Getting Closer to having one association

Representatives of the Students' Associations of the old University and the former Hunter Institute have begun negotiations for the establishment of a combined students' association for the new University.

According to the President of the Students' Representative Council, Mr Martin Davies, arrangements are being made for an interim council to be set up to govern the whole student body until elections are held.

He said the SRC wanted a balanced council made up of an executive and representatives of all the nine Schools of the University.

"This office is trying to negotiate an amalgamation as quickly as possible because having one body responsible for student affairs will offer the best service to the students".

Combining the student associations from the old University and the former Hunter Institute was a difficult problem, because the two institutions had two constitutions relating to the management of student bodies, Mr Davies said.

"Student activities at the Hunter Institute operate under the guild system, which means that they have one Board of Management. By contrast, the University's SRC, Union and Sports Union are funded and governed autonomously of each other, which is the tripartite system".

"The proposed structure of the interim council of the combined students' association is: President, who will be the official spokesperson, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Intra-campus Liaison Officer, Clubs and Societies Officer, Media Officer, Women's Officer, and the Representative of Schools. The Intra-Campus Liaison Officer is a new position, which will probably be discontinued at the end of the interim period".

Mr Davies said the SRC's election for general representatives (education officer, race relations officer, overseas students officer, part-time students' officer and others) would be held in March as usual.

"Historically, the University has granted students autonomy to administer their affairs. This has been both good and bad. There has always been the potential for competitiveness to breed, which certainly isn't in the best interests of students. However, I think that we have avoided that in negotiating for an effective representative body.

"What seems to be holding us back is the fact that the students from the former Hunter Institute are still part of their Union. Differences in opinion have tended to hold things back."

Asked to give a welcome to students arriving this year, Mr Davies said all students were members of the Students' Association, which was administered by the SRC.

"The SRC is the only organisation run by students aimed to represent you and your interests as individuals and as a student body. This may range from launching into major campaigns to fight government actions, such as the introduction of HECS, to trying to get better childcare, parking and accommodation facilities, or to helping reconcile disputes which you may have with examination marks, or treatment by staff of this University.

"We also offer a number of services. These include: photocopying, publishing the student newspaper, Opus, and orientation magazine, binding assignments, typing assignments, the providing of computers for student use, giving references, student cases - problems with school/department/faculty/enrolments and advice, legal advice, interest free loans, not allowing a student to stay in jail overnight for want of bail, clubs and societies membership and funds, international student cards, bus/train timetables, sale of Metrotens and Travelpasses, research, an abortion support group, organising protests, functions, stalls, running a tutoring service, distributing movie concession cards, laminating cards and student discounts", Mr Davies said.
First stage of Central Coast campus

Work has begun on the design of permanent buildings for the Central Coast campus of the University.

The University has commissioned Grenfell Fraser and Associates, Architects, of Gosford, to design the first stage of the new campus in Brush Road, Quirimbah.

The Federal Government has provided $700,000 for the project.

Preliminary plans for the first stage envisage a two-storey teaching block, initially equipped only on the top floor.

The University and the Community College (a WEA project) are teaching students in three demountable classrooms in Brush Road until permanent buildings are provided.

The campus enrolled its first students in July last year when four courses were offered to Central Coast residents.

Four courses are again being offered this year, these being the Associate Diploma of Police Studies, the Bachelor of Arts, the Bachelor of Business and the Master of Business Administration.

"Inevitable and important" to have salary loadings

The Interim Council has agreed in principle to the introduction of a policy of academic salary loadings at the University.

The Council on February 9 considered a report by the Vice-Chancellor and decided to appoint a committee to advise on the kind of scheme to be introduced.

In his report, Professor Morgan submitted that the University would be out of step with the rest of the university network in this country if it didn't accept the principle of salary loadings.

He said that, formerly, consideration of academic salary scales was the function of the Academic Salaries Tribunal, but this responsibility had now been transferred to the Federal Industrial Relations Commission.

"In recent time, severe limitations in this process have become apparent. These are evident in the widening gap between academic salaries and the traditional comparators in the public service; and the still wider gaps between academic salaries and relevant commercial comparators in a number of professional areas.

The Government's response to this has been to accept the concept of market forces as a significant factor in establishing remuneration for academic staff.

"Government still accepts responsibility for funding, based on the new minimum salary scales, but does not expect this to cover the full salary costs incurred by the universities. In doing so, there is active encouragement for universities to make provision to pay academic salaries above the minimum scale levels where and when it is appropriate to do so. For these academic salary loadings no additional funding is provided: it is necessary for universities to redistribute their budgetary priorities, or to obtain adequate non-grant income to cover the cost.

"Provided that it is possible in due course to establish adequate basic academic salary scales, properly funded, the possibility of increased flexibility in salaries does offer some important advantages. In particular, it equips the University with the ability to sustain work in priority areas.

"Universities have demonstrated a willingness to respond to requests to meet evident needs for graduates in areas of perceived priority. Typical examples are accounting, computing, engineering and business and management.

"The two obvious limiting factors in achieving the desired growth in numbers of able and well-qualified graduates are availability of staff and enrolment of students. In areas where there is an existing shortage of professional staff, universities are necessarily in competition with other employers.

"Substantial salary differentials have always existed between universities and industrial and commercial employers: these can be related to perceptions of attractive conditions of employment and personal satisfaction from academic work: the importance of this is clearly significant since over many years universities attracted outstanding academic staff, despite substantial differences in salaries.

"At a time when these perceptions have been eroded and the salary differentials have widened, it becomes difficult for some to envisage a suitably rewarding academic career. This has a long-term effect in reducing the number of honour's and graduate students in particular disciplines and, so, precluding the traditional mode of entry to an academic career: it has an immediate short-term effect in reducing the field of candidates for appointment to academic posts.

"In some areas lack of candidates for appointment is already constraining expansion of academic programs; and the possibility of the loss of existing staff becomes an increasing concern.

"It would, in principle, be possible for a university, while recognising the pressures, to seek solutions through means other than salary loadings. Payment of salary loadings inevitably carries a requirement to pay increased tax.

"The impact of whatever funds are available might be greater if they were applied to strengthening provision for the features of university life which have made an academic career attractive in the past: support for personal research and scholarship; opportunity for discussion with colleagues; assistance with routine tasks; and, above all, time to develop and initiate new work. Additional resources for these purposes and for personal reward might also arise from further facilitation of consulting activities.

"These measures, rather than a simple but perhaps forlorn attempt to bridge the gap between academic and commercial salary might have provided a constructive route had it not been that already a considerable number of universities have agreed to pay salary loadings in areas of special need.

"Information provided by universities in Australia indicates that 16 have already decided in principle to introduce salary loadings and the remainder are either giving, or about to give, consideration to doing so.

"So, in addition to salary competition between academic and commercial organisations there is now salary competition between the universities themselves.

