The University of Newcastle

Graphics for the Blind

If you're a parent, you have obviously spent many hours with your children reading books and showing the accompanying pictures. As your child falls slowly asleep in your lap or on their bed, the joy of reading and of being able to describe the scene through pictures is more or less taken for granted.

Unfortunately, it's a joy that some of us don't experience. For the visually impaired, the words come through the use of Braille - but the pictures are a different matter.

It's very difficult for many people affected by blindness to 'put together' words and pictures, mainly because a system which is able to 'read' graphics has not been viable.

However, that could soon change through the innovative work of a University researcher that has gained recognition from the Minister for School Education and Youth Affairs, Mrs Virginia Chadwick.

Associate Professor Don Parkes from the University's Institute of Behavioural Sciences and the Principal of North Rocks School for the Blind in Sydney, Sue Ingram, have just received $25,000 under the Special Education Equity and Innovation Grants Scheme to enable the development of audio-tactile graphics for use by blind children and children with other disabilities in New South Wales schools.

Mrs Chadwick presented a cheque at the University last week, saying that the grant program aims at providing equity in the provision of educational services for children who have difficulty in coping with mainstream education. She said the government was keen to foster the growth of new, high quality instructional technology in education which will help children with their learning.

Don's project, known as 'NOMAD' and named after a guide dog belonging to a former University blind student, Ray Paul, is an audio-tactile graphics interpreter and uses synthetic speech to describe a wide range of features on raised line pictures and other graphics.

A number of geographic calculations such as length, area and perimeter of straight or curved lines may also be calculated and lines and areas can be painted with sound in up to nine frequencies. When a line or area is touched, a unique sound is heard and a description of the feature being represented is spoken out, if required.

"The system may also be used to play music and includes a simple word processing system," said Don.

"Text and sound painted files may be printed and text information, perhaps part of a book or an article, can be scanned and placed onto the NOMAD system in association with pictures. Line graphs and pie charts can also be handled. When reading line graphs a number of parameters, such as largest and smallest value and the general trend of the graph values, are spoken to the blind user."

Richard Dear from the University's Computing Centre has been working closely with Don during the past three years, much of the work being done at weekends. The two have already spent quite a bit of time at the North Rocks School and most of the grant will be devoted to the purchase of equipment which will become the property of the school.

"The aim is to enable the preparation of high-quality graphics for the blind and it is hoped that graphic kits will be produced and used widely in Australia and overseas," Don explained.

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The University's allocation from the Federal Government for 1991 will be about $96 million, an increase of about 6.7 per cent in real terms, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Mr Hennessy, told Academic Senate at its February 27 meeting.

Mr Hennessy said planning of the 1991 budget was disrupted in January after the Department of Education, Employment and Training had originally given higher estimates for the year. This situation was outlined in the last issue of the Bulletin.

He told Senate the 'big push' this year was in the equipment sector, where overall spending would rise from the 1990 figure of $2.7 million to $4.5 million.

However, the University's academic commitment would remain.

The University of Newcastle spends about 48 per cent of its total budget on academic salaries, while the average commitment of Australian universities is 45 per cent.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Carter, said the large proportional commitment to academic salaries meant that the late changes in DEET's figures would translate into restrictions on filling academic positions that might appear 'capricious and fortuitous'.

He explained that the framers of the budget had identified positions which were waiting to be filled as being capable of being 'frozen'. The University understood, however, that the fact they were being advertised at the moment was only fortuitous, and that they did not necessarily represent any individual Department's broad requirements.

Currently unfilled positions had been used to arrive at the dollar-figure cuts across the University necessary to balance the budget after DEET's adjustments, and specific positions could be discussed if Departments had other feasible ways of achieving the same spending restraint.

The Deputy President of the Academic Senate, Prof. Macdonald, reported that the Commonwealth Government had also cut the number of HECS scholarships available to the University this year.

In 1990, the Government provided funds for scholarships to cover 296 effective full time student units (EFTSUs). The University, through its own efforts, had found funds to lift the number of scholarships offered to 313.

With no explanation so far, the Commonwealth had seen fit to provide funds this year for only 263 EFTSU scholarships.

Professor MacDonald explained that, legally, the University must offer scholarships to students pursuing higher degrees by research.

The usual order of precedence following that is to offer scholarships to students pursuing a higher degree by full-time coursework, then to those pursuing an Honours degree (technically, a degree where entry is dependent on successful completion of a first degree) full-time.

This year, it would probably be necessary to offer only half scholarships to this last group, in order to ensure that the available HECS scholarships covered all students in that group.

The Senate expressed its reluctance but, recognising the necessity in the light of the Commonwealth's cuts, approved this course of action.

Law Degree Course

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Carter, has pursued discussions with a number of people who have expressed interest in the position of Foundation Dean of Law within the University and is pursuing further opportunities.

In a report to the Academic Senate on February 27, the Planning and Resources Committee said the introduction of the degree course in Law remained high on its agenda.

One of the most pressing matters is the recruitment of a Foundation Dean, but prospective applicants need to be satisfied that sufficient resources will be available to establish the course. The Committee has reviewed projections of the income and costs of the course according to DEET's relative funding model and other known contributions. Sources of income other than recurrent grants have also been considered.

A number of policy matters remain to be reviewed in further depth, including the patterns of degrees to be offered, admissions policy, flexibility of course content and library resources.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Morgan, said the Committee would meet again shortly and should be in a position to provide the next Senate meeting with a very clear report.

Government comment: Blandy Report

The Minister for Higher Education, Mr Baldwin, has poured cold water on expectations that the Blandy Report would bring about substantial growth in the number of academics during the 1990s.

Commenting on the release of Professor Richard Blandy's report on the academic labour market, Mr Baldwin warned that it 'represented projections of what might occur rather than a prediction of what would actually happen.'

Professor Blandy, of Flinders University, predicted a substantial shortfall in academic staff, with shortages in accounting, business, computer science, engineering, law and medicine among others fields.

Mr Baldwin said the projections were based on a number of assumptions, including no changes in policy by either government or Universities.

