University accepts Knights and others

Our photograph shows Ashley Gordon and other Newcastle Knights players preparing for next season at the University's new sportsfield (No.3).

The high-profile rugby league team is the latest group from the local community to avail itself of the University's peak training facilities.

Others who use the facilities include the Newcastle District Cricket Association, State and Independent schools, Aboriginal school students and the Hunter Academy of Sport, which conducts coaching clinics, carnivals and sports camps at Shortland for talented school sportsmen and sportswomen from Newcastle and surrounding regions.

A coaching clinic for outstanding high school and Under 19 cricketers and a softball development camp for boys and girls aged 11 to 15 were held last September.

A track and field athletics camp for high school students will be held at the University on November 21.

Next January, development camps for young netballers and hockey players will be conducted on the campus.

Leading coaches attend the clinics and provide top-quality tuition. The cricket coaches include Rick McCosker and Robert Holland, while among the rugby instructors are Nick Farr-Jones and Topo Rodriguez.

The Executive Officer of the Academy, Mr Ken Clifford, said the Academy made use of the University's sport and recreation services quite regularly. He said the services were first-class and he was most grateful that the University was willing to share them with sporting organisations and schools.

"School students from the Hunter who see the facilities realise that their objective should be to have a healthy body as well as a healthy mind", he said.

Mr Clifford said he was pleased to have a good relationship with the representatives of the Sports Union and the University sporting clubs who assisted with the sporting clinics.

The Coach of the Newcastle Knights, Mr Allan McMahon said No.3 sportsfield was an ideal training venue for his club. The ground was close to the club's headquarters at the International Sports Centre and large enough to accommodate the 60 players involved in workouts three nights a week.

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Dear Sir,

The students are under a considerable amount of pressure, at this time of the year, to complete assignments and pass examinations. At the beginning of the year, we found that this pressure had, somehow, transferred itself to their grandfathers; a considerable number of whom died during the week before examination week.

Not wishing to be a Doubting Thomas and realising that this may have been a statistical freak, I resolved to note whether this occurred in 1990. During this week, we already have two rumoured and one reported similar incidents.

Before stating hypotheses, we would like to interview any other Head of Department with similar experience of this phenomenon. Beyond all else, why are their grandmothers so insensitive to their problems?

Dr R.A. Coldwell,
Head, Industrial Technology

Dear Sir,

May I add some information in an attempt to complete the picture over the issue of a swimming pool for students living on campus. In the first instance, nowhere does Ms Marie Williams’ letter (BULLETIN No.17) indicate that the pool is being provided for residents of International House.

As is natural in these situations, the donor had some specific objectives in providing funds, in particular to provide something which could readily be identified as its gift and which could not readily be provided from regular sources of income available to International House. To make a reality of the donor’s purpose, the House has had to contribute additional funds.

The sum itself is quite insignificant against what would be needed for a first class all weather Olympic pool. Such a pool certainly should be built in Newcastle and, I believe, is long overdue. However, the Sports Union presumably has a view on where such a development fits into University priorities.

What the funds do provide, however, is potential for some comfort, relaxation and a social focus for the quite substantial numbers of students who will be living in International House throughout the summer months. These include overseas students who cannot afford to return to their homelands over the long vacation. Anyone who has had the dubious pleasure of living on campus during a hot long vacation on first taking up a position at the University, for example, should feel some stirrings of sympathy.

International House considers the development a valuable addition to its amenity, just as would any motel, and greatly appreciates the gesture by Leighton Contractors.

Mr J. Birch,
Business Manager,
International House

Cognitive scientist gives address

Dr Richard Heath

Dr Richard Heath, Senior Lecturer in Psychology, recently presented an invited address at the University of California and the University of Queensland on mathematical psychology and cognitive science.

During his visit to the University of California at Irvine, Dr Heath was impressed by a modern campus which, like this University, celebrated its 25th anniversary this year.

The University also has important research centres in neurobiology and cognitive science. He said that its medical school had less than 100 graduates annually - rather like the Medical School at this University. "Novocastrians feel at home at Irvine, with a large number of exotic eucalypts, and the ring road surrounding the campus", he said.

Dr Heath travelled to Irvine with assistance from the Office for Research and a special travel grant from the Psychology Department.

He presented a talk at the Symposium on Stochastic Choice Models and Reaction Time held in the Institute of Mathematical Behavioural Science.

His talk, entitled A Nonstationary Diffusion Model for Two-Choice Response Times: Applications in Psychophysics and Cognition, presents a new mathematical model for human decision-making when the information available to the decision-maker varies over time.

The workshop was attended by leading researchers in quantitative psychology and economics from North America and Europe.

Dr Heath was the only speaker from the Southern Hemisphere.

He was one of three Australians who spoke at the inaugural Connectionist Approach to Memory, Reasoning and Language Conference, sponsored by the Australian Research Council’s national priority committee on Cognitive Science at the University of Queensland.

There was considerable interest in the symposium from a multidisciplinary audience of psychologists, computer scientists, linguists and electrical engineers.

Dr Heath’s talk, entitled Mathematical Models for Human Associative Memory: A Survey of Recent Developments, summarised contemporary mathematical models for the storage and retrieval of information in memory system which emulates the information processing characteristics of the brain.

Dr Heath will use the knowledge gained from the workshops and his recent Outside Studies Program to assist in the expansion of the Cognitive Science program in this University.

Enquiries concerning the course should be directed to Dr Heath at 68 564 or 68 5287.
Vis escapes from Kuwait

Dr M. (Vis) Viswanathan

For Dr M. (Vis) Viswanathan, the difficult thing emanating from his escape from Kuwait is his concern for his friends held hostage in the country.

He has not formally met some of these friends. After the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, he was not allowed to leave his ninth floor apartment and all he could do was ring up his fellow hostages.

Dr Viswanathan, a civil engineering graduate of this University, worked at the Research Institute in Kuwait City for four months before Kuwait was taken over by Saddam Hussein's army.

Opening his seminar in the Engineering Science Building on October 26, Dr Viswanathan said the two million population of Kuwait had previously been formed from about 500,000 Kuwaitis and about 1,500,000 migrant workers - mainly Egyptians, Palestinians and Asians.

About 100,000 of the Kuwaitis were extremely rich on account of the country's rich oil deposits. They owned houses, cars and expensive properties and had many servants. Other people living in Kuwait had comparatively few rights and did most of the menial work.

In the first days of August - the hottest month in the Persian Gulf - Hussein's army invaded Kuwait City. He and members of his family saw tanks and troops in the city and witnessed some of the street fighting.

"When I rang a friend on the first floor of our block and he didn't answer, I went to his apartment and was surprised to be confronted by an Iraqi soldier who wanted food. He was fed and he didn't harm us.

"There was a great deal of looting and, as discouragement, the bodies of looters were hung in the streets".

Vis said Hussein's reaction to the Prime Minister's (Mr Hawke's) announcement that Australia would send frigates to the Persian Gulf was a ban on the departure of Australians from Kuwait. Soldiers confiscated ID cards and were authorised to round-up practically every foreign national.

"We went to the shops and bought sufficient food for about six months", he said.

The migrant workers sent all their money home and, in a state of panic, were forced to leave Kuwait and try to make it back to their own countries. They were directed to a camp in the Jordan desert. Because of the heat and the lack of water and food, thousands died.

Dr Viswanathan said the Iraqi soldiers themselves were kind and helpful to his family and friends. However, they walked the streets of Kuwait City with their fingers on the triggers of their guns. If anybody was suspected, they were shot.

"I saw a man shot because the soldiers thought that he had stolen a car".

After about a month, Suddam Hussein decided that the women and children who had been detained in Kuwait could leave. Dr Viswanathan's wife and daughter departed a week later.