"In these circumstances it is inevitable and important that the University of Newcastle should now decide as a matter of policy to consider the introduction of salary loadings", the Vice-Chancellor said.

Elaborating on his report, Professor Morgan said he hoped he had been able to convey his concern about the possible severe effect of the changes on the setting of a basic pay rate for academics.

Council appointed the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Michael Carter, Dr Alec Forsythe, Mr Peter Rundle, Professor Ron MacDonald and Professor Annette Dobson to the committee and agreed that it should have power to co-opt. An assurance was given that the committee would discuss the matter with University bodies.
10.27 am on Thursday, December 28. While most of us were still wandering around in shock, worried about our loved ones and our homes in the recent Newcastle earthquake, a group of people from the University were in the thick of the rescue operations and played vital roles in the co-ordination of those operations.

Philip Greentree, David Cater and Allan Hargreaves from the University Computing Services and Bede Jordan from the Central Audio-Visual Services Unit were involved in three separate areas of the operation. Philip and Allan were involved in radio communications, David in computer data services while Bede took part as a Major in the Army Reserve.

Philip, who is a ‘ham’ radio operator and the Secretary and Operations Officer of WICEN (Wireless Institute Civil Emergency Network), immediately used his radio to ascertain what had happened to reassure his family and neighbours.

It was then through communication with other radio operators that he realised that a disaster had happened and the call went out to ham radio operators to help in the rescue operations.

WICEN is one of eight designated groups of the Volunteer Rescue Association in New South Wales. It can only be activated by direct request by the Natural Disasters Organisation, the State Rescue and Emergency Services, the Police Department and the State Emergency Services.

Its primary role is to provide emergency services to the Police, Ambulance and Fire Brigade and organisations within the VRA in the event of a natural disaster.

Other disasters where WICEN has played a vital role have been the Ash Wednesday Fires in Victoria and Cyclone Tracey in Darwin.

Philip said that the radio operators provided the link between all emergency services because of their large range of radio frequencies.

Their assistance was particularly vital in those hours immediately after the quake when telephone communication was cut. At one stage they were the only link between Royal Newcastle Hospital and Sydney hospitals.

In the seven days following the quake, a total of 63 amateur radio operators performed almost 5,000 hours of voluntary service and provided an integral link in the communications necessary for rescue operations.

Also included among the 63 radio operators that gave their time unstintingly during those seven days was fellow ‘ham’ radio operator Allan Hargreaves, also from the University Computing Services, who worked for the duration of the emergency.

When it became obvious that additional computer support was necessary at State Emergency Services headquarters, the radio operators called on the services of 27 computer programmers from the University and the Hamilton College of TAFE.

Among these was David Cater, the University’s expert in Data Base 3, a software program specifically for recording data.

Within an hour of being called, David was at SES Headquarters, saw what was needed and went to work.

He not only worked out what was needed in terms of recording data, but altered the program as he went along.

In a different role, but still an important one, was Bede Jordan from the University’s Central Audio Visual Services Unit. Bede is a Major in the Army Reserve and when calls went out for off-duty police and ambulance personnel, they also went out for army reserve personnel.

As Senior Engineer Officer in Newcastle at the time, Bede was responsible for calling in and mobilising members of the Army Reserve and off-duty members of the regular Army.

He said that 327 members of the Army Reserve and Regular Army as well as 50 RAAF Officers responded to that call, mainly from the Newcastle Region, but also some holidaying in the area from as far away as Victoria and Queensland.

Their work was mainly assisting at barricaded areas and helping wherever necessary, to free the Police to do their work as well as assisting the State Emergency Service.

Bede has since received a commendation from the Commander of the Second Military District of the Australian Army and a Letter of Commendation from the Commander of the Australian Defence Force.

In the words of Philip Greentree, "We didn't have time to think about what we were doing, we just did it."
Sporting activities

The Sports Union is the student/staff organisation responsible for the promotion and control of sporting activities within the University.

The Sports Union is governed by an executive and a committee.

The executive consists of the President, Vice-President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, two club delegates, a University Council representative and the Sport and Recreation Officer. The role of the executive is to manage the affairs of the Sports Union.

The committee, which comprises the executive, plus one delegate from each Sports Union affiliated club, directs the executive in the implementation of Sports Union policy.

Sports Union office bearers are elected at the annual general meeting and the ensuing committee meeting, which are held no later than May 30 each year.

Members of the Sports Union Executive for 1989/90 are:

President, Dr B.F. Curran; Vice-President, Ms H. Smith; Honorary Secretary, Associate Professor D. Finlay; Honorary Treasurer, Mr H. Floyer, Council Representative, Associate Professor J. Fryer, Sport and Recreation Officer and Committee Delegates, Mr J. Lowry and Mr D. Millar.

A student automatically becomes a member of the Sports Union when the Sports Union receives its portion of the General Service Fee paid by the student. The University makes an annual grant to allow full-time staff to become members of the Sports Union and part-time staff, associate members. Associate membership is also available to graduates of this, or any other university, on payment of the prescribed fee.

The following clubs are affiliated with the Sports Union: Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Baseball, Basketball, Boat, Body Building, Cricket, Croquet, Fencing, Golf, Men's Hockey, Women's Hockey, Kendo, Mountaineering, Netball, NUDES, Rugby Union, Rugby League, Sailing, Snow Ski, Soccer, Squash, Surfriders, Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Tennis, Women's Touch Football, Volleyball, Water Ski and Weightlifting.

The University's Sport and Recreation Office is responsible for the administration of all sporting facilities on campus and the day-to-day operations of the Sports Union. The Office advises and represents the University on matters pertaining to sport and recreation, assists affiliated sporting clubs, liaises with other sporting bodies, assists with the organisation of Australian universities championships and on-campus competitions, conducts recreational and sporting classes of instruction and administers a Personal Accident Insurance Scheme on behalf of the Sports Union which provides limited cover for Sports Union members.

Each year the Sports Union makes Blues, Colours and Sportsperson-of-the-Year awards. Student club members are also eligible to apply for Neal J. Dickinson Memorial Scholarships which provide financial assistance to help students who actively participate in the organisation and operation of a Sports Union Club to develop and expand their knowledge of any sports related area (principally in the fields of sports administration, coaching, umpiring and injury management).

Sporting facilities available to Sports Union members include seven squash courts, four tennis courts, a sports shop, a putting green, a putting green, an outside basketball/netball court, and the Auchenflower Sports Centre, which contains a large, multi-purpose hall and a weightroom.

Classes of instruction are provided in the following sports and recreational activities: aerobics, body building, fencing, photography, squash, tennis, weighttraining, yoga, guitar tuition, gymnastics, Kendo, Taekwondo and new body. The Sports and Recreation Office will organise classes in other areas for which there is sufficient interest.

