Meeting the Challenge...

It's easy to forget that Cathy Mahony is blind.

When she flashes you a wry smile and sometimes a wicked grin during conversation you can quite easily forget.

She is warm and wonderful, possesses a great sense of humour and a dose of lively grit that will stand her in good stead for the next six years while she studies for a Bachelor of Arts (Communication Studies) degree by part-time study.

Twenty year old Cathy, who is specialising in Sound & Radio and Writing & Research, says the concept of doing the course is a challenge, but one she intends to meet and is enjoying the subject matter so far.

She says it took her a while to decide to enrol in the course after completing the HSC at St. Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton, several years ago as she had a couple of other interests in mind, but Communication Studies won out.

Helped by orientation lessons from the Royal Blind Society to find her bearings on campus, she has followed up on this by methodically getting familiar with her surroundings. Cathy says she now knows where walls, stairs, corridors, doorways, etc. are and capably makes her way around with her cane using these constant landmarks, except (as she jokes) for the odd garbage bin which jumps out to 'get her'.

She also enjoys the benefit of staff members willing to help her and a service known as 'Nomad' (see BULLETIN issue 2/91) which translates her lecture notes to Braille.

'I'm not too ambitious yet, but I'm pretty busy. My classmates are getting used to seeing me coming to lectures with my cane, so I won't be able to skip lectures,' she jokes.

The youngest of five children, Cathy has always been blind. She doesn't see herself as particularly disadvantaged and takes advantage of all life has to offer her. A member of the Waratah Girls' Choir for six years, Cathy also plays the flute and piano, studies speech and drama and takes particular pleasure in riding a tandem bike 'with anyone who says they'll take me'.

"It's easy," she says. "I don't get frightened because I don't anticipate the corners."

What about hang gliding?

"No, I'm not that brave!"

She also enjoys socialising, going to movies, going out to dinner with friends and 'watching' her favourite television programs, 'Country Practice' and 'G.P.'

She also managed to get herself and her parents 'in and out of trouble' during a recent trip to Europe with basic French and German language skills learnt at school.

For the meantime, Cathy is seeing whether it is better to have lectures converted to Braille or whether to record them onto cassette.

"I will see which is the most productive method and will try both for the time being," she says.

And is she coping with lectures?

An emphatic yes.

"One day you think you're on top and the next you've got a lot of things to do," she says.

Things should get a little easier in the near future. Cathy is soon to take delivery of a 'Mountbatten' brailier which has a computer memory and which will accept files from other computers. Cathy says she will type her assignments onto a computer and then translate them to the 'Mountbatten'.

"I've had lots of encouragement and that's what makes it all possible for me. Without it I wouldn't have been able to take up all the opportunities made available to me." she says.

In this Issue

- New Book - 3
- Academic Appointments - 5
- Students Excel at Sport - 7
Academic Forum

About 75 people attended the third Academic Forum, held on March 15 and chaired by Professor Ron MacDonald.

Issues raised ranged from the nomenclature of buildings - since amalgamation, the University has more than one building using the prefixes B, R, G and H - to communications within the University.

- Staff raised a number of difficulties encountered with student admissions in 1991: delays in processing enrolments; lack of accurate, or any, class lists; classes exceeding the capacity of allocated rooms; the delay in formally enrolling postgraduates, who could therefore not use the Libraries; under-resourcing because of a lack of knowledge of enrolments in some subjects; and the failure of the budget system to provide resources by the beginning of first semester.

Professor MacDonald said there were two main sources of difficulty: delays in determining 1990 results had delayed all subsequent steps, such as reviews of progress, hearing of appeals and approval of re-enrolment program; and the incapacity of the existing student system to cope with the demands of the amalgamated institution and an unanticipated surge in acceptances.

The difficulties had been compounded by late notice from DEET that the University's grant would be $2 million less than originally indicated, causing a late recasting of the budget.

- Staff agreed that the new PABX was an improvement on the old telephone system, but indicated a number of difficulties remaining and it was not clear to staff who was responsible for operating the system or whom they should approach about technical enhancements.

