UN team equips itself well

Those who supported the University’s 1989 University Challenge team were not disappointed.

The team toppled Bond University 165 points to 85 points in the second round of the television show and finished eighth of 12 universities – or eighth of the 24 universities Australia-wide which auditioned.

This is the third season of University Challenge, produced by the ABC in Hobart and hosted by Professor Magnus Clarke, of Deakin University.

The five-student team from Newcastle was made up of Mark Priest (captain), Jane O’Sullivan, Darren Churchill, Noel Leggett and David Donnelly (reserve).

Mr Vince Phelan, a Sub-Dean at Edwards Hall, was Team Manager.

Full marks go to Maitland which contributed two out of the four regular members of the team.

The standard of play in the first round was high. Most of the half-hour programs, which are being shown on the ABC on Mondays at 9.30 pm, have still to go to air.

The University’s team equipped itself well. It was participating in the contest for the first time.

By qualifying in the auditions, the University outclassed several older and larger universities, such as the Universities of Queensland and Adelaide.

The team finally made it to Hobart despite the pilots’ dispute. What would normally have been a simple flight for the 12 teams turned into a major logistical operation, students from Queensland and New South Wales universities being transported to Melbourne by bus and to Hobart by RAAF Hercules.

The UN team members suffered from tiredness and two caught the flu.

Fifteen separate play-offs were taped over five consecutive days to form the 1989 University Challenge series.

In a seven-page report, Mr Phelan has analysed the UN team’s experiences in Hobart.

He said that having lost the game against the University of Western Australia in the first round, Newcastle was at the bottom of the ladder and was devastated. A postmortem was held in Mark Priest’s motel room afterwards.

However, what a change in the second round, Mr Phelan said. The team got a chance to show what they could do against Bond University.

Newcastle gained the most points of the four teams that appeared in the competition for the first time (Newcastle, Queensland University of Technology, Bond University and Wollongong University) and even beat one of the veteran teams, Macquarie University.

In his report Mr Phelan gives attention to how the team from this University may be able to do better in next year’s University Challenge. The games are being recorded so the videos will be available for use when the team is being trained.

‘We can begin rehearsing soon after the start of first semester and put more emphasis on additional public performances by our team as a way of recruiting and trying out students who have an excellent general knowledge’, Mr Phelan said.

Bulletin

The next Bulletin, the last for this year will appear on December 18. Copy is required by December 8 at 5 pm and should be addressed to either John Armstrong or Linda Aurelius (telephone 68 5328).
Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I would like to respond to Colin Keay's 'bagging' of students' intellect in his article in Letters to The Editor, last edition.

In my view students who go through one of the most traumatic periods of their lives (Higher School Certificate) and not only pass that examination but achieve a high enough pass to gain entry to this or any other university, deserve a pat on the back and encouragement to continue with their studies. They definitely don't deserve to have their intelligence questioned or compared to others, whether it be individuals, other classes, or other years, in public.

Comparisons can work in both directions. Do other lecturers have the same failure rate? If so do they blame the intelligence of their students, or do the students blame the ability of the lecturers. If not, do they praise the ability of the students, or do they pat themselves on the back for being good lecturers?

I don't really want to know, but, after reading the article as written, I would seriously question Colin Keay's ability as a lecturer and his attitude towards students.

Bob Hicks,
Mechanical Engineering

Dear Sir,

The gate of the former HIHE now proclaims that the University of Newcastle was formerly the Hunter Institute of Higher Education.

That is exactly like saying that Canada used to be Newfoundland.

A.W. Sparkes,
Department of Philosophy

Sociology Chair filled

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Keith Morgan, has announced the appointment of Dr Lois Bryson to the Chair of Sociology.

Dr Bryson is an Associate Professor at the University of New South Wales, graduated from the University of Melbourne with the degree of BA and DipSocStud (1959) and DipEd (1964). She was awarded the degree of PhD by Monash University in 1970.

After graduation she worked as a research assistant in the University of Melbourne, a psychiatric social worker, a secondary school teacher and an educational psychologist in Victoria before joining the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at Monash University in 1965.

Dr Bryson joined the School of Sociology at the University of New South Wales in 1980, becoming an Associate Professor in 1980 and Head of the School in 1981. During the period 1983 to 1986 she was released on leave to work in the Victoria Public Service as Assistant Director General, Department of Community Services (1983-1985) and the Director, Social Justice Strategy Unit (1985-1986).

Professor Morgan said Dr Bryson's involvement with professional and academic bodies had been substantial and important. For example, she was a member of the Interim Board of the National Foundation for Australian Women, he said.

She had pursued research into the fundamental sociological questions of the nature of social inequality and power. Currently she was studying concepts of welfare and the scope of provision for the 1991 round of Churchill Fellowships. The idea is that these people who would otherwise not have the opportunity to study overseas to do so, says Mr Bill Farley, Regional Secretary of the Churchill Trust, situated at the University of New South Wales.

The fellowships allow people who would otherwise not have the opportunity to study overseas to do so, says Mr Bill Farley, Regional Secretary of the Churchill Trust, situated at the University of New South Wales.

The idea is that these people will bring back their experiences and in that way enrich the Australian community through their area of endeavour.

We ask applicants why they want to study overseas and why they can't do their particular project in Australia. About 50-60 people across the country will be assisted with fellowships and, of those, probably 15 will come from New South Wales, Mr Farley says.

Fellowships offered under the Churchill Trust cover the following categories: Primary Industry/Secondary Industry, Commerce Mining and Transport: Professional (other than Education): Education: Public Service; the Arts; and Community Service. 'Almost any pursuit might win a fellowship', claims Mr Farley.

Applications including references close on February 28, 1990.

For further information, or to arrange an interview, please contact Mr Farley, or the Media Office at the University of New South Wales.
Interns assessed in PhD study

Medical schools are often criticised for teaching students about rare diseases, but failing to teach them about dealing with common problems, about communicating with people and about giving advice that might prevent illness later in life.

Dr Jill Gordon, a former student of the University, undertook a study at the Royal Newcastle Hospital in 1984 and 1985 to find out whether or not this is the case.

The study was part of her work for a PhD degree, supervised by Professor Rob Sanson-Fisher and Professor Nick Saunders.

Three 'simulated patients' were taught how to portray common, everyday problems.

One 'patient' played the part of a young man with headaches caused by stress.

The second was a young woman with cystitis (bladder infection).

The third was an elderly man with chronic chest problems caused by smoking.

Each of the 'patients' went along to the Casually Department at the Royal Newcastle Hospital and behaved as though they were ordinary patients consulting with doctors, who had recently completed their final exams and commenced work as interns. The new graduates came from the medical schools at Sydney University, the University of New South Wales and this University.

The researchers obtained the interns' permission to videotape their consultations as they took place. A camera was placed unobtrusively in the consulting room and switched on whenever a simulated patient was consulting with an intern.

The interns could not tell whether or not the camera was recording and the researchers found that the interns were also unable to distinguish between the simulated and the real patients. The consultations were, therefore, as close to genuine consultations as could be obtained.

A panel of more experienced doctors identified the essential things that a doctor should do in each situation. These things were grouped under the heading of clinical knowledge, doctor-patient communication and preventive medicine. Each consultation was then given a score under each of the three headings.

The researchers found that the doctors' clinical knowledge was reasonably good, considering their level of experience.

However, their communication skills were not as good as had been hoped.

Worst of all was their attention to giving information and advice about the patients' lifestyles.

The next question was whether or not a year of hospital experience would make a difference to the way the doctors behaved. The study was repeated at the end of the year, using the same common problems portrayed by a different group of 'patients'.

