AUSTRALIAN BILL OF RIGHTS

Recent decisions handed down by the High Court would ensure the forgotten issue of a Bill of Rights for Australia would be hotly debated in the political arena again, Dean of the new Faculty of Law, Professor Neil Rees said. In his inaugural address, made to a gathering of graduates, staff and visitors on October 14, Professor Rees said two High Court judgements had thrown down the gauntlet to the other two branches of Government (the Legislature and the Executive) to do something about Bill of Rights protection.

Both cases had defined the right of Australians to freedom of speech, Professor Rees said. The first case, Australian Capital Television Pty Ltd vs. the Commonwealth, sought to have a political broad-casting act repealed in an attempt to prohibit paid political advertising and provide free time on radio and television to political candidates. Counsel for the Commonwealth argued the cost of advertising forced political parties to seek financial assistance from wealthy corporations and individuals, opening the way for corruption. Opposing counsel argued successfully that speech in public affairs could not be restricted in the way proposed by the Commonwealth, as everyone (not just major political parties) would be prohibited from making paid political broadcasts on radio and television. The High Court judges voted 6 against 1 that the Constitution implied the right to freedom of speech, Professor Rees said.

The second case, Nationwide Newspapers Pty Ltd vs. Wills, involved an action taken by a Federal police officer against the publishers of The Australian for a 1989 article that allegedly brought the Industrial Relations Commission into disrepute. The publishers' counsel challenged the Industrial Relations Act, under which the criminal proceedings were launched. The 7 High Court judges found that, while the relevant parts of the legislation were valid, the author was quite entitled to discuss the governmental affairs of the nation and therefore should not be prosecuted under the laws.

Professor Rees, one of 3 members of a 1984 taskforce that drafted a Bill of Rights for former attorney-general Gareth Evans, said the High Court had ensured the debate would be far from limp. "It was a bold exercise of judicial power that will ensure that, right up to the forthcoming centenary of Federation, the Bill of Rights will be debated again and again." He described a Bill of Rights as "a statement by the people of a nation that systematically declares certain fundamental rights and freedoms and requires they be respected".

"With the centenary of Federation looming, an optimist might think we may seek to emulate the Canadians and repatriate our constitution, reconsider the division of powers between the Commonwealth and States, rethink our wish to remain as a constitutional monarchy and perhaps as an article of law, add a Bill of Rights to our constitution," Professor Rees said. He thought perhaps Australia lacked a public figure of the stature of Pierre Trudeau, who was passionate about the human rights argument and able to advance it, but suggested Gareth Evans might be released from his international duties to undertake the task.

In closing his address, Professor Rees quoted the current Australian chief justice, Sir Anthony Mason, when he said: "In the case of politicians, it (a Bill of Rights) produces an antagonism to judicial review. They see it as a break on the exercise of political power. A lot of people in the community at large have come to assume, not accept, that the will of the majority is a true reflection of democracy. The phenomenal emergence of human rights as a pre-eminent political force in our time challenges this orthodoxy. Human rights are now a potent rallying cry across the world... and are seen as a countermanding force to the exercise of totalitarian, bureaucratic and institutional power (which are) widely identified as the greatest threats to the liberty and democratic freedom of this country."

"It will come as no surprise to you that I am on the side of Sir Anthony Mason," Professor Rees concluded.
DEATH OF FORMER DEPUTY CHANCELLOR

The University of Newcastle has been saddened by the passing of its former Deputy Chancellor and staunch member of University Council, Dr Alec Forsythe.

Dr Forsythe, whose commitment to the University has been acknowledged by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Keith Morgan, passed away recently.

His active interest in the University was evident in many different areas. A chartered accountant and founder of the Newcastle accounting firm of Forsythe and Partners, he became involved with the University by first serving on the University’s Commerce Committee of the Newcastle University College Advisory Committee in 1961.

He had been a member of the University Council since 1966.

He became a member of the Planning Committee and Interim Board for Edwards Hall in 1971 and then the Foundation Chairman of the Board of Edwards Hall in 1973, a position he held until this year.

He was also the Foundation Chairman of the University’s Research and Development Company, TUNRA, a position held from 1973 until the present time.

The University recognised his unique contribution by honouring him with an Honorary Doctorate of the University in 1983, and in 1984 he was elected Deputy Chancellor of the University Council, a position he held until 1989. Dr Forsythe was also the Chairman of the University’s Finance Committee.

Professor Morgan expressed his sadness at Dr Forsythe’s death and gratitude for the years of service and commitment he had so willingly given the University.

“The University will feel the loss of Dr Forsythe’s contribution to the institution. He was a stalwart, a great supporter of the University and a great Novocastrian,” Professor Morgan said.

“Dr Forsythe brought a very special talent to the University Council. His vision was significant and valuable and provided an important link with the community.

“He maintained throughout his whole period of association with the University, a deep commitment to the University and especially to the needs and wellbeing of the students,” he said.

UNIVERSITY STATION DERAILED

A Bachelor of Business student fears the long awaited University railway station project, planned to be built by March next year, may be thwarted by bureaucratic bungling. Tony Hanson, a convenor of the Students Association Train Station Committee, has prepared a paper exploring the need for a University station and the history, problems and objectives for the development of a station.

Lobbying, by the University and members of the public, for a Warrabrook and University station began as early as 1983 but has become more pressing as parking facilities on campus become increasingly strained, due to an increase in student numbers. The 1989 earthquake made an already short supply of student accommodation chronic, increasing the need for an improved public transport network to open areas along the Newcastle to Maitland rail corridor for rental accommodation, the paper said.

The station has been approved by both State and Federal Governments, with $2.5 million allocated for the project under the Federal Government Urban Public Transport Program. Recently, however, there has been opposition to the proposed station from Newcastle City Council and Newcastle Buses, the draft report said. A meeting involving representatives of Newcastle, Maitland and Lake Macquarie City Councils, the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA), the Department of Transport, Newcastle Buses and City Rail, in April this year, agreed to defer the station project and called for a comprehensive transport strategy to be developed for the University. An invitation to the University to attend this meeting arrived a day late.

A City Rail representative said, at the meeting, the proposed site for the station had been identified following consultation with the University and would provide access only for the University. Tony said at the meeting, “It would seem the negativism of this issue by some bureaucrats is due to the linkages to connect Warrabrook, that will have to be given to the station at the proposed site in the future, and also to the associated effects on bus commercial viability”.

The report states the Newcastle City Council has not approved a development application for the station, referring it back to State Rail indicating the following concerns:

• there is no comprehensive transport study for the Newcastle region;
• the issues of access to both Warrabrook and the University;
• the proposed site is near a Wetland, which may be inappropriate;
• the location of the site is not that agreed upon by the University and State Rail in October, 1991;
• there is no provision for disabled access at the station.

The timetable for the development application depends upon State Rail’s response. The matter will then be referred to the Council aldermen after the issues have been clarified, the report said. The Council sees the issue of linkages to Warrabrook as a State Government problem.

The City Rail development application revealed the proposed site is 150 metres west of that originally agreed upon (adjacent to the Elcom/University boundary), apparently to take advantage of an extremely old wooden bridge built when the area was used as a garbage tip. This would place the station 260 metres east of the centre of University Oval 3, according to Tony’s paper.

The paper countered perceived problems of the station project saying the bus service to the University was overcrowded and inadequate to the students’ needs. In relation to the Wetlands, the paper notes the station will be constructed on an existing rail corridor and that the slowing of trains for a new station will actually benefit wildlife. Concern that the station is isolated, posing a danger to students using it, could be allayed by linking it to the campus by a minibus service and by adequately lighting paths. The issue of disabled access has been referred to the Minister for Transport, Bob Brown.

“The associated negativism should stop,” Tony said in the paper. “The 13,000 students at the University will be the major users of the station...we say the station should be built as close as possible to the University to minimise walking time...and maximise student patronage.”