"To stay by yourself for four to five weeks is a very strange experience. I could read and talk to people on the telephone, but I couldn't leave the apartment block".

Dr Viswanathan, who is of Indian descent, was fortunate to be able to join a group of Indians who were permitted to travel in a bus across the border to the refugee camp, and then on to Amman, the capital of Jordan.

From the Australian Embassy in Amman he telephoned his wife and daughter in Australia.

"I left many friends behind, some of whom are known to me only as voices on the telephone. They are still in Kuwait and I am worried about the next phase of the Gulf crisis and how they will be treated", he said.

(Because of having to leave his job, Dr Viswanathan is presently searching for a research position.)

First CRA Award for Excellence

Professor Graeme Jameson with his invention

Professor Graeme Jameson is the first holder of the CRA Award of Excellence in Chemical Engineering.

Professor Jameson, who has been the University's Professor of Chemical Engineering since 1978, received the award from CRA in Melbourne on November 2.

The award recognises Professor Jameson's outstanding achievements in applied chemical engineering and, specifically, his invention for removing tiny particles of coal and other minerals from the host rock.

The invention, called the Jameson Cell, grew out of a 20-year research program into the behaviour of bubbles and fine particles suspended in liquids.

Through the accumulation of a great deal of detailed information, Professor Jameson was able to develop the extremely simple device, which is cheap to build and operate.

The award to Professor Jameson is one of three new awards of excellence in chemical engineering established with the support of industry by the Institution of Chemical Engineers, the College of Chemical Engineers and the Royal Australian Chemical Institute.

The Jameson Cell has achieved fame as an extremely efficient coal washing device.
Meeting on the Rights of Children

A public meeting on November 5 that discussed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child - often in a lively and heated fashion - was organised by the University in conjunction with church, welfare and community groups.

Approximately 200 people attended the meeting in the David Maddison Clinical Sciences Building, chaired by Professor Brian English, Professor of Social Work.

Professor English said the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly by consensus in 1989. The Convention was now open for signature and ratification by individual countries and had already been signed by 80 countries.

He said that the Federal Government was presently consulting with State and Territory Governments before making a decision about signature. It was hoped that Australia would become a signatory in the next six months.

He said the major barrier to Australia signing, and then ratifying, the Convention was an organised campaign of opposition being conducted by a small number of organisations and individuals.

At the public meeting, the objections raised to the Convention included that parents would lose control of their children, that school children would be able to tell teachers to 'nick off', that school boys would read Playboy under their desks and that the Government would eventually gain control of children.

Opposing these views, speakers said that those not in favour of the Convention had used a perverse approach when circulating petitions in the Hunter and had distributed a circular which only picked out bits and pieces of the Convention.

One speaker said the Convention would not override Australian laws, but would put a moral obligation on signatory countries to protect children from abuse and exploitation and provide them with basic needs such as health, shelter and education.

The public meeting was addressed by Professor Richard Chisholm, of the Faculty of Law at the University of New South Wales, Ms Evelyn Barker, Chairperson of Minda Ribba Lands Council, Mr Chris Sodoti, of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission and Ms Rosemary Sinclair, National President of NAPCAN.

Later the speakers were joined by a panel comprising Bishop Richard Appleby, the Anglican Auxiliary Bishop of Newcastle, Mrs Marion Armstrong, a social worker and Professor Frank Bates, Professor of Law at this University.

The Hunter Orchestra 'Pulls the Strings'

Some old favourites for small string orchestras will feature in the Hunter Orchestra's third and final season of 1990.

The main concert, under Musical Director Mr Roland Peelman on November 21 at Christchurch Cathedral, will include 'Spring' from Vivaldi's Four Seasons (soloist: Fong Fong Wong) and J.S. Bach's B minor Suite for Flute and strings (soloist: Paul Curtis).

In the second half of the concert, the orchestra will join for the first time with both the University Choir and the Waratah Girls' Choir for Britten's St Nicolas Cantata. Tenor, David Hamilton, who last performed in Newcastle in the St Matthew Passion with the University Choir in 1989, will be the soloist.

The orchestra will also perform at Rothbury Estate on November 24. This program will include popular pieces by Bach, Vivaldi, Mozart and Strauss performed at a Dinner concert in the Cask Hall.

And, for something completely different, the orchestra will host a "soiree of music and champagne" at the Civic Playhouse on November 29 at 7.30 pm, featuring a performance of the story of "the Maitland and Morpeth String Quartet", by Mr Nick Enright and Mr Vincent Plush.

Mr Enright will narrate his story, and Mr Peelman will play piano.

Tickets for the main concert (8pm November 21, Christchurch Cathedral) are available from the Civic Theatre or the Hunter Orchestra at $21 ($16 concession; $12 for students).

Bookings for the Rothbury dinner concert must be made through the Rothbury Estate (telephone 98 7555).

Inquiries concerning the Nick Enright soiree should be made to the orchestra (telephone 29 4305).

Audit of new legislation

The Department of Applied Sciences is offering a seminar on new environment legislation titled The Environmental Audit: How to Stay Out of Trouble for Breach of Environmental Laws.

The seminar, to be held in the Medical lecture Theatre on November 23 from 8.30 am to 4.30 pm, will among other things, outline the new environment laws in New South Wales and the heavy penalties and goal sentences for organisations and their executives who breach them.

It follows on from an earlier successful seminar organised by the Board of Environmental Studies dealing with the Environmental Offences and Penalties Act.

For further information, please get in touch with Mr Phillip Geary at Extension 729.

Professor Hooker wins award

Professor Cliff Hooker has won an important award from the University of Western Ontario in Canada. The award is the inaugural Distinguished Research Award in Arts.

Professor Hooker, this University's Professor of Philosophy since 1980, is presently on leave at the University of Western Ontario.
First architectural prize winner

Third year Architecture student, Mr David Boyle, is the first winner of the $5,000 Suters Architects Snell Prize.

Mr Boyle was selected to hold the prize from third year (BSc(Arch)) degree students who were asked to design a performing arts centre on a site on the eastern edge of Civic Park.

Mr Brian Suters, of Suters Architects Snell, announced the prize and congratulated Mr Boyle at the opening of an exhibition of models and drawings of design projects undertaken by final year (BArch) students.

The Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Carter, said the new award was very generous and very important to the University as a whole. Professor Carter thanked Suters Architects Snell.

The BArch students, who are in transition from the University to the architectural profession, were asked to develop 'real projects' for 'real clients'. They contacted people in the community, conferred with them, undertook feasibility studies and developed detailed briefs and designs.

Of particular interest were the projects connected with the Newcastle region: a boutique brewery on the foreshore, a sport science and medicine centre, urban re-development in Market Street, a resort development at Cramarty's Bay, a new Lake Macquarie Yacht Club, a fisherman's wharf development on the foreshore, a private hospital and medical centre at Maitland, a day hospital centre at Rankin Park and a new Newcastle Workers' Club and Trades Hall.

Professor Barry Maitland, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, said that without the interaction with the 'clients' the design projects would not have the high degree of validity which impressed visitors to the exhibition.

On behalf of the students and staff, Professor Maitland thanked the people who had assisted the Faculty, including the planners and other officers of councils and statutory authorities.

Mr Suters, announcing the establishment of the prize, referred to his firm's strong interest in the Newcastle Architecture School. "We believe that some of the best graduates come out of Newcastle and we are keen to get national recognition for the School. We also believe strongly that the architect's role should be a creative one. Newcastle has many young people who have much to offer in the creative fields of music, art, writing and architecture. There is an inspirational well of young people here that must be utilised," Mr Suters said.

Professor Carter noted with pleasure that Emeritus Professor Eric Parker, a former Professor of Architecture, and former Assoc. Professor of Architecture, Mr Ross Deamer, were present at the exhibition.

