Some of the issues affecting UN students

In an interview with the Bulletin, the President of the Newcastle University Students' Association, Ms Alison Kinder, reported on a variety of current student issues.

The Graduate Tax (HECS)

The National Union of Students (NUS) has decided to challenge the Federal Government's graduate tax in the High Court. A leading constitutional lawyer, a QC, has accepted NUS's brief and is preparing a case which gives the reasons why the tax breaches the Constitution.

The Union expects to be in court for approximately three days at an estimated cost of $50,000. Although the challenge is expensive, it will ensure that the student perspective on the tax is widely known, thus giving the government nightmares (in what will possibly be an election year). Moreover, the cost is cheap compared with the high cost of student marches, which offer less tangible results.

When students enrolled in the Great Hall of the University, many were confused by the paperwork that was necessary and apprehensive about the implications of signing the forms.

The Students' Representative Council has organised a super raffle to raise money for the NUS's High Court challenge. The prizes are: first, one student's 1989 payment of the HECS; second and third, textbooks and stationery.

Child Care

The range of facilities open to students now includes a child care service. Students who are not able to get their children into Kintalba Community Child Care Centre or the Hunter Institute's preschool, or those who want assistance for just a couple of hours, can advise the SRC and we will, hopefully, find child minders. If we can maintain this service successfully, we will form a committee to address some of the other problems faced by students who need assistance with child care.

Annual General Meeting

Notwithstanding the election of the 1989 executive of the Students' Association last October, elections are being held for positions on the SRC. The positions to be filled are:

- Faculty representatives
- Social Action Officer
- Education Officer
- Environment Officer
- Part-time Students' Officer
- Services Officer
- Women's Officer

Professors Godfrey Tanner and Ken Dutton will officiate at the requiem mass.

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The Treasurer, Mr Sebastian Diesel, the Secretary, Mr Frank de Vitas, the intercampus Liaison Officer, Mr Milton Okopoulos, the Media Officers Ms Vanessa Bates and Ms Natalie Dowling took up their positions, along with the President, last year and have formed a most effective team.

The results of the elections will be announced on March 18 and confirmed by the annual general meeting in the Courtyard on March 22 at 1 pm.

Amalgamation

Both a university's name and Act determine its identity. By keeping our identity and not changing it for so many years, we have been able to receive good international cooperation and recognition from other universities.

If a name change and changes to the Act combine to imply that the Uni has become a 'poly-tech', or an expanded CAE, with lower entry criteria for many courses, the reputation of the University will suffer. This will lead, inevitably, to the lowering of the reputation of courses offered here and the loss of good quality academic staff.

The competitiveness of our degrees on the employment market is at stake.

New student services building

The building is being used as a 'carrot' for the amalgamated 'donkey'. The Government has approved funding for a white elephant, tucked away in a mutually inconvenient location in the bush. There has been no student involvement in the decision-making process.

Continued over the page
In these times of financial constraints, it seems far more rational to use a fraction of the cost of the proposed project to place students' services in the existing Union, where they would be seen and utilised. The rest of the money could be well used bolstering the flagging academic resources of the University.

**Amalgamation of student services**

Amalgamation has also given rise to the suggestion that the student funded and governed services, the SRC, the Union and the Sports Union, be combined into one monolithic bureaucracy. These bodies have categorically rejected the notion, believing that it would lead to a loss of efficiency and a depletion of the services and facilities currently provided.

Yet, the Union at HIHE maintains that the proposal forms the basis for a combined approach to the provision of student services in the amalgamated university. It is hoped that they will realise that a system designed for 3,000 students will not work if overloaded to provide for 10,000 students.

It is essential that we combine constructively and increase, not decrease, the services and facilities available to students.

**Self-defence Classes**

The SRC is keen to see illumination improved on the campus at night. We are concerned about women having to walk long distances to attend lectures in the Hunter Institute after amalgamation takes place. In addition to making representations for the provision of better outdoor lighting, weekly self-defence classes will be held in the Auchmuty Room in the Union.

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**Eskimo art in the Great Hall**

Something new will be introduced at the University with an exhibition of Eskimo Art — etchings, lithographs, stone-cut prints, soap stone and whalebone sculptures, wall hangings and banners.