The Sport and Recreation Office/Sports Union Office is located in the rear Temporary Building adjacent to the Economics Building.

Sport and Recreation/Sports Union staff available to assist staff and students are:

Adrian Iakin (Sport and Recreation Officer), Extension 344; Jock Armstrong (Activities Organiser), Extension 469; John Hay and Margaret Heron, Extension 500 and Lesley Woodhead, Extension 344.

Jonas appointed to Tribunal

Dr Bill Jonas, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Geography, has been appointed to the recently-established Immigration Review Tribunal.

The Tribunal is the second and final tier of merit review in respect of certain decisions made by the Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs (Senator Rae). It is an independent body, established under the Migration Act. The fundamental responsibility of the Tribunal is to give full consideration to each decision presented for review, and to decide the matter on the merits of the case and the law.

Registers of the Tribunal are being established in major capital centres around Australia with a number of full-time and part-time members.

Dr Jonas, who will serve as a part-time member, says the Tribunal would provide a mechanism of review that was fair, just, economical, informal and quick. "It is not bound by technicalities, legal forms or rules of evidence", he says.

The Principal Member of the Tribunal is Ms Pamela O'Neill, of Canberra.

The Registrar is former University of Newcastle Administrator, Mr Trevor Rodgers.
Former student leader returns

Dr. Brailey Sims

The President of the Students' Representative Council in 1970 has come back to his Alma Mater.

Dr. Brailey Sims, previously attached to the University of New England, took up the position of Senior Lecturer in Mathematics on January 1.

Dr. Sims, who grew up in Newington, was a student of the University in its early years, enrolling in 1965, and graduating in 1969 with Honours Class I.

In 1972 he became only the third person admitted to a PhD degree in Mathematics in the University. The first two are staff members, Assoc. Professor Warren Bristey and John Giles, who supervised Dr. Sims' work.

Dr. Sims remembers that in his second year as an undergraduate he moved from Tighes' Hill to Shortland, where the new campus had been turned into "a sea of mud" where work on erecting the first University buildings.

"The Union was behind schedule and students bought their lunches at a portable hot dog stand, with the mosquitoes coming at them from every direction.

"Whilst I was SRC President, there was strong student opposition to Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. On this campus there were many significant events, such as boycotting the University's Army Regiment and hiding draft dodgers in the Union Basement.

"I can also recall seeing the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Auchmuty, and having to drink his rotten sherry".

Dr. Sims admits to being excited because he has returned to the campus where there are friends and academic colleagues.

"The University, of course, has changed enormously, with a great deal of the things I saw being commenced having grown to healthy maturity.

"In the Department of Mathematics, student numbers have soared and the main problem is meeting the need for tutors and lecturers".

When Brailey Sims was a student, aspiring mathematicians had to enrol in the Faculty of Science. The Faculty of Mathematics was established in the mid-1970s.

12,000 STUDENTS ON CAMPUS

The 1990 enrolment for the University is expected to reach nearly 12,000 students, about 3,800 of whom will be commencing studies for the first time.

The enrolment is the highest for the University and follows the amalgamation of the University of Newcastle, the Hunter Institute of Higher Education and the Newcastle Branch of the Conservatory of Music in November last year.

Deputy Academic Registrar, Mr Frank Hawkins, said that the target figure was 11,955 but that the final figure is likely to exceed the 12,000 mark.

"Overall, we are pleased with the student intake and at this stage have filled all places in the courses we offer."

"In regard to commencing students, most courses were filled on the Main Round of offers made by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Centre (U.C.A.C.) while a few were filled after Final Round offers," he said.

The University is introducing eight new courses this year, including four at degree level and three at Masters level. The new courses are:

* Bachelor of Applied Science (Environmental Assessment and Management)
* Bachelor of Information Science
  * Bachelor of Education (Languages/Asian Studies)
* Bachelor of Health Science (Occupational Therapy)
* Master of Arts by Coursework (Twentieth Century Literature)
* Master of Applied Ethics (Coursework)
* Master of Education (Early Childhood)
* Graduate Diploma of Health Science

In addition, a new strand of the Diploma of Applied Science (Medical Radiation Technology) is being introduced. The strand of Radiotherapy is being added to the Diagnostic Radiography strand.

Flashback to more rustic times - undergraduate, Mr Brailey Sims, eats his fill at the temporary food stall which operated briefly in 1965 before work on the first stage of the Union was completed
The Vice-Chancellor told Interim Council on February 9 that many members of the University had performed outstandingly by giving assistance in the aftermath of the earthquake.

Professor Morgan said he wished to single out the following people because of the work they had done: Professor Michael Carter, who was Acting Vice-Chancellor when the earthquake hit; Mr Maurie Edmonds, Manager, Buildings and Grounds; Mr Richard McGhney, Director, Engineering Services; Mrs Kathleen Dacey, Accommodation Officer.

Council endorsed the Vice-Chancellor's remarks and expressed thanks to the four officers and other staff who had taken part in earthquake recovery work. The Vice-Chancellor reported that the insurance claim for damage to University buildings and their contents was mounting and was now in the region of $7 million. The final bill was likely to be around $10 million.

Professor Morgan said that following the University's approach to the Federal Government for special assistance officers of the Department of Employment, Education and Training had visited the campus and had been advised about the damage and disruption to properties, teaching and research.

"The Government's appropriate response would be to advance our capital works program. For example, we have suggested that work commence on the new Science Building so that accommodation will be available when the damage to science departments is being repaired.

"I feel that this point of view will be listened to sympathetically. One reason is that the Prime Minister said the Government would provide assistance to Newcastle. Further, the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee has announced that Australian universities from that this University has special needs."

Referred to the decision to erect portable buildings near Edwards Hall to be known as University Village to ameliorate the drastic shortage of accommodation for students in Newcastle, the Vice-Chancellor said the village was "not a thing of beauty". However, it was considered to be basic accommodation for 200 students who would not be able to find accommodation without it.

Professor Morgan said the village was no more than a temporary solution to the accommodation crisis, with an expected life of no more than a year. Most of the rooms in the temporary village have already been spoken for.

A further step taken was the decision of the Manager of Newcastle Buses, Mr Len Regan, to introduce new bus services to the University from suburbs which had potential accommodation for students.

"In the long-term, the solution is the provision of additional live-in accommodation at the University. In seeking funds from Canberra we have pointed out that Newcastle has been fundamentally changed by the earthquake and the Government ought to advance the student accommodation development program for the period between now and the end of this century."

The Vice-Chancellor reported that the University had received a proposal for the establishment of a conference centre and motel in the University's grounds.

Professor Morgan said the proposal had come from Campus Hotels Pty. Limited, a well-known firm with a relationship with A.Y. Jennings Pty. Limited, which had also negotiated with the University of Wollongong, Flinders University of South Australia and Monash, Murdoch and Curtin Universities about building conference centres and motels on their campuses.