Other comments touched on delays in reaching the operators for STD calls and the possibility of lifting the STD bar; the adequacy, or otherwise, of Voice Mail facilities for the demand likely to occur; and a request that the Staff Office not have responsibility for the telephone system.

- Professor MacDonald reminded the forum that proposals for new courses should come from the appropriate Faculty Board to the Academic Senate for approval by October, 15 months before the planned introduction of the course. Failure to meet this deadline would lead to delays in subsequent steps, including publicity for the course, and could lead to high-quality students failing to enrol.

- The forum raised the question of legislation and the complexity resulting from amalgamation. Proposals for legislation covering the award of degrees and diplomas were being circulated by the working group appointed by Academic Senate, but staff pointed out that it was still difficult to know which legislation was still current in relation to some matters.

A number of comments were made relating to communication within the University and difficulties perceived to have arisen from poor communication.

Associate Professor Bogduk suggested the power of Academic Senate to enlighten staff depended on the willingness of its members to speak to matters even when they saw their stand as being in opposition to that of senior staff or other University authorities.

An illustration put forward was the earthquake repairs in the McMullin Building; offices had been closed with "virtually no consultation" with academic departments, causing disruption to the Departments and inconvenience to staff. The forum requested a report on progress of earthquake repairs generally as staff complained of poor communication of when work would be started and, once begun, when it would finish.

It was also suggested that the Vice-Chancellor should meet with members of staff more frequently - say, once a semester - to discuss the wide range of matters not appropriate to be raised in Academic Senate.

- The location of the Central Store following Council's decision to ask the Buildings and Grounds Unit to investigate other locations and the Finance Division to explore other procedures to supplying goods and services, including rapid indents from suppliers.

The forum was concerned that, if the Central Store were to be disbanded in favour of smaller depots around campus, there may be an adverse impact on space within Faculties and Departments. It was suggested that the group reviewing the location of the Central Store should include representatives of users of the store.

Professor MacDonald reported to Academic Senate on March 27 that many of the matters raised had been addressed already. He hoped that another forum might be convened before the end of Semester 1 to report back to staff on action that had been taken.

### NEW GIVE-WAY SIGNS

The Vice-Chancellor has approved the erection of give-way signs at the northern end of the western entrance road. These signs will give priority to traffic entering the University from the roundabout and hopefully, will reduce the 'lock-up' problems at the western entrance.

It is understood that the Roads Traffic Authority is likely to make some changes to traffic management at the western entrance.

Details of these will be published in the near future.
Conservatorium News

The new year has begun with a vibrant start at the Faculty and Conservatorium of Music, amid the sound of voices, old and new, the strains of beautiful and exciting music and the din of jackhammers, shovels and building work.

The City Campus, as is the Shortland Campus, is in the throes of earthquake damage repairs and many parts of our building are covered with scaffolding and building materials. But we soldier on and despite some changes, the lecturing, tuition and concerts continue due to the efficient organisation of our staff and the assistance of the workmen.

The magnificent Smenge Concert Organ, which is the centrepiece of the Concert Hall, has had the protective cover taken off so that we can proceed with our Organ Recital Series. It is still surrounded by scaffolding, but it is good to listen to its resounding tones once more.

We welcome two new faces to our full-time lecturing staff this year, Mr Colin Spiers and Ms Catherine Davis. Both are members of the Piano Department and are inspiring and dynamic artists. A more in-depth profile will appear soon on Catherine, Colin and other members of staff.

Meanwhile, the Dean of Music and Director of the Conservatorium, Mr Michael Dudman, gave a concert in the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall on Tuesday, March 26. Mr Dudman is one of Australia's foremost concert and recording artists and was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia during 1990 for service to music and the conservatorium.

Our Concert Program is in full swing with local, interstate and overseas artists appearing in a series of concerts in our Concert Hall, Organ Studio and at the University's Great Hall. A Concert Program is available from the Concerts Manager.