“The bureaucrats all met and decided to oppose the construction of the station and lobby their elected officials. They failed because of effective lobbying by students supporting the station. Given that, they are now thwarting plans at the bureaucratic level because they failed at the political level,” Tony said.
MEN’S HEALTH - A PARADOX

With the emergence of feminism, women’s health issues is a term we all understand, but a Faculty of Health Sciences lecturer believes men’s health issues are being neglected. Mr Richard Fletcher delivered a paper at the Public Health Association Conference in Canberra last month exploring why, in a male-dominated health system, more men die prematurely than women.

“arachieved aware of the paradox when I was asked to write a paper on Men’s Health for the Hunter Area Health Service,” Mr Fletcher said. “If males have 4 times the risk of drowning compared to women, 5 times as many suicides and head injuries and baby boys are burned twice as often as girls, shouldn’t health professionals target males in these areas instead of the community in general?” he asked. “There are no Men’s or Boy’s health issues. We manage it for girls. Now that teenage girls are taking up smoking faster than boys, suddenly smoking is a women’s issue,” he said.

Mr Fletcher’s paper, entitled “Resolving the paradox of male death rates: some hints from the smoking debate of the 1950s”, suggests the history of smoking has been a disaster for men. By the late 50s in Australia, 70% of men were smokers compared to 30% of women, with smoking never gaining the social approval for women it had for men. It is hard to imagine a role reversal for the suggestion in the Melbourne Argus of 1941 that women should give up smoking so that ‘the brave and gallant men overseas’ might have a plentiful supply of cigarettes.

Advertisers have long realised smoking was a man’s issue. They invented the Marlboro man, making Marlboro the world’s top selling cigarette by the 1980s. As a Phillip Morris executive described the strategy, “we decided to go in for male-oriented imagery...the image of the Marlboro man that we projected was one of the successful, up-the-hard-way sort of guy, who got himself tattooed somewhere along the line”. Statistics showed in the mid-70s, for every 10 women who died from lung cancer there were 50 men.

Mr Fletcher thought it a paradox that during this century, when the domination of the health care system by a male medical profession has increased, men’s mortality has actually worsened compared to women’s. While it was accepted that death rates should not vary between groups, without good reason, it seems to be acceptable that males of all ages have higher death rates than females.

In an era of economic rationalism, the issue of health status is reduced to a competition for resources, with “gender disadvantage” equalling “female disadvantage”. “The effect of equating ‘gender’ with ‘women’ is that where men do have a particular disadvantage, as in mortality rates, it becomes very difficult to even begin discussing the issue,” Mr Fletcher said in his paper. “One of the tasks for developing an equitable approach to health is to articulate ‘Men’s Health’ or ‘Boy’s Health’ issues, that is, to use gender intelligently in looking at male health,” he said.

The assumption that material advantage equals health advantage in terms of lower mortality is challenged in the paper. With low socio-economic status accepted since the 1970s as a determinant of poor health, and with a recent Government report finding women demonstrably worse off than men (for a variety of indicators including income levels), why do women have a better mortality rate than men? Mr Fletcher says if we accept that mortality rates are an important measure of health status, that males in Australia exhibit excess mortality, and that females are socially and economically disadvantaged compared to males, then the translation of wealth or resources into better health needs to be examined.

Another assumption, that men will look after their own, is also challenged in Mr Fletcher’s paper. A 1988 public health report nominated gender as one area of inequality in health, stating: “There are also quite remarkable gender differences in health status in this country. Men in Australia die from nearly all non-sex specific leading causes at a much higher rate than women...these differences in health status largely reflect the prevalence of preventable factors”. The report went on to say, “There have been no formal efforts to develop goals, targets or national strategies for the health of men in Australia”, and left it at that. The paper did acknowledge, however, that there is evidence of men’s health beginning to be discussed in the health care field. Men’s Health groups have been established in some regions.

Mr Fletcher thought it unfortunate for men, and ultimately the whole community, that both the “naturalness” of males poor health and the benefits to men of a male-dominated system are taken as serious statements of fact. “If we are to improve the health of all Australians then we have to recognise that men too deserve good health and that by current standards they do not enjoy it.”

“Resolving the paradox of male death rates: some hints from the smoking debate of the 1950s” is a paper delegates at the Public Health Association Conference in Canberra last month heard about. Mr Richard Fletcher of the Hunter Area Health Service.

Mr Fletcher said “If we are to improve the health of all Australians then we have to recognise that men too deserve good health and that by current standards they do not enjoy it.”

Richard Fletcher

“men too deserve good health”

“There have been no formal efforts to develop goals, targets or national strategies for the health of men in Australia.”

Mr Fletcher believes the prevention of illness is more important than treatment, claiming men are twice as likely to die from preventable illnesses than women. He thinks the failure of health professionals to directly target men has been partly due to pessimism about men changing and partly a fear of looking too soft. "What is needed is to let go of the idea that just because doctors or bureaucrats are male, the men will be looked after, and realise that changes women demand, such as more preventive services, would benefit men as much,” he said.
TO CATCH A GRAPE THIEF

The 40 young statisticians who gathered in Newcastle recently for the second annual Young Statisticians' Workshop now know the correct way to iron their clothes, how to catch a grape thief, and how to determine a couple's chance of success with the IVF program.

These were just some of the topics spoken about at the three day conference, which brought young statisticians (young in their professional careers rather than age) together to discuss "Recent Developments and Present Day Opportunities in Statistics". The speakers reflected the diverse range of fields in which statisticians are employed. "There is a myth that statisticians are locked away in government offices doing boring, repetitive work, when in fact they are employed in many dynamic and diverse areas," one of the conference organisers, Mr Paul Dickman, said.

The conference followed on from last year's highly successful inaugural event in Wollongong. Paul, who is a research assistant with the University of Newcastle Statistics Department, said that as well as helping young statisticians professionally, both conferences have also had a strong social emphasis. "We have aimed to give young statisticians the chance to get together and talk with their peers about work, but it is also just as much a social occasion," Paul said.

Participants from New South Wales and the ACT presented a 15 minute talk about their work. "Many young statisticians are reluctant to present their work at more formal statistical conferences because they are intimidated by high profile people in the audience," Paul said. "This way they can talk about their work in a non-threatening environment." Guest speakers also attended the conference, including Professor Peter Hall from the Australian National University, who is widely considered to be the most highly regarded statistician in Australia, and among the top five most sought after statisticians in the world.

According to organisers of the workshop, the field of statistics has gone against the trend evident in other industries and is a rapidly growing area. "It is very much a growing field," Paul said. "Organisations are realising the need for data based decision making, rather than decision making based simply on opinions." While most statisticians are still employed in government departments, there are a number of rapidly growing areas in private industry, including financial institutions. "There is a big market for statisticians in financial institutions such as banks and insurance agencies. Hard economic times have driven home the need for carefully informed investment decisions," Paul said.

Proof of the broad range of areas in which statisticians are involved was provided by those who attended the conference. Linda Stephens, from the Biometrics Unit of the CSIRO spoke about research she had carried out for the marketers of a new range of woolen trousers and suits. She had been asked to investigate the properties which cause fabric to crease. "Linda found that clothes worn immediately after they are ironed crease very easily. The best thing to do is leave clothes for a couple of days before wearing them. It's amazing what you can learn at a statisticians' conference!" Paul laughed.

Another speaker, Angela Reid, has been devising a method of detecting grape vine thieves. "Grape growers can spend years developing a particular vine, only to have someone come along, take a cutting and grow it themselves," Paul said. "There have been legal cases in which growers have tried to prove their plants have been stolen, but have been unsuccessful using only DNA fingerprints for evidence. Angela has been using statistics to determine whether two vines are so similar they could not have possibly been developed separately."