Professor Carter said that the Faculty of Architecture, with its new problem-solving approach to education, was attracting unquestioned support from the architectural profession.

The exhibition was important, he said, because it indicated to the community that the potential of the new University was very good, indeed. He indicated that the people of Newcastle and the Hunter should be aware of the considerable resource which the University now had when Architecture and the Visual Arts were put together.

The Acting Vice-Chancellor congratulated all the architecture students and the staff, and the first winner of the Suters Architects Snell Prize.

Concert to celebrate Christmas

Every effort has been made to see that Christmas at the Con 1990 eclipses last year's Christmas concert.

Christmas at the Con will comprise special concerts in the University Conservatorium on December 2 at 3pm and 7pm.

The bright spots in the program will include a Christmas tree, visits by Santa Claus, Christmas carol singalongs, Christmas raffles and drinks in the foyer.

Father Greg Holmes will be compere and the performers will include the Conservatorium Choir, Mr Errol Collins (violin), Mr Michael Dudman (organ), Ms Carmel Lutton (piano), Mr Paul Curtis (flute) and Ms Kay Capewell, Ms Jennifer Barnes and Ms Rosemary Sanders (vocals).

Tickets are on sale at the Conservatorium (telephone 29 4133). They cost $3 and $2 (concession) for the 3 pm concert and $5 and $3 (concession) for the 7 pm concert.
Japan-bound with outside support

Two students are bound for Japan as a result of having received prestigious awards.

Miss Penny Pryor, a Japanese II student (at right in our photograph), has received a Japanese Government Monbusho Scholarship for five years beginning next year. The Scholarship is one of the most competitive and prestigious ones in Japan. She studied economics and Japanese for one-and-a-half years at this University, but is now keen to study the subjects at a university in Japan.

Next year, Miss Pryor will study Japanese in an intensive on-year language course at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. Then she will be enrolled in a university as an undergraduate student. Although not studying mathematics at this University, Miss Pryor showed an outstanding command of mathematics at a high school. Her skill in mathematics would help her to study economics at a Japanese university.

Mrs Jennifer Smith, a Japanese III student (at left), has been awarded a $5,000 grant by the Australia-Japan Foundation. The grant will permit Mrs Smith to spend 10 weeks at the Asahi Cultural Centre in Shinjuku in Tokyo studying a course to improve her spoken and written skills in Japanese.

She will leave on December 26 and expects to return to the University on March 2 and enrol in a Diploma in Education.

Strong interest shown in new courses

The Foundation Professor of Social Work, Professor Brian English, said applications to be admitted to the new Bachelor of Social Work degree had far exceeded the initial quota of 30 students.

Similarly, demand for admission to the new Bachelor of Music degree has been very strong.

The Dean of the Faculty of Music, Mr Michael Dudman, said that because of the large number of enquiries about the music course the first intake of 20 students would almost certainly be achieved.

Professor English said that 10 students eligible for advanced standing would be admitted to the second year course of the Bachelor of Social Work degree.

A four-year degree, the Bachelor of Social Work will prepare graduates for membership of the Australian Association of Social Workers and will be recognised overseas.

Professor English said the students would do a number of units from related disciplines, including psychology, sociology, law, history and philosophy, but they would do most of their study in the Department of Social Work, where they would pursue an integrated approach to learning.

Professor English said the degree was aimed at addressing the shortage of qualified social workers in Australia, in particular in the Hunter and remote areas.

Mr Dudman said the BMus degree was seen as an important development in the education of musicians and scholars of music for both the Hunter Region and the nation.

"It offers an opportunity simply not available to musicians from the Hunter before", he said.

Looking from another perspective, the degree was a proper and very appropriate activity for the new Faculty of Music, which had grown out of a Conservatorium which had a very poor record.

"We are a fledgling faculty and it is necessary that our degree programs be enhanced in this way", he said.

The undergraduate degree would provide students with advanced studies in the theory and practice of music, Mr Dudman said, with opportunities for specialisation in the related areas of performance, composition and teaching within the music profession.

The University will also launch next year several other new courses, including a Bachelor of Building, a Bachelor of Applied Science (Consumer Science), a Bachelor of Social Science (Justice Studies), a Master of Theatre Arts and a Graduate Diploma in Marketing.
'Booking in' for retirement

Her early years were spent in Gulgong and after 20 years working in Sydney, Ms Blatchford transferred to Newcastle in 1971. At the time she intended to stay only the required two years. But the happy and friendly atmosphere of the Teachers' College and its staff, and the opportunity and excitement of building the staffing and collections of the new library at Waratah West, dictated otherwise.

Joan is a strong believer in the benefits of education and a knowledge of our surroundings and history. She sees education as essential to a rational community and supports referred access to university libraries where other library reference resources have proved inadequate to an enquiring mind.

Complementary to these views, she does not see all education as necessarily formal. "Self-education and learning in community groups have their own particular joys," Ms Blatchford says.

"I applaud the work of evening colleges and WEA from which I have gained a lot of benefit and enjoyment," she added.

Not a supporter of 'user pays' for public funded libraries, Joan believes in general that public funded institutions are a public asset and have an obligation to contribute to the common community good whenever the opportunity occurs. She believes that these institutions have strong, inherent obligations of service.

As mentioned before, her commitment to library services has been well backed up by her philosophy of making the library users 'VIP's'. This attitude has served to enhance the already excellent reputation of the library and certainly has helped innumerable students over the years.

In retirement Miss Blatchford is planning, among other things, to spend more time on her interests of nature and conservation, music, and computers and the way they are changing our world and lifestyle. Soon she will visit some of the places in Australia she has longed to see and to return to others that she has already visited. She intends to continue choir singing and in the evenings at least, to be able to extend her appreciation of classical music.

But most of all, she is looking forward to having more time with her relatives and the many friends she has made over the years.

Sister Cities in Concert

Newcastle and Ube will be linked musically at the University Conservatorium on November 17.

Sponsored by the Australia-Japan Society as part of the cultural link between Newcastle and its sister city, two performers will entertain on traditional Japanese instruments.

Riley Kelly Lee will play shakuhachi (an end-blown flute with five finger-holes) and Satsuki Odamura will play the koto (a 13-stringed plucked zither). They will perform traditional and modern pieces, solo and as a duo.

A highlight is expected to be the presentation of Serenade, a sonata composed by Jackson Hill for shakuhachi, koto, violin and cello. The piece has been performed only once before.

The pianist Carmel Lutton will also play.

The concert begins at 7.30pm. Tickets cost $5 and $3 (concession).

Correction

In the last BULLETIN, it was reported that Dr J. Schiller (Educational Studies) had received a grant from the University in connection with a research project titled Perceptions of Issues Involved in Teaching Units/Modules/Courses in an Off-campus Mode. The entry should have been: Dr J. Schiller (External Studies Centre), The Effects of Non-print Resources on Student Teacher Learning in a Technical Drawing Module: A Pilot Study, $3,500.

The information supplied to the BULLETIN was incorrect.
Professor Plimer off to Melbourne Uni

Professor Ian Plimer leaves the University in January to take up a Headship of a School at the University of Melbourne.

Professor Plimer, the University's second Professor of Geology, has gained a high media profile with his appearances in the press and on radio and television and his involvement in such issues as anti-science, government science policy, the Newcastle earthquake, sustainable development and research breakthroughs.

As Head of the School of Earth Sciences at the University of Melbourne he will administer a geological and meteorological department, which he says, is the best equipped of its kind in Australia and which has attracted a large number of postgraduate students.

He recounted how Melbourne, Monash and La Trobe Universities had adopted a new approach by establishing the Victorian Institute of Earth and Planetary Sciences to upgrade the level of collaborative teaching and research.

The venture had, Professor Plimer said, attracted 'a tremendous amount' of funding from industry and government and made the earth sciences in Melbourne a force to be reckoned with. Universities in other countries would, in his opinion, have to follow suit.