He said the finding that Australia would need a substantial increase in academic staff was 'of obvious concern'.

However the Federal Government was 'taking steps to increase the supply of academics' and had 'already indicated a preparedness to fund a substantial increase in academic salaries.'

The Information and Public Relations Unit will make a copy of the report available to interested staff members.
Recognition Given for Excellence
Two Convocation Awards

One of the most talented engineers to come from Newcastle, Dr Peter Ramadge, has been awarded the University of Newcastle Convocation Medal for professional excellence.

Now an Assistant Professor at the eminent Princeton University in the United States, Dr Ramadge received his first degree in Science, from the University of Newcastle in 1976. Two years later, he won the University Medal with an outstanding pass in his Engineering degree. He was also at this time a visitor in the Division of Applied Sciences at Harvard.

After achieving his Master of Engineering degree, he then pursued further research in Canada where he gained his PhD from the University of Toronto, then going on to join the faculty at Princeton as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering.

Dr Ramadge has been an invited speaker at many conferences and workshops and has published many papers and journal articles.

The Warden of the University Convocation, Mr Vic Levi, said Dr Ramadge had done an enormous amount in his career to ensure a high regard internationally for the University of Newcastle.

"He is one of the world's most talented engineers, and his success is a tribute to his determination, his application and his vision.

"His fellow graduates are proud to recognise his achievement with this medal for excellence in his chosen profession," said Mr Levi.

"The University has long been proud of its Engineering Faculty and is a tribute to those within the Faculty that a talent like Peter Ramadge's was able to develop so fully under their tutelage." he said.

One of the people responsible for the modern bicycle helmet - which became compulsory for all cyclists in New South Wales on January 1 - has been awarded a major annual prize by the graduate body of the University.

Dr John Mathieson is well known to many people in Newcastle as a founder of the Newcastle Cycleways Movement, and around Australia for his role as President of the Bicycle Federation of Australia (BFM) from 1984 until 1989.

He is the winner for 1990 of the Newton-John Award, given to a graduate of the University of Newcastle in recognition of 'innovation or creativity in any field' by the University's Convocation.

Dr Mathieson has also been the most recognised researcher into bicyclist trauma and has been the invited speaker at virtually every conference on Bike Safety in Australia over the past decade. With his technical colleagues, he has published research in such subjects as bike lighting, bike braking, helmet stability, cyclists' compliance with traffic laws, road marking for cyclists and economic modelling of implementing bikeplains.

The Newcastle Cycleways Movement was the first body to recognise and fully promote the role of helmets in reducing bicycle trauma, and Dr Mathieson represented the BFA on the committee of Standards Australia which laid down the technical requirements for bicycle helmets which have now become compulsory for cyclists in New South Wales.

Dr Mathieson is also a prominent chemist, who has worked extensively in the steel industry. He is currently the Manager of Primary Plants Technology for New Zealand Steel Ltd.

Mr Vic Levi, said that Dr Mathieson has made outstanding contributions to Newcastle, through his research, his work in iron and steelmaking, and through his vital involvement from its inception in the Newcastle Cycleways Movement.

"Dr Mathieson has been an indomitable pioneer, not simply generating ideas, but pursuing their implementation with great vigour. He more than satisfies the criteria for this award of innovation and creativity in any field," said Mr Levi.

University of Newcastle
Friends of the University
Honours Scholarships in Arts, Computer Science, Mathematics and Science

Applications are now called for the Friends of the University Honours Scholarships in Arts, Computer Science, Mathematics and Science.

Applicants must be enrolled in a full-time Honours program in:

Faculty of Arts
Faculty of Computer Science
Faculty of Mathematics
Faculty of Science

The Scholarship shall provide a total payment of $1,000 and be payable after enrolment in the Honours program, in two installments at the commencement of each Semester of the year of award.

Application forms may be obtained from:
Postgraduate Studies and Scholarships Section
Hunter Building
Phone 216537.

Closing Date - 15th March, 1991

Notice to all Students
PAYMENT OF FEES

The last date for payment of Student Fees and Charges has been extended to March 28, 1991. Payments should be made at any branch of the Westpac Bank (other banks may charge a service fee). Students are advised that it is in their interests to pay the General Service Charge as early as possible in order to complete their enrolment at the University. Payments will not be accepted after March 28, 1991.

Students are advised that the extension DOES NOT apply to HECS Up Front payments.
Homelink - A Helping Hand for 'Mobile' Children

An innovative scheme to assist the parents of mobile or transient children to become more involved in the educational process of their children is to be largely piloted in the Western Lake Macquarie and Maitland/Cessnock areas this year.

Known as 'Homelink', the scheme is an initiative of the Hunter Caravan Project which is based at the University. It will work through a network of volunteers who will be linked with a child referred by school staff or by welfare officers.

Co-ordinators of Homelink are Linda Ireland (Western Lake Macquarie) and Ruth Gresham (Maitland/Cessnock) who said the scheme will be one of two supported by the caravan project, the other being 'Homestart' which aims to assist in their own homes, young families who may be experiencing difficulties or frustrations because of financial, social or other reasons.

"Homestart relies on a system of volunteers and Homelink will be based on the same model," said Ruth.

Linda said that the Homes-...
Drought and War give new Value to Education

The Gulf War has had devastating effects unsuspected by most of its participants, including Australians, according to Ms Sandra Heaney, a PhD student in Education.

"I've seen mothers who had to leave behind the children they were carrying, just leave them, because they had to take care of the ones who could walk.

"In a Moslem society, the husbands are often much older and I saw wives who had had to leave their husbands on the road to die because they couldn't make the journey to the camp." 

Not Jordan or Saudi Arabia but Ms Heaney means, it's Sudan, where harsh conditions have been made even more hopeless by drought and war.

Four months without even basic products for personal hygiene, such as soap and toothpaste, would be a hardship to most Australians.

But, to Ms Heaney, after more than a year in a remote corner of Sudan without running water, electricity, and a diet consisting primarily of sorghum, it was just one of the consequences of the Gulf War.

