

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN ORTHOPTICS — LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

In 1988, Alison Pitt, MEd(Melb), DBO(T), was appointed a Reader at La Trobe University. In 1992, the University instituted the title of Associate Professor for some academic staff at Reader level. This title has now been conferred on Alison Pitt. At the end of 1992, she was appointed as Chairperson for a further two years until 1995.

Alison completed her Diploma of British Orthoptics at the Birmingham and Midland Eye Hospital in 1972 and following a short period as locum orthoptist in Bradford worked as sole orthoptist in North Wales where she took responsibility for Orthoptic services across the whole of North Wales. After this, Alison took up a research orthoptist position in Uppsala, Sweden. She returned to undertake the Orthoptic Teachers' course which she completed in 1979 at the Coventry School of Orthoptics, which was then the highest orthoptic qualification offered in the UK. Alison worked as a teacher in Coventry for five years. During which time she was appointed as an examiner to the Orthoptic Board of the Council for Professions Supplementary to Medicine and worked on the National Orthoptic Curriculum Committee. In 1982, Alison was also appointed to the Coventry Bench as a lay magistrate and in her spare time took part in a programme for teenagers in institutional care.

In 1985 Alison came to Melbourne to take up the position as Head of School at the then Lincoln Institute of Health Sciences.

Since arriving in Australia, Alison has completed a Masters degree in Education at Melbourne University in 1990. In 1989, she was invited to give the Patricia Lance lecture, titled "Accommodation Deficits in a Group of Young Offenders". This paper demonstrated not only her interest in Orthoptics but also in adolescents from her previous work in the UK.

In addition to her position as Chairperson of the Division of Orthoptics, Alison teaches her



speciality being the sensory aspects of ocular motility dysfunction. She has successfully developed the degree course in Orthoptics and has overseen the first year of the Honours programme. She is currently supervising five Masters students and the research projects of a number of undergraduate students. Alison has developed the research profile of the Division of Orthoptics not only by successful research grant applications but by actively developing academic staff research interests.

Within the School of Health Sciences, Alison works to develop overseas links and courses for all the disciplines, and is currently working on a proposal to begin Orthoptic training at the SNDT Women's University in Bombay, India.

Alison has also served the Orthoptic profession by being the President of the Victorian Branch of the OAA and has represented Victoria on both the Federal Council of the OAA and the OBA, including a period as chairman of the Examination Sub-Committee of the Orthoptic Board.

Alison is a most appropriate recipient of the title Associate Professor and the profession is very proud that she joins Elaine Cornell as one of the two Associate Professors of Orthoptics in Australia.

Shayne Brown