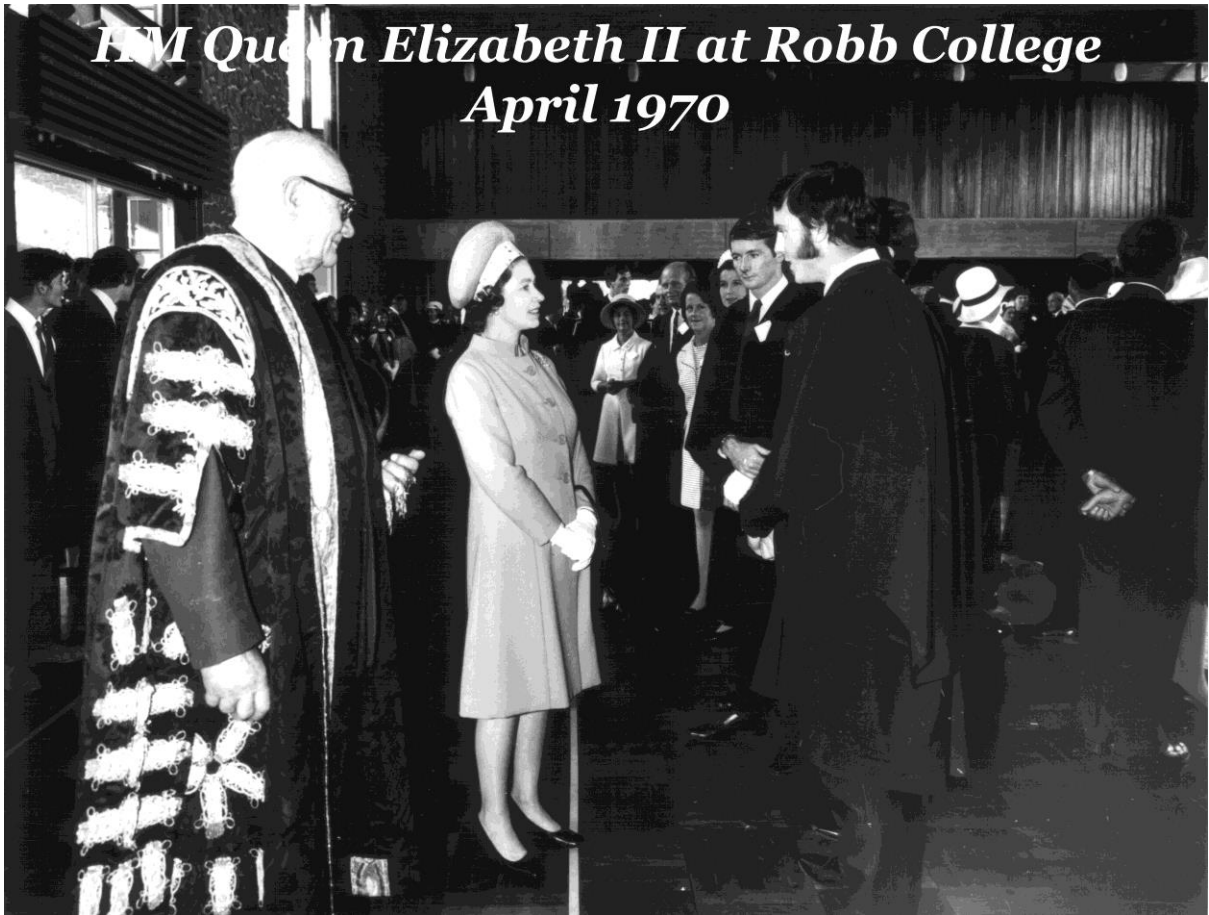




*HM Queen Elizabeth II at Robb College  
April 1970*







Royal visit Her Majesty, Duke of Edinburgh,  
Princess Anne to Robb College.  
*Courtesy Armidale Express.*



The visit of Her Majesty the Queen, Prince Philip and Princess Anne was a fabulously happy occasion. Royalist or Republican, the citizens of Armidale joined wholeheartedly in a magnificent welcome. The Royal progress down the Mad Mile (now Queen Elizabeth Drive) was a special occasion and banks of spectator seats had been erected along it so that men of the two world wars, the aged and school-children could be seated.

The visit was well organised; the citizens of Armidale were in a joyous mood and the visitors responded similarly. We had been invited to Robb College and, as they both entered and departed, we were beside them. Students from all over the campus packed every vantage point and Princess Anne won all hearts, being in a particularly smiling relaxed mood. She was surrounded by and seemed to enjoy the close contact with students, questioning the most unlikely ones about life in this country university. Armidale provided the most glorious Autumn weather for the visit.

Among the packed students, a caricature forearm wearing the traditional white glove favoured by the Queen was raised high above all heads on a stick, automatically waving a return welcome to the Royal party, as they proceeded slowly along the path into the Dining Hall. The Queen was delighted with this 'hand in glove' welcome and sent her equerry to seek out the student to ask if he would present it to the Queen. She wished to take it back to England among her Australian trophies. Chris, our Greek student, said incredulously, 'I can't believe it. I came all the way from Greece to stand beside the Queen of England'.





*The famous gloved hand which tickled the Queen's fancy during the Royal Visit in April 1970! The Queen, renowned for her stiff-handed wave from moving cars, was greeted by this carefully-crafted wooden limb as she shook hands with the crowd upon the arrival of the Royal Party in Robb. Apparently, she was so impressed that she asked the students to put it in her car, but security men wouldn't allow them. On discovering it was not there, Her Majesty later sent a royal messenger to retrieve the hand, which is now believed to be somewhere in Buckingham Palace. Pictured practising the regal wave in preparation for the Queen's visit are Robb students (from left) Tony Willsallen, Graeme Hardley and Ron Moore, all of whom are believed to have been residents of the 'Araluen' annexe located 'up top' which formed part of Robb in those days. Photo: Courtesy of The Armidale Express-Danieli Studios. Identification kindly provided by Michael Rose of Black Mountain and Michael Muldoon of Armidale.*