To Academic and Graduate Members of Staff
The University Graduation Ceremonies for 1991 are as follows:

- Friday, May 3, 1991 10 am and 2.30 pm
- Saturday, May 4, 1991 10 am and 2.30 pm
- Friday, May 10, 1991 10 am and 2.30 pm
- Saturday, May 11, 1991 10 am and 2.30 pm

You are invited to join the Academic Procession or otherwise attend the abovementioned ceremonies. If you intend to participate, please complete the appropriate form obtainable from your Departmental Secretary as soon as possible but not later than April 20, 1991.

If you are joining the procession you do not need an admission ticket. However, if you will be attending but not joining the procession, a ticket will be required. Your partner is also invited to attend. A ticket will be forwarded to you should you indicate your partner will be attending. A copy of the Timetable of Conferencing of Awards is available from your Departmental Secretary.

In keeping with the traditions of this important occasion, it is expected that participants in the procession will wear appropriate academic dress. The Purdue Room in the Great Hall will be used for robing. Persons joining the academic procession are asked to be in the robing room fifteen minutes before the commencement of the ceremony.

Tea will be served in the Union at the conclusion of the ceremony.

New Book - 'The Deed's Creature'

Professor David Frost's first novel, The Deed's Creature, will be launched with an accompanying art exhibition on Friday, April 19 in the Great Hall.

The exhibition will feature works by the designers of the novel's cover, the sculptor Krysten Walker and the landscape painter Graham Cox.

The Lord Mayor, Alderman McNaughton, will launch Professor Frost's novel at 6.30 pm, and the exhibition will continue over the weekend of April 20 and 21.

The Deed's Creature takes its title from a key speech in the play The Changeling by the Jacobean dramatist Thomas Middleton, whose works Professor Frost has edited for Cambridge University Press.

It is a mystery novel and study of revenge, with a densely textured background of religious diversity and the psychosexual tensions which marked much of Middleton's own work.

Since its release in England, The Deed's Creature has been praised by critics as diverse as the occult author Colin Wilson and the Dean of Westminster Abbey.

Also on display on April 19 will be the preparatory work and final work for another novel, The Firewalkers, a story of South India by Christine Mangala - Professor Frost's wife.

Graham Cox and Krysten Walker, who are also husband and wife, have been engaged by Aquila Books to prepare the cover art for both books.

Graham Cox, from his Newcastle base, is one of the very few artists in Australia successful enough to live solely by his art; Krysten Walker, Newcastle-born, works in ceramics, wood and bronze and is represented in Christ Church Cathedral and the University's own collection.
The University has gained its highest number of APRA scholarships ever for one year, 21, the Dean for Research, Professor MacDonald told Senate. The 21st had just been announced, as a result of another institution having to forgo a scholarship.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Morgan, reported that DEET had decided annual visits to all universities were a substantial drain on its resource and, as a result, would be making "major" visits only once every two years.

Professor Morgan also raised a matter of concern regarding the transfer of credits. While all universities were in favour in principle of easier arrangements for the transfer of credit, the Government seemed intent on making the running through a statutory body.

"This is not something that commends itself to me," he told Senate.

Coupled with this move were foreshadowed changes to methods of distance education. Where a student collected credit points from different institutions until accumulating enough credit for a degree, it was proposed that the national credit transfer agency be empowered to award the degree.

Such a step would be tantamount to creating a new university, he said.

"This strikes me as being neither desirable nor necessary."

Professor MacDonald raised another matter, which could be related in the future, concerning entry to university from NSW schools.

The 1990 legislation covering curricula in NSW schools had enabled a proposal, currently under discussion, to give gifted children the opportunity to complete the HSC a year early. This would not provide insurmountable difficulties, but a related proposal might.

This was the suggestion that children gifted in a given area might complete the HSC in one subject a year early and enrol in a University course in that subject while still completing the rest of Year 12.

The proposal contained provision, however, for the student to sit the HSC exam in that subject again, which could alter his or her Tertiary Entrance Ranking.

There was also difficulty about how a student from, say Mittagong or Moree, could continue to attend school while attending university.