No improvement was found. The finding suggested that, whilst the intern year helps new graduates to learn many skills suitable for hospital-style medicine, it does not teach them some of the skills that they will need for day-to-day practice later on in their careers.

Finally, the study had hoped to find out whether the graduates from Newcastle University were different from the graduates of other universities.

Although the results suggested that the Newcastle graduates were in fact better in the areas of doctor/patient communication and preventive medicine, the researchers found that Newcastle's better students had elected to work in hospitals in the Newcastle region. A fair comparison could not, therefore, be made with Sydney graduates whose final exam marks had failed to get them a place in their hospital of first preference.

Academic visitor hails from Newcastle

Professor Terry Caelli, who visited the Human Brain Research Laboratory in the Department of Psychology recently, has close links with Newcastle and this University.

Professor Caelli taught at the University between 1978 and 1982, when he was appointed to the Killam Memorial Chair in Science at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada.

He held the position of Professor of Psychology at the University of Kingston, Ontario, Canada before recently taking up a new appointment to the Chair in Cognitive Science in the Departments of Computer Science and Psychology at the University of Melbourne.

Terry Caelli lived at Waratah and went to Marist Brothers High School. Whilst an undergraduate he was a familiar figure on campus because he played the clarinet with various student jazz bands.

He was awarded a BA degree with honours Class I in psychology and a PhD for a thesis on Visual Pattern Recognition.

Our photograph shows Professor Caelli with Assoc. Professor David Finlay. He came to the campus to work with Professor Finlay and Dr Mark Manning.
**Microscopically small and fast — microchips are on their way**

Dr Helko Schröder has come to the University from the Australian National University to become AWA Professor of Industrial Microelectronics — and he hopes to encourage other researchers to follow him and work in his new laboratory.

A PhD graduate in Computer Science of Christian-Albrechts-Universität Kiel in West Germany and formerly Assistant Professor at the University of Kansas, Dr Schröder has been working for the past four years with the ANU as a senior research fellow on the design of microchips and the development of systolic arrays and other devices.

Professor Schröder is responsible for establishing a new research laboratory in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science with involvement from AWA Microelectronics Pty. Ltd. The company, in addition to giving financial support, is making available design software to be used by Professor Schröder in his work.

"We will design microchips and AWA will fabricate them," he said. "There will be access to our activities and our staff and students will have access to their factory in Sydney to carry out research."

The design of microchips up to a size of 1 cm² by means of VLSI (very large scale integration). A wafer is about the size of a compact disc and thus could carry 100 times larger circuits than a chip.

Most of the wafers, Professor Schröder said, turn out to have some faults on them. To overcome this, he and Dr Bryan Beresford-Smith, a Lecturer in Computer Science, are working on fault tolerant systems to increase the fabrication yield.

In addition, Dr Beresford-Smith and he plan to design a highly parallel and thus highly powerful image processing machine which can be used to automatically analyse images such as aerial or satellite photographs. This is a joint project with the CSIRO, the ADFA and BHP research.

As mentioned, researchers from outside the University will be invited to work with Professor Schröder. For example, Professor Krishnamurthy, from New Zealand, who has written texts on parallel computation, will visit the University before Christmas.

Professor Schröder is not married, keeps himself fit by cycling to and from the University.

**New telephone system for the University**

The University's new PABX telephone system is expected to be in operation by mid-1990.

The Manager, Building and Grounds, Mr Maurie Edmonds, said that with the amalgamation of the University and the former HIHE people had been put to some inconvenience by the fact that there were two different switchboards.

He said Housley Communications Consultants Pty. Ltd., of Sydney, had been appointed to investigate the University's switchboard requirements, prepare specifications, call tenders, recommend a company to carry out the supply and installation, carry out supervision and commission the new PABX equipment.

A project committee has been set-up to plan the installation comprising Mr John O'Donohue, of the Building and Grounds Division, a representative of the Computing Centre, a representative of the Faculty of Engineering, a representative of the Consultants and Mr Edmonds.

Mr Edmonds said information received from departments about their telephone needs would be made available to Housley Communications Consultants Pty. Ltd.

The budget for the provision of the new PABX telephone system was $600,000.

Housley Communications Consultants Pty. Ltd. had been commissioned to make the arrangements because modern PABX systems were very complex units and the company was right up-to-date with new developments in this specialist field, he said.

Switchboard operator, Mrs Betty Line, directing calls on the University's old telephone system.
Imagination with a 'c'  

A lecturer in the Department of Visual Arts and Media Studies has recently sold an artwork which is the culmination of a commission earlier in 1989.

Mr Richard Tipping, who lectures in video and script writing in the Bachelor of Arts (Communication Studies) course, is also a sculptor and visual artist and has had exhibitions in all states of Australia, whilst his work is also in the collections of many public galleries.

The artwork in question is a 180 cm x 120 cm (6'x4') colour photograph documenting an artwork for which he was commissioned to celebrate the opening of the new wing of the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

Mr Tipping said he designed and installed the artwork across the facade of the Art Gallery. He filled the 'frames' on the front walls with bright red cloth carrying in blue shadow lettering the word *Imagination* (imagination with a 'c'). The title was meant to suggest image in action, imagine action or most potently, that art is an act of imagination, or the imagination in action.

He said the installation included a gigantic cloth bow which 'opened' for the occasion and was made of more than 200 metres of bright red cloth. The exercise used the skills of specialists in wind resistant fabrics and special effects people from the film industry.

This is the third artwork by Mr Tipping that has been acquired by the Gallery since 1988.

It seems that 1989 was an especially good year for Mr Tipping. In the same week, the Australian National Gallery in Canberra purchased a complete set of his screenprints, graphics and exhibition posters made up of more than 40 separate items.

Before his move to Newcastle earlier this year to take up his lecturing position, Mr Tipping worked for 15 years in the film industry on a freelance basis. A documentary portrait he made in England of poet and novelist, Randolph Stow, was recently screened on ABC television. He is currently working on the post-production of films in the same series about Sumner Locke Elliott (filmed in New York) and Jack Lindsay (filmed in Cambridge).

Master of Environmental Studies success

The Master of Environmental Studies (coursework) degree was taught for the first time this year.

With the focus on environmental decision-making and management, the course attracted five part-time students from such diverse backgrounds as ecology, geology/chemistry, town planning, forestry, and home economics. The students enrolled in a core course, technology and human values, in philosophy and a seminar series.

The latter course was directly oriented towards the focus of the degree. The students were introduced to a wide variety of approaches to management and decision-making in such diverse areas as total catchment management, recreation management, sewage disposal, solid waste problems, wetlands management, and global environmental problems.

As part of the seminar series, the students were required to present a seminar in their own area of expertise and also to participate in sections to develop a model oriented to successful environmental management and sustainable development.

Once developed, this model was applied to the Ironbark Creek catchment, to establish areas of conflict and to recommend solutions. Before a full meeting of the Board of Environmental Studies on November 1, the students presented their findings.

The general consensus of the meeting was that the presentation and approach was very successful, and will be a useful guide for similar studies in future years.

Over the next two years the students will fulfill the rest of their course requirements and complete a project. They will then have an extensive knowledge of environmental decision-making and management approaches, which will be very useful to help solve conflicts and assist in planning in environmental and development situations in the future.

Enrolments for the Master of Environmental Studies (coursework) for 1990 will begin in mid-December, 1989. Those persons interested in further information should contact Dr Howard Bridgman, Department of Geography, University of Newcastle, 2308 at (049) 68 5654.

Contemplating a Trip to the United Kingdom? Why not consider a holiday with a difference?

Break with tradition and take a holiday on a university campus which offers you better value, more options and complete flexibility.

The University Accommodation Office has up-to-date lists of accommodation offered on most university campuses in the UK over their vacation periods December/January, March/April, June/September including B & B, flats/houses, and rooms in Halls of Residence.