The exhibition will be held in the Green Room and Foyer of the Great Hall on March 17 (preview 11.30 am to 2.30 pm, opening 5.30 to 7 pm), March 18 and 19 (2 to 5 pm) and March 20 and 21 (11.30 am to 2.30 pm).

Local art identity and author, Anne von Bertouch, will open the exhibition.

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**University Health Service now available to staff**

The Health Service is now available for all staff to attend for general medical problems.

The University wishes to encourage staff to make use of the Health Service for routine health checks (for example Pap smears, cholesterol tests, blood pressure measurement), during illnesses, and for work-related health problems.

The doctors in the Health Service are now bulk-billing Medicare for all patients (except those covered by Workcover).

This means that visits are fully covered by Medicare and it is only necessary to sign a voucher for each consultation.

**Hours: 9 am to 5 pm**

Monday to Friday (closed one hour for lunch in the University's recess)

Location: Level 1, Basement, University Union Building.

All consultations are strictly confidential.

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**Staff House Special Meeting**

A special general meeting will be held in the Staff House on March 21 at 1 pm to appoint a new Auditor.

Business will be brief; however it is essential that we have a quorum. Please try and be there.

Aub Everett, Hon. Secretary
Book supermarket on this year

Hard at work cataloguing and pricing books for the Book Fair are from left to right: Mrs Jessie Davis, Mrs Dell Manning and Mrs Flora Adam. Other Wednesday group ladies include Ruta Freijs, Jean Page and Marion Watson.

This year is Book Fair Year. For some time, a group of active workers from The Friends of the University have been collecting, sorting and pricing books in anticipation of the biennial fund-raising event.

The University's fourth Book Fair will be held in the Great Hall from July 22 to July 29.

The workers are sorting and pricing the books in a room at Varatah West Primary School and volunteers are needed to help them (on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays).

As a result of the group's efforts since the last Book Fair, arrangements for the next 'book bonanza' are well advanced.

A huge quantity of material has already been collected. However, The Friends are looking for more donations of books, magazines, sheet music and recordings.

Donations can be made by taking the items to the Commonwealth Bank at the University and placing them in the special collection box.

Alternatively, home collection can be arranged by telephoning Mrs Thelma Wright (61 2057) or Mrs Shirley Morris (48 8629).

Buyers are given a very wide choice at Book Fairs. The offerings are split up into 40 categories — text books, art, music, biography, cookery, gardening, pets, the royal family and many others.

The vast majority of the books will sell for between 50 cents and $1.50.

However, the prices of the rarities, such as first editions, plussily illustrated books, souvenir issues, etc., will be much higher. They will be placed in a connoisseur's corner on the stage, where they can be inspected by prospective buyers.

A catalogue and register will be provided and the rare and antique items will be sold by means of a slow auction.

It is expected that a great deal of interest will be focussed at the Book Fair on a donation from 2NUR — a large collection of old 78 rpm recordings.

The President of The Friends, Mr Keith Barbour, said he was confident that the Book Fair would have something of interest for everybody.

He said that, apart from the financial gain to the University, the Book Fair encouraged people to look at the campus and the facilities provided here.

'The book sale is The Friends' main fund-raising activity. In past years it has provided funds towards the cost of Friends House at Edwards Hall and for the Hunter Tapestry in the Great Hall.'

Mr Barbour said the proceeds of the next event would be directed towards the cost of the furnishings in International House.

To offer your services during the Book Fair itself, please contact Mrs Morris, who is Secretary of The Friends of The University.

Friends to have luncheon

The Friends of The University will hold a luncheon in the Crystal Room of the Great Northern Hotel, Newcastle on March 15 at 12.30 pm.

The luncheon will provide an opportunity for members to meet and discuss the activities of The Friends.

The charge will be $11 and bookings should be made by telephoning Mrs Thelma Wright at 61 2059.

POSITION VACANT
Deputy Manager, International House

International House commenced in 1989 providing residential accommodation for students of the University.

Applicants should be proceeding towards a higher degree and should have previously held a position of responsibility in an educational environment including students from different cultures.