He thought it was an attractive proposal and would go some of the way to giving the University conference and motel facilities.

After the Vice-Chancellor suggested that the full details of the proposals should be discussed, Council appointed the Deputy Chancellor, Mr John Peschar, Mr Richard Owens, Mr Doug Huxley and the Registrar, University Services, Mr Don Foster, to the Vice-Chancellor in discussions with Campus Hotels Pty. Limited.

Council approved the establishment of a Faculty Board for the Faculty of Music and a Department of Music within the Faculty.

Mr Michael Dudman was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Music and Head of the Department and the introduction of the Diploma in Music was approved.

Council had previously agreed to the amalgamation of the University Union and the Student Union of the former Hunter Institute of Higher Education without delay. Further, Council appointed an Interim Board to see the amalgamation comprising the Deputy Chancellor, Mr John Peschar, the Dean of Student Services, Professor Ken Dutton, and representatives of the two Unions.

Mr Peschar, Chairman of the Interim Board, told Council that a very positive attitude had been shown in the discussions that had been held. The people involved were working together, he said.

Mr Peschar said the Vice-Chancellor was taking action to establish a Board of Management and a target date for full amalgamation of July 1 was being talked about. The Interim Board have been asked to prepare a constitution for the Union and submitted to the Interim Council in June.

The Vice-Chancellor said the proposals for the constitution of the Union have been welcomed by all parties.
Mr R. P. Reid, Chairman and Chief Executive of Shell, UK, and a member of the British Council for Industry and Higher Education, and Mr P. Coldstream, Executive Director of the Council, visited the University on February 12.

Mr Reid came to Australia at the invitation of the Minister for Employment, Education and Training, Mr Dawkins.

The visit was arranged primarily so that Messrs Reid and Coldstream could discuss with leading Australian representatives of business, union and government the importance of industry's contribution to higher education and training, to share their experience on the steps that have been taken in the United Kingdom and to offer observations on what is taking place in Australian industry.

Messrs Reid and Coldstream said they were proponents for improving the vital education/business links and the need for increased liaison.

Mr Reid explained that the last five years had seen an upsurge of interest on the part of British companies in education and education-related business initiatives. He said one of the first of these was the Council for Industry and Higher Education - an independent body consisting of heads of major British companies, universities, polytechnics and colleges.

"The Council believes that business survival and success is dependent upon the ability to draw from a pool of well, and broadly, educated people who possess the flexibility to respond to changing business needs", he said.

"Some British companies have significantly increased their investment in higher education through funding for university buildings, research, academic posts, and by providing equipment.

"In addition many companies are now involved in collaborative degrees", Mr Reid said.

Mr Coldstream said the British Council for Industry and Higher Education was made up of 26 heads of large companies and 11 Vice-Chancellors, Polytechnic Directors and heads of Colleges.

He said the Council's chief aim to date had been to enable business to grasp the issues and join the debate about the future scale, shape, functions and funding of Higher Education and business's relationship to it. Its voice had been heard and listened to.

University Counselling has wide range of skills

We are a small department staffed by professional counsellors and we aim to foster your personal and academic growth. Between us we have a wide range of skills and we are experienced in dealing with the sorts of problems which members of a university community encounter.

If you have a problem and you are a student, or member of staff, you can discuss anything you wish with one of us, in a non-judgmental and completely confidential atmosphere.

Students, and staff, like the population at large, experience a wide range of problems. A high level of measured intelligence is no guarantee of immunity from the sorts of difficulties ordinary mortals are heir to!

In our work we are actively involved in dealing with problems of self-esteem, sexuality, anxiety and the whole gamut of interpersonal relationships. Not that you have to have a problem as such: people also consult us about their "growing edges", aspects of themselves which they're happy with but want some help in developing.

We're interested in the whole range of human functioning: physical, social, intellectual and emotional and in helping people enhance their own growth.

Some other services we provide are designed to prevent problems from arising in the first place and some to meet a specific need or current area of interest. We run regular courses in Study Skills, in general Relaxation Techniques, in Reducing Examination Anxiety and in Preparing for Examinations. From time-to-time we lead groups in Human Relations and Interpersonal Communication.

The Counsellors are interested in therapeutic areas which may enhance your physical functioning. For example, the pain and discomfort of an aching back or sore neck may be the result of the way in which you deal with the stress of academic life. We are interested in body/mind relationships and in biofeedback which involves teaching people how they can gain voluntary control over bodily processes and thus physical symptoms, (e.g. chronic headaches).

We also see ourselves as a referral source: with a leaming or administration problem we can put you on to the most appropriate person in the academic department or in Administration: or refer you to agencies in the community in such areas as health, education and welfare.

If you want to know more, come and ask us. We're a pretty informal lot, but we do regard any concern you may have (about your course, your personal relationships or yourself) as very important.

Counsellors are available in two separate locations: at Courtyard Level, Auchmuty Library Building (telephone - 68 5255) and at Student Services, Main Concource, Hunter Building (telephone - 68 7224).
When the BULLETIN went to press, an exhibition of ceramics by three members of staff from the Department of Visual Arts and Media Studies had opened at Mark Widdup's Cooks Hill Galleries. Called "Personal Politics", the exhibition was opened by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Mr Lance Hennessy. The artists showing their work until February 26 are (from left) Pam Sinnott, Ken Leveson and Michael Keighery pictured with Mr Hennessy and Mr Widdup.

Grants for needy students increase under equity program

Disadvantaged students will be the beneficiaries of a $1.17 million grant to universities and colleges this year, the Minister for Employment, Education and Training, Mr Dawkins said.

The grants for new projects are part of the Federal Government's Higher Education Equity Program, which is designed to improve participation rates of needy students in higher education.

The Government already committed $2.3 million last year to fund continuing equity projects. This enabled institutions to incorporate equity initiatives into their mainstream activities and to provide additional child care places for needy students.

The new grants in 1990 will help universities and colleges attract more students from a wider range of backgrounds.

"We want to provide a fair chance for all Australians to benefit from the opportunities of higher education", Mr Dawkins said.

"But to make sure this happens, we must ensure that those people not traditionally represented in our colleges and universities are able to gain entry into higher education and to successfully complete their studies.

"The people to benefit will not only be the individual students, but all Australians. A better educated population more representative of Australia's cultural and social mix will mean that the nation, as a whole, will be making the most of what its people can offer".

