REMEMBER GEOFF LOVE?

Australia’s top weather man is going back to Geneva to direct the World Meteorological Organisation.

“Encounter with Geoff Love” was the title of an article published in “The Age”, September 13, 2008, which mentioned that after graduating from Latrobe University, Geoff taught physics at Ballarat Institute of Advanced Education. Geoff was quoted as saying that “Physics just brought a whole lot of things together, and it was about explaining why things are like they are.”

After leaving Ballarat at the end of 1974, Geoff trained as a meteorologist, and for a period was a senior forecaster in Darwin. He spent two years on attachment to the Meteorological Satellite Centre in Japan, and served as regional director in the Northern Territory and officer-in-charge of the National Meteorological Centre in Melbourne.

He also spent two years in Geneva as secretary of the United Nation’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). While serving as director of Australia’s Bureau of Meteorology, in Melbourne he was one of six Vice-Chairs of the IPCC’s Working Group II, looking at the vulnerability of socio-economic and natural systems to climate change, the positive and negative consequences of climate change, and options for adapting to them.

In 2007 the IPCC shared the Nobel Peace Prize with American Al Gore, “for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change” In typical fashion, the media made much of Al Gore winning the Peace prize, but very little of the many scientists who had contributed to the IPCC report.

This summary submitted by Alan Ballard, who clearly remembers working with Geoff Love when the Physics Department was still based at Lydiard St. just before moving out to the Mt Helen campus. Even though he was clearly more interested in research than continuing in teaching he did make a very positive contribution to the Physics department at that time.

2008 AGM AND LUNCHEON

It is official. We are invited to meet with the Vice Chancellor and staff at noon on Friday 19th December at the Albert Coates Complex (Union Building) (Please RSVP by Monday 8 December Camelia Prenc Ph: Ext 9322 or email c.prenc@ballarat.edu.au )

The AGM will follow at 1.15 in the usual room at the Caro Centre. Tea and coffee will be available.

Nominations for Executive Positions which become vacant at the AGM.

Item 4(e) of our Constitution; “No member shall hold the Office of President for more than two consecutive terms unless special circumstances prevail.”

Alan Ballard will have completed two consecutive terms by the time of the AGM and so a nomination is required for President.

4(f) Casual vacancies in the Offices of the Association may be filled by appointment by the Executive and all such Officers so appointed shall remain in office until the Next annual General meeting. Should a casual vacancy occur in the Office of President the Vice President shall become President.”

Frank Martin has taken over the role of Treasurer after Walter Robson asked to be relieved. As of this time Frank is prepared to accept nomination for this position.”

PASSING OF OUR FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE:
ZIG PLAVINA 1928 - 2008

A special mention was made in our last Newsletter edition of Zig Plavina for his work on the UB Collection. His attention to detail was characteristic of everything that Zig did. He has been a tireless volunteer since he retired from full time work. At the memorial service an attendance of over twenty Ex Staff is an indication of the high regard colleagues had for Zig.

He was born in Latvia in 1928, and migrated to Australia in 1949, when he was 21.

He was first employed by M B Johns, as an apprentice fitter and turner, followed by a certificate and then diploma in mechanical engineering. He joined the SMB as a laboratory technician in 1960. By 1966 he was a member of IEAust and Chairman of the Ballarat Group of IEAust in 1979.

Zig was married to Lia whom he met at Bonegilla, and they have two children, Mara and Peter.

It has been said of Zig that he was kind gentle and wise, without an enemy in the world. Another memory of him is as a guide, philosopher and friend to many. He is sadly missed.
On the 30th May about 25 members attended a visit to the Mechanics’ Institute, Ballarat followed by a lunch at Prospects restaurant, SMB campus.

There were two guides for the visit, Phil Roberts and Ken Wright, both committee members of the Mechanics’ Institute. The tour started in the Library and then moved to the Batten room, where members were told about the history of Mechanics’ Institutes in general and more detail about the Ballarat Institute. We were given some details of the various books and newspapers that the Institute has collected over the years, including a complete collection of all the Ballarat Couriers published. Following this we were given a brief tour of the building, being shown various restored rooms, including the Humffray room and the partial restoration of the cinema. The tour finished with a visit to part of the basement, which is used for storage.

During the tour we were told how the Institute had gone about the restoration, employing a heritage architect to produce plans and other details of the original building. A lift has been installed and the Institute is hoping that outside bodies will use their facilities. They are also trying to get co-operative ventures with other bodies, and this may be a source of future liaison between ourselves and the Institute. Another activity that may be of interest to our members is the Friday evening lectures, commencing at 5pm and finishing about 6.30pm, information on these is available from the Institute.

Members Present at one or other of the activities: Ken Clements, Donna and Warren Tiller, Graham Hawley, Ian McKee, Roy Taylor, Alan Ballard, Geoff Boyd, Colin Kline, Frank Martin, Jean Goh, Ray Martin, David Stabb, Thelma Rungkat, Jim and Katherine Thyer, Roy Schrieke, Peter and Judy Colville, Peter Van Pinxteren, Verna Barry, Walter Robson, Marjorie Sargeant, Norm Grose, Tom and Leslie Norwood and Martin Westbrooke.

Apologies were received from: Ross Whitefield, Isobel Dowling, Robert Hook, Bob Morrell, Ray Watson, Pat Hope, Greg Binns, Jack Barker, Dulcie Brooke, Frank Hurley.

REDAN’S St Aloysius Catholic parish has put its past on paper.

Out of the Mullock Heaps, a history of the parish from its humble beginnings in goldfields era Ballarat to the present day was launched recently by Ballarat Bishop Peter Connors.

The book was the idea of parishioner Carmel Densley and took a team from the parish two years to compile. Co-compiler of the book Frank Hurley said the editorial team wanted to record parishioner stories before they were lost. He said the Loreto Sisters had played a significant part in the parish’s history, having set up the school in the 1882 and only ending their formal involvement in 2000.

But the cost of a horse and cart to take the sisters from their convent to the school saw them replaced by the Mercy sisters for a period.

"There was a break of a few years over a small disagreement (with the then Bishop) about who should be paying for the hay for the horse,” Dr Hurley said.