

Minute of appreciation
Professor Cliff Bellamy
Foundation Dean

FACULTY OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
 MONASH UNIVERSITY

Professor Cliff Bellamy, Dean of the Faculty of Computing and Information Technology will retire from the University on September 30, 1996.

Professor Bellamy graduated Dux of Science from Auckland Grammar School in 1953. He subsequently went on to study at the University of New Zealand (Auckland) where he took out first class honours in a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil). He then studied for his PhD at the University of Sydney under a scholarship from the Australian Atomic Energy Commission. He was awarded his PhD in 1960, being the first Civil Engineering PhD awarded by Sydney University.

Professor Bellamy began his working life with Ferranti Ltd and spent time in both the Melbourne and London offices. His first association with Monash University began while he was working for Ferranti; firstly by teaching the first computing courses at Monash University to staff in 1961 and secondly when he was involved in the University's purchase of its first major computer from Ferranti in 1961. In 1963 Professor Bellamy was appointed to a Senior Lectureship in the Department of Mathematics. He was responsible for the operation of the University's first computer and taught computing to staff and research students as well as professional people from commerce and industry.

Soon after his appointment Professor Bellamy agitated for the establishment of a professional Computer Centre to handle the burgeoning growth in computerisation. In 1964 he was appointed Director of the Computer Centre and he served the University in this role until 1990 when he was appointed foundation Dean of the Faculty of Computing and Information Technology.

Soon after taking up his appointment in the Computer Centre Professor Bellamy recognised that the University needed an academic department devoted to information technology in addition to the Computer Centre. His proposal to establish a Department of Information Science (now Computer Science), was supported by the then Dean of Science, Professor Westfold. Thus, the first academic department in an Australian University devoted to computing and information systems, was established.

For many years Professor Bellamy has been a sought after expert consultant in computer systems engineering. For the past ten years, since resigning as the Deputy Chairman of the Board of Health Computing Services Limited (and Chairman of its Management Committee), he has been a principal in a small consulting practice Bellamy, Miller and Monypenny.

By far the most outstanding project undertaken by Professor Bellamy has been the application of computers in medicine. In 1964 an interest in this area resulted in research and the generation of a plan for computer-based systems for the medical field. This research gained the support of the Victorian Hospitals and Charities Commission for the development of systems for administration, laboratory management and medical statistics. The work led to the formation of Health Computing Services - a company which was initially housed on the Monash campus and subsequently became the first organisation in what is now the Monash industrial park. For 15 years Professor Bellamy served in an honorary capacity as Deputy Chairman of the Board and Chairman of a committee of management to which the Director of the Service reported.

Since 1965, he has been a consultant in the field of computer-based systems to organisations such as the Victorian Government, totalisator agency boards, insurance companies, hospitals, private medical laboratories, registered clubs in New South Wales and the Schools and Examinations Board Victoria.

Indeed, Professor Bellamy developed computer-based systems for the processing of public examination results for Victoria and conceived, proposed and established the Victorian Universities Admissions Committee system for student admissions (now VTAC). Over the past 20 years, Professor Bellamy has been an advisor to several Australian Universities on computing matters including: Bond University, James Cook University, Wollongong University, Flinders University, Auckland University, the University of New England and the New Zealand Universities Grants Commission.

Professor Bellamy is a founding and active committee member of the Victorian Computer Society. He participated in the formation of the Australian Computer Society and was appointed one of the first Fellows of the Society.

Since 1990 Professor Bellamy has been foundation Dean of the Faculty of Computing and Information Technology. A position he has carried out with integrity, dedication and enthusiasm. The Faculty was created by merging Departments of Monash University, Chisholm Institute and Gippsland CAE. He has overseen the creation of a strong vibrant Faculty bringing together the traditions of both the former CAE sector and the traditional research base of the University. The Faculty has grown substantially under his management increasing markedly its research profile and funding base. He leaves it in a sound financial position poised to become a dominant force in educational computing in Australia.

Professor Bellamy will be remembered for working consistently to achieve the aims and needs of the University, the students and the wider community and for the openness with which he has embraced ideas. He has made a major contribution to the University over many years and his willingness to collaborate and interact with colleagues and students has set a fine example to his successor.