"From the time Iraq occupied Kuwait, supplies just dried up - diesel fuel, food, practically everything."

"And most people in Sudan rely on money on someone outside the country, but many of those people were employed in Kuwait and Iraq. They've escaped with their lives, and gone home to unemployment and no money and those dependent on them now have no money."

Ms Heaney was pursuing her PhD in Education when she decided in 1989 that she needed some practical experience. As a qualified nurse and midwife, as well as a health educator, she offered her services to Community Aid Abroad and found herself in a refugee camp at Garora - 360 kilometres or 15 hours by four-wheel drive from Port Sudan, 40 kilometres from the Red Sea and just across the border from Eritrea.

Her task was to continue a training program for village midwives and traditional birth attendants, among people largely dispossessed of their nomadic lands and herds by the terrible drought of 1984-85 and by the war in Eritrea.

There were 17,000 people in the refugee camp, without so much as a cooking pot - they had to cut down 44-gallon drums to prepare their daily ration of 400 grams of sorghum, 50 grams of lentils, 30 grams of oil and 10 grams of sugar. In Garora itself, another 17,000 people lived in barely better conditions.

The refugees lived among appalling piles of excrement.

"I've seen other poor people around the world, but I've never seen that before, people who won't clean up where they live.

"I sat down to talk to some of the women about it and they said they'd never had that before. Then it became clear: they had always been nomadic pastoralists, they'd never stayed in one place; the sun and the wind always took care of things before they came back to the same place again.

"Now, because of the war and because of the drought, they have to stay in one place.

"I asked them who they thought would clean it up now, and they realised they would have to do it. There's no point in browbeating them; it just hadn't been part of their way of life before."

Ms Heaney's role in Garora changed dramatically last year when CAA's project manager, himself an Eritrean refugee, was resettled in Australia. Suspecting the aid project could not survive the combined loss of its project manager and only health professional (the nearest doctor is 180 kilometres away in Tawkar, and there's no road to Tawkar), the community invited her to take over the management of the project instead of returning home at the end of her appointment.

There were wells to dig, a poultry farm to start for people who had never eaten an egg before, red tape to follow - an infidel, a woman at that, cannot cut corners in a Moslem country - in order to secure the monthly supply of diesel fuel. And there was another drought.

Apparently conditions had been excellent when Ms Heaney arrived. Fruit and vegetables, from rockmelons to cucumbers, were flourishing after rain in the winter of 1989, and the United Nations had decided to reduce the food supplement in the camp. There hasn't been a drop of rain since.

The only fresh fruit and vegetables are those that can be bought in Port Sudan, if they can survive the trip back. The current drought has forced the price of sorghum above £50 per 90-kilo bag. The average monthly wage, for someone fortunate enough to have a job, is £500.

Ms Heaney said malnutrition was still evident from the last drought when she arrived in Garora. She had known pregnant women who weighed less than 30 kilograms.

Now the spectre of famine is back. Although Ms Heaney and her CAA team - funded largely by Bob Geldof's Band-Aid organisation - have taught gardening to people who recognised that their nomadic way of life was gone, they have no money to buy seed or tools when the rains do come; although they succeeded in building a henhouse proof against wildcats, they have only 60 layers so far.

Ten thousand refugees have arrived in the camp since September last year.

Ms Sandra Heaney

Ms Heaney won't be returning because the government of Sudan is turning increasingly fundamentalist in its pursuit of Islamic law and prefers to rely on aid from other Islamic countries.

Since the occupation of Kuwait, however, that aid has nearly dried up. Even oil is no longer coming in, which means there is no electricity outside the Nile Valley, and therefore no power for the pumps that bring fresh water from the deeper wells.

"I have grave fears for the survival of thirty thousand people," she says.

And yet, as Ms Heaney points out, the Garora project could survive another year under Sudanese management for $300,000 or about half the cost of a single Patriot missile.
Students Enjoy the Three R's.

Students across the four years of the Bachelor of Education (Music) course learnt about the three R's at a Jazz and Modern Music camp held at the Morpeth Conference Centre. It was not the three R's that we usually refer to, but the musical idioms of Rock, Reggae and Rap.

At the lively (and somewhat noisy) camp, the 86 students gained invaluable tuition from six professional musicians, working on a range of skills and repertoire both formally and informally.

Lecturer in Music, Carol Richards, said the camp had two main aims: to give students vocal and instrumental repertoire to use in their high school teaching careers and to give them an opportunity to develop their skills in jazz and modern music.

Carol said each day's busy schedule took in master classes with experts such as guitarist, Bruce Mathiske and saxophonists, Andrew Robertson and Matthew Kylie, improvisation sessions, concerts featuring both the professionals and the students, as well as computer sequences, samplers and notative programs.

She said the students were also guided by music lecturers, Denise Paterson, Janice Allan and the Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Music, Robert Constable.

"A highlight was when the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Keith Morgan, the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Development), Dr Les Eastcott and the Dean of the Faculty of Education, Dr Jack Caldwell, dropped in unexpectedly," said Carol.

"They enjoyed the jam session in progress and the students enjoyed having an expected, but appreciative audience," she said.

Central Coast Campus - Off to a Good Start for 1991

The Friends of the University (Central Coast Campus) group was initiated more than six years ago, spearheaded by Professor Ellyett and Sir Davis Hughes. At that time it was known as the Central Coast Campus Action Committee and its mission was to establish a campus to fill the need for tertiary education on the Central Coast.

"This campus has grown very quickly from its early days when we started with two houses on the original site. The campus is now expanding at a rapid rate with plans for more courses to be introduced here as time goes on," said Professor Ellyett.

The following day, an Orientation program was held for new and continuing students. This consisted of a barbeque with entertainment again provided by Gill Rees. A mixture of first and second year students enjoyed a social day getting to know the campus, their lecturers and each other.
'Computer Kids'

The keyboards were clattering as the concentration on the faces continued to grow. The task may have been a little daunting, but they were soon on the right track.

There were a few games, lots of educational packages - and heaps of fun.