The University of Melbourne had made a financial commitment to growth areas, such as the earth sciences, and this was a big reason why it was attracting many fine researchers, he said.

Further, it had approved salary packages and benefits which were very tempting.

Professor Plimer, aged 44, took up the Chair of Geology in 1985. He had previously been Chief Geologist of the North Broken Hill Limited.

He said that since taking up his Chair there had been changes in course structures in geology, considerable growth in student numbers and increases in research output and research grants.

During this time Professor Plimer was appointed to a number of research and consultative bodies, such as the Australian Research Council (ARC), the CSIRO Consultative Committee, the HSC Examinations Committee, the Australian Academy of Sciences 'Solid Earth Committee and the Swedish Government's Research and Development Board.

Some of his other appointments, taken at random, are membership of the International Geological Correlation Program Committee, the boards of two museums and the Council of the International Society for Geology Applied to Ore Deposits, the Presidency of the Society Applied to Ore Deposits, the editorship of two international scientific journals and a keynote speaker at international conferences.

His research into ore deposits has been supported by the Australian Minerals Industry Research Association, the ARC, the German Government and this University and resulted in the publication of 23 scholarly papers during his time in Newcastle.

In an interview with the BULLETIN Professor Plimer admitted to having very mixed feelings about leaving this University. The Department of Geology, he said, had wonderful students and staff, very good and affable relationships and a number of benefits as a result of being small and dynamic.

'I am moving principally as a result of amalgamation, which has resulted in the lowest common denominator, dilution of funds for productive ventures and the erosion of standards.

'This place is sitting on one of the world's biggest coalfields and the University has an enviable reputation for its research in coal technology and coal combustion. Despite this the University does not have a Department of Mining Engineering. This kind of research department is in very short supply in this country.'

"Ultimately, the University must make a decision about supporting its very best departments and research groups, and face the risk of a dilution of standards.

"I do not believe that we live in an egalitarian society. We ought to pursue excellence. Perhaps, those who want egalitarianism should not be at the University.

"Unfortunately the government too, doesn't recognise the fact that our best researchers are our best teachers and that people who have spent their lives teaching are naturally at a disadvantage when expected to become researchers.

"Until recently, I believed that small universities worked better than larger universities and that the best research groups were found in smaller universities. However, while governments, and some of the universities do not promote top quality research, I regret that I must have a different opinion," Professor Plimer said.

Christmas is coming!

Newcastle University Choir will present its annual Christmas Carols Concert in the Great Hall on Sunday, December 16, at 2.30 pm.
Father Peter Brock will be the Conductor, Mr Keith Murrell Allen will be the organist.
This is for everybody! The Choir will sing some special carols, the audience will sing lots of favourites, the children will perform just as magically as they did last year, and, as a special bonus, the Waratah Choral Ensemble, a very musical group of 14 young singers, conducted by Mr Marcus Neale will join in.
Prices are only $5, $3 (concession), $2 (schoolchildren) and ' littlies' are free.
A wonderful afternoon is assured.
Enquiries: 523009 or Mrs Phyllis Robson, 632237.
About 50 members of staff of the University, at a meeting on October 25, elected an Action Group to prepare a case for the establishment of a child care centre to be used specifically by members of staff.

Speakers said there was a great need for a child care centre which gave preference to staff. Kintaiba and Wonnanyba Child Care Centres are community-based and not able to give preference to staff.

The need was recently recognised in a questionnaire sent out to staff, the responses indicating that staff were interested in both full-time and part-time care for children under five and school holiday care being provided for their children. (By the time of the meeting, more than 140 responses to the questionnaire had been received.)

Statistics given to the meeting showed that in northern areas of Sydney there are three children to every child care place available, while in Newcastle the figure is more like 15 children to every place.

The meeting was told that both the Hunter Area Health Service and the Hunter Water Board have introduced child care centres specifically built for their employees.

Speakers suggested that a work-based child care centre would return a great deal to the University through the attraction of staff and postgraduates and a reduction in staff turnover.

Also, it would help reduce absenteeism, particularly during school holidays.

It was reported that both the University's Staff Association and the Departmental Committee of the PSA had given the plan their full support.

It was stated that the possibility of establishing a work-based child care centre had been discussed at the Academic Senate and the Dean of Students, Professor Ken Dutton, had been asked to report on child care in the University at the meeting of the Council on December 14.

It was announced that the questionnaire had shown that more than 70 staff wanted full-time care for their children under five and 70 staff were interested in care in school holidays for children over five.

Speakers suggested that even if a work-based child care centre were established, it would only go part-way towards meeting these demands.

The waiting list for places at Kintaiba and Wonnanyba had grown to 200 names in the under three category and 120 in the under two category, which meant that some parents had to wait more than two years to find places for their children.

It seemed that people registered their children's names at several child care centres, with the object of shortening the wait, and this tended to increase the lists.

Staff at the meeting nominated Ms Marjorie Kibby, Ms Kate France, Simon, Ms Julie Swain, Mr John Ferguson and Ms Kim Jenkins to the Action Group and asked the group to produce the submission.

**Elite athletes from high schools**

The Hunter Academy of Sport will conduct a one-day Track and Field Athletics Camp at the University's No.2 Oval on November 21, commencing at 9 am and concluding at 4 pm.

Approximately 100 well performed high school age athletes (boys and girls) have been selected to attend the camp, after nominations were sought from all high schools (departmental and private) in the region.

Mr Max Debnam, Hunter Region Director of Coaching and Hunter Academy of Sport Coaching Co-ordinator in Track and Field, will head a panel of top Australian and New South Wales Coaches who will assist at this camp, at which coaching, demonstrations and testing will be features.

The Academy will use the camp as one of the selection trials for its 1991 Track and Field Elite Development Squad, which will be announced in late January, 1991.
The University has been awarded research grants of $2,193,000 by the Australian Research Council (ARC). The Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Michael Carter, welcomed the ARC announcement of the grants. "The University is pleased with this outcome" said Professor Carter. "The research activities of the University are seen as a reflection of the quality of its teaching and scholarly activities." he said "The ARC outcome is an important source of research funding, with a significant role in the private sector in NSW and Australia as well in supporting research and development activities."

Professor Carter said that notwithstanding the pleasing success for the University, it emphasised that it would continue to build up its strength in research. "It is only in this way that the University of Newcastle will hold its own among the top ranking universities in Australia."

The grants represent an increase of 24 percent in the level of ARC grants compared with last year. They support high level research activities in the University and are for equipment, materials and the employment of a substantial number of research staff on various research projects.

Thirty-seven new and continuing grants were awarded, totalling $1,703,700. In addition, the University has acted on behalf of the ARC in allocating $490,000 for ARC Small Grants in the range of $5,000 to $25,000. A total of 47 projects have been funded through the Small Grants allocations.

A joint project between researchers at the University of New South Wales and Professor R. Melchers, Department of Civil Engineering and Surveying, also received $30,000.

Professor Carter commented that, if applications were to be successful, they must be carefully prepared and submitted to rigorous peer review before they are accepted. Mock interviews were also strongly recommended so that applicants were well prepared and advice should be sought from experienced researchers on how to enhance applications.

