

“From the (Acting) Director’s Desk”

One of the highlights of last year was the 1993 Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology Conference which was organised by the Institute of Criminology. It was extremely well supported, and highly successful. The keynote speaker was Professor David Garland who presented a paper titled *A Postmodern Penalty?* He made a very valuable contribution to the conference through his presentations and in his participation more generally. The ‘writer and critics’ session in which David Garland’s most recent book, *Punishment in Modern Society*, was discussed was especially valuable. In that session David responded to papers presented by ‘critics’ Janet Chan and John Pratt. Both Janet and John’s papers are reproduced in this issue.

The 1994 Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology Conference will be held at the University of New South Wales. Further details of the conference appear in Current Events in this issue.

Also published in this issue is the submission by John Braithwaite and Duncan Chappell to the Committee on Employment Opportunities. The current debate around employment policy presents an important opportunity for criminologists to stress the connection between broad social policy and crime and criminalisation. Braithwaite and Chappell have urged the Federal government to consider the likely impact of social marginality in the form of long term unemployment on crime. It is long term unemployment which has the greatest association with crime. As Braithwaite and Chappell argue, economic growth in the absence of specially targeted programs is unlikely to benefit those who are most disadvantaged in our community.

As this issue goes to press the Institute of Criminology is about to launch the fifth title in its monograph series. *The Prison and the Home* by Dr Ann Aungles is an important contribution to the penological literature which draws on feminist theories of the state and the sociology of punishment in examining the construction of penal control.

The Institute of Criminology enters 1994 with a diminished staff due to the absence of Mark Findlay who is spending a well earned period of study leave in London. Mark has been awarded the Inns of Court Fellowship and will be spending the first half of the year at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies at the University of London. I wish him well with his ongoing research and hope that he finds some time for rest and recreation during his leave.

*Julie Stubbs
Acting Director*