Paul said that everyone who attended the conference agreed it had been worthwhile, not only professionally, but also socially. "It was not all work," Paul said. "We also wanted to show off Newcastle's beaches and other areas, such as the vineyards. Most people have a perception of Newcastle as dirty and industrial. The people at the conference were very pleasantly surprised."

"All in all the workshop was a big success. We hope it will continue to be an annual event. There is already one planned for Canberra in 1993," Paul said.

THE ELUSIVE NOBEL PRIZE

It is 11.00pm on Monday night, October 12. Associate Professor Peter Dunkley from the Neuroscience Group in the Faculty of Medicine receives a phone call from radio journalist, Norman Swan. Norman informs Peter that the Nobel Prize winner has just been announced. The Nobel Prize remains the most sought after award for researchers working in the field. Peter Dunkley didn't win, nor did he expect to.

The reason for the call was to gain background information about reversible protein phosphorylation, the field of research of the 1992 Nobel Prize in medicine recipients, Drs F Fisher and E Krebs from the USA. First discovered in the 1950's, the process of protein phosphorylation is now known to occur in all tissues of all species.

In Australia, Peter Dunkley and collaborators from the Neuroscience Group, are recognised leaders in the field of protein phosphorylation research as it applies to the nervous system. They (Peter Dunkley, John Rosias, Alistair Sim, Steve Bunn and Hungarian postdoctoral researcher, Imre Lengyel) "live" on the fourth floor of the Medical Sciences building, and together with Dirk van Helden and newcomer, Bruce Walmsley are conducting ground breaking research of their own. Dr Phil Robinson from the Department of Endocrinology at the John Hunter Hospital is also working on other aspects of protein phosphorylation in the nervous system.

For the team, the awarding of the Nobel Prize to researchers in their field highlights the importance of their own work. "We are studying a fundamental biological process, which when understood fully will provide insight into many of the puzzles of medicine," Peter said. Puzzles such as those concerning growth factors, insulin, oncogenes, cancer and tissue rejection.

"The most recent discovery is that Cyclosporin, which is the basic drug used as an immunosupressant in transplantation work, seems to operate through specific inhibition of a calcium dependent protein phosphatase," Peter explained, giving just one example of the diverse role of protein phosphorylation.

While many researchers have studied protein phosphorylation in single cells, the University's Neuroscience Group are working on a far more difficult system. Their challenge is to discover the physiological role of protein phosphorylation in the body's most complex system, the nervous system.

Peter hopes that the awarding of the Nobel...
DARED TO BE NEW

"I am a little doubtful about this" admitted Elizabeth. "Is bright red really suitable, do you think?"

"Suitable, no Ma'am," she said. "But entirely lovable."

When Malcolm Fraser professed a liking for the economic caricatures of Ayn Rand, it became embarrassing for a member of the 'thinking' society to own up to ever having read "The Fountainhead".

Nevertheless, Rand's words in the mouth of Howard Roark, seem tired now only because they can still express the "self evident" truths of good buildings.

"Rules?" said Roark. "Here are my rules: what can be done with one substance must never be done with another. No two materials are alike. No two sites are alike. No two buildings have the same purpose. The purpose, the site, the materials determine the shape. Nothing can be reasonable or beautiful unless it's made by one central idea, and the idea sets every detail. A building is alive, like a man. Its integrity is to follow its own truth, its one single theme, and to serve its own purpose. A man doesn't borrow pieces of his body. A building doesn't borrow hunks of its soul. Its maker gives it the soul and every wall, window and stairway to express it."

"Red Square" as it is affectionately dubbed at the University of Newcastle is a raw red building slashing through its eucalypt surrounds and waiting for future buildings for which it will serve as pivot and counterpoint.

Designed by third year students working with internationally renowned architect Michael Wilford, the building reflects Newcastle's own abrasive energy and the elemental style of a city built on real work without apology for honest form and function. Its beauty comes from a challenged sense of perspective and continuing surprise as line and space hang in the air around you. Perhaps not 'suitable' for those reared to the concrete and brick experience of 'being a student', but 'entirely lovable' if you dare a fresh vision.

The building earned a Merit in the Sulman Award for Public Buildings this year. Just as significantly, three other awards came to architects who trained at Newcastle - Philip Rossington, Kate Shaw and Lawrence Lai - an achievement the Faculty believes is linked to its approach to architectural and building education.

Professor Barry Maitland and his colleagues are committed to confronting students with the real problems of architectural practice. Knowledge and competence required by the profession is built by finding answers to problems of site, purpose and materials. This approach turns out quality innovative practitioners.

* C. Brahams and S.J. Simon "No Bed for Bacon" p11

** Ayn Rand, 1947 "The Fountainhead" p15

EVER WISHED UPON A STAR?

American cultural colonialism has built us a dream world of pixie dust, space fantasy and cartoon solutions.

Notions of riding in move-bubbles freed from traffic lights and petrol smells have become prosaic through the celluloid influence of Disney and Spielberg. We anticipate breakthrough technology and wish-list urban planning. Neither seems to be upon us.

In contrast, at Newcastle Karel Grezl, of the University's Research Company (TUNRA); believes that the Hanrahan approach ("We'll-all-be-rooned!") is more likely to unleash real progress through Aussie practicality than is big dollars R&D.

He has launched a project to investigate a "personal transport system" called a "T-Cab" with all the futurism of E.T.'s phone call to home. But the "magic" comes from nuts-and-bolts technology and a focus on personal convenience and safety based on people's real needs.

TUNRA will ask post-graduate students at the University of Newcastle to investigate the real potential of science fiction transport systems through a hard-nosed analysis of their engineering, commercial potential, and social and economic impact. The investigators will be called on to demonstrate why T-Cab can't possibly work by invoking Hanrahan at every point, and barriers put up.

Members of the public will also be invited to send their transport visions to the University's Public Relations Unit and the students (along with industry experts) will try the Hanrahan treatment on them too.

When even the hardest doubters fail, Karel believes the remaining solutions will form the basis of an Australian solution to the transport needs of the future. T-Cab will be another Aussie success story.
"Science teaching is strong in data and weak in theory."

It was a bald statement made by a leading science educator on a visit to the University of Newcastle but one said to be backed by a great deal of study and thought.

Professor Alan Lucas who is Acting Principal of King's College, London, is working on a book that explores what we know about how children understand or misunderstand concepts of science such as heat and electricity. In it Professor Lucas reports studies of how children learn science within four broad 'frameworks'.

The first group uses ethnographic techniques to collect data in science classrooms by listening, talking and interviewing children to find out what they understand about what's going on. This yields good descriptive data but doesn't help with the "why" of it.

The second group analyses misconceptions held by children and compares their ideas with reality. While the term "misconception" is not used as much these days this approach to the problem is still being explored.

The third set considers cultural effects and particularly the way words are used in the everyday language of people. One example given was the concept of 'mutation'. In Britain, children relate mutation to genetic processes. In Spain, on the other hand, the term is related to any form of change, such as puberty or insect metamorphosis. The different understandings that might arise are easily evident. Good students can operate in both everyday and scientific domains without confusion, but for some it becomes a major barrier to learning.

The fourth and most recent approach to studying science and how it is learned focuses on the way children represent new ideas in their mind - what they think and how they put it together with what they already know.

Overlaying the data from some 5000 references within these frameworks are two analytical tools used to interpret the findings.

The first, termed "historical recapitulation", looks at patterns of intellectual development as if they were similar to patterns in the history of science itself.

Professor Lucas feels that doing this understates the fact that children today live and learn in a very rich environment. He posed the alternative tool of 'constructivism' which accepts that learners don't discover knowledge but rather make use of it to build new ideas. However, he did query whether this approach can actually help us understand how children think about science, or how their structure of knowledge is actually built up.

Much teaching of science is still based on ideas of how new learners construct their knowledge of the world as they experience elements of it by chance ("naive constructivism").