Although the pupils of Years 5 and 6 from Merewether Public School were not aware, they were taking part in a pilot scheme which could attract the interest of educational administrators and researchers throughout the country.

The scene was the University's new Computing Teaching Building where a group of Merewether pupils was being given access to computing equipment in a pilot scheme which aims at redressing the educational disadvantage of some primary school pupils in the Hunter Region.

The University is supporting an initiative by the Principal of Merewether Public School, Mr John Dawson, to help overcome disadvantaged students' lack of access to computing equipment.

John says the scheme is being undertaken through the auspices of the Department of School Education's Disadvantaged Schools Program and aims to develop understanding of computer utilisation in and out of the school setting and to encourage maximum 'hands on' experience in a tertiary setting.

The scheme sprang from a submission by the school's parent group to the Disadvantaged Schools Program, one of the parents being Associate Professor in Commerce, Dr Russell Craig, who realised that much of the University's computing equipment was not being used during February, traditionally a period of low patronage by University students and staff.

He said discussions took place between authorities which led to about 60 Merewether pupils from Years 4, 5 and 6 using the University's computer laboratories in late February, as they will again during semester breaks in June and November to continue their lessons.

"The support of the University in such a program provides tangible evidence to affirm the reputation the University has earned for redressing problems of educational disadvantage," Russell said.

"The pilot scheme is one that could easily attract the interest of educational administrators and researchers in Australia."

Merewether Public School has been classified as a disadvantaged school following a survey conducted by the State Committee of the Disadvantaged Schools Program.

Because of limited access to technology by students at the school, they were selected to take part in the pilot scheme.

John Dawson says the objectives include familiarising children with a variety of educational software in one working session, allowing children to participate in a computer program where multiple computers are used, allowing children to observe computer use in a tertiary setting such as the labs, as well as increasing pupils' keyboarding techniques and technical skills.

"We need to make our kids more computer literate than they are now," John said.

"We have very few computers available for use at the one time at our school and many pupils have no access at all to equipment when they are outside school hours.

"The scheme will be evaluated as we go along, but already one of the best steps is that we have established a link between higher education and the primary school at a resource base level," John added.

New Appointments

Professor Robert Symons, of the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Adelaide, and Dr Michael Sargent, president of the Institution of Engineers, Australia, have been appointed to the Australian Research Council.

The appointments, which continue until December, 1993, were announced last week by the Minister for Employment, Education and Training, Mr Dawkins.

Mr Dawkins also announced the appointment of Ms Meredith Doig as a part-time member of the Higher Education Council for three years. Ms Doig is chief consultant in the Organisation Effectiveness Division of CRA Ltd.

Mr Dawkins said the Federal Government was now considering a replacement for Dr Gregor Ramsey, who will soon vacate his position as Chair of NBEET after being appointed head of the TAFE system in NSW.
Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery
Exhibition Program 1991

Staff and students are invited to attend the coming Exhibitions at the Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery.

"Lines and Levels"
March 7 - 28
Paintings, sculptures and photographs are brought together in an engaging display of experimental new works by University lecturers in Fine Art and prominent local artists, Garry Jones and Glenn Henderson.

"Memories of Lake St. Claire" and "Basic Concepts"
March 6 - April 3

"Quilts, Quilts, Quilts - Part II"
April 5 - May 5

"Quilted Wallhanging Competition"
April 3 - May 1

"Deadly Sins"
May 9 - June 9

"Beaches"
May 1 - June 5

"The Gallery Collection"
June 12 - 23

"Dorothy Miller, Sandra Stell, K and A"
June 5 - July 3

"The Doug Moran Portrait Prize"
June 28 - August 4

"The Bands"
July 3 - August 7

"Francis Cella Retrospective"
August 7 - September 1

"Scouts Arts & Photo Show"
August 7 - September 4

"Primitive Practices - The 4 Elements"
September 4 - 29

"Westlakes Art Group"
September 4 - October 3

"Sydney Long Etchings"
October 3 - November 3

"Watson and Harris"
October 3 - November 6

"City of Lake Macquarie - Charlestown Square Art Prize" - Contemporary
November 8 - December 16

"Newcastle Printmakers Workshop"
November 6 - December 4

"Christmas Cracker"
December 4 - 16

Newest Residential

This article is the first of a series about the Halls of Residence on the University campus. It is about the newly established Evatt House.

Articles about Edward Hall and International House will be published in subsequent issues.

Evatt House, a residential college on the campus of the University, was established in 1990 to cater mainly for students from the country areas of New South Wales. It has a special obligation towards students from the Hunter Valley as is evidenced from the fact that in the planning stages it was called Hunter House. The Council of the University renamed it Evatt House as a mark of respect for the contribution to the University from the present Chancellor, Justice Elizabeth Evatt.

Principally funded by the Federal Government, the House provides accommodation for 115 residents, with further extensions currently underway to provide for approximately 200. The major function is to provide an atmosphere and environment which is conducive both to the achievement of academic excellence and to the development of a happy and stable community life for its residents.

To reduce costs, the University decided that Evatt House would be a self-catering college in which residents provide their own meals, do their own washing, cleaning and all in all, look after themselves. The advantage to the resident is not only low cost accommodation, but also the development of qualities of independence and self-sufficiency.

Structurally, Evatt House is a collection of six smaller houses. Each house contains two units, one upstairs and one downstairs. The unit is the focus of the resident's life. Here, 10 residents live together, each with a bed-sitting room, with all sharing the kitchen, dining, bathroom and laundry facilities. The success of this community living depends on and demands self-discipline, co-operation, the readiness to share and the respect for the welfare and privacy of others.

Although in its infancy, Evatt House is gradually developing a sense of community and identity. At present there is no common room large enough to conduct a full assembly of residents or to act as a focal point for the wider community. As time goes on, it is hoped that academic co-operation, participation in sporting competitions (both on campus and externally) and social involvement will bring the residents closer together. One could say that Evatt House made its first mark as a new identity on campus when a group of raw recruits from Evatt House rowed their way to a rousing victory on the banks of the Hunter River at Morpeth during 1990 and won the Vice-Chancellor's Regatta.