Some examples of the new projects to be funded under the program in 1990 are:

* The University of Technology, Sydney will receive $50,000 for the Skate II project, a one-year preparatory program for young people living on the streets in Inner Sydney.
* $60,000 for each of the next three years to the University of Newcastle for the NEWSTEP program, which aims to increase participation in higher education among students in the 17-21 years age group from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.
* La Trobe University will receive $30,000 for Experiences in Applied Science project on its Bendigo campus. This will help Year 12 students from country schools in northern Victoria experience first-hand some of the aspects of modern science and technology not available at their schools.
* The University of Queensland has been allocated $50,000 for a project which will enhance opportunities for academically qualified people with disabilities in their access to education and employment.
* The University of Adelaide will receive $50,000 for a project which will increase opportunities for women in both postgraduate and undergraduate courses at university.
* $50,000 has been allocated to the Northern Territory University for a Maths and Science Preparatory Program for Aboriginal people to undertake science and business courses in higher education.
Scholarly paper earns medals

Professor Adrian Page, Associate Professor in Civil Engineering, has won the W.H. Warren Medal which is awarded by the Board of the College of Civil Engineers.

Professor Page was selected to receive the medal for his contribution to the paper entitled, *Design of Masonry Walls for Vertical Loading - a Review of the Provisions*, which was published in Civil Engineering Transactions, IE Australia, Volume CE30, 5, December 1988.

The award is made annually for the paper selected by the Board of the College as the best paper in the discipline of Civil Engineering. The award was first made in 1929 and perpetuates the memory of Professor W.H. Warren, who was the first President of the Institution.

Professor Page was awarded the R.W. Chapman Medal for the same paper. The award is made annually for the paper which is considered to be the most important contribution to the science and/or practice of structural engineering in the discipline of Civil Engineering. The medal perpetuates the memory of Sir Robert Chapman, former Professor of Engineering at the University of Adelaide and a member of the inaugural Council of the Institution of Engineers, Australia.


cinema change

Films for the Newcastle Film Society

This year's screenings by the Newcastle Film Society will be in a new venue - Cinema One, in Greater Union's Tower Cinemas complex in King Street, Newcastle.

The program (even longer than last year's) offers 30 films for the amazing bargain price of $35 - recent features from France, Japan, India, China, Spain, Canada, England, the United States of America and Australia.

Admission will be available only to subscribers. Tickets will not be available at the door. Membership is limited.

Brochures with application forms may be obtained from the Box-office at Tower Cinemas, the Newcastle City Library, the University's Libraries and the WEA, or from Newcastle Film Society, PO Box 128, Newcastle, 2300.

Films will be screened at the Tower Cinemas on Sundays at 7.30 pm, commencing on March 11.

For further information please telephone Dennis Biggins at 29 2117.

Ivy league choir

Newcastle University Choir has been reliably described as one of the best choirs in the world?

You, too, can experience the joy, excitement, challenge, etc., etc., of singing some wonderful music.

We have just commenced rehearsals for our Good Friday Night performance on April 13 of Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* - "in the top two per cent of choral works".

We rehearse in the Great Hall from 7 to 9.30 pm on Monday nights.

Our conductor and musical director is Peter Brock - an acclaimed musician and singer.

No auditions - just come! (Tenors and Basses especially welcome).

Please contact Phyll Robson (63 2237) or Judy Buchhorn (52 3009) for further particulars.

P.S. We're performing Britten's *War Requiem* on Hiroshima Day, August 6, this year.

Staff Association - nominations sought

The University of Newcastle Branch of the Federated Australian University Staff Association (FAUSA) is calling nominations for election to certain branch positions.

The positions vacant are: Branch Federal Councillor (two positions), Branch President/Branch Secretary, Deputy Federal Councillor (two positions, Branch Vice-President/Treasurer) and Branch Federal Alternate (six positions, Assistant Secretary and five executive members).

Nominations for the position will close at noon on Tuesday, February 27.

All members of the Staff Association are eligible to stand for either of both of the positions.

To be valid each nomination must be in writing, must be signed by the candidates standing for election and specify the position or positions for which the candidate seeks election.

Members may nominate for more than one position.

Nominations must reach Mr J. Lambert, C/- the Computing Centre, no later than noon on Tuesday, February 27.

Obituary

Peter Palmer

Peter Palmer died of a brain tumour on Monday, December 11, 1989. He had just completed the final year of the Bachelor of Education (Industrial Arts) course.

He was quiet, hard-working and respected by the staff and his colleagues alike.

I had only known Peter for a year but, even in that short time, I had become aware of the respect that his colleagues felt for him.

The realisation of his death, at so young an age, leaves a sad mark on the year for the Department of Industrial Technology. Peter Palmer will be missed by all of us; so will his subsequent contribution to the Hunter community.

In conclusion, we would like to express our sympathies to his wife and family.

Dr Roger Coldwell, Head, Industrial Technology.

Wanted

"Warm hearted, friendly, knowledgeable family". These are the words of Li Xi, a Chinese lecturer in English from Xian, the city of music and art, in Shaanxi Province, China. AFS, an organisation promoting exchange between Asia and Australia, wishes to place Li Xi at the University for one year as a Visiting Fellow.

Li Xi describes himself as honest, practical, empathetic, energetic, considerate and witty, with interests in reading, singing and talking.

AFS is looking for a generous host family willing to look after Li Xi during his stay (lodging, food and friendship) - or possibly a couple of families to split the hosting over the period.

Apart from the obvious exchange of ideas and intercultural contact, the hosting could offer an excellent opportunity to learn Chinese (Mandarin), particularly for school-age children in the family.

If you can help, please contact Dr J. Caldwell, of the Department of Cultural and Curriculum Studies. Telephone 68 7562.
Master of Applied Ethics

1990 will be the first year of the University's new Master of Applied Ethics course.

The purpose of the course is to introduce students to a wide spectrum of ethical issues in professional decision-making and give a better understanding of the variety of ways relevant speciality disciplines may be integrated into that process. To this end the students actively participate in the operation and planning of the course.

The course is managed by the Applied Ethics Board, which includes the Course Director, Dr David Dockrill, of the Department of Philosophy, and all course teachers.

Dr Dockrill explained that applied ethics studied the application of ethical concerns and ethical principles to practical decision-making. He said the decision-making contexts of particular interest to the degree were those that typically arise in professional practice, especially in the health care, welfare, legal and law enforcement, education, commercial and engineering professions.

Each of these areas had ethical issues which is distinctive to it, for example:

* Is there a case for mercy killing?
* How should the rights and interests of parents, children and the state be related?
* When is the use of force in the public interest justified?
* How should conflicts between public and employer interests be resolved by professionals?
* How should resources be competively allocated to, and within the specialty parts of, a profession?

The course aimed to provide students with an informed and critical sensitivity to issues of these kinds that were particularly relevant to their on-going professional lives, he said.

The course could be taken on a full-time or part-time basis. Full-time students completed the course in either two or three, and part-time students in either three, four or five, years from initial enrolment. The coursework for the degree comprises a core subject and (normally) supporting subjects and a project.

Scholarship, grants available

Applications will be invited in May, 1990 for the New South Wales Rhodes Scholarship tenable at the University of Oxford from October, 1991. Application forms will be available early in May, 1990.