Enquiries: Kathleen Dacey, Accommodation Officer, Extension 520.
Links with Australian Manganese Company Ltd.

Mr Tony Taylor, Plant Manager of the Australian Manganese Company Ltd., recently presented a cheque to Dr Kevin Bell, Head of the Chemistry Department, to establish a Third Year Inorganic Chemistry prize. It was another gesture in developing closer links with the University.

Mr Taylor said the AMCL’s plant at Mayfield, when fully operational late next year, would produce 18,000 tonnes of electrolytic manganese dioxide (EMD) a year for the battery industry. The industry now required a very high quality product of great purity, consistency and battery activity.

To stay ahead of the latest developments in EMD quality around the world, he said, it would be necessary to maintain a high level of technology in the plant and ensure a high level of research and development.

We must also have access to top quality graduates both for running the plant and for new developments, Mr Taylor said.

Dr Dom Swinkels, Industrial Research Associate in the Chemistry Department, had been very influential in developing various links between the AMCL and the University.

The AMCL had funded research grants to support Dr Swinkels’ on-going EMD research in the Chemistry Department.

The aim of the work, Mr Taylor said, was to develop methods of improving the quality of EMD for battery applications. Some of this work must be confidential. However, many aspects were not and it was planned to involve staff and students of the University as much as possible.

Dr Swinkels was a Research Manager at the BHP Central Research Laboratory until his early retirement late in 1987. He was responsible for much of the R&D work carried out there prior to BHP deciding to build an EMD plant in October, 1987.

He is now a consultant to the AMCL on EMD and Chairman of the Technology Committee of the International Battery Materials Association, an organisation dedicated to the development of portable batteries of all kinds but with a strong emphasis on manganese dioxide.

Mr Taylor said the Australian Manganese Company Ltd. had also funded the purchase of an automatic sample changer for the University’s X-ray Centre, thus increasing the productivity of the facility by a factor of about four. This made it more convenient and quicker to do X-ray diffraction measurements for all users of the centre, including AMCL, so all users would benefit.

Other links include an Honours student, Mr Rodney Williams, who is currently developing chemometric techniques for estimating a number of important properties of EMD from XRD data under the supervision of Dr Marcel Maeder, and a Masters student, Ms Sarah Angus, who is working on aspects of electrolyte purification methods under the supervision of Drs O’Callaghan, Lawrance and Robert Burns.

Mr Taylor with Dr Doug Todd, of the X-Ray Centre. The Australian Manganese Company Ltd. provided the funds to enable the University to buy the automatic sample changer, which allows X-ray diffraction to be carried out much faster.
Hunter caravan project — its fourth year

Mrs Schiller said the past year had seen a growth in the number of caravan families participating in programs, in addition to the number of staff required to conduct the activities. At any one time, more than 500 caravan families were now participating in programs, whilst in the past three years about 1,500 families had taken part.

The Project was established at the former Hunter Institute of Higher Education in 1986 to study the needs of families with young children living permanently in caravan parks, mainly in the Hunter Region. The project received $310,000 for an initial period of three years (Phase 1) from the Bernard van Leer Foundation based on The Hague and which is an international, non-profit organisation which concentrates on low-cost, community based initiatives in early childhood care and education for socially and culturally disadvantaged families and children.

Programs developed under Phase 1 include:

- Playgroup — a mobile intervention program for children taught to five years old where parents and children participate in developmental activities.
- After School Program — based on parks and conducted by a trained park resident for preschool and school-aged children.
- Home/School Liaison Program — a teacher works with children in the school situation and makes home visits to parents in caravan parks. Individual programs focus on the development of self-esteem, social skills and competence in basic subjects.
- Vacation Program — a full-day activity program operating on caravan parks during school holidays and involving children of all ages and their parents in recreation, craft and movement activities.
- Home Visiting Program — a trained health worker visits parents to improve their understanding of the educational and health services available to them.
- The van Leer Foundation subsequently granted a further $548,000 for Phase II of the project between November, 1988 and June, 1991.

Mrs Schiller said the emphasis of Phase I was to win the trust of caravan park residents, to investigate their needs, to discover the best way they could ease themselves into the community around them and to see themselves as a viable community.

'Many caravan parks are physically and socially isolated from their local community with the parks often being on the edge of suburban areas', she said.

'Bringing up children in caravan parks presents different and specific problems for young families, many of whom are living away from supporting family and friends.

'Some of the problems permanent residents face include lack of transport, poor living conditions, proximity of neighbours, sharing of amenities and living space and lack of suitable safe playing areas for children.

'The Caravan Project has focussed its efforts on creating and improving direct services for children in addition to addressing the diverse needs of parents, families and the caravan park communities.

'Now that we have finished Phase I, there are new objectives for Phase II and we hope to accomplish a lot by the middle of 1991', Mrs Schiller said.

The new objectives include consolidating and refining the operational model developed in Phase I and preparing for the ultimate take-over by other agencies; promoting the devolution of responsibilities for operating on-site programs to local parents' groups and caravan park management; carrying out a controlled dissemination program on sites throughout the Hunter Region and extending, in collaboration with other agencies, to the Greater Sydney area; and assessing and evaluating ways in which the program as a whole improves the social, emotional and physical development of caravan children.

'In saying that we have to bite the bullet in the current 12-month period and that some activities at caravan parks will have to close, it must be understood that we can't sustain programs on our own', Mrs Schiller added.

'We are looking closely at trying to change levels and criteria of funding by State and Federal Governments as well as being involved in policy changes that do occur.

'On our own we are just a project or a catalyst, but together, we become a co-ordinated force to ensure the Project Initiatives are sustained.'
Some staff cholesterol levels above mark

Thirty per cent of the University's staff who were tested during Health Awareness Week had cholesterol levels above the World Health Organisation's maximum acceptable level.

Five per cent had blood pressure ratings higher than what the WHO accepts.

During Health Awareness Week early in November, members of staff took the opportunity to have their cholesterol levels tested in the Hunter Building by Reflotron equipment. Blood pressure, weight and height were also recorded.

Sister Shirley Andrews, a University Nursing Sister, said she was pleased when 240 staff were asked whether they of regular aerobic exercise they got. For the duration of the health awareness campaign the Executive of the Staff Association had provided fresh fruit to the participants as an alternative to biscuits in accordance with the principles of 'healthy heart food'.

Sister Andrews said that the WHO recommended that the maximum acceptable cholesterol level be less than 5.5 mmol/L. It was accepted that the diastolic blood pressure should be less than 90.

Using these premises, the following facts had emerged using a computer spreadsheet:

- **Maximum cholesterol** — 7.79 mmol/L (male) and 7.14 mmol/L (female).
- **Overall average** — 5.29 mmol/L (male) and 4.934 mmol/L (female).

Seven staff had both a cholesterol level above 5.5 and a diastolic blood pressure above 90.

A cause for concern were the 71 staff who had cholesterol levels greater than 5.5, despite only one person having admitted to a high fat intake, 35 having reported a medium fat intake, 35 having claimed a low fat intake, only five being smokers, 29 having claimed they took no alcohol and 54 having claimed they carried out regular aerobic exercise.

This conflicts with the fact that 24 per cent admitted to doing little, or no, aerobic exercise', Sister Andrews said.

The total number of participants in the survey with a diastolic blood pressure greater than 90 was 13.

Sister Andrews said she was reasonably confident that the results of the tests were accurate, as a staff member who had had a reading of 7.35 consulted a doctor and was tested by a pathologist.

'The result this time was 7.12 — that is .23 less, which can be explained by the fact that the person fasted prior to the second test', she said.

