

Vincent Buckley (1925 - 1988) was a shaping influence on post WW2 Australian and Irish Australia intellectual and literary life and on the intellectual evolution of the Catholic Church in Melbourne. This occurred especially through his influence on the Newman Society at the University of Melbourne. Politically he was an anti-Communist democratic socialist and opponent of BA Santamaria.

After receiving an MA at Melbourne, he went to Cambridge University, studied with FR Leavis and graduated with an MA degree from Cambridge. He returned to Melbourne University and was offered a personal Chair in that University's English Dept. Then began his long engagement with Ireland and Irish issues - political, intellectual and literary.

He is credited by many with creating the critical study of Australian literature at Australian universities. In his Newman Society days (1950s to mid 1960s) he was particularly alive to matters of faith and the vocation of the intellectual at university. His own poetry could be described as concerned with religious - not denominational - matters or what he would describe as "webs of meaning and patterns of significance".

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