**University gains research grants**

**ARC PROJECT GRANTS**

**New Grants**

Dr R.H. Dunstan, Use of 13 C-labelled Substrates & GC-MS to investigate the Organ Interaction & Potential Manipulation of Metabolic Pathways in vivo in the Bacterium Para. $60,000

Professor W.F. Pickering, Speciation of Inorganic Species present in Waterway Systems. $25,000

Dr C. De Souza, Dr M. Fu and Dr R.H. Middleton, Analysis and Design of Robust Control Systems. $65,000

Professor H. Schroder, Dr B. Beresford-Smith and Dr B. Pham, A Mathematical Morphology Machine for Image Processing. $40,000

Assoc. Professor C.A. Croxton, Statistical Mechanics of Complex Molecular Systems III. $37,000

Professor P.V. Smith, Theoretical Studies of Absorbrates on Semiconductor Surfaces. $45,000

Dr J. Bern, Dr A.W. Metcalf and Dr E. Jordan, The Hunter in Transition: Social Readjustment in a Major Industrial Region. $30,000

Professor R.E. Melchers, Dr A.W. Page and Mr P.W. Kleeman, Cracking in Masonry and Reinforced Concrete - A study in Structural Serviceability. $106,000

Dr S.W. Sloan and Dr I.D. Moore, Accurate Algorithms for Elastoplastic Models in Geotechnical Analysis. $36,000

Dr R.H. Wetland, Carbon Dioxide Removal by Mixtures of Amines. $28,000

Dr D.H. Wood and Dr P.D. Clausen, Measurements in Three-Dimensional Turbulent Flows. $30,000

Dr R.A. Heath, Nonlinear Models or the Storage and Recall of Complex Spatiotemporal Sequences. $25,000

Professor C.A. Hooker, Reason and Science: A critique of reason as normal structure and assessment of naturalistic alternatives as based on, applied to, Scientific Research. $23,000

Professor C.F. Diesel, Development of a Fluorescence Imaging System for studying the Fluorescence Properties of Coal Macerals. $33,000.

**Existing Grants**

Dr J. Chilow and Professor R.C. Jone, Mechanisms of Water & Electrolyte Reabsorption from the Ductuli Efferentes Testis of the rat. $36,800

Dr C.E. Offler, Cellular pathway of short distance transfer of Photosynthates in Fleshy Fruits. $34,000

Dr J.W. Patrick, Pathway and Mechanism of Photosynthetic Unloading with special reference to the role of Transfer Cell. $47,000

Prof T.K. Roberts and Dr J. Falconer, The Effect of Maternal Immunisation with Leucocytes or Trehoblast on livestock productivity. $34,000

Dr J.C. Rodger, Fertilisation and development in Marsupials and Experimental Manipulation In Vivo and In Vitro. $29,500

Dr G.A. Lawrence and Dr M. Maedoe, Carbon Acid Metal Template Synthesis & Complexation of Pendant-Am Macrocycles. $34,000

Dr J.E. von Nagy Felsokuki, Investigation of Electronic and Structural Properties of Small Alkali Metal Vapours. $35,000

Dr W.J. Collins and Dr R. Offler, Contrasting P-T-T histories in the Ti Complex, Southern New England Fold Belt. $36,900

Dr D.J. Hill and Dr M. Mareels, Analysis and Stabilisation of Power System Dynamics. $60,000

Dr B.V. King and Professor R.J. MacDonald, The modification of solid surfaces by Recoil Implantation. $34,000

Eneritus Professor J.F. Burrows, Dr D.H. Craig and Dr C.W. McKenna, Computer Assisted studies in the analysis of Language. $25,000

Dr G.B. Samuel, Politics & Social Order among Eastern Tibetans: an Ethnographic study of values and Social Organization with special reference to the Gesar Epic. $39,600

Professor R.G. Tanner, Dr B.F. Curran and Dr C.E. Penglase, Oriental influence on Greco-Roman Religion. $19,200.

Assoc. Professor B.J. Fraser and Dr F.W. Menk, Propagation studies of ELF and ELF Waves. $88,000

Professor R.J. MacDonald, Dr D.J. O'Connor and Dr B.V. King, Ion Solid Interactions. $134,800.

**Total = $883,000**
NH&MRC GRANTS

The NH&MRC has allocated $433,459.00 in the recent round of grants to researchers in the University of Newcastle. When the BULLETIN went to press the amount of funds provided for continuing grants had not been announced.

Standard Project Grants

Dr P. Gibson and Dr L. Olson, Asthma and airway inflammation. $40,302.19
Assoc. Professor A.J. Husband and Ms M. Dunkley, Factors controlling immunity in the intestine. $52,558.57
Dr Y. Smart & Professor R. Burton, Analysis of a surface molecule on cells which kill cancer. $76,497.65.
Assoc. Professor L. Chahl, Effect of morphine on substance P neurones in the brain. $67,679.73.
Dr A. Quail, Chemoreflex control of heart muscle blood flow distribution. $44,799.73

Total = $353,881.14

Priming Project Grant

Dr J. Kenardy and Dr A. White, Psychological factors in the onset of panic attacks. $29,889.33

Total = $29,889.33

Special Initiative Area Project Grant

Dr S. Redman, Professor W. Walters, Dr M. Schofield and Professor R. Sanson-Fisher, Women's involvement in decision-making for treatment of menstrual symptoms. $49,689.34.

Total = $49,689.34

The NH&MRC also awarded the following grant earlier in the year:

Professor V. Carr, Special Project Grant, The Psychological Impact of the Newcastle Earthquake. $20,620.

Total = $20,620.
When one thinks of a gardener, particularly a gardener for a large site, one could not be blamed for thinking of a fairly large, very fit, very strong, and probably male person.

Think again!

The gardener at the Central Coast campus of the University at Ourimbah is very tiny, very ladylike, but strong, extremely fit and very much a woman.

This remarkable person who has transformed the face of the campus in the short time since March this year is Ms Ingrid Feather, who works solely by herself on the task of managing the landscaping, planning gardens, clearing land and all the many other tasks associated with establishing a well presented campus.

Ms Feather, who has been gardening since her early days on a vegetable and chicken farm/fruit orchard in Picton, says she is a self taught gardener and considers it a hobby as well as her job.

She says that when she first saw the campus it was covered in weeds taller than herself. This prospect would probably be daunting for the majority of people, but not Ms Feather.

She got to work clearing land, starting gardens and establishing lawns.

"When I first started here you couldn't see the lie of the land the weeds were so high. That's when I asked for a brush cutter," Ms Feather says.

"With most of the major clearing done, I can now get to work on planning the gardens. This will be exciting as the property was originally an orchard so it is the best soil for growing on the Central Coast.

"Everything grows really well, especially the weeds," she says, tongue-in-cheek.

Ms Feather, whose husband and two daughters share her love of gardening, keeps a sharp eye on the economics of the exercise too. She saves soil from backhoeing for use in landscaping and also collects magnolia runners from the original gardens of the property to replant. She also cultivates cuttings to save on the cost of establishing new gardens.

"It takes time to develop your ideas with gardening. I can see in my mind's eye the way I would like the grounds to look. It will look wonderful in about 10 years time," she says.

Well-liked by staff and students alike, Ms Feather believes that the camaraderie on campus and its acceptance by the local community has developed because everyone involved with it development has been prepared to pitch in.

As a direct result of this camaraderie, a working bee has been organised to complete the landscaping around the Union Building. This will take place on Thursday, November 2 with students and staff taking part.

And snakes and spiders?

"Oh, yes!" says Ms Feather. "There's a snake that lives under the Main Administration Building and there are plenty of funnel web spiders in the bush on the site. It's a case of keeping the gloves on and keeping yourself covered."

Despite the snakes and spiders the campus is "blooming."

Ms Feather's determination and energy-to-burn are showing results: already major changes can be seen around the campus.

Ms Ingrid Feather, caring for the Central Coast Campus grounds

Return to Newcastle for University Architect

Mr Philip Pollard

In a return to his home town, University Architect, Mr Philip Pollard, has turned full circle in his career.

Mr Pollard, who has worked on many projects from retail shopping complexes including commissioning their artworks, to a tropical resort in Queensland, is now responsible to the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Planning).
Doug Huxley, for provision of forward planning and development of new projects.

