



SYMPOSIUM TO CELEBRATE THE LIFETIME CONTRIBUTIONS OF
PROFESSORS EMERITI TOM PAULAY AND BOB PARK

Bob Park's reply

Dear Friends

- I am overwhelmed by the generous words spoken tonight by Fumio Watanabe and by Gavin Cormack, and earlier by David Hopkins in the last session this afternoon.
- The realization that I am about to turn 70 is beginning to sink in. It came home the other night when leaving a restaurant when one of you here present tonight, who shall remain nameless, said to my partner Pauline, "Look after the old bugger."
- I have enjoyed tremendously about 40 years on the staff at the University of Canterbury. My greatest pleasure has been from teaching and research and in interacting with structural engineering practitioners.
- The years of the late 1960s to the late 1980s when Tom Paulay, Nigel Priestley and I were hard at structural concrete research were the most enjoyable. The opportunities were there – seismic design was in its infancy and concrete design was changing from working stress to ultimate strength design. I am grateful to Tom and Nigel for their collaboration.
- During those years:
 - Research funding was relatively plentiful, eg, \$300,000 was raised for the 1000 tonne Dartec testing machine which was installed in 1978 – all except \$30,000 came from outside the University. That \$300,000 is over \$1 million in today's currency. It came mainly from government agencies.
 - The research students were excellent as they are today.
 - We have excellent technicians in the laboratories who are a great strength. Also Val Grey's colour slides were very helpful in presentation.
 - We have an excellent profession of practicing structural engineers in New Zealand who provide plenty of interaction, exchange of ideas and encouragement.
 - Research and development is a team effort and we had a great team. There was great teamwork and good feeling between all parties involved. There was indeed an excellent working atmosphere. I would emphasize teamwork as the main reason for any success that we may have had.
 - Another incentive to conduct research into the seismic design of reinforced concrete structures was the Bank of New Zealand building in Wellington. The fact that that there were too many uncertainties for the consultants to design that building using reinforced concrete in the late 1960s (as you know it was built in structural steel) was a call to action.

- There was much encouragement from Professor Harry Hopkins, Head of Civil Engineering at Canterbury from 1951–1978. Harry initiated my interest in and love of concrete. As a student and member of staff I was most impressed by HJH. The Department has a lot to thank Harry for. I had only one minor run in with Harry Hopkins. It was over David Hopkins whose PhD research I was supervising at the time. I suggested to David that perhaps he should not go to the Universities Easter Tournament in Wellington in 1968 since he could better spend that time on his research. Harry did not agree with my suggestion at all and indicated that to me in no uncertain terms. Harry was a great believer in balance between sport and scholarship.
- There were many other inspiring figures in the 1960s and 1970s in the profession. But I shall mention only two of them – the first is Otto Glogau, Chief Structural Engineer of the Ministry of Works, who was a great thinker and was largely responsible for the pioneering 1976 Loadings Code. The other is Sandy Cormack (Gavin's father) who did so much for the concrete industry in New Zealand, eg, setting up the first ready-mix concrete plant and being a great advocate of precast concrete – Mr Concrete NZ indeed!
- We were also helped along by the occasional overseas earthquake that provided many lessons. For example the 1971 San Fernando Valley earthquake in California resulted in much bridge research in New Zealand on the seismic design of bridges sponsored by the then National Roads Board of New Zealand. The outcome of that research led to excellent interaction with the US and Japan. Other overseas earthquakes have also opened our eyes. Our structures in New Zealand have not been tested by a major earthquake since 1931. We have strived to be ready for the next event.
- The New Zealand National Society for Earthquake Engineering had the foresight, in the 1970s and 1980, to set up Study Groups comprising researchers and practitioners which were great means of drawing ideas together and putting them forward in the form of design guidelines for buildings and bridges. Engineers gave their time freely to Study Group activities and to very good effect. Alas, we have lost a great deal of that volunteered effort in today's more commercial world. It was the work of a Study Group that laid the foundation, by reports published in the Bulletin of the NZNSEE, for the pioneering reinforced concrete design standard NZS 3101 published in 1982. The use of precast concrete in New Zealand has been helped greatly by the guidelines written by a Study Group of the NZNSEE and the NZ Concrete Society. Why could we not have done this for the current rather messy revision of the Loadings Standard?
- In closing I would again like to thank my colleagues in the Department including technicians, secretaries and graduate students – you have been a most collegial bunch. You have even let me keep an office in the Department, a privilege which I enjoy. And, I thank our excellent profession in New Zealand.
- It has been a great privilege to work with you. I have many happy memories.
- I have also enjoyed greatly my contact with overseas colleagues.
- My main regret tonight is that this occasion is not for P & P & P, the third P of course being Nigel Priestley. Nigel has been very much part of our work at Canterbury. A decade separates each P from the next. We at Canterbury have to thank Nigel for his past efforts. He should really be part of this occasion.

- Finally I would like to thank you for coming today particularly to those people from overseas. I thought that the symposium today was brilliant. I thank the speakers for their efforts and technical messages.
- It has been good to be able to provide an excuse for a great reunion of many old friends. Also thank you so much to the organizers of this occasion – Nigel Priestley, David Brunson, Andy Buchanan, Melody Callahan and others.
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- Thank you.