The appointee will be required to live in self-contained accommodation provided in International House. A remuneration package of $5,600 plus reduced residential fees is payable.

Applications should be directed to The Acting Manager, International House, The University of Newcastle, and close on Friday, March 24, 1989.

Further information may be obtained from Mr J.M. Birch (telephone — 68 5601 or 60 2071).
'Cut in Council size causes deep concern

Chancellors of six New South Wales universities expressed deep concern at reports that the Minister for Education, Dr Terry Metherell, proposed to reduce drastically the size of university governing bodies.

It is understood that consideration is being given to legislation to reduce the membership of each governing body to about 12 in number, half of whom would be appointed by the Minister. In some cases this would mean a reduction of membership by more than 50 per cent.

The Chancellors stressed the importance of a broad diversity of membership from the general community and adequate membership by staff, graduates and students on governing bodies. 'At a time when there are changes in the role of universities, with extended responsibilities for governing bodies, it is especially important', they said, 'that the wide contact between the general community and the academic community should be maintained and that the experience accumulated by present governing bodies should not be lost.'

Although the Chancellors acknowledged that considerable benefits would come from the current reappraisal of universities, they believed it was important that the independence and the traditional values of universities should not be sacrificed for administrative or economic expediency.

The Chancellors pointed out that in addition to their work on governing bodies the members also contributed knowledge from their particular areas of expertise to the management of universities, individually and by membership of various committees. The drastic reductions proposed would significantly undermine this important source of advice to universities and would limit beyond a critical point this essential contribution to the universities' administrative structures.

The reductions proposed in the numbers of staff and student members on governing bodies would reduce opportunities for governing bodies to obtain detailed first-hand knowledge of the views of staff and students.

The Chancellors also pointed out that membership of governing bodies was unpaid and that members gave dedicated and valuable service to universities, and at no cost to the public purse.

The Chancellors do not normally make joint public statements. That they have come together to make a statement on this matter indicates the depth of their concern.

The statement was issued by: Sir Hermann Black, Chancellor of the University of Sydney; The Hon. Mr Justice R. Hope, Chancellor of the University of Wollongong; Professor R.N. Johnson, Chancellor of the University of Technology, Sydney; The Hon. Justice M. Kirby, Chancellor of Macquarie University; Dr R. Robertson-Cunninghame AO, Chancellor of the University of New England and The Hon. Mr Justice G.J. Samuels, Chancellor of the University of New South Wales.

Amalgamation — biggest issue

The biggest issue for members of the University's staff this year is amalgamation, according to Ms Susan McDonald, the re-elected Chairperson of the PSA's University Workplace Group.

Ms McDonald says the dates now under speculation for amalgamation to become effective are July 1 this year or January 1, 1990. Commenting on 'the biggest issue' at the workplace's annual general meeting on February 28, the Chairperson said that after amalgamation the PSA's negotiations with the consolidated University would be carried out by the University of Newcastle/Hunter Institute Departmental Committee.

It would be the permanent form of the representative committee that had been co-ordinating the PSA's involvement in amalgamation discussions.

'On amalgamation, members in the Hunter Institute's workplace group (about 250) and the University's workplace group (280) will vote on whether or not the two groups will merge to become one', Ms McDonald said.

Of particular concern to the PSA was the Minister's stated intention to remove staff representatives from all universities' governing bodies.

The Returning Officer reported to the meeting on nominations received for election as officers of the workplace group for this year.

Only three valid nominations had been received for election as Management Committee members, compared with the eight places available.

He called for nominations from the floor to fill the positions for which no nominations were received.

The following officers were declared elected:

Chairperson, Ms McDonald; Deputy Chairperson, Dr David Kay; Secretary, Ms Greta Davies; Delegates to Annual Conference, Mr David Marr, Mr Jim Cleary and Ms Davies; Management Committee, Mrs Chris Eyre, Mrs Kate Hutchinson, Mrs Mary Stroud, Mr Giles Martin and Mr Marr.

Representatives on the Occupational Health and Safety Committee, Mrs Stroud and Ms Alethea Taylor.

Representative on the General Staff Development Advisory Committee, Mr Marr.