The way research data is applied to develop curriculum is also "naive" and there doesn't seem to be an adequate set of techniques to build up a model of the conceptual structure of children. It is almost impossible to reproduce in curricula the conceptual structure typical of a child, Professor Lucas said. Furthermore, he argued, curriculum designers often overlook the context in which learning occurs.

Professor Lucas opened the debate further by admitting to not knowing what should replace this constructivist approach. Some recent work, based on Piaget, suggests that children should learn the intellectual skills that encourage them to think optimistically. The evidence suggests that when put with simple science lessons this approach to teaching can produce better results, but the relationships are not clear.

A factor complicating the whole problem is that researchers can more easily concentrate on concepts they can control in the laboratory, such as colour and shape. It is harder to investigate more abstract ideas such as the atom or the transformation of energy during photosynthesis. Results therefore give us an unclear view of complex interactions.

"Knowing what children think about one thing gives no indication of what they think about another," Professor Lucas said. He challenges us to find better ways to understand the thoughts of a child so that data can be generalised across contexts.

There doesn't seem to be a single answer, Professor Lucas said. Children, like older people behave and respond in very different ways to new knowledge. If we can however find answers which will limit the field a little, we may design more effective curricula.

Professor Lucas was accompanied on his Australian visit by Dr Teresa Prieto, Head, Science Education Research Group, Complejo de Education, University of Málaga, Spain, and Sra Isabel García Rodeja Gayoso, Department Didactica das Ciencias Experimentais eu do Profesorado, Spain.

Sra Isabel Garcia-Rodeja Gayoso (L), Professor Alan Lucas and Dr Teresa Prieto

GROWING TOGETHER

Birmingham Gardens Infants School specialises in Years K-2 and offers a happy, safe and caring environment for your child. Dedicated staff and well-equipped classrooms ensure that the natural curiosity of the children is fostered so that they will see learning as an exciting challenge that is both fun and rewarding.

The school offers ample play area, small classes providing individual attention, strong community support and involvement and a daily fitness program. 1993 enrolments for Kindergarten can be made now for children born before 31 July, 1988.

School Principal, Ross McNabb says that Birmingham Gardens provides a gentle transition from home and pre-school to the bigger world of primary school. He encourages University staff and students with young children to visit the school, which is located only two minutes away from the University, in Jones St, Birmingham Gardens. For further information, please phone Ross McNabb on 559 623.
FEMALE BUILDERS

With women making inroads into many male dominated careers, the building and construction industry remains firmly dominated by men. But some determined young women are donning hard hats and joining the men on site, as engineers, builders and, if 18 year old Tiffany Green has her way, project managers.

Tiffany is one of two women currently undertaking the University of Newcastle’s innovative Bachelor of Building degree, External Studies, which is in its inaugural year. With her father in the building industry, Tiffany has been interested in pursuing a construction career for some years and says men are still quite surprised to see a woman on a building site. “When people ask what I’m doing and I say a building degree, they usually laugh and ask me to explain,” Tiffany said. “I haven’t set out to break into a male dominated area, that is just where my interest lies.”

Tiffany is used to breaking new ground for women, being the only female to study Engineering Science at Booragul High School last year. “At first, in Year 11, a couple of the guys laughed but I think attitudes toward women are changing and they were all really helpful to me and treated me as an equal,” she said.

Tiffany originally conformed to the external studies pre-requisite that students be employed in the building or construction industry, but has since lost her job as a result of the recession. She praised the course for its problem-based learning technique, which incorporates different strands of the course in an integrated approach. “It’s much more realistic and combines all the subjects which make the course better suited to the work situation,” she said.

Eleanor Waters, of Alice Springs, trained as a Civil Engineer in Victoria and works for the Northern Territory Power and Water Authority. “When I studied for my degree, there was no course to specialise in building,” Eleanor said. “My job incorporates not only hydraulics but public works as well and I have been involved in building pumping stations and a power station for an Aboriginal community. I enjoyed it and wanted to specialise in building,” she added. So when Eleanor heard about the external degree from Newcastle, she was delighted and is very impressed with the course.

“It seems very practical. Some engineering courses are very theoretical but this course is geared to the workplace. You can apply the methods in the course straight away in the work situation. A lot of mature age students are working in the industry and they are able to apply the skills as they go along, without having to wait until the end of the 6 years,” Eleanor said. With experience of other external study (business studies), Eleanor says The University of Newcastle seems to be very “in tune” to external students. “The lecturers are helpful and seem really motivated and enthusiastic,” she said. “They use telephone link-ups to speak to all the students which is great because you do feel isolated studying externally and it keeps your motivation going. The material is terrific and the back up, compared to what I have experienced, is very good.”

Having worked as a female engineer for some years, Eleanor was very impressed that women had been admitted to the building degree. “While there are more female engineers coming out now, women are certainly in a minority in the construction industry and you can meet a lot of resistance,” she said. “The lecturers at Newcastle are really encouraging. If females can get that sort of encouragement early, while they are studying, and are provided with management skills, it will really assist them in the long run.” And her advice to aspiring female builders? “Now and again you encounter problems at work because you are female, but don’t let it deter you, just keep on going,” Eleanor said.

The Bachelor of Building course, in its second year internally and first externally, was developed in response to a demand from the building industry. Funded by the Building Services Corporation, with some input by the Education Training Foundation, the external course makes a degree available to many who may be unable to go to University. Applications for the external studies course close on November 13 and are available at the Faculty of Architecture. For further information call the Course Manager, Brian Vannam on 215771.

CANADIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

Applications are invited for the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada International Fellowships. These fellowships, valued at Cdn $29,000, provide an opportunity for foreign doctoral graduates in the natural sciences or engineering to spend a period of up to two years engaged in research at a Canadian university.

Candidates must hold or be about to receive a doctoral degree (or possess its research equivalent) in science or engineering from a recognised foreign university. This degree must have been conferred on the candidate not more than five years prior to the deadline for submitting an application.

Awards may be granted in Engineering and Computing Science; Mathematical and Physical Sciences; Life Sciences and Psychology; other fields including Library Science, Science Policy, Studies in Natural Science and Engineering.

For information and application material contact the Canadian Consulate General, Level 5, Quay West, 111 Harrison Street, Sydney 2000. Applications close November 15.

HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS

ELECTRONIC MARKING

Janet Burns and Mary Anne Williams, Department of Management, will present an informal tutorial and demonstration on Automated Marking at 1pm on Wednesday November 4th, 1992 at the HELPF DESK in the CT building.

Please contact Department of Management Secretaries on 6644 or 6642 if you would like to attend.
A BREAKFAST CEREAL WITH A DIFFERENCE

Many of us are aware of the importance of high fibre breakfast cereals when it comes to reducing the risks of bowel cancer. But what about their effect on cholesterol? In recent years oat bran has been expounded as the cure-all cereal, having amazing cholesterol lowering properties, they say.

Now we have psyllium, a natural grain similar to corn, oats and wheat. It contains 60 to 70 percent soluble fibre, which is higher than all other grains. Psyllium has been consumed in India and Europe since the 16th century, and, in the US, products containing psyllium have been consumed since the early 20th century.

US researchers have shown that psyllium, incorporated into cereal products, produces a cholesterol lowering effect when eaten with wheat bran. A team of Newcastle University researchers is conducting a study to determine whether the introduction of psyllium-enriched cereals will help lower Australians' cholesterol levels.

Professor David Roberts and his team from the University's Division of Nutrition and Dietetics are conducting a joint study with researchers at the University of Sydney. "This joint research study has been designed to test whether this cholesterol-lowering effect of psyllium fibre will work in the Australian context, on Australian people and with Australian diets," Dr Roberts said.

"It seems the consumption of psyllium-enriched cereal products may be a useful means of controlling cholesterol levels in people who are borderline between having to use drugs and using diet alone."