A Rhodes Scholar receives a personal allowance. In 1989-90 the allowance was $4,862 pounds per year. In addition, all fees are paid by the Trust direct to the College.

Successful candidates will be assisted with their travelling expenses to the United Kingdom.

Among other things, candidates must be of an age that they will have passed their 19th and not passed their 25th birthday by October 1, 1991 and Australian citizens.

Applications for the scholarship will close on August 3, 1990. Further information may be obtained (personally, or by telephone) from Mr Michael Bannigan, the Bursar's Office, Main Quadrangle, University of Sydney, 2006. Telephone (02) 69 24567.

The Australian Academy of the Humanities is offering up to five grants-in-aid for short-term study abroad during 1990-91 to scholars resident in Australia and working in the field of the Humanities (philosophy and religion, literature, history, prehistory, archaeology, classics, visual arts and musicology). The grants are designed for scholars engaged in teaching and research.

The grants will be up to $A3,000 each, paid as a contribution to the cost of one return airfare between the applicant's place of employment in Australia and his/hers centre of research abroad.

The closing date for applications is June 30, 1990.

Application forms are available from: The Executive Secretary, Australian Academy of the Humanities, GPO Box 93, Canberra, ACT, 2601. Telephone (062) 48 7744.

AVCC supports special funding due to earthquake

The Chairman of the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee, Professor Brian Wilson, has urged the Government to give special consideration to Newcastle University following the December earthquake.

Acting Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Michael Carter, has written to the Minister for Employment, Education and Training, requesting $6.5 million in special funds for urgent construction work. The funds would be over and above capital funds already approved for the 1990-1992 triennium.

A grant of $5 million would provide on-campus accommodation for students whose traditional rental accommodation in the inner city and suburbs has been destroyed. An extra $1.5 million would allow the central administration building extensively damaged by the earthquake to be refurbished.

While insurance will cover most damage to University buildings (estimated at around $5 million), the University's immediate concern is for emergency student housing. It has already begun work on a temporary student village with demountable buildings and ablution block but has requested the $5 million from the Government to construct permanent campus accommodation for 170 students.

Hardest hit buildings on the Newcastle campuses were the Chemistry and Biological Sciences Departments, where walls have moved some 25 cm from concrete ties. Protective webbing has been placed around the three-storey buildings until repairs can be made. Temporary teaching and laboratory spaces are being sought before the University semester begins on February 26.

Professor Wilson said that while all Australian universities were short of funds to maintain campus buildings the University of Newcastle's case was extreme.

The AVCC has argued for several years that universities cannot continue to allocate resources needed to maintain older buildings.

"We believe the Government should provide funds to continue the long overdue renovation program introduced in 1989", Professor Wilson said.
Freemasons provide Con with support

Freemasons from the Hunter will help a young music student lift his or her performance, with a $1,000 a year scholarship.

The sponsorship of the Masonic fraternity is $10,000 to fund the annual scholarship.

Announcing the Hunter Region Freemasons' Scholarship at Newcastle University Conservatorium of Music on February 14, the Chairman of the Freemasons' Centenary Committee, Mr Keith Buckton, said that to mark the centenary of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales it had been decided to find a suitable avenue of support for the Hunter Region.

"As a continuation of previous help given to youth and the needy, the scholarship provided us with the opportunity we had been seeking", he said.

The Dean of Music, Mr Michael Dudman, paying tribute to the generosity of the Masons of the Hunter, said that at a time when fees were climbing appreciably it was an encouragement to be able to offer this kind of scholarship.

The scholarship will be advertised in "The Newcastle Morning Herald" in September every year.

Auditioning will be held in November the same year.

University Women's Group

Women associated with the University are invited to become members of the University Women's Group.

"Associated" should be interpreted in the widest possible manner. Meetings of the group are held on the third Thursday of every month at the Squash Centre on the campus.

The March meeting - the annual general meeting - will be held on Thursday, March 15, at 11.30 am.

Drinks will be served before luncheon and a light luncheon will commence at approximately 12.15 in the afternoon.

There is a small annual subscription and members contribute a similar amount for each luncheon they attend.

All women associated with the University are assured of a warm welcome to the University Women's Group.

For further information please contact Mrs Vera Armstrong at 67 6968.
Music making at the Con

Wednesday, February 28, 1.10 pm
Keith Murre-A llen (organ). Couperin, Zipoli, Bach and Dubois. $2 and $1 concession.

Thursday, March 1, 1.10 pm
Orientation lecture for all full-time students (the Director).

Wednesday, March 7, 1.10 pm
Michael Cleary (trumpet) and Michael Dyer (organ). Viviani, Frescobaldi, Handel and Purcell. $2 and $1 concession.

Thursday, March 8, 1.10 pm
Carl Pini (violin) and Michael Dudman (organ). Handel, Buxtehude, Bach and Ysaye. $2 and $1 concession.

6 pm
Phillip Shovk (piano). Beethoven, Scriabin and Tchaikovsky. $4 and $3 concession.

Tuesday, March 13, 1.10 pm
In the University's Great Hall, Michael Dudman (organ). Bach, Franck and Dubois. Admission: free.

Wednesday, March 14, 1.10 pm
Robert Wagner (organ). Buxtehude, Couperin, Vierne and Mulet. $2 and $1 concession.

Thursday, March 15, 1.10 pm
Ian Cox (trumpet) and Ann O'Hearn (piano). Bonneau, Purcell and Goedicke. $2 and $1 concession.

Sunday, March 18, 3 pm

Combined Orientation Week

The University's annual Orientation Week runs from February 26 to March 2.

Orientation Week is designed to introduce Freshers to campus life. For the first time, the program will provide for the whole student body on the combined campus at Shortland.

Apart from a welcoming barbecue, an Amalgamation Orientation Ball and concerts in the University Union, the program features a top line-up of bands in the Hunter Union Courtyard.

Monday, February 26
Noon
The Happening Thang: Hunter Union, Courtyard

12.30 pm
Housequake University Union Courtyard

7 pm
The Happening Thang University Union Bar

Tuesday, February 27
Noon
Original Otto Orchestra

1 pm
Comedy Review, University Union Courtyard

7 pm
Pat Drummond University Union Bar

Wednesday, February 28
Noon
Bruce Mathiske, Hunter Union Courtyard

1 pm
Batta Baha Dances, University Union Courtyard

6 pm
The Hipslingers University Union Courtyard

Thursday, March 1
Noon
William Doo-Drop, Hunter Union Courtyard

1 pm
Lunchtime Movie, University Union Bar

7 pm
Hunter Union Bar Night

Friday, March 2
8 pm
Amalgamation O'Ball
(fancy dress, Towards 2000).
Weddings, Parties.
Anything, Hippo.
Rainbow Party, Headbin, plus disco dance party, and guess DJ.
University Union.
Fallout aids soil research

The University, the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) and the New South Wales Soil Conservation Service have been awarded a grant to map soil erosion throughout Australia using fallout from atmospheric nuclear weapons tests in the 1950s.