Mr Pollard will provide sketch designs of new buildings and alterations to existing buildings, act as an adviser to potential users of buildings to ensure that their needs are met and liaise with project architects as the University’s representative.

He comes well qualified to fill the important job of taking the University into the 21st century. Mr Pollard holds a Bachelor of Science (Architecture) and a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Sydney, a Diploma in Education and Bachelor of Educational Studies from the University of Newcastle and a Graduate Diploma of Educational Studies from the Newcastle College of Advanced Education.

He has not only worked as a practising architect, but has taken a vital interest in civic affairs. He was a Councillor on the Byron Shire Council at Byron Bay from 1983 to 1987 and also Chairman of the Planning and Building Committee for the same council, one which was renowned for its environmental concerns.

Some of Mr Pollard’s recent projects include the management of an Art/Craft Program for Sky Garden, the spectacular four-floor retail arcade on Pitt and Castlereagh Streets, Sydney, architect/co-ordinator for a $2 million arts program for the Darling Harbour development and many other private commissions.

He also worked with fellow architect, Christine Vadasz, on the highly acclaimed Bedarra Bay Resort situated near Dunk Island in the Great Barrier Reef. Philip and Christine were successful winners of a limited entry competition for the design of a small unique resort, the Duncan’s Timber Award, a national award through the Royal Australian Institute of Architects. It was also named at a national tourism conference as ‘probably the most environmentally responsible resort in Australia’, a tag of which Mr Pollard is justifiably proud.

He says his role in integrating art and craft into public buildings while they are being built creates effective visual images which enhance and transform public spaces from being simply pedestrian walkways to public galleries of modern art.

"Incorporating art in the design stage and producing it during the construction, allows a building to develop its own character," Mr Pollard says.

"It’s really very exciting as the artists and artisans become very involved in the project and work toward the best result possible," he says.

Mr Pollard grew up in Newcastle and attended Newcastle Boys High School. He says that he and his family are looking forward to enjoying life as Novocastrians again, especially our beaches and the relaxed lifestyle.

Loan of Important device 'reassuring' for Surveying

The Department of Civil Engineering and Surveying has received on permanent loan a large format analytical stereoplotter known as the Adam Technology ASP-2000.

The computer-controlled device is at the forefront of modern analytical stereoplotting equipment and can accommodate photography up to 230x230 mm in size. The device has a current retail value of $85,000.

The sponsoring company, Adam Technology of Perth, has had close links with the Department through TUNRA in the past five years. Adam Technology has already lent the Department two of their smaller format analytical stereoplotting models known as MPS-2's. These are valued at $37,500 each.

The Head of the Department of Civil Engineering and Surveying, Assoc. Professor John Fryer, said Adam Technology had assisted the Department's research and teaching efforts in several other ways, notably the 'topping up' of the APRA Scholarship of Mr Bruce King, who was working on his PhD in the Department.

He said the machines would continue to be used for research and development, as undergraduate teaching tools and as a reference point for enquiries of the Adam Technology range of equipment on the eastern coastline of Australia.

Adam Technology had manufactured over 100 analytical stereoplotters, with approximately 20 installed in Australia and the remainder in Europe, Japan and the United States of America.

Adam Technology is situated in a Technology Park near Curtin University in Western Australia. Professor Fryer said that it was very flattering and reassuring that the company continued to seek and establish close research and development links with this University.

Mr Bruce King with the stereoplotter on loan to the University
On Wednesday, October 24, Professor Michael Carter, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), hosted a presentation in the Auchmuty Library on Information Technology and Library Support for the Research Process to a select audience.

Mr Jim Cleary, Senior Librarian (Reader Services), delivered the presentation, which had been developed in collaboration with Ms Charmain Mitchell, using a large screen video projector and a microcomputer.

The central point made was the centrality of academic support services in lifting the productivity of academics in the teaching/research process and the need to change the resource mix in these areas by appointing specialist staff capable of analysing faculty needs and initiating new services. With respect to the Library this means moving from an inward focus on its responsibilities as a cultural warehouse towards an emphasis on information access through the new technologies. This is the only means of supporting the research process, as the percentage of world R&D publications available on the campus and within Australia continues to decline. Subject specialist staff functioning as educators and information consultants to research teams are critical to such an approach.

Mr Cleary drew attention to the deterioration of the research infrastructure, including libraries, over the last 15 years. The government's response has been to encourage the concentration of research funding on selected large-scale projects which reflect national priorities. In this increasingly competitive environment, libraries may have to ensure a basic level of collections and services for teaching and scholarship, but provide a greater level of support for selected research groups. This has become more feasible with the gradual shift to electronic media and services facilitated by the drop in cost of computer storage of text, improved telecommunications capabilities via AARNET and ISDN as well as expert systems based interfaces that promote information access from a 'scholar's workstation'.

Various scenarios for the 'electronic library' were discussed and it was pointed out that this University's library was in transition from the traditional collection-focused library towards one that placed greater emphasis on information access and faculty liaison/research support by specialist librarians.

In the 1980's we regarded electronic information as a consumable or overhead that had to be held in check by policies of full cost recovery. As a consequence, use of online databases in the non-medical areas has been stagnant, or declining, since the mid-eighties.

In a major departure from the previous policy, we have committed $50,000 to online and CD-ROM database searching this year to open it up to undergraduates and postgraduates. It is important that research funding is committed to electronic information access and that the skills are integrated into the undergraduate curriculum and postgraduate research training.

A practical demonstration was then given on how the Library could provide support for a high profile research group using the cell plant biologists in this University as an example. A report was given of a survey of the existing information gathering practices of our cell plant biologists which showed their heavy reliance on scientific journals, review articles and citations in books and journals. The group had a need for the selective dissemination of information from a range of disciplines, a means for overcoming their relative geographical isolation and advice as to the organisation of their existing information files.

Mr Cleary showed how Biological Abstracts on CD-ROM could be used to provide regular updates on relevant articles to match the researcher's subject profile. These could be transferred via floppy disk to the researcher's own electronic filing cabinet using software such as End Note or Reference Manager.

Access to Sydney University's Molecular Biology Databanks via AARNET was also demonstrated and a particular gene of interest to the cell plant biologists was located in the GenBank. Australian and overseas online catalogues are also available on AARNET. Other facilities include electronic mail, life sciences bulletin boards and file transfer capabilities.

By 1996, the American equivalent of AARNET will be able to transmit the text of the Encyclopedia Britannica across the country in one second. We will soon have the ability to transfer quality multimedia publications electronically from one location to another although fax will be the key fast track interlibrary loan medium in the short-term.

Mr Cleary concluded the presentation by suggesting that we need: . A strategic plan for the management of information on campus; . Mechanisms for the allocation of resources for information support of research, and . Information specialists who can promote the integration of information management skills into the curriculum and support the research priorities of the University.

Professor Carter agreed that there was a need for a policy in this area and that the University may have to be selective in providing such support for research.

Office for Research

Information on the following grants is contained in NEWS on the VAXcluster. Further information and relevant application forms are available from the Office for Research - telephone 685302.

Grants with closing date (To Office for Research)

- Wellcome Australia Medal & Award, November 7, Human health.
- Department of Community Services and Health General Practice Evaluation Program, November 7, Research grants and seeding grants for 1991.

Cotton Research and Development Corporation. Funding for Cotton Marketing Study, November 12.


Grants-in-Aid of Research.

Dairy Research & Development Corporation, November 21.

Research which will benefit the Dairy Industry.

Research Management Committee Areas of Research Excellence, November 30.

To lift the research profile of the University and enable researchers to attract large external research grants.

Proposals are considered within:
Production, Processing, Operations
Research, Information and Communications, Human Resources.

Rural Industries Research and Development Grants
Chicken Meat, Egg Industry & Honeybee, December 14.

