

PROMISE FULFILLED

The History of the Accounting Department at the University of Melbourne 1925-2004

BY GEOFF BURROWS

After its inception at The University of Melbourne in 1925, accounting had to counter the image that it was not a 'true' academic discipline. It also had to cope with changes in information technology, adapt to new research paradigms, manage burgeoning enrolments, and forge a strong postgraduate presence. *Promise Fulfilled* chronicles the response of several generations of accounting staff to these challenges and their success in making accounting a dynamic contributor to the university's modern presence. It rebuts the uptight image of academic accounting, depicting a rich collection of staff and student personalities, and not a few high jinks perpetrated by the latter.

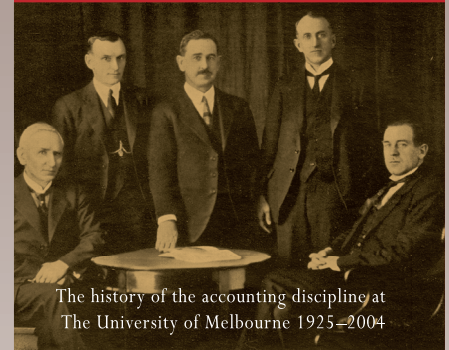
The clichéd image of accountants is that, individually and collectively, they are totally cheerless. Academic accountants may be different, or perhaps those who have taught accounting at Melbourne have been atypical, but whatever the explanation, Melbourne accountants have generally known how to enjoy themselves.

The Author

English-born Geoff Burrows joined the University in 1971 after earlier working in secondary teaching, then accounting. During thirty years at the university he wrote widely on financial analysis, accounting and business history, and technological change in the sugar industry, the latter including *The Canecutters*, published by Melbourne University Press in 1986 and winner of the Fellowship of Australian Writers' Local History Award. Geoff retired from full-time academic life in 2001 but has remained active as a consultant and researcher. He is currently Principal Fellow in the Department of Accounting and Business Information Systems, successor to the department he headed during 1987-90.

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