Given that anywhere from 6,000 to 8,000 students in NSW each year might qualify for this program, it promised universities considerable headaches in timetabling and coping with non-degree students. At this point, it had not been decided who would pay for the university courses or how the HEC would be levied, but this University could easily be asked to accommodate 50 or 60 such students.

At the other end of the scale, there was a proposition to broaden the choices available in schools by offering more one-unit subjects in the HSC ranging. Professor MacDonald said, "from the academically trying to the Mickey Mouse! Subjects as varied as philosophy and travel agency practice could be included.

The State was suggesting that as many as five such units should be counted in the 11-unit load which normally counted towards a student's TER.

Students could potentially be seeking enrolment in the University in 1994 if the proposition is pursued, he said. All universities in NSW needed to consider the problems these moves might cause.

Discussions will continue with outside sources, including DEET, before the introduction of a Bachelor of Nursing course is settled.

Ms Margaret McEnery told the Senate the proposed course was seven semesters long.

Professor Morgan said DEET had indicated it was prepared to fund a course of six semesters, and the NSW Senior Nurses' Academic Forum had said six semesters ought to be sufficient, although this had to include time for clinical teaching.

"I think it is fair to say no-one knows what DEET is prepared to fund; DEET has said six semesters, and if they get the idea they can get away with that, they won't budge," he said.

He said Victoria appeared to be proposing a course of eight semesters and Queensland six, which - when one counted the actual weeks involved - corresponded to seven semesters at this University.

Professor MacDonald said he was concerned about entry levels. Although the course proposal was for a TER cut-off at 260, the State Government required a certain number of nurses to graduate each year and, based on this year's figures, there would not be enough applicants with a mark of 260 to meet that demand.

Dr John Drinan has agreed to the Vice-Chancellor's request to examine the University's three environment courses - Environmental Assessment and Management, Environmental Science and Environmental Engineering - to ensure that optimum use is being made of available resources.

Serious concerns were expressed about the capacity of the Co-op Bookshop to serve students' needs.

Assoc. Professor Lionel Friedman, chairman of the Bookshop Liaison Committee, reported that the Union was proposing to provide more space to the Bookshop. He described the present lack of space, however, as "scandalous".

He also produced a petition signed by more than 400 students in the previous week complaining about conditions in the Bookshop in the Shortland Union building.

Professor Alan Ward said academic staff had a range of resources when it came to obtaining books, but students had been obliged to go to the Bookshop in the Union building "with their lists in hand and queue in impossible numbers".

The Union and the Co-op appeared to be two commercial enterprises at loggerheads over commercial issues while a vital element of the University suffered, Professor Ward said. He was supported by a number of other members who queried whether the existing relationship needed review if the University was to provide students with adequate facilities.
**Lecturer in History**

A historian who labels himself "an historian of belief" has been appointed to the History Department of the University.

Dr Hilary Carey, who has lectured at the University of Sydney and Macquarie University before coming to Newcastle, is hoping to start an Industrial History group and conduct a seminar series on Industrial History.

Dr Carey says that during the 30's, 40's and 50's, most women belonged to an organisation such as the Catholic Womens' League, the Country Womens' Association, the Red Cross and other similar religious and community groups. Similarly there were men's equivalents, the Masons, Orange Lodges, the Vincent de Paul Society, etc.

"No-one has researched these areas. It was an era of social activism in the community, not to change things, but to reinforce them," says Dr Carey.

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**Professor of Mathematics**

The newly appointed Professor of Mathematics, Professor Iain Raeburn, is looking forward to the challenges of his new position at Newcastle after undertaking visiting professorships in Denmark and Canada last year.

Professor Raeburn, who obtained his undergraduate degree from the University of Edinburgh, his postgraduate degree from Cambridge University and his Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Utah, USA, comes to Newcastle from the University of New South Wales where he lectured in Mathematics for 12 years.

His speciality is the functional analysis of Mathematics as well as research in the field.

Professor Raeburn has an impressive and extensive list of publications and is hoping to encourage visits from colleagues overseas to this university to foster research activities and promote enthusiasm in Mathematics generally.