Backed by Kellogg's, the study will be based on that conducted in the US so that comparisons may be drawn. The psyllium used in the Australian study is locally grown, and while psyllium-enriched cereals are not yet available in Australia, Kellogg's is exploring the opportunity of introducing such a product.

Research assistant and practising dietitian, Alison Bencke explained that the study is being conducted on men between the ages of 18 and 69 who have a cholesterol reading between 6 and 8. Alison obtained diet histories from all subjects prior to the study. "Subjects in this double blind study are asked to eat one of two types of breakfast cereal every day for a period of six weeks, and are then given a second type of cereal for a further six weeks," she explained. One cereal contains psyllium fibre, the other wheat bran. In this way, the subjects act as their own controls.

During the twelve week study blood samples are taken on eight occasions and cholesterol and triglyceride levels are measured. Based on results obtained in the US study, the team in Newcastle is confident that the psyllium-enriched cereal will have a beneficial effect on Australia's high cholesterol sufferers.

The results of the US study show that the psyllium group's total cholesterol levels dropped by an average of eight percent. Low density lipoprotein (LDL), the "bad" cholesterol, dropped by 13 percent in those eating the psyllium cereal.

"Ultimately we would like to change people's eating habits," Alison said, adding that the goal should be to lower the whole population's cholesterol, which, she says, would be cost-effective in the long run.

While Alison acknowledges that we've come a long way from the "feed the man meat" days, she says there is still room for improvement. "I think that people are really trying to follow a good diet," she said. Alison stressed that a good diet does not mean cutting out all fat and dairy products. "People should be changing to low fat dairy products. They should not cut out red meat as it is hard to keep a balanced diet without some red meat," she said. Alison advises that a range of foods be eaten, including wholegrain cereals and breads, fruit and vegetables, low fat dairy products, fish and lean meat.

Volunteers for the breakfast cereal study are still needed. If you are a male aged between 18 and 69, with a cholesterol reading of between 6 and 8 and are not on cholesterol lowering medication then call Alison Bencke on 21 5895 to find out how you can join the study.

1 Buist R. The Cholesterol Myth - The New Healthy Heart Programme (Pan Macmillan Publishers Australia 1992, $14.95)
**THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE**

**SPORTS UNION**

**1992 ACHIEVEMENTS**

## CRICKET

The University side reached the semi-finals of the NDCA "Tom Locker Cup" competition. The 5th Grade ‘Blues’ team won the NDCA 5th Grade Minor Premiership by 9 points, but as the final was washed out, had to be content with sharing joint Major Premiership honours. District Association awards were won by Paul Dyson, 1st Grade Batting Average; Andrew Dart, 5th Grade Batting Average; Peter Tate, 5th Grade Bowling Average; Anthony Tate, most catches in 5th Grade (Wicket Keeper); Jonathon Guy, Best U/17 Batsman.

## WOMEN’S HOCKEY

Two of the five University teams reached the semi-finals of the Newcastle District Women’s Hockey Association competition. The B3 team was defeated in the semi-final and B1s won the Minor and Major Premierships.

## RUGBY UNION

University 1st Grade was the only team to reach the semi-finals of the district competition but was defeated in the minor semi-final. Sportspersons on campus were delighted to learn of Anthony Ekert’s selection in the Australian Wallabies Rugby team to tour Ireland and Wales. Earlier in the year Anthony played with the Australian team in the International Hong Kong Sevens Championships—a magnificent double!

## MEN’S HOCKEY

The Men’s Hockey club fielded six teams in the Newcastle District Men’s Hockey Association competition. Five teams reached the semi-finals. The 1st Grade side was defeated in the major semi-final and final and 2nd, 4th and 5th Grades registered semi-final losses. The 3rd Grade side won the Minor Premiership and recovered from a 5-0 loss in the major semi-final to win an extremely hard-fought Major Premiership in extra time. 1st Grade centre forward, Andrew Abbo, was a joint winner of the Association’s award for ‘1st Grade Leading Goal Scorer’. 1st Grade players, Gerard Cocking, Brett Shrume and Greg Nyman, were honoured to be invited to join the ‘Tamworth Frogs’ side which participates in the National Hockey League. The Tamworth team is one of only two from NSW included in the National League.

## RUGBY LEAGUE

The Rugby League Club fielded a team in the Newcastle U120 competition and another in the strong NSW Universities Cup competition. The U120 side reached the semi-finals but was unlucky to be beaten by 2 points in extra time. University players who received awards were Steve Appleby who won the prestigious “Best and Fairest” player of the NSW Cup Competition, James Whiting who was named “Man of the Match” in the grand final of the same competition and Peter Sharpe, selected in the NSW Tertiary Rugby League team to tour Perth.

## MEN’S SOCCER

The University 1st team won the Newcastle Amatuer Soccer Association Minor Premiership but lost the major semi-final. The 2nd team came 3rd in the competition pointscore but was defeated in the grand final.

## WOMEN’S SOCCER

The University side played in ‘C’ Grade in the Macquarie and District Women’s Soccer Association competition. The team was undefeated throughout the competition, scoring 86 goals and conceding only 11. The team won both the Minor and Major Premierships.

## VOLLEYBALL

Keiron Rochester was selected in the Australian U/21 Volleyball team.

## KENDO

The 1992 Australian Universities Kendo Championships were hosted by the University Club and held on campus. Newcastle University won 3 out of the 4 trophies contested. The team won the Kyu Grade and was 2nd in the open teams event. Donald Miller won the open individual event and Stuart Burke won the Kyu Grade individual event.

## RUGBY LEAGUE

The Rugby League Club fielded a team in the Newcastle U20 competition and another in the strong NSW Universities Cup competition. The U20 side reached the semi-finals but was unlucky to be beaten by 2 points in extra time. University players who received awards were Steve Appleby who won the prestigious “Best and Fairest” player of the NSW Cup Competition, James Whiting who was named “Man of the Match” in the grand final of the same competition and Peter Sharpe, selected in the NSW Tertiary Rugby League team to tour Perth.
CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION

Two nursing lecturers have been honoured with certificates of commendation after risking their safety in their unsuccessful attempts to save a 21 year old man after the utility truck he was driving slammed into a semi-trailer in April last year.

Tony O'Brien and Bob Kucera had just arrived at The Country Life Hotel at Karuah when they heard a loud crash from the highway outside. “We were taking a break from the concreting work we had been doing at my house and had just arrived at the hotel when we heard a smash,” Bob said. “We raced outside and saw that a semi-trailer carrying a house had collided with a tree.”

Tony and Bob ran to the aid of the badly injured driver of the utility truck. The force of the impact had almost snapped the car in half, and there were concerns that the petrol that had spilled over the road would catch alight. There was also a risk of other cars slamming into the vehicles already involved in the accident.

“Bob had to get in through the back window to give him mouth to mouth (resuscitation) while I climbed through the other window to do chest massage,” Tony said. “We worked on him for 10 to 20 minutes before a doctor arrived, but unfortunately he had massive internal injuries and didn’t survive.

‘Tony and Bob said the incident highlighted the fact that most people are ill-prepared, in terms of first aid knowledge and equipment, to deal with such accidents. “People around the crash site wanted to help us with first-aid kits from their car which were hopelessly inadequate for such an emergency.

“The accident showed there is a strong case for a standard first aid kit to be included in every car, just like seat belts. At the moment, I’m afraid, most kits are useful for little more than treating splinters in your finger.”

Tony and Bob say that if a few pieces of basic equipment were included in first-aid kits, such as a mask and artificial airway, people would be much better equipped to deal with emergencies. “Such equipment is essential as fear of getting AIDS or hepatitis makes people hesitant about helping others. A face mask can minimise the risk of acquiring AIDS to almost nil,” Tony said.