Australia Council Aboriginal Arts, Community Cultural, Depending on area of Development, Literature, Performing Arts, grant, between March Visual Arts/Craft and December.
Some areas have no closing date.

Cancer Council Travel Grants-in-Aid, March 21 and September 20.
To attend overseas conferences or institutions, each year.

Pig Research and Development Corp Travel Grants, February 20, June 20 or September 20.

Rural Industries Travel/Conference Grants

Fellowships

Chicken Meat Research and Development Council, Junior Research Fellowship, November 20.

Fullbright Awards Varies September to November.
For study, research and lecturing in the United States of America.
Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council of Canada 21 November
A limited number of international fellowships for tenure in Canadian Universities.
Oxford Nuffield Medical Fellowship 1991
Canadian Studies, Faculty Enrichment Awards (FEA), January 17, 1991.
To assist academics in developing and teaching courses about Canada in their own discipline.
Grants with no closing date:
DITAC International Science and Technology Travel Grants
Apply at any time but at least six weeks prior to intended travel.
Research Management Committee Travel Grants
Research Management Committee

Research Visitors
Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia
Funding/Support in the area of accidents and intervention strategies

Telecom Research Funding
For Centres of Expertise or short term R&D.

Research helped by $20,000 grant

The Department of Mathematics has received a research infrastructure grant of $20,000 for Computing Studies from the Research Management Committee.

The grant will provide personal computer hardware and software to support the research activities of Assoc. Professor Clive Croxton and four new members of staff, Drs Ian Benn, Brailey Sims, Eugene Vlachynsky and Rod Gover.

With the advanced software now available, personal computers are an important research tool for mathematicians with interests in non-numerical mathematics.

Often numerical experiments, coupled with the visualisation afforded by easy-to-use graphics packages, can provide insight leading to exact results.

In addition it is now possible to use symbolic manipulation routines on a personal computer. The routines enable long tedious calculations to be quickly checked.

Drs Benn, Gover and Vlachynsky will use these new facilities to assist their research into Geometrodynamics, Conformal Geometry and Non-Einsteinian Theories of Gravity respectively.

Dr Sims' research in Convex Analysis and the Geometry of Banach Spaces will be aided by the new graphics capability.

Assoc. Professor Croxton will use his updated personal computer for handling and communicating data on Protein Folding, a project which has recently been supported with an Area of Research Excellence grant.

These new computer facilities will help all of these staff collaborate with colleagues elsewhere, facilitating the exchange of data, textual and graphics material.

(Left to right): Dr Rod Gover, Dr Eugene Vlachynsky, Dr Brailey Sims (seated) and Dr Ian Benn.
Hazards facing people with visual impairments

An inspection has been made of the pathways within the University's Ring Road to see if there are any potential hazards for people with visual impairments.

The inspection was made by Ms Sarah Tibbey, the Orientation and Mobility Instructor, and Ms Tracy Fay, the Employment Development Officer, from the Royal Blind Society, Ms Mary Cameron, an Open Foundation student who uses a wheelchair, and members of the Working Party for Access to Employment for People with Disabilities.

The western part of the Shortland campus is considered to be a difficult place for people with visual impairments and those with 20/20 vision after dark or in rain.

To get between the Great Hall, the Auchmuty Library, the Union and the main lecture theatres on the western part of the campus, some people have to find invisible steps (the pebbledash paving does not show steps clearly), invisible handrails (where these exist), inadequate or non-existent signposts, overhanging shrubbery and bollards, pillars and gum trees just waiting for you to walk into them. Ouch!!

The solution was simple, Ms Tibbey said.

"Paint a white, or contrasting, line along the edge of each step. Paint handrails in a white, or contrasting, colour. Cut back the shrubbery, particularly on steps. Erect clear, easily readable signs at eye-level and we have a safer, and more welcoming, campus for everybody."

Thanks to the experts, a submission has gone from the EEO Unit to the Buildings and Grounds Division with the support of Ms Hellen-Anne Wilson, the University's Occupational Health and Safety Officer. The immediate implementation of the simple and inexpensive steps to make the campus a better place for everyone is recommended.

Thanks, Royal Blind Society, and thanks to those members of the Working Party on Access to Employment for People with Disabilities who gave their time to this useful exercise.

Alethea Taylor,
EEO Unit
New Zealand visit of Professor Max Maddock

Professor Maddock in recognition of his work in promoting wetland research and education through the establishment of the Wetlands Centre at Shortland and his research project into the migration of egrets in co-operation with the Ornithological Society of New Zealand.

Some Australian egrets travel back and forth across the Tasman and the project has a network of observers throughout New Zealand.

During his visit, Professor Maddock had consultations with members of the network.

Assoc. Professor Max Maddock

Assoc. Professor Max Maddock, of the Department of Education, travelled to New Zealand and gave the keynote address at the official opening of the Miranda Naturalists' Trust's new Education Centre on the Firth of Thames, south-east of Auckland. His travel was sponsored by Air New Zealand.

The Miranda Naturalists' Trust was formed in 1975 to promote the study of natural history in the Firth of Thames area. The Thames has extensive tidal mudflats and has recently been endorsed as a site of international importance for migratory waders under the RAMSAR convention.

The Miranda site is also of importance geologically, because of the existence of a chenier plain composed of ridges of shell and sand material moved by longshore drift and stranded by overlying marine muds.

The area has been the venue for scientific investigation for more than 200 years - since Captain Cook first visited the area in 1779.

The Education Centre has a lecture theatre, a library, space for displays and overnight accommodation. it is expected to be a major attraction for visitors to New Zealand for the International Ornithological Congress in Christchurch in December.

Its aims are very similar to those of the Wetlands Centre at Shortland, which is also related to a RAMSAR convention wetland protected because of migratory wader habitat (Kooragang Island).

The invitation was extended to Staff of the Hunter Building were a little forlorn last week when their popular 'tea lady' left the employ of the Hunter Building Staff Social Club.

Ms Doreen Jenkins, who has been the 'tea lady' in the Staff Lounge of the Hunter Building for more than five years, decided to call it a day and with the good wishes of all the staff, was the centre of attention at a small get-together to mark the occasion.

Ms Jenkins, who has been an integral part of the Staff Association as Secretary and then Membership Secretary, has always been interested in the staff and what was happening in their lives.

Many people passed the view at the farewell function that 'Doreen had managed the kitchen just like a mum' and always seemed to be on hand with exactly what was needed - things can get desperate when you're dying for a cuppa. Thank you Ms Jenkins for a job very well done!

Doreen 'calls it a day'

Doreen 'calls it a day'

Ms Doreen Jenkins with good friends (L-R): Mr David Heggart, Ms Stella Aubrey, Ms Cae Pattison, Mr Luke Solly, Mr Keith Powell, Dr Paul McGrath and Ms Sandra Jones

Opening Times: 11 am to 4.30 pm Tuesdays to Sundays

Telephone: 61 1714

Have you heard about the Old Wares Shoppe yet?

We stock a variety of oak and other furniture. There are shelves stacked with bric-a-brac and collectables, also crystal and glassware. It's an experience that will not break your budget (Bankcard facilities available).

Remember, the Old Wares Shoppe, 3 Beaumont Street, Hamilton.

It's worth a look!! Telephone: 61 1714

Assist. Professor Max Maddock

Doreen 'calls it a day'
Work progresses on campus wetlands

As this photo shows, the operations of a dragline have cleared away some bulrushes and dredged out ponds and created banks. Much work, however, remains to be done.

The banks and islands will be stabilised, and natural vegetation will be restored. The University has applied for further National Estate funding for the work.

New manager of Staff House

Mrs Elizabeth Bower has taken a break from running a hotel to work as the new Manager of the Staff House.

She follows Mr Richard Bamford in taking control of bar operations and functions in the Staff Club.