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**Lecturer in Law**

A strong background in Law and a commitment to community service are hallmarks of the newly appointed Lecturer in Law, Mr Clement Shum.

Mr Shum, who taught law at the Hong Kong Baptist College before coming to Newcastle, is looking forward to being involved in the development of the new Law course. Until the proposed new course comes on line next year, he is teaching Employment Law and Legal Studies for Master of Business Administration students.

He holds a Bachelor degree in Law, a Postgraduate Certificate in Laws, a Master of Laws and a Postgraduate Diploma in Education from Hong Kong University, a Master of Laws from the University of London and a Diploma of Chinese Law from the University of East Asia in Macau. He was admitted as a Barrister at Law of the Supreme Court of Hong Kong in 1981 and is a member of the Hong Kong Bar Association.

He has written three books on Business Association and Employment Law and is currently writing two books on the General Principles of Law and Negotiable Instruments. He has also written extensively on China Trade and Investment Law, an area in which he specialises.

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Dr Hilary Carey

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Professor Iain Raeburn

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Mr Clement Shum
Advertisements

For Sale
Collector’s Item. Holden EH Station wagon $1,200 as is.
Please phone 525293 or see Barry in Printery, Hunter Building.

For Sale
Student Writing Desk - Four drawers, good cond. $45
Guitar Effect Pedals - various effects with power supply board. Price on application. Phone Steve 216460

For Sale
1988/89 XT600 Yamaha Tenere Motor Cycle. Registered until August 1991. Excellent condition and regularly serviced and maintained. $3,800 (o.n.o.) Contact Sean Reeves on 28 6518 (work) or 66 2361 (home - after 5 pm)

Needed
Secure accommodation for 18-24 months from approximately May onwards for Postgraduate married couple. Semi- or unfurnished. 2 Bedroom/Study or 3 bedroom with lock-up garage. Ideally between University and city. Essential that owner accept much loved old pooch. Excellent references, written undertakings re cleaning. Phone 62 1391 (after hours).

For Rent
Spacious family home at Valentine. Available July 1991 to July, 1992. Private bushland setting on the edge of Lake Macquarie. Features include open plan living areas, double garage, large inground concrete swimming pool, low maintenance landscaped grounds and outdoor entertaining areas. Phone Brian Williams (21 6037) or Jenny Williams (21 4928)

For Sale
Home-made Wooden Sailing Boat. Manly Junior Design - Jib and Mainsail. Rollocks and oars available. $200 o.n.o. Ideal for young family. Phone Phil Williams (Ext. 6740) work. 63 4335 (Home)

For Sale
Camera Equipment. Pentax ESII SLR camera body $150; Takumar 50mm/F1.8 telephoto lens $85; Sigma 70-230mm/F4.5 high power zoom lens with macro $120; Pentax 3-piece auto-extension tube set $50; National PE2002 automatic flash $20. All have cases. Will sell the lot for $450 or separately. All reasonable offers considered. Phone Leigh Ext. 6117 or 43 9825 (after hours).

Garage Sale
Electric Typewriter, Brother, golfball, self-correcting $100. Two large burgundy and gold patterned woollen floor rugs, $150 for both. Large painting $80. Phone Leigh Ext. 6117 or 43 9825 (after hours).

Notice
The Art Advisory Group has room for committed workers interested in helping to advise the University on the content and display of its art collection. The work includes meetings, helping to organise and stage exhibitions, and occasional weekend work. It is entirely voluntary; members of the group are not paid. Interested people should write to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) marking the envelope - Art Advisory Group.

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(Monday to Friday)
9.30 am - 2 pm (Saturday)

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Recycle your Glass Jars
(with lids if possible)
The silk screen studios at the Art School always need them. Please ring Arthur Tupman on 6257 for collection

Walk Against Want

Community Aid Abroad’s annual Walk Against Want will be held on Sunday, April 14, starting at 2 pm (1.30 pm registration) from Civic Park.

Participants in Newcastle can Walk or Run 5km or 10km. Those who can’t take part on the day could Fast Against Famine.