DEPARTMENTS OF HISTORY, CLASSICS AND PHILOSOPHY

present

RACHEL KOHN

on

“THE MEDIA AND RELIGION”

from ABC Religious Broadcasting Unit

Wednesday, 28 October 1992

1-2pm

ALG29 (McMullin Building)

Canadian born, Dr Rachel Kohn obtained her PhD at McMaster University in 1985 with a dissertation on the Sociology of Religion. This was followed by a post-doctoral Fellowship Lancaster (UK). In 1987 she began to teach at Sydney and continues part-time in the departments of Religious Studies and Semitic Studies. She joined the ABC in July.

CANCER RESEARCH

Call for ‘Expressions of Interest’

The NSW Cancer Council is prepared to consider allocating longer term funding (3-5 years, potentially renewable based on results) at a level comparable to NH&MRC program grants to investigators who have a sufficient record of research achievement in any field of cancer research.

Successful grantees are likely to be individuals or groups who have a solid record of achievement in research as judged by publication record and attraction of peer reviewed grants from such bodies as the NH&MRC or ARC. It will be anticipated that such individuals or groups would also have a significant record in attracting Cancer Council research grants in recent years.

The opportunity exists for individuals or groups to consolidate a number of existing research grants into a program grant or, exceptionally, for a new program to be established. The work is to be carried out in NSW.

Applicants should initially send ‘Expressions of Interest’ to the Council consisting of a two (2) page summary of the proposed program and its importance in furthering our understanding of cancer, together with a summary of the achievements of the individual or group in terms of peer reviewed grants and publications over the last five years.

After consideration by the Council, the most promising applicants will be invited to submit a formal application developing the program in depth and advising of suitable referees. The applications then will be reviewed by appropriate expert teams for final recommendations to the Cancer Council.

The closing date for submission of the ‘Expressions of Interest’ is November 20, 1992.

Funding may be made available to successful chief investigators in 1993. Continuation of funding will be subject to a scientific audit by an expert panel during the third year of the grant.

Please send ‘Expressions of Interest’ to:

Executive Director

NSW Cancer Council

PO Box 572

KINGS CROSS NSW 2011.

NOBEL PRIZE

Continued from p4

Prize to Drs Fisher and Krebs will lead to a recognition of their own research. This, he says, is particularly important now that the Government has ‘cut viciously’ into the National Health and Medical Research Council (NH&MRC) budget for 1993.

The competition for funds will certainly increase. Peter says at least 1 million dollars less will be available for fundamental research. “We would now expect a 20% success rate on grant applications,” he indicated, adding that many researchers will miss out on funding. The group’s experience and expertise in the field will hopefully ensure that their funding needs are met so that research into this very important field can continue.
SPEAKING TO THE LAND
AN EXHIBITION OF ABORIGINAL ARTWORKS

Paintings, sculpture, jewellery, traditional art and artefacts were on show at a spectacular art exhibition held on campus recently.

The works formed an exhibition of the art of Koori artists of New South Wales which was held in the Foyer of the University’s Great Hall, fast becoming a popular art exhibition venue.

The exhibition was officially opened by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Keith Morgan and the opening night was attended by about 100 people.

Curator of the exhibition and well known member of the Aboriginal community, Mr Ray Kelly, said the exhibition was held to complement the Corroboree and that both were important cultural events for the Aboriginal people of the Region. He said he was pleased that the University’s strong commitment to Aboriginal education and cultural matters had been demonstrated in such a tangible way.

Mr Kelly said the artworks covered a broad area from paintings, drawings, lino prints, traditional art and artefacts, sculpture, jewellery and fabric. He said the exhibition included works from young local artists as well as better known artists from around New South Wales.

“Well known artists such as Bronwyn Bancroft from Sydney, Russell Saunders from Taree, Greg Weatherby from the Central Coast and Mini Heath from the Hunter showed their works,” Mr Kelly said.

“It’s very exciting. Aboriginal art and culture are going through a renaissance at the present time. There is a lot of interest in the art that our people are producing,” he said.

Ray Kelly,
Professor Morgan,
Lance Hennessy and
Kate Hutchinson

SURVIVING THE ELEMENTS

Imagine canoeing vast lakes, trekking great distances over sand dunes and through dense rainforests, camping in the wild, undertaking a triathlon and... eating students’ cooking. Would you survive?

Ann McCormack, lecturer in the Department of Curriculum studies did, as did 28 3rd Year Bachelor of Education (Physical and Health Education) students during a recent Outdoor Education Camp. Part of a three semester course in Recreation and Leisure Studies, the three night, four day camp in the Myall National Park provided students with the opportunity of putting the theory and skills they gained in the course into practice.

The University group combined with 140 Year 8 students and nine staff from St Joseph’s High School, Port Macquarie. University students were involved in instructing the high school students in canoeing, tent pitching, camp cooking, windsurfing and adventure survival activities. According to Ann, the students gained valuable pedagogy experience by working closely with Year 8 students in organising and supervising a variety of outdoor and environmental pursuits.

A first for the University, the camp provided many of the students (high school and University) with new experiences. “Some of them had never pitched a tent,” Ann said, adding that, much to her surprise, some had never even lit a fire. Ann explained that the Physical and Health Education students were asked to keep a diary whilst at the camp, so that future students may benefit from their experience. Camp evaluation sheets will also be completed and analysed.

“The camp was physically demanding,” Ann said, adding that students had to plan and coordinate activities as well as supervise the Year 8 students. For some that meant sleepless nights as they were forced to keep the younger students under control. But for all, the camp proved to be a valuable learning and teaching experience.

“The gang”
RESEARCH LINKS WITH SWEDEN

During the mid-semester recess, two lecturers Margareta Carlsson and Elizabeth Feuk-Lagerstedt of the Department of Biomedical Science at the Boras College of Health and Caring Sciences in Sweden, visited the University's Department of Applied Life Sciences. Boras is located some 70 km east of Gothenburg.

Their trip to Australia was facilitated by a study-travel grant from the Council for the Renewal of Undergraduate Education in Sweden. The main objectives of the grant were twofold. Firstly, to visit a number of Australian Universities who educate in Biomedical Science or other health professional courses and who also have a commitment to educational aspects of these courses. Secondly, to make initial contacts for collaborative research and exchange of ideas between Australian academics and those at Boras. The University of Newcastle was their first contact in a sixteen-day visit, during which Margareta and Elizabeth were to visit the University of Adelaide, Charles Sturt University and the University of Technology, Sydney.

Elizabeth explained that she had become aware of educational research which was occurring in service subjects to health professional courses offered by the Department of Applied Life Sciences. "We were interested in getting new knowledge of didactic lecturing, and we thought that the work pertaining to reflective lecturing based upon Schonian Theory, which was being researched in Dr Steve Beveridge’s department by Bruce Cook was unique," Elizabeth said.

The College is currently trying to integrate theory in laboratories across different disciplines, and it was of great interest for the visitors to discuss those techniques, which are also being researched by Bruce Cook. “The innovative approaches he is utilising, including correlation of different learning levels, with assessment techniques, laboratory critical enquiry and problem solving which ensue from these laboratories, would be of great interest to our research group in Sweden”.

Integration of the principles of Problem Based Learning into existing courses was also on the agenda for discussion. The visiting academics did not believe that courses have to revolve totally around problem based learning, however it was a valuable educational strategy for facilitating student learning. Margareta explained “that an advantage can be gained by using a number of educational techniques in the same course, and our discussions with Steve Beveridge about this aspect of our interests has been invaluable as a basis for our on-going work in Boras.”

The Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Associate Professor Jenny Graham was enthusiastic about the links which could be made for collaborative educational/profession research between the Department of Applied Life Sciences at the University of Newcastle and the Department of Biomedical Science in Boras.

Some of the research being performed in the Department has already had effects on many aspects of subjects offered by the Department, and this collaborative venture will no doubt develop these research avenues even further.

Margareta and Elizabeth were also shown the delights of the Hunter Valley vineyards, with a special tasting organised at the Briar Ridge Winery at Mount View being noted as the highlight of the day.