The Health Awareness survey revealed that of the the 240 participants 214 were non-smokers, 26 were smokers, 155 drank alcohol and 85 took no alcohol.

'The project was very well received and was much appreciated by the staff,' Sister Andrews said. 'I have had a great deal of feedback from people who are changing their eating habits to overcome problems that were found.

'Material purchased from the Heart Foundation giving guidance on all aspects of healthy eating have proved very popular.

'I have retained the computer disk, so that if any more information is required it will be readily available,' she added.

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**Book of film studies by staff member**

Mr David Boyd, the English Department's film specialist, is the author of *Film and the Interpretive Process*, just released in New York by Peter Lang.

The book, which applies contemporary critical theory to a number of classic American, European and Asian films, includes discussion of films by Welles, Hitchcock, Fellini, Bergman, Antonioni, and Kurosawa.

Dr Boyd told the *Bulletin* that Film Studies had emerged as a major new academic discipline overseas during the eighties.

Although there was one full undergraduate program in Australia so far (at La Trobe), the subject was widely taught elsewhere under the auspices of literature and fine arts departments.

'Here in Newcastle', he says, 'the Department of English has been offering courses in film for more than 10 years'.

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**Super Christmas Sale**

**University Sports Store, Squash Pavilion**

Twenty per cent discount on clothing, shoes and racquets at current listed prices. Thirty to 50 per cent discount on selected items. Sale commences on Friday, December 3 and concludes on Saturday, December 23.
Medicos lift share of 1990 funds

Faculty of Medicine researchers have been awarded $987,000 by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NH&MRC) in continuing grants for 1990. This is in addition to the $642,695 awarded by the Council in new grants. The total awarded for new and continuing grants ($1,629,695) is $228,690 more than the NH&MRC’s allocation for 1989.

NH&MRC continuing grants

Assoc. Professor A. Husband, Mechanisms of Immune Control in the Intestine, $57,310.52.

Dr A. Cripps, Professor R. Clancy and Dr G. Pang, Protective Molecules of the Micro-organism — Haemophilus Influenzae, $41,099.03.

Dr G. Pang, Professor R. Clancy and Dr A. Cripps, Immunisation with an Oral Vaccine Against Bronchitis Mode of Action, $29,585.55.

Professor R. Sanson-Fisher, Dr A. Coulthard, Dr J. Dickin-sion and Professor W. Walters, Increasing Screening for Cervical Cancer, $53,876.07.

Professor R. Burton and Dr Y. Smart, Marker on Killer Cells which Destroy Cancer, $62,957.71.

Professor J. Forbes and Dr Byrne, International Clinical Trial of Adjuvant Treatment in Early Breast Cancer, $47,115.26.

Dr J. Gerkens and Professor A. Smith, Role of Kidney and Blood Vessels in High Blood Pressure, $3,105.52.

Professor A. Smith, Dr J. Gerkens and Dr J. Whyte, How Diuretic Drugs Reduce Blood Pressure, $24,192.69.

Dr D. Pouts, The Role of Calcium in Hormone Release from the Adrenal Gland, $34,438.09.

Professor J. Forbes, Dr M. Byrne, Assoc. Professor A. Coates and Dr J. Collins, Evaluation of Chemotherapy for Patients with Early Operable Breast Cancer, $58,570.35.

Assoc. Professor R. Smith, How the Placenta Affects the Mother’s Hormones, $139,499.93.

Dr S. Bunn and Assoc. Professor P. Dunkley, Molecular Mechanisms of Hormone Release, $72,637.01.

Dr J. Rostas, Assoc. Professor P. Dunkley and Dr J. Heath, Molecules Responsible for the Maturation of Nerve Cells, $94,461.34.

Professor G. Burns, Understanding the Growth and Differentiation of Human T Lymphocytes, $36,399.58.

Professor G. Burns, Alterations in the Behaviour of Cells caused by Attachment to Proteins, $56,848.04.

Professor N. Saunders, Assoc. Professor M. Hensley, Mr P. Bustin and Assoc. Professor S. Carney, Community-based Studies of Snoring, $77,327.11.

Professor John Forbes, Professor of Surgical Oncology, who was awarded an NH&MRC grant.

Continuing Special Grants

Professor T. Boulton, Mrs A. Magarey and Dr R. Cockington, A Study on the Emergence of Heart Disease — Risk Factors in Youth, $17,501.71.

2NUR Art Auction

The Art Auction held at the City Hall on November 22 raised $1,100 for the 2NUR Building Appeal. Organisers were very pleased with the interest shown by the public and hope to have a similar auction possibly around September next year. The Building Appeal has reached $150,000 and it is hoped that tenders will be called early in the New Year.

Our photograph shows Mr Patrick Williams (a voluntary presenter for 2NUR) who is holding one of the paintings while Mr Don McHattie (honorary auctioneer) auctions it.
Classics receive large ARC grant

Grants from the ARC for research in the Humanities and Social Sciences were fiercely contested this year, more than 600 applications having been submitted for some of the $2 million allotted to new projects.

Nonetheless, the Department of Classics received a $54,000 grant for work in an increasingly important area of research.

The research team consists of Professor Godfrey Tanner (leader), Dr Bernard Curran, and Dr Charles Penglase.

The research project concentrates on the Near Eastern Influences in Greco-Roman Religion and Mythology.

With increasing, and often startling, archeological discoveries in Syria, Turkey, and Iraq in recent decades and, especially in the last few years, discoveries which often have a bearing on the Classical civilisations, the need for detailed research into the impact on Greece and Rome has been more urgently felt.

Professor Tanner will research the infiltration of Eastern cults by military conquest or foreign merchant settlers to Athens and other Greek cities down to Hellenistic times, concentrating on issues such as the Asklepios model, Persian Magi influence, and Hellenistic relations with India, for instance, in the parallels between Shiva and Dionysos, Vishnu and Heracles, and the equation of Buddha with Apollo in Gardhavan art.

Dr Curran will carry out research on Near Eastern influences on Rome for instance Phoenician influence from as early as the fifth century BC, and later influence of Egyptian ideas and iconography in literature, thought and religion, concentrating on issues such as the Egyptian netherworld concepts in Vergil’s writings.

Dr Penglase will continue his research in the Mesopotamian influences on Early and Classical Greece, as it is seen in Greek religious myth and literature, isolating and defining underlying Mesopotamian ideas in the myths of major Greek deities and other figures.

The award to the Department includes the 1990 instalment of the research fellowship provision for Dr Penglase.

Differences in Book Fairs

The true extent of the results of this year’s Book Fair (a record profit of $52,000) and the great effort made by the organisers, the Friends of the University, are indicated by the following extracts from two campus newspapers:

The University of Sydney News — profit from Bookfest, organised by the Chancellor’s Committee, $19,000.

The La Trobe University Record — profit from the Open Day Bookfair, organised by Convocation, $1,000.

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, Islington.

Opening Times

11 am to 4.30 pm (Tuesdays to Sunday)

It’s worth a look!! Telephone: 61 1714
On November 4, at the International Congress on Sports Medicine and Education held at the Palais des Congres in Paris, Professor Ron Laura, of the Department of Education, was awarded the medal of honour in recognition of his major contributions to the field of sports education. The award was made on behalf of the Academy of Sports Medicine and the International Council of Sport and Physical Education. Representatives from 62 countries were in attendance to hear Professor Laura's invited Keynote address entitled, The Future of Olympic Sport: From Drugs to Genetic Engineering.

For more than a decade Professor Laura has campaigned vigorously against the increasing use of drugs in sport. His contributions have been both theoretical and practical.