Returning Officer, Mr John Armstrong; Deputy Returning Officer, Mr Trevor Watkins.

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PERSONAL FINANCIAL ADVISERS

GW6/5
Friends in teaching

Professor Bill Knudsen and Professor Frank Bates are colleagues again teaching law.

Whilst Professor Bates was attached to the Northwestern School of Law of Lewis and Clarke College in Portland, Oregon, three years ago he and Professor Knudsen became friends. Frank was on sabbatical leave from the University of Tasmania and Bill was a Professor at the Law School.

They have maintained their friendship and, with the appointment of Professor Bates to the Chair of law in 1987 and the retirement of Professor Knudsen in 1988, Professor Bates arranged for Professor Knudsen to be invited to take up a Visiting Professor's position at this University. He accepted and is teaching employment law to students in the Faculty of Economics and Commerce for first semester.

Professor Knudsen, who grew up in Queens in New York City, served in the US Navy during the Second World War. He availed himself of the GI Bill and studied law at the Columbia Law School from 1946 to 1948, graduating as a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar.

He says that living in overcrowded New York City proved unsatisfactory and he 'went west', settling in Phoenix in Arizona.

After working in private and public capacities in the legal field, he accepted an offer to teach at a junior college. 'I never had so much fun for three hours in my life before', he said.

When he retired, he could look back on a career made up of 19 years as a legal practitioner and 21 years as a law teacher. He was attached to the University of Wyoming College of Law from 1967 to 1970 and Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clarke College from 1970 to last year.

During the course of his career he appeared before the United States Supreme Court, the United States Courts of Appeals for the Ninth and Tenth Circuits and the Supreme Courts of Arizona and Wyoming.

His appearance before the Supreme Court was the outcome of losing a case in Wyoming. Believing he should fight, he filed a petition in the Supreme Court. As he explains, the Supreme Court hears no more than about 150 cases a year and practically all petitions are disposed of without hearings being held. However, the Court heard his case and reversed the original decision 6-3.

He also appeared at an international conference for lawyers on tourism in Jerusalem. The invitation resulted from a paper he wrote for an American legal journal.

Professor Knudsen is accompanied by his wife, Betty. They are renting a house in Wallsend. Bill is occupying Room 226 in the Department of Law and is happy to meet members of the University during his stay.

Student elections

The annual elections for the student membership of various University bodies are about to get underway with the issue of notices calling for nominations. The bodies are:

- Senate
- Faculty Boards
- Board of Environmental Studies
- Board of Studies in Aviation
- Board of Studies in Business Administration
- Board of Studies in Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics
- Board of Studies in Psychology
- Standing Committee on Asian Studies and
- Library Committee.

All students, except the very newest, will know that the bodies mentioned make decisions or recommendations on academic matters which are of direct concern to students. As these elections are the only chance students will have to secure representation on those bodies during the current academic year, the opportunity is not one to be missed. Particularly as this may be the last pre-amalgamation chance to influence decisions.

Full details of the elections, including the number of vacancies and eligibility, are contained in the notices which have been distributed to all faculties and departments throughout the University.

The closing date for the receipt of nominations will be Thursday, March 30.
Dear Sir,

Clearly Mr Hennessy has enjoyed being a VIP pushing other able-bodied so-called VIPs around in wheelchairs, pretending to be disabled. Also, the Newcastle City Council is to be commended for its initiative, aiming to increase awareness of the general public to the physical access needs of disabled people, in complex and often physically dangerous environments. But the real VIPs are the disabled people themselves.

If it really took but a few moments, pushing around a wheelchair, for the VIP Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) of this University to realise that there was an urgent need for action on this campus relating to disabled staff and student access, then our thanks must be extended to the Newcastle City Council.

However, his proposal that the EEO Unit should consider putting on a similar exercise should not be taken up without further careful consideration. There are a number of reasons for this view. Can we be sure that disabled students will be included in such a performance? The question must be asked because, of course, the EEO is not charged with responsibility for matters of equal opportunity relating to students: though staff of the Unit would never see it that way, senior administrators might do so. Some disabled students and staff will be rightly disturbed at a theatrical representation of the very real challenges that they face on this campus.