RAISBECKS RECOGNISED BY AWARD

The Board of Environmental Studies of the University of Newcastle is pleased to announce that the 1992 Award for Environmental Achievement will be presented to Janet and Ray Raisbeck at the Board’s annual dinner on Friday November 6.

The award this year is made in recognition of the outstanding contribution made by the Raisbecks over more than twenty years towards the care of injured and orphaned animals brought to Blackbutt Reserve. In addition, the award pays tribute to the fine work of Janet Raisbeck as a Council employee. Janet Raisbeck has taken the message of the environment generally.

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The work of the Raisbecks is widely recognised by the people of Newcastle and beyond. Indeed, Janet and Ray Raisbeck have made a valuable contribution to scientific knowledge concerning the care of injured, orphaned and diseased native fauna, particularly marsupials. Ray Raisbeck is the Council Ranger at Blackbutt Reserve but his contribution extends far beyond his responsibilities as a Council employee. Janet Raisbeck has taken the message of the care of native fauna into the schools and community generally. The entire Raisbeck family has brought a great deal of pleasure and knowledge to the local citizens of Newcastle and to visitors from further a field, including guests from overseas.

Previous recipients of the Board’s Environmental Achievement Award include Professor Max Maddock for his work at The Wetlands Centre, Doug Lithgow, a well-known environmentalist, and Don McNair of the Hunter Region Botanic Gardens. Last year’s joint recipients were Michael Hensley, Richard Henry and Howard Bridgman, for their contribution to knowledge of the relationship between health and the environment.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the Board’s annual dinner. Tickets are available from the Department of Community Programmes. Please telephone 21 6016.

Each year the Mathematics Department has a special morning tea at which money is raised to give to some branch of UNICEF or Save the Children Fund.

Mathematics rather specializes in very tasty morning teas and Thursday, 10 September was no exception. The money raised was to go to the UNICEF special relief fund for Somalia. The final amount forwarded to UNICEF was $267.02 and we sincerely hope that this amount can be used in some way to relieve the desperate plight of the people in Somalia.
ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

Interested in joining one million students from over 10,000 schools around the world create a vehicle driven by a mechanical jack, build a wooden structure to support a maximum weight and devise a dramatic production?

A meeting of interested students will be held on Monday, November 2 at 12.30pm in the Nelson Room, Shortland Union.

Join the challenge, compete in Odyssey of the Mind. You’ll never regret it.

TOURISM VISIT

Well-known scholar and author in the area of tourism planning and management, Professor John Lea, will visit the University to deliver a lecture to Tourism Management students on Wednesday, October 28 at 5pm.

Professor Lea, who is based at the Ian Buchan Fell Research Centre at the University of Sydney, is a respected scholar within the general planning field, and particularly in the area of tourism planning and management, about which he has written several international publications, including Tourism and Development in the Third World (Routlege, 1988).

Dr Lea will deliver a lecture on tourism policy and planning in developing countries to third year Bachelor of Business students specialising in Tourism Management. Senior level undergraduate students, post-graduate students and faculty are also invited to attend.

During his visit to the University, Dr Lea will also meet with faculty in the Department of Management and the Division of Leisure Studies to discuss research initiatives in tourism in Developing countries.

For more information about the lecture, please contact Dr Betty Weiler on 216031.

RESEARCH GROUP IN EARLY MODERN STUDIES

Following the success of the recent 'From Renaissance to Enlightenment' conference, a group of academics from the Faculty of Arts has come together to form a Research Group in Early Modern Studies. They intend to organise occasional seminars and conferences to bring together Newcastle scholars and researchers from other Universities in Australia and overseas who are working in the period (from around 1500 to 1800).

In Europe, these centuries witnessed developments which still resonate around the world today, such as the Protestant Reformation, the Renaissance, and the Enlightenment. At the same time, the culture of the West was being forcibly exported to the new world of the Americas, and the old civilisations of the East. These events, and their ideological and cultural analogues, continue to inspire and excite modern students in the traditional disciplines of history, philosophy, and literature. But individuals often work in ignorance of the insights which colleagues from other disciplines have developed. It is hoped that the foundation of an interdisciplinary group in this area will assist communication among scholars who share common interests, and break down barriers which inhibit their work.

The inaugural meeting of the Research Group will take place on Friday October 30, at 1 pm in the R.G Tannor room (McMullin LG44), Department of Classics. Professor Wilfrid Prest of the University of Adelaide, a distinguished historian of Early Modern Britain, will speak on 'Predicting Civil War Allegiances: the Lawyers' Case Discussed'. (He will also talk later about the Centre for British Studies in Adelaide, which is a similar inter-disciplinary venture.) All are most welcome to attend and register their interest. Further details are available from David Lemmings on 215210 or 215221.

ANU SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships to help prepare women to pursue postgraduate research degrees are being offered by the Australian National University for 1993.

The one-year scholarships, which will be full-time, are for women who wish to resume academic studies after a significant absence and are an initiative of the ANU’s Graduate School to increase the participation of women in research degrees. The Re-entry Scholarships will carry a stipend of $14,260 (the same as for a PhD student) and the University will meet each scholar’s HECS or tuition fee liability. To be advertised in the near future, three of the scholarships will be available for tenure next year.

Dean of ANU’s graduate school, Dr Ray Spear, said the scholarships would enable awardees to upgrade qualifications so that they are eligible to undertake a postgraduate research degree course.

Enquiries should be directed to Dr Spear on (06) 249 5922.

WATT SPACE

Watt Space will host an exhibition of video, photography and prints by third year Visual Arts students Helen Finegan and Janene Hyde. Tombs from Within will be opened by video artist Johannes Klabbers at 7.30pm on October 29 and will run to November 9.

BENEFIT CONCERT TO FEATURE MICHELLE SHOCKED

A benefit concert in support of Students with a Disability will be held in the Griffith Duncan Theatre on Friday 11 December.

Tickets ($26.00 each) are available from the Second Hand Bookshop or Level 4 Functions Office of the Union Building.

Further enquiries can be directed to Sandra Jones, Property Services Branch on 21666.

Sponsored by Rock City
ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

20 Acre bush block - Wellombi Valley, six kms from Laguna (school, shop, high school bus). Power and telephone available. This block has much bird and wildlife and is unobstructed by through traffic. It comprises valley floor rising to large areas of wooded flat land suitable for building and gardening. Sleep, heavily timbered slopes with caves and other delightful features. Rise to the ridge-top with great valley views. Ideal bush retreat or full-time residence. Please telephone (049) 938282.

KAWAI Electronic Organ with many features such as closing top, learn to play and many books. $400ono. Phone ext. 57059.

Panasonic 24 Pin Dot Matrix Printer (P1224A) new $250, Apple 2c Computer and Brother Printer (HRI5) $300. Phone Barb Pollock 216841 or 595227 (ah).

WANTED

Teaching couple seeks 3 bedroom house in Kotara/Adamstown area in late January. Rent negotiable to $250/p.w. Unfurnished, carpet optional. Please leave messages on 21 5592 or 21 5593.

FOR RENT

Fully furnished (linen, crockery, cutlery etc included) three bedroom house to rent for six months from 1.9.93 to 31.7.94. Quiet Charlton/Whitebridge location, 18 Kalinda Pde, backs onto a reserve. $200 per week. For further information/viewing please telephone 294053.

Birmingham Gardens

Good condition, unfurnished home. Close to shops, transport and University. Suited postgraduate students or family. 2 bedrooms, sunroom, large living room, garage, big back yard. $150 per week plus bond. Phone 216800 or 508017 (ah).

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to comment on some of the issues raised in Simon’s letter which appeared in Bulletin (issue 17, October 12).

Firstly, a very small group of enthusiastic, committed and concerned members of the University have organised the Campus Environment Week. The Committee included a wide range of general and academic staff and students who gave up their valuable time for the last few months to assist me in organising the Environment Week. In fact, many of the committee have assisted in the early mornings, lunch times and in the evenings, which I believe is a measure of their concern about their campus environment.