The funds raised this year will be used for tools and seeds for Mozambique, reforestation in the Philippines and Mobile health care in Nicaragua. Aim for these Targets: $60 will provide seeds for one family for a year in the Green Zones of Mozambique. $250 will pay the wages for one week of a mobile health team (consisting of a doctor, nurse, health educator and driver) in Nicaragua.

The BULLETIN

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

Reader’s contributions are welcome. Advertisements are accepted free of charge for University Staff Members. 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 on 216457 or Linda Aurelius on 216463. The Unit’s FAX number is 216400.

BULLETIN • 6
Library Roundup
Retirement of Barbara Cook

Miss Barbara Cook, Assistant University Librarian (Technical Services), University of Newcastle Libraries, retired on March 27 after 23 years service to the University.

Barbara will be greatly missed by all sectors of the University since it was largely due to her efforts that the collections of the University Library attained their current strengths. Her knowledge of the book world and appreciation of University needs gained her the respect of the academic staff and enabled her to make optimum use of available funding in good times and bad.

Her expertise, her commonsense approach to problems and her own wide-ranging reading habits will make her very difficult to replace.

We all wish her well on her retirement.

Miss Barbara Cook

Retrospective Conversion
On March 25, work began on the first stage of a retrospective conversion program which will enable the remaining 50 percent of our monograph collection to be incorporated into the online catalogue ALLEYCAT.

The program is being undertaken by Sydney-based firm Pippa Holdings. Stage 1 involves the micro-filming of the entire monograph shelf list by a very high speed camera copying five cards back and front per second. These images will later be matched against ABN (Australian Bibliographic Network) records and any not matched will have to be keyed in individually.

Rare Book Donation
A copy of The Decameron of M.Glo.Boccaccio (3rd edition) and printed at Vinezia per Li Giunti di Firenze, 1585, has been donated to the Central Coast Campus Library by Michael Milgate, a second year Business student. The book was one of a small collection of rare books held by Michael's family.

As there is no appropriate place to house such an important item at Ourimbah, it will be stored in the Auchmuty Library's Rare Book Collection for the present.

Auchmuty Library Foyer
Architecture III students have been involved in a project to redesign the Auchmuty Library Foyer as part of their course work. Many of their plans have been on display in the Foyer and in the area adjacent to Audio Visual.

Postscript: If anyone is interested in organising/playing in a touch football competition, please contact Donald on 622395.

Two Students Excel at Sports

Donald Hunter (left) and Martin Plentinger - Success in sporting titles

Two students have made their mark in sporting achievements recently by competing in national championships.

Donald Hunter, 21, who is studying for a Graduate Diploma of Education following a Science degree recently competed in the Men's Open National Touch Football Championship Titles in Canberra. Donald was part of the NSW team which won the National Title four points to three in extra time over the Queensland team. In all, seven teams from all over Australia contested the Titles.

He was selected from the local area to the regional team and from there to the State team.

Touch Football is a very arduous, fast game and requires 14 players in a side, even though there are only seven on the field at any one time. Players can be substituted during the 50 minute game by an interchange rule that allows this.

Donald, who has been playing for about four years, says he hopes to gain selection for the State team next year to compete in the National Titles to be held in Tasmania.

Meanwhile, Martin Plentinger, 21, a Bachelor of Surveying student, has come third in the Australian titles in a new sailing class known as Cherubs.

Martin, who has been sailing since he was seven, won the State selections with his sailing partner, but says that even though they were favourites to win the national title, they cracked under pressure.

He says the new class was introduced by the 16 ft. Sailing Club about three years ago and is steadily gaining a following amongst sailors.

It's not the first time he has competed nationally. Last year in New Zealand, he was placed fifth in the open class and first in the cadets.

In an about face, Martin is planning to travel to Nuestift in Austria at the end of the year to work as a tour guide on the ski fields.