Professor Laura has lectured on the topic at conferences around the globe, published numerous papers on the moral and health issues involved and is currently co-editor, with Professor Saxon White of the Faculty of Medicine, of a volume entitled Controversial Issues of Drugs in Sport, to be published by Allen & Unwin. The book draws largely on the discussions arising out of the First Australian Congress on Drugs in Sport, organised by the Hunter Academy of Sport and recently held in Newcastle.

On the practical side, Professor Laura has been developing a revolutionary style of exercise program to help athletes achieve muscle growth and strength gains by natural scientifically applied methods which approximate the gains traditionally associated with the use of performance-boosting drugs. He calls his program Matrix Training and he has developed seven Matrix principles which he has incorporated into a variety of sophisticated exercise courses. Interest in the Matrix program has been worldwide and amateur and professional sporting teams around the globe are using the system with great success as an alternative to drugs in sport.

Several American football teams are currently using the Matrix system, and Professor Laura has just set out a specialised exercise program for the Newcastle Knights.

Global interest in Matrix training extends also to Great Britain where a novel project has been initiated by UK Member of Parliament, Andrew Hargreaves, with the objective of giving scientific and medical advice on effective and natural performance-boosting techniques in sport. The project, entitled SMART (Scientific, Medical Advice and Research Techniques), will include Professor Laura's Matrix program as the central weight-training component for British Olympic athletes. Mr Hargreaves presented the medal to Professor Laura at the Paris Congress.

The hypothesis underpinning Matrix training is that muscular growth can be accelerated by a form of exercise which stimulates hyperplasia or the splitting of muscle cells. The conventional view has been that muscle growth depends simply upon hypertrophy or cell enlargement. Professor Laura's system challenges the orthodox view and considerable evidence has accumulated to show that muscle growth can be promoted through hyperplasia.

Athletes using the Matrix program will be biopsied by British physiologists working with the SMART project with an aim to determining the extent to which hyperplasia accounts for the established rapid gains in size and strength resulting from Matrix training.

Professor Laura is currently co-authoring a book on Sports Education with Professor Ken Dutton, Dean of Students, in which the Matrix program figures prominently, and the first stage of the Matrix system has been published in a number of international sports medicine and health journals.
Lion's share of awards

No other university gained more Australian Postgraduate Research Awards than the University of Newcastle.

The Minister for Employment, Education and Training, Mr Dawkins, made this announcement when he visited the University on December 1.

After being shown the main features of the campus by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor K. Morgan, the Minister had lunch with members of the Steering Committee of the Centre for Industrial Control Sciences and then inspected two projects which are part of the Australian Postgraduate Research Awards Scheme.

The first, supervised by Dr Piper and Dr Scott, of the BHP's Central Research Laboratories, will examine solid state lasers for use in remote sensing.

The other project, supervised by Dr Betz, of the University, and Mr Pope, of C.W. Pope Pty. Ltd., will look at new ways of using ultrasonic signals to detect cracks in pipes.

The University won seven of the national awards for postgraduate research with industry. (The details were published in the last issue of the Bulletin.)

'You can draw your own conclusions about the strength and quality of Newcastle University's links with industry from these figures,' Mr Dawkins said.

The Australian Postgraduate Research Awards with Industry were part of the Federal Government's push to ensure Australia maintained and improved its place in the world in the competitive and fast changing areas of science, technology and research.

The aim of the awards was to train high calibre students to undertake innovative, world class research in Australian industry.

'This not only benefits students and universities, but gives industry a head-start in what is becoming an increasingly competitive market for new products and for better and more efficient ways of producing and marketing goods and services.'

While Newcastle benefits from firming up its reputation as a centre of research excellence, local industry here will also receive a shot in the arm from having at its disposal some of Australia's finest research students,' Mr Dawkins said.

New link road to be commenced

When the Bulletin went to press, commencement of work on the construction of the link road between the eastern campus and the main campus was imminent.

In conjunction with the link road, alterations are to be carried out to the main access road to the eastern campus.

The work will involve widening of the main access road from the link road to the start of the S-bends to Rankin Drive and the provision of additional car parking for the Hunter House student residential development east of the main access road.

Members of staff are requested not to park in the parking areas to the east of the eastern campus main access road from December 4 until the work is completed in late January, 1990.
Raising the profile of equity in the Hunter

The University has identified six main priority groups in its Equity Plan for action to encourage disadvantaged people from the Hunter Region to raise their aspirations and participate in courses at the University.

The groups which are targeted in the Equity Plan for special attention:

- People from low socio-economic backgrounds.
- Aborigines and Torres Strait Islander people.
- People with disabilities.
- People from non-English speaking backgrounds.
- Women in non-traditional and postgraduate studies.
- Students from rural or isolated areas.

Moreover, the University has made a submission to the Federal Government seeking an allocation of $390,000 a year over the next three years to implement a range of initiatives aimed at effecting real change in access to higher education.

The submission argues that because the degree of economic and social disadvantage in the Hunter has been clearly demonstrated by the low employment and average income levels, the people of the region have established a genuine claim to special funding consideration by the Government to try to improve their socio-economic status.

If it is the Government's objective to achieve a fairer and more just society, then they must be compelled to treat the people of the Hunter fairly. The University of Newcastle is entitled to a considerable proportion of the available equity funds', the University submits.

To date only $110,000 in equity funding has been allocated to the University, and this now here near recognises the scale and severity of the problem.

The submission seeks the three-year commitment from the Government under the 1990 Higher Education Equity Program for these initiatives:

Pilot Initiatives — support program for students with disabilities, $80,000 (amount required for 1990). New student support service (tutorial assistance, counselling and study skills for new students), $40,000 (amount required for 1990).

Mainstream Initiatives — UNILINK (campus orientation, study skills, tutorial assistance for secondary school students), $80,000 per annum over three years (commencing 1990).

NEWSTEP — (special entry/bridging program), $120,000 per annum over three years (commencing in 1990).

Postdoctoral re-entry fellowship for women, $90,000 per annum over three years (commencing 1990).

In an Equity Plan, which is part of the University's educational profile, the University states that its commitment to equity has been strengthened by the creation of an administrative unit within the newly amalgamated Institution which has responsibility for student equity.

The unit will be led by an Assistant Registrar responsible to the Academic Registrar of the Student Division and will comprise at least two other permanent members of staff, the plan reports.

All programs relating to equity within the Institution will be co-ordinated by the unit, although equity initiatives will operate throughout the institution.

In addition, some expansion of staffing resources for the Aboriginal Education Unit is planned.

The Equity Plan addresses each of the disadvantaged groups in turn, describing current strategies and proposed developments for improving participation rates.

Grants for the Development of Areas of Research Excellence

Expressions of interest in research grants

The Vice-Chancellor has announced a substantial injection of funding for research activities. The additional funding will come from the University's reserves and will become available early in 1990.

The intention is that there be a raising of the research profile of the University and that, to achieve this, selected meritorious research proposals should be supported to improve the possibility of attracting substantial external support from granting bodies, government or the corporate sector, or of establishing research ventures that could become self-supporting.

The Research Committee will consider expressions of interest in these grants which, though not of equal size, will be substantial ones in relation to the relative costs of the proposed research area. Grants might range from, say, $5,000 upwards, but grants in the order of $100,000 will not be excluded.

The first stage in the allocation of these additional funds will commence with brief Expressions of Interest closing on December 8. Those which are accepted through this preliminary screening will be asked to make a detailed submission by January 31, 1990. The selection process will then be finalised and a release of funds will be made soon thereafter.

The Expressions of Interest phase will be repeated later in 1990 and on further occasions as funding permits. Closing dates will be announced later in 1990.

P.H. Farley, Deputy Secretary
Toys for Kids

Santa Claus is coming early to about 100 young children who live permanently in caravan parks in the Lower Hunter and Coalfields areas thanks to donations of toys and books by staff and students at the former Hunter Institute of Higher Education.

