Editorial

This edition of Historic Environment belatedly launches our second volume. The contents of the journal are, this time, something of a mixed bag and unfortunately, given our attempt to achieve a national flavour all from Melbourne.

The publication of intriguing articles by two new graduates (Roslyn Hunter and Jane Grove), on material collected during their final year studies at the University of Melbourne and the publication of Craig Wilson's review of the York course, tends to obliquely establish an education theme to this edition.

Formal education in conservation type issues has been a growing concern amongst professionals operating in this field for some time. ICOMOS (Australia) several years ago set out to make a detailed examination of what was required. What became of their investigations? Meanwhile two post-graduate courses have appeared in Sydney and are presumably turning out graduates who in turn quietly disappear back into professional work.

The recent return visit to Australia by Derek Lindstrum will undoubtedly, once again, prompt a series of questions about the value of Australians seeking overseas qualifications, the manner in which local courses should be structured and whether in fact Australia can hope to match the breadth of experience which has been poured into overseas courses. Whilst Craig's article does highlight some advantageous reasons for Australians going overseas it would seem highly logical for good quality educational opportunities to be available here, not only to service the somewhat limited range of post-European settlement relics in this country but to offer post-graduate conservation training to people from within the south-east Asian and Pacific regions. On the other hand, it would seem highly senseless for Australia to be offering two courses in Sydney. (The establishment of one in Melbourne would not be necessarily all that appropriate either).

On a slightly different note, the training of undergraduates in conservation related disciplines such as architectural history and research techniques therein must remain an important component of the curriculum of all related courses, whether they be architecture, engineering, planning, fine arts or whatever. The work of Grove and Hunter is simply indicative of the high quality which can be achieved and the consequent benefits to the conservation movement as a whole need not be explained.
Not only does Historic Environment urge educators to treat both undergraduate and post-graduate conservation training with the seriousness it deserves (the community quickly tires of amateurishness) but it urges the students to bring their material forward for publication and dissemination.