It would seem a shame that the indiscriminate posting of notices around the University Campus would spoil the aims of Campus Environment Week, which is to raise awareness of many environmental issues that face the campus. These issues include littering, bushland rehabilitation, wetlands rehabilitation, traffic, parking and recycling. I would hope that many members of the University would share these concerns about their campus environment.

The posters mentioned in Simon’s letter were distributed around the campus by volunteers who had only the best intentions. All of the persons responsible will be spoken with about the placement of notices and I will impress on them the importance of being ‘responsible corporate citizens’.

However, I believe that in most ways, by giving their valuable time to help and assist the Campus Environment Week, they have been indeed caring for their University environment. They may, perhaps, be excused for their enthusiasm in their support of the Environment Week and the aim of raising awareness of campus issues. I would also like to make mention of Simon’s comment re ‘the use of so much paper’. As he may, or may not be aware, the problem of alerting staff and students to the many varied activities held on the campus is considerable. As the principle organiser of Campus Environment Week, a conscious decision was made not to mass produce leaflets to hand out, not to have excessive mailings to staff members, and not to create a waste of valuable resources. In general, I would suggest that in the case of posters and advertising, the Campus Environment Week has been both judicious and considerate.

I thank Simon sincerely for bringing this matter to my attention and will make every effort to prevent this unfortunate practice happening again. I would also hope that by taking interest in the Environment Week in 1992, Simon may consider being available to assist in its organisation in 1993.

Kent Gillman
Convenor - Campus Environment Week

JAPAN FOUNDATION GRANT PROGRAMS

Applications are now being invited by the Japan Foundation for the following fourteen programs for the 1993/94 financial year:

1. Fellowship Program
2. Salary Assistance Program for Full-Time Japanese Language Teachers
3. Training Programs for Teachers of the Japanese Language
4. Japanese Language Study Program for Librarians
5. Assistance Program for the Development of Japanese Language Teaching Resources
6. Teaching Resources and Methodology Fellowship Program
7. Japanese Language Teaching Materials Donation Program
8. Institutional Support Program for Japanese Studies
9. Study-in-Japan Grant Program
10. Library Support Program
11. Exhibitions Abroad Support Program
12. Film Production Support Program
13. Publication Assistance Program
14. Translation Assistance Program

Further information and application forms are available from the Office for Research, Level 2, Chancellery, telephone 21 5305. The closing date for applications to the Office for Research is 23 November 1992.

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OFFICE FOR RESEARCH

Further information and relevant application forms are available from the Office for Research - telephone 215305.
A more comprehensive list is also circulated to all Heads of Departments on a fortnightly basis.

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<td>Research pre-proposals.</td>
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<td>Rebecca L Cooper Medical Research Foundation</td>
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<td>Grants for research in the fields of Arthritis, Diabetes, Schizophrenia, Lung Diseases (excluding Cancer) and the medical applications of Genetic Research.</td>
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<td>Wool Research &amp; Development Corporation</td>
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<td>Research grants for projects addressing wool value enhancement, fibre and product specification, cost reduction, or environmental sustainability.</td>
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<td>Japan Foundation Grant Programs</td>
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<td>Scientific Exchanges with China - 1993/94</td>
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<td>Australian Academy of Science. To support collaborative research between Australian and Chinese scientists.</td>
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FELLOWSHIPS, CONFERENCES & PRIZES

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<td>For graduate or postgraduate study or research in the USA for women who are not citizens or permanent residents of the USA</td>
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NO SET CLOSING DATE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tr>
<td>Local Government Association of South Australia.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small research project of $2,000 or less in any field, of general benefit to Local Government in S.A.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alexander Von Humboldt-Stiftung Sponsorship Programme: Humboldt Research Fellowships For Foreign Scholars.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Awarded to highly qualified scholars of all academic disciplines, up to 40 years of age, for post-doctoral research project of their own choice in the Federal Republic of Germany; Max Planck Research Awards for Foreign and German Scholars; Research Fellowships for German Scholars.</td>
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<td>The British Council Travel Grant Scheme</td>
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<tr>
<td>Under this scheme British specialists are assisted to visit Australia. Approx 100 travel grants are awarded each year.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The British Council Academic Links &amp; Interchange Scheme (ALIS)</td>
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<td>Provides international airfares for the staff of universities and other degree awarding bodies in Australia and Britain to visit each other.</td>
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<td>The British Council Visitors Scheme</td>
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<td>Intended to assist Australian professionals on visits to the UK,</td>
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<td>The Institution of Engineers Australia-International Conference Support Scheme</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support for selected international scientific, technological or engineering conferences.</td>
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<td>National Campaign Against Drug Abuse.</td>
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<tr>
<td>DITAC Access to Major Research Facilities Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>To facilitate travel to major research facilities overseas. Apply at least 7 weeks before intended date of travel.</td>
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<td>NSW Education &amp; Training Foundation</td>
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<td>BHP Community Trust</td>
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<tr>
<td>RADGAC - Department of Health, Housing &amp; Community Services</td>
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<td>Medical research and targeted research areas.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Management Committee Travel Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Management Committee Research Visitor Grants</td>
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<td>Welcome-Ramaciotti Research Travel Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Available to postdoctoral bio-medical researchers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>DITAC National Teaching Company Scheme - Links between companies and research institutions. Provided support over two years for high-calibre graduates working on projects designed to improve company performance. Submissions considered quarterly</td>
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PHOTOGRAPIHC MEMORY

"The merest particle, an impression of light on silver; a photograph, perhaps a platform for mnemonic recall. Photography stretches back in time one hundred and fifty years, at least six generations. In that time cameras have changed dramatically, but even with today's technology, some photographs are still described as soft. Yet even the softest images sharpen memory." Allan Chawner

Allan Chawner, lecturer in photography in the Faculty of Fine Arts, has taught photography since 1978. His exhibition, Photographic Memory, is about photography and the family and was completed for his Masters degree in Visual Arts at Sydney University.

The exhibition paints a picture of a family, it chronicles the life of a family unit as they struggle through the Great Depression, World War II and into the post-war Australian boom years. In Allan's words, "These photographs are a journey, through my family, and through time. I examine the nature of photography and its influence on family relationships. It is a journey that includes death but does not end in death as the essence of "family" continues, self perpetuating and renewing. My journey is essentially inward, searching for my place within the family. It is a melding of the past with the present, denying time, and allowing conversations across time."

"As we look into our old photographs, our senses respond and awaken to the events, the light of a day, the feel of the wind or the scent of a baby's hair," Allan says. As a photographic artist, he has linked the past with the present in combining black and white with colour on a large scale.

Photographic Memory will be exhibited in the Lovett Exhibition Gallery, Level 2, Newcastle Region Public Gallery until October 30.

RULES

The following Rule has been approved by the Legislation Committee acting under delegation from Council:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rules</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date approved</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Schedules to the Rules Governing Academic Awards:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Laws and Diploma of Legal Practice</td>
<td>New Schedule</td>
<td>25/9/92</td>
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A copy of any Rule may be obtained from the Office of the University Secretary, Level 2, The Chancellery.

THE BULLETIN

Published on a fortnightly basis, the Bulletin disseminates campus news to staff and students of the University, to graduates, community leaders and members of the media. Copies are also circulated to students of the University Conservatorium of Music and the Central Coast Campus. The Bulletin is produced and edited by Sonja Duncan, with layout and design by Gill Hughes. Letters to the Editor (no longer than 300 words and signed); reports on outstanding and unusual research; news- and human-interest stories and advertisements are welcome.

Please contact either Sonja Duncan or Rosemary Roohan at the University's Information and Public Relations Unit on 21 6440 or 21 6463.

The Bulletin is printed on Environmentally Friendly paper.