The study will use the radiisotope caesium-137 deposited, as fallout, as a tracer to track soil movement and loss from pasture and farmland. The radiisotope attaches strongly to soil particles.

The grant, worth some $266,000 over the next three years, will provide the first broadscale scientific measurement of recent soil loss and movement, and provide information and guidance to farmers on the rates and circumstances of erosion.

Initial work in the national reconnaissance survey will begin in March with 100 sites nationwide being sampled by the group. State departments of agriculture and conservation agencies are liaising with the group to nominate seriously eroded sites for the study.

Hunter Valley of New South Wales, in vineyards at Pokolbin. Estimations of the soil losses from the vineyard, based on the caesium-137 sampling, varied from 1.2 tonnes of soil per hectare per year to as much as 50 tonnes per hectare per year.

"The loss of the valuable topsoil represents a most serious threat to farm productivity in Australia today", Mr Greg Elliott, a scientist from the Soil Conservation Service of New South Wales, said.

Equally, the technique can be applied to determining the extent of siltation in river, lake and lagoon systems.

We have surveyed Lake Macquarie near Newcastle and lagoons at Terrigal, Avoca Lake and Lindisfarne Bay, Tasmania, by reversing the caesium-137 method to determine the buildup of the isotope and, therefore, the soil it is attached to". Mr Campbell said.

"Applying this knowledge local councils and shires can take steps to eliminate erosion sources upstream which are contributing to the siltation of the waterways".

All for one, and one for all

One of the main questions being asked following amalgamation is how far are we away from having one Students' Association, one Union, one Sports Union and one of each of the other student services?

The BULLETIN asked Professor Ken Dutton, the newly-appointed Dean of Student Services, what he could say about the negotiations currently taking place to establish single organisations for the whole student body.

Professor Dutton said he expected that by July 1 the University would have a single Students' Association, a single Union and a single Sports Union, and that some of the other student services, such as Careers and Health, would be integrated.

He said he expected that the intervening period would be taken up in the preparation of new constitutions for the amalgamated bodies for consideration by members no later than June.

The constitutions must be approved by majority votes of the members (mainly students) of the old University and the former Hunter Institute of Higher Education.

A subsequent phase was the holding of elections (where relevant) for the various positions identified in the constitutions, Professor Dutton said.

Overall, the negotiations for the establishment of the new student bodies were proceeding "quite well".

He was hopeful of being able to arrange for the integration of the two Careers Offices under the one roof at an early date.

Although the Health Services would also be merged, Sister Shirley Andrews, the former Hunter Institute's nursing sister, would remain in the Hunter Building.

As for other student services, such as Counselling, Accommodation, and Student Welfare, Professor Dutton said he could see no prospect of integration being achieved until additional accommodation became available.

The next BULLETIN will include information about Graduation Days for 1990 and whether graduands have the option of having a particular institution on their degrees.

Science media plan wrecked

A huge blow-out in the Government's science budget had wrecked a major science and technology initiative, the Shadow Minister for Science and Energy, Mr Peter McGauran, said.

Administrative costs for the Government's Australia Prize, announced in the Science Statement last May, had exceeded estimates by almost 65 per cent and had meant the dumping of support for the planned information service, ASTIS, Mr McGauran said.

The Science Minister originally costed the Australia Prize at $250,000 a year, but current Department estimates had put the cost at $410,000 for the first year alone.

As a result, the Australian Academy of Science's planned information service, ASTIS, had been stripped of Government support in order to make up the funding shortfall for the Australia Prize.

Mr McGauran said the Academy and science journalists had spent five years on designing ASTIS.

The service was modelled on highly successful international ventures and detailed feasibility studies, including pilot programs, had been carried out.

The Shadow Minister for Science and Energy claimed the forced closure of the project struck at the heart of efforts by scientists to ensure effective communication of science and technology issues to media, business and education institutions.
It is an unfortunate beginning to 1990 to have to report a state of virtual chaos in industrial relations between the University and general staff.

Firstly, the 1989 reclassification round has been suspended by the independent Chairpersons of the Reclassification Committee following disagreement between the University and the Unions over the terms of reference by which applications are assessed.

The May 1988 4 per cent Agreement contained a clause which established a new Committee and broad guidelines. Clause 10(ii) says: "Grounds for reclassification to be defined, e.g., as prescribed in relevant awards or where substantial changes to duties and/or responsibilities have occurred". The University wishes to interpret the terms of reference of the Reclassification Committee so that the two examples given (Award conditions or "substantial changes") are the definitive criteria for any grounds for reclassification through the Reclassifications Committee. The Unions do not agree to this very narrow interpretation, and argue that the two criteria cited are examples only and that the grounds for reclassification remain to be defined (and preferably with joint agreement between the Associations and the University.)

Apart from the above argument, Clause 10 point (iv) of the same Agreement states: "The Committee to vet applications which do not meet criteria established under (i); to consider other applications and make recommendations to the Vice-Chancellor (Administration)."

We argue that this also permits other criteria such as the acquisition of new skills, increased levels of responsibility and relativities to other positions. However, the University continues to interpret that the only terms of reference for the Reclassification Committee. The PSA does not agree to this.

The Independent Chairpersons of the Reclassification Committee have notified the Vice-Chancellor that they are unable to continue hearings until the disagreement has been resolved. An urgent conference is being sought between the Vice-Chancellor (Administration) and a Senior Industrial Officer from the PSA, and it is hoped that we can resolve this issue without recourse to the Industrial Commission.

Faculty/Departmental/Discipline Secretaries

In December, 1989 Secretaries to Academic Faculties, Departments and Disciplines were informed that the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) had determined new gradings for their positions. Departments/Faculties/Disciplines have been allocated to one of three levels, and the Secretarial position is now as graded on that level.

- Level 1 is equivalent to current Steno. Grade 1/2
- Level 2 is equivalent to current Steno. Grade 2/3
- Level 3 is equivalent to current Steno. Grade 3/4

The PSA is concerned that the new structure was implemented without consultation with Unions, staff members in those positions or Heads of Department/Discipline/Faculty. Discussions between the Unions and the University had been taking place on keyboard/clerical integration until the latter half of 1989 when amalgamation issues took precedence over other industrial matters. However, the University's last proposal, which was along similar lines to that which has now been implemented had been overwhelmingly rejected by members at a meeting on September 6, 1989.

A large number of the affected members of staff have contacted us to express anger and dismay at the lack of consultation, and at what they perceive as the arbitrary placement of positions without individual job evaluation taking place. Inevitably, anomalies and inequities have occurred and, also, inevitably a high level of frustration and resentment has arisen.