The donations have been coming in during the past few months from staff and students to the Shayne Chapman Trust Fund, a trust that is a project of the School of Health and is administered by lecturers and students. Shayne was in the third year of her Diploma of Health Science (Nursing) course when she unfortunately passed away in April as a result of cancer.

A representative of the trust and also a Nursing student, Ms Gall Norton, said the toy and book collection was one of the first activities of the group and that there had been a good response to the request for donations.

The staff of the Hunter Caravan Project (see article elsewhere in this issue of the Bulletin) informed us that many children living in caravan parks lack adequate toys and books for their use and we decided to have a collection on campus to help these children, Gall said.

A number of collection bins were placed around the Institute and it has been a team effort in “revitalising” some of the donations, getting them wrapped this week and then making sure they are distributed in the two weeks before Christmas.

“At a time of economic hardship, we’re sure the early visit by Santa will be well received”, Ms Norton said.

Choral concert for Christmas

The University Choir, accompanied by Mr Keith Murree-Alley on the organ, will present a Christmas concert on Sunday, December 10, at 2.30 pm, in the Great Hall.

The concert, much of it conducted by the Choir’s Musical Director, Peter Brock, will include Christmas songs, carols and even some stories. The audience will join in some of the carols.

A special attraction will be the Hunter Consort of Voices, an ensemble of eight singers, conducted by Mr Philip Mathias. The consort will sing music old and new, including Peter Sculthorp’s The Birthday of Our King, which was given its first performance by the King’s College Choir last Christmas.

An additional performance of the concert (without the Hunter Consort) will be given on Sunday, December 3, at 2.30 pm, in the St Paul’s Anglican Church, Gloucester.

Concert tickets cost $5, $3 (concession) and $2 (school children). Tickets are available at the door and from the Civic Theatre, Lathams Garden City, the Union and MacDonald Bros., Maitland.

NSW Government recommended department

A senior engineer from Japan has been attracted to this University by its expertise in research into the economics of integrated tourist resorts.

The objective of Mr Toru Nishikawa’s collaboration with Dr Colin Aislabie and Dr John Stanton in the Department of Economics is to obtain their views on a proposal to develop a large portion of land in Ishikawa Prefecture as an international tourist resort.

The New South Wales Government advised Mr Nishikawa’s employer, the Nanao Land Improvement Office of Ishikawa Prefecture, to seek the help of the Environment and Development Research Group in the Department of Economics.

The prefecture, located north-west of Tokyo on the coast of the Sea of Japan, is facing the problem of an imbalance of agricultural infrastructure and is interested in developing the tourist resort as a land readjustment scheme.

Dr Aislabie said the State Government was aware of his and Dr Stanton’s interest in the economics of integrated tourist resorts because they were undertaking an investigation of resorts on the Gold and Sunshine Coast funded by the Senate Research Committee.

Toru is getting ideas and thinking about solutions for a plan of the feasibility of the Ishikawa resort,” he said.

After working at this University, Mr Nishikawa will visit the Gold Coast, Brisbane and Cairns to learn more about the subject.
Warden elected to head national body

The Warden of Convocation, Mr Vic Levi, was elected President of the Australian University Graduate Conference (AUGC) and took the Chair at the 23rd annual meeting at the University of Adelaide on November 18 and 19.

Mr Levi told the Bulletin that in recent years great steps forward had been taken in developing the national body of graduate associations into an organisation which was playing an increasingly important role.

He said the Convocation of the University of Newcastle had achieved considerable input into the direction the AUGC was going as a result of having had three Past Wardens as Presidents (Mr Joe Talty, Professor Ken Dutton, and Mr Philip Miller).

Mr Peter Anderson, of Newcastle, a former Graduate Affairs Officer of the Universities of Adelaide and New South Wales, was elected Executive Secretary of the AUGC.

Mr Levi said there was a very good chance that the next annual meeting of the Graduate Conference would be held at this University — around the middle of 1990. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor K. Morgan, had welcomed the news and offered Convocation assistance.

The AUGC discussed the availability of funds for university research under the Unified National System of Higher Education.

The conference advocated the need for increased capital funding in order to facilitate structural change in, and among, universities and the need for increased research funding as recommended by the Smith Committee.

Some members said they felt Australian universities would be deprived of funding for important ongoing research, Mr Levi said. It was recognised by the conference that more funding was becoming available for the bigger research projects, most of which were mission-oriented.

Members said they felt that whilst this was not necessarily a bad thing for the nation it should not be accomplished at the expense of the necessary smaller, but potentially equally important, research projects.

Mr Levi said fears were also expressed that people in the bureaucracy not fully versed in the needs of universities would have a say in the allocation of research money.

The AUGC also discussed the establishment of Chairs funded by industry and supported donors funding academic positions, whilst believing that it should always be the prerogative of the universities to select the most appropriate candidates for the Chairs.

The AUGC urged the Australian Vice-Chancellors’ Committee to institute major discussion and consideration of institutional advancement programs on a national basis.

The resolution followed a debate on a report from Mr Trevor Wigney, Director Alumni and Development Office of the University of Western Australia, on the progress towards the possible introduction of a system similar to the American ‘Council for Advancement and Support of Education’ (CASE) in Australia.

‘Whilst Trevor pointed out this progress had been slow and might not now happen at all’, Mr Levi said, ‘he did refer to the fact that a Victorian-based Development Officers’ Association had emerged, primarily to promote and fund private secondary schools.’

The AUGC had felt the above resolution should be carried to encourage a climate of private support for education, particularly in the tertiary sector.

‘We see fundraising and Friendraising as different roles for university support organisations, whilst recognising the need for graduate bodies to be involved in both areas’, Mr Levi said.

Walcha boy becomes UNE V-C

The University of New England’s Interim Board of Governors announced the appointment of Professor Robert H.T. Smith to succeed Professor McNicol as Vice-Chancellor of the University.

Professor Smith is currently Chairman of the National Board of Employment, Education and Training. Before joining the Board, he was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Western Australia and had previously been Vice-President, Academic, of the University of British Columbia.

Robert H.T. Smith was born at Walcha and educated at the Farrah School in Tamworth.

In 1957, he graduated Bachelor of Arts, with First Class Honours in Geography, from the University of New England. After completing a Master of Arts at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, he returned to Australia and completed a PhD at the Australian National University. Between 1968 and 1985, he held Chairs in Geography at the Universities of Wisconsin, Queen’s at Ontario, Monash and British Columbia.

Professor Smith is expected to take up his new appointment at the UNE at the beginning of February, 1990.

- Mr Vic Levi

- Professor Robert Smith
Management scores sponsorship study

The Department of Management has won a grant to carry out a study of the sponsorship industry in Australia.

Senior Lecturer in Management, Dr Hazel Suchard, has been chosen by the Australian Association of National Advertisers, on behalf of several major companies, to do the study.

The fact that the University has been recognised for its marketing research effort is expected to enhance the institution's reputation in academic and commercial circles in Australia.

Dr Suchard said the effectiveness of sponsorship as a marketing tool, and the measurement of its efficiency, had been identified by many companies as an area which warranted particular attention.

Dr Suchard said she would work on studying the following main aspects:

- The size of the sponsorship industry and growth patterns.
- The match between marketing objectives and specific types of sponsored events.
- The impact of sponsorship efforts on the trade and on consumers.
- The evaluation of sponsorship and measurement of successful sponsorship.
- The similarities/differences between sponsorship in Australia and sponsorship in New Zealand and America.

According to Dr Suchard, the study was unique in that it had been funded by companies with the express aim of developing marketing knowledge in Australia.

Phase I, which entails a survey of companies, has commenced, and questionnaires have been distributed to more than 600 companies, she said.

