

Technical News Item

AUSTRALIAN POST OFFICE RESEARCH LABORATORIES GOLDEN JUBILEE

During August 1973 a number of events marked the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the APO Research Laboratories. These included:

- o A 2-day Symposium on the theme "Whither Communications?" held at the Union Theatre, Melbourne University on 15th and 16th August. Eminent international and local speakers from telecommunications administrations, industry and universities delivered a total of 13 papers to present a range of views on the future development in communications services and technology and on their social implications. Key note speakers included Professor W. J. Bray, Director of Research, of the British Post Office, Dr. W. A. Tyrrell, Executive Director, Technical Relations, Bell Laboratories, U.S.A.; Professor S. Encel, Professor of Sociology, University of New South Wales; Mr. P. R. Brett, Senior Assistant Director-General, Research, APO; and Professor A. E. Karbowski, Professor of Electrical Engineering-Communications, University of New South Wales. Other eminent speakers, both local and from overseas, extended the range of

topics discussed and an audience of about 650 took part in three panel discussion sessions.

- o A week of Open Days, opened by the Postmaster-General and during which official guests and the general public were invited into the Laboratories to see about 110 exhibits and displays selected to demonstrate the work of the Laboratories. During the week (20/8/73 to 24/8/73), an estimated 5000 people visited the Laboratories, some of whom had been attracted by a less extensive display at the State Savings Bank, corner Bourke and Elizabeth Streets, Melbourne, several weeks before the Open Days proper.

- o The issue of a special Golden Jubilee edition of the annual APO Research Laboratories Review of Activities. This special edition not only reviewed selected current activities of the Laboratories as is usual, but also devoted a significant number of pages to an historical review of the activities and achievements of the Laboratories since their inception in 1923.

The events drew compliments from those attending and it is obvious that they were most successful in enhancing the public image not only of the Laboratories but also of the Department as an enterprise which is abreast of the technology and science of modern communications.