The Association also feels alarmed at the hierarchical ordering of Academic Departments, which has placed the majority of the Humanities within the lowest level.

Finally, it is cause for concern that both the structure, and the method of implementing the new gradings seems to ignore the University's stated policy on Affirmative Action. Given that keyboard workers are a target group within the Strategic Management Plan, we can only despair that AA and EEO will ever be more than fine words in official reports. Again, we have asked for an urgent meeting with the University on this matter.

Departmental Committee

Committee elections have been held and Mr Bill Ferguson, the Regional Organiser, will be convening the Committee (which joins the three former Institutions) in the very near future. The re-organisation in the PSA has seen the establishment of a Departmental Committee for the University. Following elections at the end of last year the members of the Committee are: The former University - Paul McKinnon, Greta Davies, Mary Stroud, Joy Hoosel, David Marr, Kate Hutchinson, Lionel Farrell, Giles Martin, Susan McDonald, Arien Petrovic and Barbara Mcglive. The former HHR - Susan Eade, Judith Walton, Arthur Tupman, Theresa Blazevski, Robert Milan, Ronald Hunter, Carolyn Sjostedt, Barbara Burke and a member of the former Conservatorium, Colleen Stalman.

Susann McDonald, Honorary Chairperson and
Greta Davies, Honorary Secretary

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**PSA NOTES**

**INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA UNIT**

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Festive occasion a success despite the downpour

Pictured at the Re-Union Dinner are (left to right): Mr Dom Swinkels, Assoc. Professor Phil Schofield, Professor Bill Pickering, Assoc. Professor Kevin Bell, Professor Stephen Angyal, Dr Heint Duweell, Sir James Vernon and Emeritus Professor Jim Allen.

State Highway 23 update

The closure of the traffic lights at the intersection of Rankin Drive and Moore Street, near the University's main entrance, will be effective from Tuesday, February 20.

Traffic through the lights will be provided with an alternative route via the roundabout at the northern end of Blue Gum Road.

The closure is associated with construction of the four-lane divided carriageway on the Newcastle Bypass, known as State Highway 23, between Jesmond and Shortland.

Closure of the traffic lights will permit works to be continued on one of the major works included in the State Highway 23 project - the interchange in Rankin Drive.

The interchange is in the form of an elevated roundabout, which comprises two bridges over State Highway 23, earth retaining walls, loading and unloading ramps and pedestrian and bicycle path links.

As can be seen, work on the northern bridge of the interchange has been nearly completed and closure of the traffic lights will be followed by a start on building the western ramp for the interchange.

When the northern bridge is completed traffic in Rankin Drive will be directed onto it and work will then be commenced on the southern bridge.

Although the rain was coming down in sheets, more than 40 friends of the Department of Chemistry attended the Department's 25th anniversary reunion dinner in the Staff House on February 3.

The Chemistry Department came into being in January, 1965 with the granting of autonomy to the University.

The Department moved from its original home at Tighes Hill to its present quarters just over 20 years ago.

The two events were commemorated by the reunion dinner.

Among the special guests were Sir James Vernon, who officiated at the opening of the present Chemistry Building in September, 1969, Professor Jim Allen, whose association with the Department goes back to Tighes Hill days and who was Professor of Chemistry from 1961 to 1971, Professor Stephen Angyal, Head of School of the University of New South Wales during the Newcastle University College era, and Professor Bill Pickering, who took over the helm in 1970 to the present time.

The present Head of Department, Associate Professor Kevin Bell, organised the function and invitations were sent far and wide.

Honours and postgraduate students, academic, technical and secretarial staff whose links with the Department span more than a quarter of a century took part in the celebrations.

Assignment Manual

For Writing Essays and Reports at University. Available now, at the University Co-Op Bookshop and the Department of Community Programmes (Mathematics Building). Price: $6.00
Research could lead to new codes for earthquakes

People living in major centres struck by earthquakes could benefit from the results of research being undertaken by a team in the Department of Civil Engineering and Surveying.

A project to determine the earthquake damage in Newcastle in relation to current building regulations has been funded by a $40,000 grant from the State Government.

The team from the Department of Civil Engineering and Surveying is headed by Professor Rob Melchers, Professor of Civil Engineering, and the study is planned to reach the final report stage by mid-March.

Professor Melchers said that apart from mapping the general pattern of damage to buildings on December 28 and estimating the maximum ground accelerations experienced in the areas seriously damaged the research was investigating the performance of older and modern structures.

He said the study was attempting to discover to what extent local ground and geological conditions may have contributed to the severity of the ground shaking in the areas of serious damage.

"In consultation with seismologists", he said, "we are assessing the risk of a similar, or greater intensity, earthquake occurring in major centres of population, where the current perceived risk of earthquakes is low".

Specifically, the Department will make recommendations on the adequacy of current building regulations in areas of perceived low earthquake risk and regarding the safety of existing buildings in respect of earthquakes throughout Australia.

Professor Melchers said the research team was drawing assistance from Newcastle City Council, the New South Wales Public Works Department, the Mines Subsidence Board, the CSIRO's National Building Technology Centre, local geotechnical consultants, seismologists from Canberra and Melbourne, experts on the dynamic analysis of structures from the Universities of Melbourne, Adelaide, and others departments and individuals.

Another play in the Doll Trilogy

The Hunter Valley Theatre Company's first production for this year is Ray Lawler's Other Time, the second play in the classic Australian Doll Trilogy.

In 1989 the HVTC staged the first in Kid Stakes. In this play we witnessed the kindling of a romance between Olive and Roo and Nancy and Barney.

The next stage in the Trilogy, Other Times, sees love between Olive and Roo blossom despite the separation that the Second World War creates. Nancy and Barney encounter difficulties in attempting to continue "the good times". Summer of the Seventeenth Doll portrays the final episode in the tragic love story.

Other Times will play in The Playhouse from March 7 to 31, Tuesdays to Saturdays, at 8 pm, with Saturday matinees at 2 pm and school matinees on Wednesday, March 14 and 21, at 1 pm.

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1986 Toyota Lite Ace (eight seater). Features include: double air-conditioning, automatic with auto-drive, stereo-cassette FM with graphic equaliser, high roof, full service history and only 83,000 kms (Registration PK1954). Asking price: $13,500 or near offer. Please telephone 49 8323.

1981 Sigma in very good condition (reliable vehicle) with 12 months registration. Asking price: $5,900 or near offer. Please telephone Jenny at 67 2913 after hours.

1978 Volvo 244DL. Features include: air-conditioning, radio-cassette, tow bar, new brakes, two new and two good tyres plus 12 months registration (a reliable car which looks good, now that I have polished it). Asking price: $6,000 or near offer (I have already bought another car). Please telephone Extension 407 or 63 1663.

1978 Honda Civic (three door automatic), JYT274. Asking price: $4,200 or near offer. Please telephone 43 2361.