Phase II entails a survey of bodies which are in receipt of sponsorships.

Phase III entails a survey of retailers/distributors and Phase IV entails a survey of consumers, she said.

Dr Suchard has contacted marketing academics in New Zealand and the United States. They will collaborate by conducting the survey in their countries.
More face-to-face teaching here than in China

She has already observed that there is more 'face-to-face' teaching here compared to China, where the students rely very heavily on textbooks. Another difference is that in China, all the students and some of the lecturers live on campus — she finds it very different that students travel to the University campus for their studies.

Her visit to Australia is sponsored by the Chinese Government as part of an 'Open Door Policy' that has been in place since 1978. Through this policy, Chinese graduates have been able to visit many countries such as the United States of America, Canada, Russia, North Korea, West Germany, plus a number of European countries as well as Australia.

Whilst in Australia Ms Tao Wei hopes to visit some of our tourist attractions and take lots of photographs to send home to her family in China.

'I have been to Sydney, but I think I like the country areas better', Ms Tao Wei said. 'I like the space in Australia — it is very beautiful, but my most favourite place is the ocean — it is spectacular', she said.

Start approved on Central Coast development

Work on the design of another building at the University's Central Coast Campus will commence immediately, following the appointment of the architects.

The Manager, Buildings and Grounds, Mr Maurie Edmonds, said the architectural firm, Grenfell, Fraser and Associates, of the Central Coast, had been appointed to design this general purpose teaching building proposed for erection at Kurimbah.

[At present, the University and the WEA's Community College are operating out of three demountable classrooms. Roads have been constructed and two old homes have been occupied in Brush Road, Kurimbah.]

Mr Edmonds said the Federal Government had approved a grant of $700,000 to provide this building on the campus.

He said a committee had been appointed by the Vice-Chancellor to take responsibility for the planning and construction of the project. The committee would discuss the new campus's needs with the architects on the site.

The teaching building would be built between the two old houses and adjacent to the demountable classrooms, he said.

HVTC welcomes the new decade

The Hunter Valley Theatre Company (HVTC) claims that its 1990 season of plays greets the new decade, 1990-1999 with enthusiasm.

The first play is the second in 'The Doll' trilogy — Other Times, by Ray Lawler. It continues the saga of Roo and Olive and Nancy and Barney. It is 1945. The war is over. Change is in the air. Roo's and Olive's romance blossoms and Nancy and Barney continue the good times. Once again a mixture of local and guest actors will be seen on the Playhouse stage.

The HVTC announced the inclusion of the Sydney Theatre Company's production of the new Willy Russell play, Shirley Valentine. Willy Russell wrote Educating Rita.

The Headbut has been written for the HVTC by the zany Castanet, Stephen Abbott. It concerns a Taree football player eager to join the Newcastle Knights. The musical is set in a crazy share-house in Cooks Hill.

As usual, the company will have a winter recess and return for the fourth in the season, Bloodshot, by Warwick Moss. Set in Sydney, the play revolves around an aspiring painter and playwright who weaves a tangled web of emotion and intrigue for the audience to solve.

The final play in the season is a musical entertainment by Sheridan Morley — Noel and Gertie. The script uses some of Noel Coward's recorded dialogue to bring to the audience the story of Noel Coward and Gertrude Lawrence.

For further information please telephone the Playhouse at 26 2526 or 26 2755.
Research chiefs find large holes in funding bucket

Top researchers in Australia's universities have just been allocated $65.2 million in Australian Research Council (ARC) grants, but somehow feel short-changed.

A Canberra meeting of Pro-Vice-Chancellors (Research), representing 23 Australian universities, has just done its sums and found that expectations raised earlier in the year by its major funding body have been dashed.

The ARC has decreed that it will only partially fund the direct costs of many of the research projects it has approved. With universities already spending a considerable part of annual operating funds to maintain research projects, the decision has been a bitter disappointment.

Under Mr Dawkins' 'claw-back' scheme universities are losing $130 million between 1988 and 1991 to help fund colleges and universities for specific research profiles.

Although the Minister announced a $107 million support package in May for research infrastructure for universities and colleges over the same period, the universities' share will still leave a serious shortfall.

Chairman of the AVCC's Pro-Vice-Chancellors' (Research), Professor Peter Sheehan, said that the ARC's decision to provide only partial funding for the direct costs of so many of its university research projects would exacerbate the run-down of research infrastructure in Australian universities.

'At a time when universities have been informed that there is a commitment of Government to adequate funds for research excellence, we find that the ARC has failed to support the demonstrated needs of many of its projects', Professor Sheehan said.

Expectations had been raised unnecessarily, he said, and there was obviously a need for a clear set of realistic guidelines under which researchers could apply. 'We have found to our cost that the rules have been changed mid-way through the process', he said.

Top award to Wetlands Centre

The Shortland Wetlands Centre recently won the Royal Australian Planning Institute's award for excellence in rural planning.

Accepting the award at the RAPI's presentation dinner in Sydney, the Chairman of Directors of the Centre, Assoc. Professor Max Maddock, said the success was the result of a great deal of teamwork — by representatives of Federal, State and Local Government, corporate interests and the community.

The Minister for Local Government and Planning, Mr Hay, presented the awards for Excellence in Urban Planning, Excellence in Rural Planning and Excellence in a Planning Document.

The Adjudicating Committee of the RAPI commented in its report that the Shortland Wetlands Centre was a thoroughly professional response to a unique brief, revealing a sensitivity to social, environmental, cultural and economic imperatives and breaking new ground in habitat management and interpretation.

It is an excellent project, which has overcome many difficulties with a high level of community participation and commitment, and with the support and participation of Newcastle City Council, local industry and business.

'It is environmentally and ecologically sensitive, and is already much appreciated and utilised educational and recreational resource in the region,' the Committee said.

Professor Maddock said the Hunter Wetlands Trust, which had initiated the Shortland Wetlands Centre, was formed in 1984 from 16 foundation members. Membership was now more than 2,000 and a total of $1,200,000 had been spent on developing the wetlands centre.

Conservatorium of Music Concerts

Concessions to staff and students

Faculty and Conservatorium of Music are offering concession rates for concert attendances during 1990.

Now that the Conservatorium is part of the new University as the Faculty of Music, it would like to offer to University staff and students a concession rate to attend Faculty/Conservatorium concerts.

The 1990 concert calendar will be made available later this year to enable staff and students to plan their social calendar.

All staff and students of the University are entitled to 50 per cent off all normal concert fees for all Conservatorium concerts (this will include private hiring, e.g. Musica Viva and Australian Chamber Orchestra concerts).

Michael Dudman,
Dean/Director.
Each year the Mattara Poetry anthology gets better and better. Better in books: the latest one is a very attractive book: better in content: this year's poems confront a wider range of issues from a greater range of stances. All these riches make the reviewer hesitant. Rather than offering a broad-spectrum listing of credits, this review offers a brief critical excursion.

In the 1989 Mattara Poetry Prize anthology, *Pictures from an Exhibition*, a surprising number of poems take paintings and the issues of the visual arts as their theme. Why the fascination with the pictorial? Each poet, no doubt, would offer an individual answer. John Bennett, in his prize winning sequence *Blackwattle Bay*, 13 Fibonacci sonnets, offers general clues to the current love affair:

Absorbed into the eye, everything becomes an element, assuming equivalence as in a landscape photograph.

Everything in the picture demands attention.

For Bennett the Fibonacci structure of 13 lines is a kind of photographic plate, a poetic eye to absorb, through reduction to an element, 'everything'. This 'everything' then demands attention.