The House is an integral part of the University and as such is subject to the decisions and direction of
Accommodation on Campus

Deputy Warden - Happy in our City

Dr Bernie Curran and Sue Zimmermann discuss details of Evatt House

The University Council. For this reason the management of the House is entrusted to a Board of Directors appointed by the University Council. At a meeting held on December 14, 1990, the University Council resolved the following membership of the Board of Directors be approved as follows:

Warden
Deputy Warden
Dean of Students
(3) Members of Council appointed by Council
(2) Persons nominated by the Vice-Chancellor
(2) Persons nominated by the Warden
(2) Persons nominated by the Board of Directors
(2) Persons elected by the Residents

To carry out the decisions of the Board, the University has appointed the Warden, Dr Bernie Curran, as its executive officer. At present the Warden is a half-time appointment and as a senior lecturer in the Classics Department, he is expected to carry out teaching and research activities as well as his Warden's duties. Dr Curran does not live on campus as there is no provision for a live-in Warden in the present structure.

The Warden is assisted by the Deputy Warden, Ms Sue Zimmermann, who is resident and who acts as the main link between the Warden and the residents. She is assisted by six Resident Assistants (one for each Unit), who under the chairmanship of the Deputy Warden, are responsible for House discipline.

The Deputy Warden of Evatt House is a native of Catskill, a small rural town in New York State, U.S.A. and enjoys living in Newcastle so much that, when she returned home last Christmas to spend time with her family, she felt homesick for her friends and acquaintances here.

Sue Zimmermann, 24, who is studying for a Masters Degree in English, has taken over her new role with zest and is looking forward to a year of challenges as well as enjoyment.

Sue originally came to Newcastle on a Rotary Foundation Scholarship in 1989. The scholarship, for one academic year, required Sue to be an ambassador of goodwill, something at which she is certainly very good.

Her appointment to the position of Deputy Warden will be for one year and Sue describes her role as assisting the Warden, Dr Bernie Curran, pastoral and administrative duties and overseeing the running of the six Units in liaison with the Resident Assistants.

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue and an excellent education kit.

"Portraits from the Newcastle Region Art Gallery Collection" May 3 - June 2
"Olliff Richmond Drawings" June 7 - July 21
"Twenty Contemporary Australian Photographers" July 26 - August 25
"Australian Prints from the Newcastle Region Art Gallery Collection" August 30 - September 29
"Henry Moore Portfolio Prints and Working Models" October 4 - November 17
"Australian Watercolour Institute" November 22 - December 15
Sponsored by the Newcastle Region Art Gallery Foundation
"Acquisitions 1990-91" December 20 - February 9
Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am sure the display of mutilated books in the Auchenmuty Library last year horrified the whole University community. Such acts of vandalism are totally foreign to an academic environment.

Therefore I found it perplexing earlier this week when I saw a representative of that same Library committing an act of vandalism. I refer to the fixing of Library notices to our campus trees with drawing pins. It’s only a few pins on a big tree you say? Try doing the same thing on your leg (trunk) through your skin (bark) and observe the effects a week later.

The native trees on our campus are our most important asset and we should be doing everything to ensure their survival and not endangering it. Imagine the campus without them.

Kevin Bell, Chemistry.

Dear Editor,

Allow me to congratulate you on getting out the first issue for 1991 of the new style Bulletin.

Can you please dispel a rumour which I am about to start that the introduction of larger, bolder, kid-size print in the Bulletin is based upon an idea in next month’s book by Ron Laura? This is that the association of large, bold print together with early childhood reading experience engenders a psychological feeling of enjoyment no matter how incredibly boring the material being read.

It really is amazing what discoveries are being made in behavioural science, isn’t it.

Lionel Farrell, Legal Services.

Thank you for your comments. Suggestions and constructive criticism are always welcome. - Ed.

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA
CONDUCTOR: Peter Brock and HUNTER CONSORT of VOICES
CONDUCTOR: Phillip Matthais

MUSIC FOR HOLY WEEK
by Palestrina, Lacres, Victoria, Gibbons, Humfrey, Purcell, Mozart, Pouleac, Walton AND THE

MOZART REQUIEM
GOOD FRIDAY, 29th MARCH, 1991 at 8 p.m.
THE GREAT HALL, UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

At a ceremony hosted by the Workcover Authority of New South Wales, the first group of students to complete the requirements for the University's Associate Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety, were presented with their awards.

The 16 students were presented with their awards by the Minister for Industrial Relations and also Minister for Further Education, Training and Development, Mr John Fahey.

Also in attendance were the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Morgan, the Head of the Department of Environmental and Occupational Medicine, Professor David Christie, and lecturers in the Occupational Health and Safety course.

In his speech, Mr Fahey said that the Government was highly appreciative of the flexibility shown by the University in designing and delivering a course which took the needs of industry into account. He also praised the 'hands-on' nature of the course and the forward-looking approach it took in regard to industrial participation.

The General Manager of Workcover, Mr Ian Ramsay, the Chairman of the Workcover Board, Mr Alan Bishop, the Manager of Advisory Services, Mr Jim Cox and the Manager of Risk Management, Mr John Thompson, were also there to see Mr Fahey present a cheque for $1,000 to Mr Robert Young, the best graduating student.

Mr Young is the District Manager of the North Coast Region of Workcover NSW. His academic record included three high distinctions, three distinctions and one credit in his seven examinable subjects.

His graduation project entitled, 'A Study of Workplace Accidents and Injuries in North Coast/ North West Sawmills (NSW)' has drawn widespread praise from the timber industry associations throughout Australia.

Professor Morgan replied

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Keith Morgan, the Minister for Industrial Relations, Mr John Fahey, winning graduate, Mr Robert Young pictured with Workcover representatives during the presentation.
Workshop Discusses Assessment of Clinical Experience of Nursing Students

A workshop on the Assessment of Clinical Experience of Nursing Students organised by Clinical Director, Shirley Schulz and Clinical Co-ordinator, Margo Nancarrow, brought together delegates from various universities to discuss clinical education for nursing students.