If the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) is really interested in raising awareness of the access needs of disabled students (and of staff) then he will support an opening of the University to disabled people (the real VIPs in this discussion) and he will do everything in his power to enable them to experience day-to-day life on campus, either as staff or students. University Council members and senior administrative staff would then be able to liaise closely with the real experts during such an initiative. There may even be a chance to push a wheelchair, or to take a blind person by the arm and lead the way to the library. Unfortunately, upon arrival at the library it will be found that there are no 'reading' facilities or copying facilities suitable to the needs of enrolled blind students at this University. Suitable technical aids are however available on the market.

On trying to gain wheelchair access to the Geography Building it will be found that only part of the ground floor will be accessible. If you are male and need the loo you have got problems. It is on the top floor. The ground floor version is tantalisingly close by, up steps! A journey through Economics and Commerce must be taken to get you onto the second floor, where all departmental administration takes place and where tutorial rooms and data processing are located. A wheelchair bound student using the Geography Building will tell his VIP pusher that an access ramp giving direct access to the second floor has been awaited for years: but it seems that amalgamation has got something to do with the delay! But surely not when one reason for amalgamation is to increase access!

I hope that we will read much more from the desk of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) on matters relating to students (and staff) with special needs, during the years to come.

Don Parkes,
Arts Faculty Advisor,
Students with Special Needs

Sui

Letters to the Editor
Dear Sir,

In these times of uncertainty and supposed severe funding cutbacks, I must question the University Administration's priorities in hiring new staff. In the Newcastle Herald of March 4 appeared an advertisement for a project officer to assist the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) in '...the preparation of submissions to Commonwealth and State Government authorities, to assist in developing relationships with external authorities, and in preparing analyses and cases for submissions.' The salary range is $30,178 to $34,538.

Over the past year Professors MacDonald and Carter have repeatedly impressed upon departmental and sectional staff the supposedly serious financial constraints under which this University is operating. The result has been severe cutbacks in support staff to many departments, often causing delays or limiting teaching and research activities. How can the University justify hiring another member of staff for the senior administration, which already seems well over-staffed. Where do the real priorities of this University lie? Are they to provide essential proper support to departments which now have desperately overworked secretaries, no computer programming support, and limited laboratory assistance? Or are they to support empire building by senior administrative staff at the expense of the real function of the University-teaching and research?

I believe morale among the teaching and support staff of this University is at an all-time low. With unknowns such as the impact of amalgamation, future funding uncertainty, and ever burdensome administrative requirements to departments, a further expansion of administrative staff is totally unnecessary. Surely the senior administration could show the same restraint it has imposed on the rest of us. If this University really has $35,000 to spend on staff, it should hire two secretaries to provide a pool for extra departmental support when needed, such as now. They would not be wasted.

Howard A. Bridgeman,
Department of Geography

2NUR's 11th Birthday Party
will be held on
FRIDAY, MARCH 17
7 pm
at the
BAY BUSH BARN
(Hillsborough Road, Warner's Bay)

all proceeds to the 2NUR Building Appeal

Tickets
Adults, $22
Concession, $17
Children Under 15, $10
Children Under 5, free
and are available from 2NUR. Call in personally, or post a cheque or money order to 2NUR, C/- the University, 2308, or have them delivered to you.

(Telephone 68 5713)
Most of the residents of International House, pictured in the grounds on a Saturday morning. Half the places have been given to full fee-paying students.

Opening of International House

International House admitted its first residents on February 19. The new on-campus housing project provides an additional 48 residential places for students.

International House comprises three blocks of self-catering units, each unit shared between six students. Each unit contains bedrooms, ablution facilities, a lounge room and an eat-in kitchen.

The University has established a policy which reserves half the residential places to full fee-paying students from overseas. The remaining places are allotted to Australians.

A substantial part of the $1,400,000 cost of the project has been met from a loan, which will be covered by the fees paid by the full fee-paying overseas students in 1989. Considering the rush and the scanty information that could be communicated in the Christmas-New Year period, the response to the opening of International House was satisfying, he said. On March 7, 25 overseas students and 20 Australians had taken up residence in the new blocks.