Having gained 'attention' the 'everything' in its assumed 'equivalence' has acquired an epistemological value that is beyond question. Each element in the poem is then awarded a kind of permanence: because it is there it is part of the whole and thus it demands attention.

In a later sonnet Bennett invokes various theories of play to support his 'everything' aesthetics: 'Art for Gadamer derives from play/both are subject to themselves, existing/only as experienced'.

The problem here is that the reductionist model of experience that Bennett accepts is one that leaves 'play' in an extremely limited 'playground'. The 13 lines of a one-less-than-full sonnet are neither better nor worse than any other poetic structure to capture the freedom of aesthetic play.

However, if the model of experience is limited to a kind of Eastman box then the value of poetry is precisely as the sophisticated program notes to an exhibition of pictorial works that the Blackwattle Bay sequence becomes.

The issue of play, which happily has resurfaced in recent times, offers a point of departure. Bennett's views veer sharply off towards a logical positivist sunset. Struck with our anatomy all we can do is be part of 'some stray history'. In this history the lovers 'wait for the weekend to bite'. Meanwhile:

A fire burns on a balcony, laughter overbalances, glasses chink and drain the last drops of colour from the water views...

Here the game is ruled by available sensation. Bennett mentions the theories of Huzinga that play/created culture but is now deteriorating into/false play entertaining asdas essentially human'. Bennett's views, in this sequence, offer a kind of flop back into the realm of 'pure' sensation: ya sees what ya sees Doreen, but if ya squint, ya sees diffrunt.

Whatever, the pitch is queered by assumptions that the cognitive aspects of sensation are limited to the set of reduced stimuli perceived by consciousness. On Bennett's model of play there is no extra-human that is other than sensation. Without a Blakean eye (that sees more than the heart knows) to counter the Eastman box then there is no possibility of any consciousness of sensation that is outside of the false model condemned by Huzinga. As sufferers of pleasure we lack the organs of understanding: the discrete defeats comprehension just as the social defeats the personal. Pleasure then proves to be the ultimate lack of freedom: free to play is free to be played.

Following this manifesto it should be possible to construct nice pieces of propaganda to keep the populace aesthetically soothed: well-oiled, that's the end of it.

For Bennett the 'eye' has replaced the 'I': the reader cannot determine where the irony lies in all of this. Now 'The airwaves bristle with talk of theory/and nostalgic whinges on art's decline to pleasure'. And so it goes! Or does it? Have I been fooled? Things used to be complicated, now they are simply complex.

It is precisely because of its mixture of sensation and understanding that poetry has been able to say what prose cannot and has been able to image what painting cannot. Along with this particular mixture goes a particular aspect of identity. Bennett's account goes like this:

Looking for nothing in particular: there's no sign, nothing unusual in the bay, God is invisible: just enjoying the continuity no pause or breath or any gathering of thought, swimming through the brightness of the bees' droning converges on the traffic moving smoothly once more past wavelets pecking on the warm sandstone tongue I'm sitting on. In a kind of reverie, a token losing of a self for a while.

Here the poem itself is the token of loss: the price for the journey through identity. Bunyan would know this as the sleeping ground; for Bennett it is a saturation in sensation that displaces the ego for a moment. Where the ego is displaced to is not the question that Bennett asks. Nor does he ask where the continuity comes from. When in doubt, on this model, sensation will always help you out.

Framed in a larger argumentative-critical narrative this sequence of sonnets could amount to a significant account of one of the many possible and historical approaches to the problems of sensation. In isolation the sequence testifies to the current excitement in Australian poetry: an excitement that lacks the liberation of continuous and detailed criticism.

Anthologies like the 1989 Mattara offer a vital framework of contrast. Within the range of exhibited poems the Bennett sequence of sonnets takes its place as one of the many. As the reader moves from poem to poem a critical continuity lends to each poem an aspect of judgment. Without the Mattara anthology it would not be possible to have this kind of annual overview of Australian poetry. As readers, we too would be left sitting in reverie, saturated, unable to review the play.

Keith Russell,
Department of Expressive Arts & Design
**Advertisements**

**For Sale**

1981 Datsun Charade XE, (metallic burgundy with burgundy interior), five-doors, good condition, registered until July/90 (OCT 377), plus four new tyres. Asking price: $4,950 or near offer. Please telephone 43 6315.

Large, solid hand-built wardrobe 170cms wide by 183 cms high, three doors, one-third devoted to drawer and cupboard space. Asking price: $40. Please contact Dr Howard Bridgman at Extension 644 or 654.

Clock radio (AM/FM) with alarm, $12; hair curler, $15; and electric blanket (single), $10. Please telephone 77 2058.

Amstrad CPC464 colour computer in excellent condition with instruction book, 10 utility programs (wordprocessor, spreadsheet, database etc), one game, three books (memory guide, machine code, filing systems and databases) and six magazines for $430. Will sell computer separately for $320. Please telephone Extension 288 or 49 8548 (evenings and weekends).

1974 Mazda 808 four-speed manual four-door sedan (10 months registration). Features include: stereo cassette player, radio, good tyres, great condition, economical motoring, hugely reliable and a damned nifty car. Going for a meagre $3,000 or near offer. Please telephone Chris at 26 2907.

**Moving overseas**

A fully-reconditioned German Victor Academy piano, walnut case, tapestry bench and key included, excellent condition. Asking price: $1,700 or near offer. Please telephone 51 5586.

**For Rent**

Room with balcony at 92 Railway Street, Cooks Hill. This room is carpeted, clean, sunny, cozy, and just special. Rental: $52 per week (plus bond). This room is available immediately (rush over straight away). Please telephone 77 2058.

Person to share terrace home in Cooks Hill. Prefer non-smoker, vegetarian, around mid-30s and a healthy outlook. Rental: $55 per week plus expenses. Please telephone Jenny at 22 6816 or 26 4510 after 6 pm.

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**Call for help for overseas students**

Overseas students enrolled in the English language intensive course will have a lonely and depressing Christmas break unless staff and students of the University make an effort to help them.

The Director of the Hunter Language Centre, Dr D. Absalom, said that last year many members of the staff had taken it upon themselves to invite overseas students in groups of two or three to join in some of their special occasions or to visit places of local interest during the vacation.

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**Staff House Christmas Function**

Come and enjoy yourselves at the

**End of the Year Festivities**

(food, drink and a lucky cellar, if you are lucky, door prize for $5.)

Friday, December 15, 4.30 pm

Please book with Richard at the Bar (Extension 430).

The Committee wishes all members a joyful Christmas and a fulfilling New Year.

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He said this proved to be very rewarding for the staff and the students and helped to fill in an awkward gap in the students' language learning procedures.

The students, who are principally from Korea or Hong Kong, are extremely polite and pleasant to be with; most are aged in their 20s and have quite extensive knowledge and experience to discuss. Thus the rewards for hosts are quite tangible in the forms of cultural exchange.

Dr Absalom said if staff and students would like to host some of the students during the festive break for a meal, excursion, barbecue or party, then they should contact his secretaries, Heather or Jenny, at 68 7557.

Many of the students have come to Newcastle specifically because of its reputation as a friendly city and it's at this time of the year that we can show that our reputation is well deserved.

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**Holiday opening hours in the Auchmuty Library**

The Library will close at 4 pm on Friday, December 22, and reopen at 8.30 am on January 2, 1990.

The opening hours during the long vacation will be 8.30 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday.

This timetable replaces the previous arrangement – 8.30 am to 7 pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays. From February 12, the hours will be extended to 8.30 am to 7 pm, Monday to Friday.

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**Top Jazzman from Melbourne**

Ian Chaplin was a hit when he played at the University with singer, Vince Jones. The alto saxophonist will lead a quartet at the Workers' Club on December 14 at 8.30 pm.

Tickets cost $10.