The aim of the day was to provide a venue in which nurses responsible for organising the clinical education component of programs could share ideas and discuss issues of common interest and concern. Discussion concentrated mainly on methods of clinical assessment, scarce clinical resources, clinical release patterns, contributions of part-time clinical educators and clinical budgets.

Although the nursing programs offered by the different universities differ in terms of course structure and student numbers, all are comprehensive programs which prepare graduates to work in general, psychiatric, developmental disability and community nursing.

As would be expected, the delegates shared many similar problems and successes. Of concern to all, except those representing smaller programs, was finding sufficient student placements particularly in psychiatric/mental health and community nursing, and in one particular case, developmental disability nursing. The problems arise because of a lack of facilities in some regions and limitations imposed, because of the nature of the clientele, on the number of students who can be placed in any area at any one time.

Some innovative ideas were shared about how various organisations had addressed some of these issues. Some nursing programs had involved students in projects organised by various community health centres, while others conducted health stalls in shopping centres. In the area of psychiatric/mental health nursing, finding alternatives was not as easy and was an issue of ongoing concern to all. This is currently being addressed by the various nursing departments.

The workshop was so successful that a follow-up meeting has been arranged for April to be hosted by the Kuring-gai campus of the University of Technology, Sydney, at which it is proposed to continue discussions on the assessment of clinical competence and the use of computer programs in the organisation of clinical practicums.

The group hopes to continue meeting and engage in some collaborative research projects in the future.

Behavioural Issues in Cancer Control

Pictured at a two-day conference on Behavioural Issues in Cancer Control conducted under the auspices of the Australian Cancer Society are Dr Margot Schofield (Newcastle), Dr John Lowe (Cancer Prevention Research Center, University of Queensland), Ms Elaine Henry (Australian Cancer Society), Dr Allen Dietrich (Dartmouth Medical School, currently Visiting Fellow at Newcastle), Professor Rob Sanson-Fisher (Newcastle), Dr Julie Byles (Newcastle) and Professor Robert Burton (Department of Surgical Oncology, John Hunter Hospital).

The conference was sponsored by the Australian Cancer Society and organised by the Faculty of Medicine’s Cancer Education Research Project in association with two other behavioural research groups from Victoria and Queensland.

It was held to bring together researchers in the area of cancer prevention and attracted 57 delegates from all over Australia.

It allowed the participants to share knowledge and research results from relevant workers in Australia in the behavioural aspects of cancer control and provided opportunities for researchers in the field to establish networks more effectively.

Chairied by Ms Elaine Henry from the Australian Cancer Society, the Conference focussed on the four most readily preventable cancers: breast, cervical, skin and smoking-related cancers. As well, methodological issues in measurement and intervention research were dealt with.
The Institute of Behavioural Science of the University has established a Unit for Behavioural Research in Computing, directed by Dr Roger Coldwell.

The focus of the work of the Unit concerns use of computing in the behavioural sciences generally but, initially, it will focus on the communication problems of intellectually handicapped children.

Dr Coldwell has pioneered the use of computing by mute autistic children in Australia, at the University of Melbourne, funded by the Department of Community Services Victoria, the Sidney Myer Fund of the Myer Foundation, the Apple Education Foundation and the Autodesk software house. He is now working closely with Autodesk (Australia) concerning the use of Autodesk software and, more specifically, Autosketch and Autocad by intellectually handicapped children generally.

The aim of this work is to establish how artificially intelligent means can be used to communicate with children who withdraw from human communication. Whereas this is an initial focus of the Unit, it will expand to tackle other behavioural problems where computing and artificial intelligence can be used as a mechanism for human communication where it did not occur before.

Having developed, customised or extended software for this purpose, the process will be reversed whereby the product will be examined for its potential in solving similar problems. The work of the Unit will be interdisciplinary. People from different faculties throughout the university, industry and the community generally will work together in a humane cause to develop and use computing in the service of people.

Sponsorship for the initiative has been provided by Osborne Computers Australia (hardware) and Autodesk Australia (software).

BHP/CSIRO Award for Services to Science

Jeff Bromage, pictured after receiving his award.

A dedicated teacher who is well known for his love of, and services to, Science teaching has been rewarded with one of five prestigious BHP/CSIRO National Science Teacher Awards.

Mr Jeff Bromage, the Head Science Teacher at Gateshead High School and also a part-time lecturer in Pedagogical Studies at the University, was the only New South Wales teacher to receive an award.

Jeff was presented with his $10,000 award by the Chief Executive of the CSIRO, Dr John Stocker, at a ceremony held at Melbourne University which was hosted by BHP.

He was nominated for the award by Professor Ron MacDonald.

Criteria for the awards were to seek effective school-based programs which encourage enthusiasm for the study of science and which feature: innovation and breadth of vision; excellence of educational program; consistent effective commitment to science education and high potential for further program development.

Jeff's award recognised his contribution to science education in the Region, following his role in the development and organisation of a program called 'The Promotion of Excellence in Science'. This program involved the development of quality courses to cater for the needs of science interest groups within the Hunter Region and utilises the expertise of local teachers and the resources of the Region's educational institutions.
New staff welcomed

New members of staff during an Orientation Program to introduce them to the University.

The day was organised by the Staff Office to make new staff members familiar with the academic and administrative structure of the University, as well as to inform them of the types of facilities and support services available.

After a luncheon with senior executives of the University, they were taken on a guided tour of the campus.

A first for Gail

The University's Equity Officer, Gail White, set a double record when she gave birth to her first child, Madeleine, at the Mater Misericordia Hospital, on January 1. Gail's baby was the first to be born in the Hunter Region for 1991 and the last time that the Mater can lay claim to the honour.

In a restructuring of health services in the Hunter, by the same time next year, the Mater's maternity facilities along with Western Suburbs Hospital's maternity facilities will be transferred to the new John Hunter Hospital.

Pictured above: A delighted Gail with her new baby girl.

Retirement after long association with Uni

Above: Mrs Bess Vincer, who has retired from many years service at the University.