He pointed out that International House was different from Edwards Hall, the first student accommodation provided by the University. International House was committed to admitting a mix of students from all nationalities.

It was expected that with the construction of Stage II, there would be an even broader mix, consequent upon the admission of students from the HIHE.

Early close to ARC

Applications for grants from the Australian Research Council (ARC) in 1990 close with Mr John Sanderson, Senior Schools Accountant, C/- the Bursar’s Division, on March 15.

It is understood that the ARC will allot approximately $350,000 to the University for the funding of small grants.

Applications for small grants will be assessed internally by the University. Information on how and when to apply is not yet available but will be circulated to departments as soon as it is decided.

The Council has established a system of block grants to institutions to cover this area of funding. The grants are defined as: $5,000 to $25,000, Natural Science and Engineering, and $5,000 to $15,000, Humanities, Social Sciences and Mathematics.

Applications must be completed strictly in accordance with ARC instructions and the procedures as set out on pages 2.4.5 of the Finance and Staff Handbook.

It is essential that applicants discuss the classification of their staffing requests with the Staff Office before completing the Application and Research Grant Applications — Supporting Statement. Jannell Rowe/Beverley Richards, Extension 804, or Mr R. Goodbody, Extension 376 will be pleased to assist.
Changes made in Union facilities

During the long vacation the Union has undergone substantial modification and improvement costing some $450,000.

A substantial part of the cost was necessary to replace unsafe floors and ensure that the Union complied with Health Department standards. In addition, more ventilation had to be provided to cope with increased cooking in the kitchen.

The most significant change, however, has been the incorporating of the Wistaria Courtyard in the McLarty Dining Room. This work was necessary to integrate successfully catering operations and provide much needed work space in the main kitchen.

The increased servery areas and the diversity of the food lines is expected to go a long way to reducing the queues at lunchtime and, with The Rafters Coffee Lounge now located adjacent to the fast food outlets, double queuing can be avoided.

The Rafters will remain open until 9.30 pm on a trial basis for those who need a 'cuppa', or snack, after lectures.

By relocating the Union Bar in the Common Room, overcrowding has been alleviated and more diverse entertainment has been provided, with a permanent stage and lighting.

The Union Board has invested more than $40,000 in new catering equipment, including hot serveries, refrigerators, convection oven, Chinese stove, fryers etc., the outcome of which is the introduction of Asian-style meals daily and more nutritious vegetables.

Catering update
This year, the Board has introduced a daily special for $1.50 in the cafeteria and similar specials in most other catering outlets.

The President of the Union, Mr David Yee, said: 'The specials have been introduced to ease the burden on students who are living by themselves, so that they can get a low cost, substantial meal through the Union.'

It was hoped that Lebanese food, i.e. doner kebabs, tabouli, homos, tarhine sauces, etc., could be shortly introduced into the Southern Cross Bistro as an alternative to the more traditional lines.

In the Union Bar, low alcohol punch was available at $1 per glass, Mr Yee said, the intention being that some students actually didn't always want spirits, wine or beer.

The Secretary Manager, Mr John Broughton, said: 'Students and staff are extremely pleased with the changes and initial trading results are very encouraging.'

The Union is currently finalising work drawings for further catering developments. Work is due to commence in June this year. The latest changes are designed to complement the proposed development, which will include a large self-serve salad and sandwich area, as well as vegetarian and health food counters.

Ms Jo Reid, who is studying for her BSc degree, is pictured outside the newly located Westpac Bank Agency adjacent to the back entrance of the Union.

The Union Bar with attached cool room and stage and pool table.

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An impression of student activities during Orientation Week. Photographs: John Freund.
Central Coast classes well-established

The Department of Education took the initiative to develop university teaching programs on the Central Coast at Gosford in the early 1980s. The venue for classes was changed from the Teachers' Centre to Henry Kendall High School and, later, Wamberal Primary School. Last year and this year, St. Joseph's Girls' High School has been made available, an offer which is very much appreciated by the Department of Education.

The Department offers units from its postgraduate Bachelor of Educational Studies and Master of Educational Studies degree programs.

Over the years there have been various research and teaching foci, including curriculum studies, school administration research, history of education, sociology of education and educational psychology.

