centre for British Art in London and the Getty. This collaboration with major international cultural institutions in North America and the UK has been initiated by Donaldson and McCalman. The art and cultural expertise of the Centre has been greatly enhanced with Grazia Gunn, a noted art expert and one of Australia’s most respected curators, joining the HRC as a long-term Visiting Fellow in 2004 with a special interest in the gardens research project. HRC projects will relate to philosophy, literature, history, environmental studies, bioethics, new media – and the list is not finalised at the time of writing. Another emphasis will be on expanding the new teaching programmes in both higher degree research degrees and coursework higher degrees. The HRC is also developing programmes for schools (the latest a joint project with the Freilich Foundation where HRC Visiting Fellow Professor Mbulelo Mzamane, a poet, activist and friend of Nelson Mandela had visited schools in the ACT to speak with school children about tolerance and race issues) and has continued its Summer Schools for teachers as well as working towards teacher resources, especially in the area of history. The Centre will of course continue developing strategic initiatives to promote humanities scholarship and research nationally, while expanding national and international linkages, especially with museums, libraries and other cultural institutions. These partnerships will be broadened beyond the HRC’s traditional bases in Europe and North America, with a special focus on our own region of the Asia-Pacific especially in 2004 when the theme is ‘Asia-Pacific’. Research priorities for the next two years will emphasise interdisciplinary research under the broad theme of ‘The Humanities in Society’. At the time of writing the HRC was engaged in over 10 major collaborative international and national research projects. These were, of course, in addition to the individual research of the staff and Fellows. The contributions of short and long term Fellows were as impressive as ever. All this has placed the Centre at the leading edge of humanities research in this country and a
partner in an international network of humanities discourse, which is just where it ought to be, according to the verdict of hundreds of eminent visitors over the past thirty years.

Professor Malcolm Gillies, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Education at ANU and a former President of the Australian Academy of Humanities whose appointment as Deputy Vice-Chancellor has greatly enhanced humanities studies at ANU, has defined the significance of the humanities and humanities research in this way:

Why are the humanities important? Because they are about people, their values and their beliefs. We are rapidly realizing in the twenty-first century that people – as individuals and in groups – matter every bit as much as things. The current state of the world suggests that without deep understanding of particular cultures, heritages, languages, and arts, we misdirect our efforts in politics and business, in science and technology. Great inventions are not adopted because they are not well adapted to the needs and wants of people. Moreover, those creative ideas fostered by the humanities and arts are
now finally being recognized as of immense importance to the future development of society. Technology now provides exciting new vehicles for the greater sharing and propagation of these humanistic ideas.\textsuperscript{24}

A good description of the work of the HRC as a centre for humanities research emerged from a work-in-progress seminar delivered by Dr Jonathan White, a Visiting Fellow from the University of Essex, in November 2003. White described the nineteenth-century experimental collaboration of the foremost English scientist of his day, Sir Humphry Davy, with scholars in the Neapolitan Museum of Antiquities, amongst them Monsignor Rosini, keeper of the collection of ancient scrolls. Because of Davy’s scientific skills, in particular his advances in the developing field of chemistry, he had come to Naples to help in opening some of the crumbling and infinitely precious papyrus scrolls containing works of ancient classical writers discovered in the ruins of Herculaneum. Davy’s activities in the museum at Naples, and in particular his relations with Monsignor Rosini, were not without tensions. In the opening of his new book on Italian culture, White uses details of the chemical experiments, disciplinary sensitivities and human problems in cross-cultural communication provided by this story as a ‘trope for our own attempts at cultural history’. But the concept of a chemist and a classical scholar from two very different countries brought together in an attempt to extend knowledge is a fruitful concept also for the story of the HRC. The truth is that in every discipline we need to strive for what one member of the audience at White’s seminar called a real dialogue across scholarship, and what the nineteenth century Neapolitan Rosini referred to as ‘the literary republic’.\textsuperscript{25} However difficult a literary republic of scholars may be it is a vital necessity of human endeavours. To contribute to the rich dialogue of a ‘literary republic’ of scholars of all disciplines, and bring knowledge systems together in such a way as to provide a focal point for humanities discourse in Australia, has perhaps been the greatest achievement of the HRC.

The challenge is now greater than ever. It has perhaps never been better described than in the words of Deryck Schreuder, written in 1994:

\begin{quote}
Humanity cannot live by the spreadsheets of financial advance alone – any more than modern society can rest its character and capacity in a narrow view of technological growth. This extraordinary decade of the 1990s has already
witnessed the collapse of a Super Power, a great empire state that could dominate half the world and reach the moon yet fail to meet the fundamental aspirations for civil rights and material well being for its citizens. The human prospect necessarily includes a quest for human dignity and human security. By that great historical and global perspective, the humanities are far from being a luxury for a prosperous great power – or even a middle size power of small population, living in a great island continent. The subjects of critical enquiry in the disciplines which compose the humanities give a fundamental character and coherence to the functioning of intelligent and compassionate human societies. . . for all their so-called irrelevance and lack of utility, their potential to be viewed as merely a decorative form of high culture, the humanities actually provide the very well-springs of our open society and culture. The alternative, of a world which undervalues the contribution of the critical research and writings in the humanities, is a kind of ideological clotting of the arteries – with the potential of the ultimate collapse for that culture and society.26

The events of the decade to which Schreuder referred had of course seemed in general to be positively liberating, at least at the time. The events of the succeeding decades had been quite the reverse. And the doctrines of economic rationalism he had condemned had become more entrenched than ever. The future could hardly be said to be entirely rose-coloured. But the only thing we know about the future, as the great British military historian Sir Michael Howard told one of the authors in 1989, is that it will be different from the present, and in the way in which we least expect. The Berlin Wall fell shortly after. And the HRC is better prepared than ever at the time of writing to greet the future, whatever that future might be.
Notes

2 Benjamin Penny, communication with the authors 21 Nov. 2003.
3 National Europe Centre website: http://www.anu.edu.au/NEC/
4 CCR Annual Reports; HRC internal financial reports for the University 1995-2003 (unpublished)
8 As reported by Convener and Dean of Arts, Professor Adam Shoemaker, in his submission for the second year review of National Institutes, Oct. 2003.
9 Adam Shoemaker, communication with the authors, 5 Dec. 2003.
10 Professor Bruce Bennett communication with the authors, 30 Mar. 2004.
11 Professor Ian Chubb, speech notes supplied to authors from Vice-Chancellor’s office.
15 Paul Pickering, communication with the authors, 24 Nov. 2003.
17 Hilary Charlesworth, email to Professor Adam Shoemaker, 21 Aug. 2003.
18 Conference statistics as supplied by HRC Programmes Manager Leena Messina.
19 Adam Shoemaker, communication with the authors, 5 Dec. 2003.
20 Donaldson, Address to Symposium in the Centre on Working outside the Academy, Apr. 1990.
22 Director’s Introduction CRASSH, 2002 Annual Report, op. cit (consulted 20/11/03)
23 Director’s Introduction, CRASSH 2001 Annual Report, op. cit (consulted 18/11/03)
24 Malcolm Gillies, communication with the authors, 30 Mar. 2004.
25 Jonathan White, Lineages in Italian Cultural History, forthcoming, and communication with the authors, 21 Nov. 2003.