Bess, who had worked in a number of departments on campus, originally started in the Applied Science Department when the University was based at Tighes Hill.

Well known to many people in the University, Bess spent her last 'working' years in the Mechanical Engineering Department.

Meet the Martines

Staff House members and prospective members are invited to meet the new caterers, the Martines, at the Staff at 4.30 p.m. on Friday, March 15.

Come along and enjoy a complimentary barbecue and drinks.

All welcome!
Advertisements

For Sale by Tender
Two Dimplex Oil filled Heaters in good condition, approx. 5' x 2.5'. Tenders should be addressed to: The Purchasing Officer, University of Newcastle. Newcastle. 2308 Tenders close 29/3/90 at 11.30 a.m. Heaters can be inspected at Store No. 1 between the hours of 7.30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

For Sale
Childcare twin stroller, navy blue (side-by-side, suit twins or baby + toddler) with mattresses. $140. Please telephone Peter on 21 6023 or Marion on ext. 5651.

For Sale
Macintosh Plus computer including keyboard, system and utilities disks, owner's manual and guides in as new condition. Asking price $1,500. Please telephone Extension 5170.

For Sale
Red '86 Suzuki Alto, 3 door hatch. 28,000 kms. Excellent condition. New tyres, tinted windows. Pink slip. Very economical. $7,500 (o.n.o.) Telephone 32 4590 (after 5 p.m.)

For Sale
Trendy white Salomon SX 81 Ladies boots, poles and carry bag. As new. Rossignol skis also for sale. $400 the lot. Telephone 33 7366 (business hours).

Wanted
Mitsubishi L300 Express '83, driver's side door complete with window in any reasonable condition. Phone Steve: ext. 6460.

Make money and have fun! Kit supplied. No deliveries, excellent commission. Become a Yarra Glen Pottery Consultant. Full training given. Phone Ross & Marie on 517477.

Physics Demonstrators
Anyone with a Physics major who would like to undertake demonstrating in the first year Physics laboratories during 1991, is invited to contact Associate Professor P.V. Smith, Room 103, Physics Department (Extension 5433).

Lab sessions are of three hours duration and all marking is done during the laboratory class. Current rate of pay is $16.75 per hour.

Newcastle Late Starters' Orchestra
meets
Every Monday Evening between 6 p.m. and 9.30 p.m. at Hamilton Public School Hall. If you are a mature age music student who would like to play in a group situation with others who are also learning, you will be most welcome.

For further information
Ph 21 6698 (business hours) or 56 1329 (after hours).

Watt Space Exhibition
Program for 1991

"Post Pack"
March 14 - April 1, 1991
Watt Space has much pleasure in presenting 3D Works and Paintings by eight 1991 graduate and postgraduate students.

Some of these works have been exhibited briefly in the final year mass exhibitions of the School of Visual and Performing Arts at the University campus.

Already you will have begun to follow the careers of these emerging artists, Lindy Bovill, Danny Giles, Susan Horsey, Jon Junt, Chris Langlois, Debbie Macgregor, Leanne Morgan and Heather (Sue) Stewart, as almost all these artists have previously exhibited in Watt Space and are already exhibiting further afield.

Included in the exhibition are two Bachelor of Arts (Visual Arts) dissertations (a requirement of the Theory Strand of the degree). Jacquie Henderson presents 'Paper Making with Australian Flora' which will be of great interest to both botanists and environmentalists, while Susan Horsey's scholarly work is 'The Changing Aspects of a Poetic Image (Dante's Divine Comedy)'.

In curating 'Post Pack' Watt Space fulfils its commitment to the newly enrolled students in the School of Art, Design and Architecture at the University. On view the exhibition, they have a goal to strive for, an excellence to emulate.

"Exchange I"
Students work on paper - from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje, Yugoslavia.
Opening 3 pm. Sunday, April 14 until April 22.

"Exchange II"
Students work on paper - from the School of Art, Design and Architecture, University of Newcastle.
Opening 3 pm. Sunday, April 28 until May 15

Jean Eykamp and Johannah Waller painting
May 16 - June 3

Nick Mitzevich mixed media
June 6 - June 24

Gallery Hours are from 12 pm until 6 pm. Monday to Thursday.

The Gallery is located at 11 Watt Street, Newcastle and is funded by the Newcastle University Union and the School of Art, Design and Architecture.
\[\text{Chaplaincy News}\]

The Chaplaincy offers a whole range of different activities throughout the year. Most of the activities are ecumenical in nature and include study groups, opportunities for worship, social gatherings, camps, retreats, seminars and discussion groups, etc.

Get-to-Know-You Breakfasts happen every Tuesday morning during semester from 8.15 am to 9 am. Anyone is free to call by and have a cup of coffee or tea and a muffin or toast. This is a good chance to meet new friends or catch up on some old ones. People often use this as a meeting place early in the morning.

Prayer-Time is every Wednesday morning from 8.30 am to 9 am. This is a time of meditation and intercessory prayer for anyone who wishes to join in. Special intercessions can be given to one of the chaplains for inclusion.

Prayer and Praise is a lunchtime free-form service of worship and prayer which is open to all. Monday lunchtimes 1.10 pm to 2 pm. The service concludes with a time of fellowship so bring your lunch. Tea and coffee available.

Christian Meditation is a time of quiet reflection, meditation and contemplation every Friday lunchtime 1.10 pm to 1.40 pm followed by a time of fellowship over a sandwich. Bring your lunch. Tea and coffee available. Open to all students and staff.

Catholic Mass is available on campus and details are available from the Chaplaincy Centre.

Anglican Eucharist is celebrated on Wednesday lunchtimes at 1.10 pm. Open to all communicant Christians.

Denominational and special interest groups meet regularly and include:
- Anglican Society
- Catholic Tertiary (students)
- Society of Friends (Quakers)
- Students for Christ

More information on these groups is available from the Chaplaincy Centre.

The University Chaplaincy Centre is in two locations:
- in the Temporary Buildings (marked TB on the university maps) east of Mathematics in Rooms T07 and T09. The Chaplains' office is located in Room T03. The extension numbers are 5571 and 5572.
- in the Hunter Building (Room C69). The extension number is 6648.