Mrs Bower, previously part-owner of the Snake Gully Hotel at Lambton, said the Staff House offered its members the setting for rest and relaxation away from offices and lecture rooms.

The caterer, Mr Dallas Gold, and his staff provided excellent meals, with the accent on fresh food.

The Staff House’s cellar, which featured Hunter Valley wines, was undoubtedly one of the best cellars west of the City Centre. Members were able to browse before making their selections, she said.

In the air-conditioned bar on the first floor, the prices for drinks were about the same as those charged in licensed clubs.

Improvements to be carried out included the construction of a barbecue in the garden adjacent to the car park.

Mrs Bower said the club was an excellent venue for functions, ranging from meetings to gatherings for departments and weekend weddings.

For bookings the Staff house number is 68 5430.
A former Manager of Records for Port Stephens Shire Council has taken up his appointment as Director of Registry Services for the University.

Mr Geoff Beck, 40, has extensive training in records management, beginning with a period at the old Navy Department in Melbourne.

The Director of Registry Services for the amalgamated University is responsible for a section comprising three people covering the hardcopy records of the old and new University and the former Hunter Institute of Higher Education. The section is included in the Secretariat Division.

As Director, Mr Beck will assess the University's record management needs, with the object, he says, of providing the institution with 'an efficient and portable memory in the future'.

"The University needs some form of effective records policy. I believe I am the right person to formulate a policy, having spent the last 20 years in records management", he said.

While weeding out ephemeral records, the University should be providing archival material for the future and also creating the necessary background information to allow 'action' officers to do their work.

Mr Beck said the Central Registry had no formal links with the University Archives in the Auchmuty Library, but obviously the two sections had close interaction.

The Central Registry is located on the lower floor of the McMullin Building near the Department of History.

A Science Enrichment Workshop on November 6 - the first held at the University - gave 80 young women from Nelson Bay High School a behind-the-scenes look at the Faculty of Science.

The Science Enrichment Workshop included sessions on aviation, psychology, chemistry and biological sciences.

Female Faculty representatives presented information to the girls on these disciplines as well as speaking about their own careers and professional ambitions.

The Dean of the Faculty of Science and Mathematics, Professor Brian Engel, also addressed the students.

The students are participating in a State Government initiated Girls Education Strategy program to increase their awareness of career opportunities in non-traditional areas of study for women. The program includes regular meetings of the group and participation in such activities as the Science Enrichment Workshop.

They have been drawn from Years 7 to 12 and selected for the program because they are considered capable of achieving a Tertiary Entrance Rank of 92.85 per cent or above (this equates to a TE Score of more than 400).

The University experience will be integrated into a two-day camp which the students will be attending at Glenrock Lagoon. The program is aimed at bonding and generating mutual support among the young women.

The Workshop was co-ordinated by Ms Julie Swain, Adviser for Prospective Students, in conjunction with staff members of the Faculty of Science and Mathematics and Ms Dianne Griffiths and Ms Jo Oliver, from Nelson Bay High School.

You are invited to a party

The Hunter Building Staff Social Association of the University of Newcastle is inviting all staff to a Christmas party in the Hunter Student Union on November 30, from 7 pm.

The party, to last until 1 am, will feature music for dancing by the Breakaways, a Christmas smorgasbord, a cash bar, travel prizes and Bureaucracy Bingo. Tickets cost $20 and are available from Dr Paul McGrath (68 7308), Mr Luke Solly (68 7285), Mr David Heggart (68 7232), Ms Stella Aubrey (68 7551), Mr Peter Zimmerman (68 7212) and Ms Dawn Sinclair in the Staff Room.
**For Sale**


Laser dinghy (123320), ready to race, on registered trailer (urgent sale). Asking price: $2,200 or near offer. Please telephone 50 4131 evenings.

Full ladies wet-suit (little use), size three and-a-half (slim). Asking price: $50; or near offer. Please telephone 68 5475.

MacIntosh Plus computer including keyboard, system and utilities disks, and a half (slim). Asking price: owner's manual and guides in as new conditiou. Asking price: $2960 or 63 2961.

Stackhat in excellent condition (54cm, small). Asking price: $29. Please telephone 68 5299 or 59 2319 after 6 pm.

Stackhat in excellent condition (rarely used). Asking price: $450 or near offer. Please telephone 68 5675.

Two light-weight sleeping bags, suitable for summer camping or as indoor doonas. Please telephone Extension 252 or 63 2960 after hours.

Amstrad computer CPC64, CW colour monitor, manual, assorted games plus joystick in excellent condition (rarely used). Asking price: $450 or near offer. Please telephone 56 6393 after 6 pm.

Nintendo sale: Double Dragon II, $50; Wrestlemania, $45; Metal Gear, $45; Top Gun, $40; Rad Racer, $40; Kid Icarus, $35; Zelda, $35. Also Power Glove, $110 and Zinger Joy Stick, $45. Please telephone 33 7368 after hours or 59 2319 after 6 pm.

Amstrad computer CPC64, CW colour monitor, manual, assorted games plus joystick in excellent condition (rarely used). Asking price: $450 or near offer. Please telephone 56 6393 after 6 pm.

Osborne 386SX computer, 2mb RAM; 1, 1.44, 40 mb drive; VGA colour; two button mouse; 1xprinter and 2xserial ports; DOS 4.01 in as new condition (factory warranty) with boxes etc. Asking price: $3,000 or near offer. Please telephone 043 92 7348.

1973 VW Maja with many extras (very reliable) and is registered until May, 1991. Asking price: $3,500 or near offer. Please telephone 68 5675.

Fleeces: Merino cross and coloured, $8 each. Please telephone 68 5299.

Chrome and marble-laminate dining table with six re-covered chairs. Asking price: $100 or near offer. Please telephone 68 5675.

Yamaha TT350 in as new condition, 4,500 kms plus 10 month's registration (CB577). Asking price: $3,300 or near offer. Please telephone 68 5299 (office hours) or 59 2649 (after hours).

Wanted to Buy

Sideboards, chests of drawers, hallstands, washstands, etc. Also china, porcelain, glassware or silver. Cash buyer will call. Please telephone 59 2319 after 6 pm.

Fender Stratocaster - style guitars - with Rosewood fingerboards Please phone Steve 687 443

Wanted to Buy or Hire

Plank and trestles for painting house. Please telephone Mike at 68 5315 or 68 5358.

Restorations

Antiques and used furniture restored at very reasonable prices (quality work). Please telephone 52 6925.

Accommodation

Unfurnished room available for sub-letting in Merewether Heights, November 24, 1990 to January 18, 1991. Share fully-equipped house with two others. Rental: $50 per week. Please contact Dr David Lemmings at 68 5364 or 61 1352 before November 23.

Academic couple seek furnished accommodation from approximately February 15, 1991. Prefer two bedroom house or unit, within travelling distance of University. Please contact Dr David Lemmings at 68 5364 or 63 1352.

Warrane College, a residential college for men at the University of New South Wales, Kensington, in Sydney, is offering summer residence from mid-November, 1990 to mid-February, 1991. Weekly residence fees for the summer period are very reasonable and there are special student rates available for longer periods of stay during the summer. Enquiries: David Curran, (02) 662 6199 or fax (02) 662 2992. Postal: Warrane College, PO Box 123, Kensington.

The Women's College, within the University of Sydney, is also offering summer accommodation in pleasant surroundings close to City and transport. Accommodation is available from November 26 to February 18. Some flats, single and twin study bedrooms at very reasonable rates. Enquiries: Manager - Telephone (02) 516 1642 - during office hours.

Bush retreat for rent in Wollombi, January 1 to December 31, 1991. Stone house, furnished, two bedrooms plus sleep loft. Close to school, shop and river. Suit young family (no dogs or cats please). Rental: $120 per week. Please telephone 68 5267 or (049) 98 3236.