Swinburne history on YouTube: preserving the past for the future

In recognition of Swinburne’s centenary in 2008, the Swinburne University of Technology Library is digitising archival footage and recordings from Swinburne’s history. The project has the dual purpose of preserving artefacts from Swinburne’s past, and making them available in formats that ensure they will continue to be part of our future.

The Library has created a YouTube profile and is contributing videos to the service to reach an international audience beyond Swinburne’s walls. The videos can be found at http://youtube.com/swinvideos and are also available to download as podcasts from Swinburne on iTunes U: http://podcasts.swinburne.edu.au

The Swinburne Videos project began when SBS approached the Library for archival footage of playwright and former Swinburne staff member, David Williamson. While searching for the footage, the Library uncovered a series of other recordings, such as a video of Malcolm Fraser opening the Hawthorn Campus Library in 1972. During this time of rapid change for Swinburne, the use of emerging technologies gives the Library the chance to reveal these forgotten artefacts to a wider audience, and bring our one hundred year history to life.

In addition, the Library archives also hold video recordings of more recent events in Swinburne’s history, including the opening of the Mooroolbark campus in 1992 when the announcement of university status was made, and the installation ceremony for Foundation Chancellor Richard Pratt in 1993.

Videos currently available in the series include:
- The Swinburne Science Show investigating physics and engineering in 1978
- A film featuring a young David Williamson promoting contemporary Swinburne courses in 1972
- Malcolm Fraser opening the Hawthorn Campus Library in 1972
- The grand parade along Burwood Road to mark the City of Hawthorn’s centenary in 1960
- The 1960 ceremony to lay the foundation stone for the Ethel Swinburne Building
- Boys and girls and the seniors on their sports day at Glenferrie Oval in 1953
- Swinburne diploma students on an excursion in Mt Donna Buang in 1950.

Historical photographs related to Swinburne have also been made available online and can be found at http://images.swinburne.edu.au

Rebecca Parker
Swinburne University of Technology
rparker@swin.edu.au

Helen Wolff
Content Management Librarian
Swinburne University of Technology
helenwolff@swin.edu.au