The Chaplaincy Centre is a friendly base for a chat and a cuppa, or a quiet place to sit and meditate or read a magazine.

The University Chaplains are an ecumenical team who provide for the spiritual and related needs of students and staff. They are free to discuss matters of a spiritual, religious or personal nature irrespective of denominational interests.

The Chaplains are available from Monday to Friday and can be contacted through the Chaplaincy Centre or personally about the campus.

Messages can be left for an individual Chaplain at the Centre. In an emergency, a Chaplain will be available at any time. Please do not hesitate to make contact.

A booklet titled Chaplaincy Centre is available detailing the services offered.

Specific denominational Chaplains are:
- Anglican
  - Brother Damian
  - Phone 48 7829
- Assembly of God
  - Jenny Complin
  - Phone 69 2799
- Baptist
  - Ron Gibbins
  - Phone 43 4162
- Catholic
  - Mary Goldsworthy
  - Phone 57 1387
- Faith Jones
  - Phone 69 4434
- Presbyterian
  - Ian Stewart
  - Phone 69 6796
- Uniting
  - Keith Hamilton
  - Phone 57 4566
  - Chris Reynolds
  - Phone 67 4727.

\[\text{Statistical Packages for PC's}\]

from Cathy Turner - University Computing Services.

Recently, University Computing Services decided to take out a licence for MINITAB for DOS based machines. As a result, MINITAB will be available to departments for an annual fee of $60 per machine. If there is sufficient demand, a similar arrangement will be made for Macintosh computers.

Under a similar scheme, the statistical package, SAS, is also available for DOS based machines. The annual charges for SAS per machine are:

Base SAS $28
SAS/STAT $15
SAS/GRAPH $15

University Computing Services is also assessing the possibility of obtaining a site licence for SPSS for DOS. We need to know what the demand is for this package, so if you would be interested in having SPSS on your PC, please contact Cathy Turner on Ext. 5517.

It has come to my attention that there is a need for a 'Statistical Package Register' so that if two or more departments buy or license the same package, they might be able to combine to benefit in any bulk discounts offered. This can't happen if departments don't know what other departments are doing in this regard. The 'Statistical Package Register' could also be beneficial in sharing ideas, answers to problems, etc. What I propose is that those with statistical packages on their PCs, register the information with me and then I will make that information available to anyone who requires it.

To register, or to make enquiries, please telephone Cathy Turner on Extension 5517, send an electronic mail message to CCLT or write to Cathy Turner, University Computing Services, McMullin Building.

\[\text{B U L L E T I N} \quad 15\]
Research Grants for 1991
Information on the following grants is available from the Office for Research - Telephone 21 5305

Closing Date

- NSW Cancer Council/Travel Grants-in-Aid
- NSW Cancer Council/Awards for Postgraduate Education and Training in Oncology
- Dept. of Transport & Communications, Road Safety Funds
- $500,000 for allocation in the areas of: Alcohol, drugs & young drivers
- Rural Industries Travel/Conference Grants
- Chicken, Meat, Egg Industry and Honeybee
- DITAC Bilateral Science & Technology Program
- Support for international research collaboration on projects which contribute to Australia's industrial, scientific or technological capabilities
- Australian Electricity Supply Industry Board
- Greenhouse research related to the Electricity Supply Industry in Australia
- University/CSIRO Collaborative Research Grants
- NSW Ministry for the Environment
State Pollution Control Commission: Environmental Trusts Grant Scheme
- Multiple Sclerosis Society/Project grants; Fellowships and Seeding grants
- Australian Kidney Foundation/Grants-in-Aid for Medical Research
- Clive & Vera Ramaciotti Foundation/Projects in the field of Medical Research
- DITAC International Science & Technology Program
To assist Australian participation in international science and technology networks and collaborative research and development programs
- National Teaching Company Scheme
- Financial support for Companies, Tertiary Institutions and Public Sector Research Agencies
- National Campaign Against Drug Abuse
- DITAC International Science & Technology Travel Grants
- Apply at any time but at least 6 weeks prior to intended travel
- Education and Training Foundation
- BHP Community Trust
- RADGAC Dept. of Community Services & Health
Medical research and Targeted research areas
- Research Management Committee Travel Grants
- Research Management Committee Research Visitors
- Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia
Funding/Support in the area of accidents and intervention strategies
- Telecom Research Funding
For Centres of Expertise or short term research and development

Fellowships
- NH & MRC R Douglas Wright Award - For new investigators
- Smuts Visiting Fellowship in Commonwealth Studies 1991-93
- The Australian Academy of the Humanities
- Travelling fellowships for short-term study abroad
- Sir Maurice Byers Fellowship - Issues affecting Australian police work
- Nuffield Foundation Fellowship Awards
Three month Fellowship in the U.K. - Curriculum development; teaching through Commonwealth themes, educational drama and performing arts.

Stop Press

In a ratings survey by the national magazine, 'The Bulletin', on courses offered by Australian universities, the medical course at the University of Newcastle has come out as No. 1. The survey adopted as its basic criterion for the survey, the 'best' graduate and sought to identify the institutions which produced the best-educated and most-employable graduates in a discipline.

Newcastle was ranked ahead of, respectively, the University of Melbourne, the University of New South Wales, Monash University and the University of Adelaide.

Secretary of the Faculty of Medicine, Mr Brian Kelleher, said the medical course in Newcastle was based on problem-based learning in small groups and that students were mindful of the importance of the interaction with patients and their families.

The Bulletin

The BULLETIN is published by the Information and Public Relations Unit of the University of Newcastle, is produced on IBM Desk Top Publishing and printed by the University's Printing Department.

Reader's contributions are most welcome. Advertisements are accepted free of charge from members of the University.

Letters to the Editor should be no more than 300 words and must be signed.

The BULLETIN is being edited by Cae Pattison who can be contacted by telephoning 216457 or Linda Aurelius on 216463.

The Unit's FAX No. is 216400.