Elizabeth Guilford
Jim Cleary

BULLETIN + 7
Research Grants for 1991
Information on the following grants is available from the Office for Research - Telephone 21 5305

Closing Date
1 April 1991
3 April 1991
3 April 1991
10 April 1991
17 April 1991
19 September 1991
17 April 1991
30 April 1991
1 May 1991
1 May 1991
22 May 1991
22 May 1991
22 May 1991
1 May 1991
1 May 1991
1 May 1991
1 May 1991
1 May 1991
24 June 2nd round.
21 August 1991
23 September 1999
23 September 1991
23 September 1991
No closing date
No closing date
No closing date
No closing date
No closing date
No closing date
No closing date
No closing date
No closing date
No closing date
No closing date

FELLOWSHIPS

* NH & MRCR. Douglas Wright Awards
For New Investigators
* Smuts Visiting Fellowship Commonwealth Studies 1992-23
* 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-Support Fellowship in the U.K. - Curriculum development: teaching through Commonwealth themes, educational drama and performing arts.

Information on these grants is contained in NEWS on the VAXcluster. Further information and relevant application forms are available from the Office for Research - telephone 21 5305.

BULLETIN * 8
ELECTION OF A MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY BY THE NON-ACADEMIC STAFF

POLICY STATEMENTS

Dianne Frances Bull

After working in the area of accountancy for many years, I returned to the University to pursue my long cherished interest in Psychobiological Science. After obtaining my BSc in 1988, I gained a First Class Honours in Psychology, Faculty of Science and Mathematics in 1989. I am currently under candidature for a PhD in the Faculty of Medicine. During this time I have worked in the Department of Psychology as a Tutor and Research Assistant and on completion of my Honours year I have been employed by the Department full-time as a Professional Officer.

Having worked both on the academic and general staff of the University, I am acutely aware of the inequity that can occur, not only in the recognised components of gender, race, or religion, but also in relation to the academic/general staff division. Although I fully acknowledge the principles of Equal Employment Opportunities and am conversant with the current Act, I am not convinced that equity of employment opportunities has been fully achieved. It is my concern that these areas lacking recognition are addressed as soon as possible.

*****

Greta Davies

I have worked at the University for the past six years as Department Secretary and Administrative Assistant in the Engineering Faculty, and, from April 15, as Administrative Assistant in Examinations and Postgraduate Studies.

My reason for seeking election to the 1991 EBO&AA committee is to encourage the University to develop progressive affirmative action programmes leading to a change in certain existing inequitable structures.

My particular interest is in the development of policies directed at women members of general staff (our largest minority group), however equal employment opportunity actions directed at one minority section generally have positive flow-on benefits to all staff.

I have been actively involved in these issues for some time, and have served as Departmental EBO Liaison Officer, and as a member of several committees including: AWEUN (Association of Women Employees at the University of Newcastle), Public Service Association Departmental Committee, EBO&AA Advisory Committee to Council (1989).

*****

Wayne Sheean

Wayne was born in 1954 and began his studies at the age of six in Newcastle, New South Wales. He continued in private tuition before entering the Conservatorium of Music for three years to study piano with Lyn Bien Tieo and singing with the well-known and respected teacher and performer, Bill Coombes.

On completion of secondary school studies, Wayne commenced his working career in retailing menswear in Newcastle before entering the University of Sydney to study Economics. Although formal
music training was not undertaken during these years, Wayne was involved in the cultural life of the University and in various music groups such as Musica Viva and the choirs of the Sydney Cathedrals. During this time he taught himself the rudiments of the organ, both pipe and electronic, he undertook studies in organ and choral work at the Royal School of Music, the highlights of which were recitals at Cambridge University and the University of Wales.

Since returning to Australia, Wayne has worked as a Manager in the hotel industry and is currently employed as Hall and Concerts Manager for the Faculty and Conservatorium of Music. His leisure activities are reading, music (classical and modern), cricket, rugby and tennis and he is on the Council of Christ Church Cathedral as well as a choir member.

He is currently undertaking a postgraduate course and is a regular organist for churches in the Diocese of Newcastle and actively involved in the Friends of the Conservatorium and Friends of the University.