More than 50 people have completed degrees through the Gosford program.

More and more students have enrolled, with the number in 1989 exceeding 40 (about 20 new and 20 re-enrolling students). Most are primary, or secondary, school teachers, usually in promotion positions and looking for academic and professional stimulation. The groups at Gosford have been highly motivated.

Four units are offered this year, namely Curriculum Studies, Philosophy of Education, Philosophy of Health Education and the Psychology of Reading and Writing. Each runs on Wednesday evenings, either at 5 to 7 pm or 7 to 9 pm. Class sizes range from 17 to 25 students.

The Head of the Department of Education, Dr Phil Moore, said the operations at Gosford had placed demands upon staff, financial resources and library services. To date, the cost of travel to Gosford had come from Departmental recurrent funds.

'Students have relied upon using the Auchmuty Library on weekends, especially when the Department has conducted “Saturday” schools for the Gosford groups,' he said.

Dr Moore said the Department was looking forward to the establishment of the Central Coast's first university campus at Ourimbah, especially in the areas of classrooms and library facilities.

We were there

Visitors to the Newcastle Show witnessed displays and demonstrations of courses offered and research carried out at the University.

When the Vice-Chancellor inspected the University's exhibit, he was briefed on a number of displays, including 'the duck' (above) — a fluidised bed which simulates quicksand.

Professor Tim Roberts, Assoc. Professor of Biological Sciences, organised the varied exhibit, assisted by several other volunteers, including Mr Geoff Butler, of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Mrs Linda Aurelius, of the Information Unit.
EEO NEWS

This column is an introduction to a regular series from the EEO Unit this year.

Conferences, seminars and opportunities
Macquarie University Graduate School of Management is hosting a two-day conference entitled Women, Management and Industrial Relations in Sydney (North Ryde) on May 18 to 19. Cost is $650 per person. Further details are available from the EEO Unit, Extension 317.

Access for people with disabilities working party
The Advisory Committee on Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity is reviving the above-named working party. As its name implies, the working party will be looking at issues of access to employment of people with disabilities. Members include Ms Alethea Taylor, the Assistant EEO Co-ordinator, Ms Katrina Nilsen, of the Buildings and Grounds Division, Ms Sandra Box, of the Secretary’s Division, and Assoc. Professor Don Parkes, of the Department of Geography.

The working party is anxious to have in its membership people who have a disability and can offer their particular experiences to guide discussions. Any staff member with a disability who is interested in serving on the working party is requested and encouraged to telephone the Convenor, Ms Alethea Taylor at Extension 317 to discuss joining the committee.

Steps to take when you’ve got a problem
The EEO Unit quite often sees staff members who have a problem and perhaps aren’t quite sure if it’s an EEO problem or if it’s something they can properly ask someone else to deal with. In fact, there are several sources of help for various kinds of problems, and it might be useful to spell them out:

- Your supervisor — for problems with work-load, duties, colleagues.
- Your supervisor’s supervisor — if the problem is with your supervisor, or for some other reason you feel you can’t approach him or her.
- Staff Office — which can help in a wide range of work-related problems.
- Specialist areas, for specific problems, e.g. salaries, the Superannuation Officer, the Rehabilitation Co-ordinator.
- Your Section’s EEO Liaison Officer, if you only need information on EEO.
- A Grievance Office — specially trained to help you with problems where you feel you have been discriminated against.
- The EEO Unit, when you’ve tried everything else, or feel it’s too serious an issue for anyone else to handle.

Do seriously consider these other options before you come to the Unit. We are happy to help, of course, when you have (or you feel you have) nowhere else to turn.

Susan M. Jones
EEO Co-ordinator

Wine Education offer
Members of the University have been offered an opportunity to gain an appreciation of wine. Ms Lancette Rodgers, an Open Foundation student, has arranged for a meeting of students and staff who feel they need to be educated about wine to be held in the Auchenmuty Room, University Union on March 14 at 7.30 pm.

Mrs Rodgers is attached to The Rothbury Estate as a wine consultant. She has suggested that if people respond positively to the proposal wine tastings could be held, talks on the variety of wine available could be given and visits to the vineyards could be made. To express interest, or obtain further details, please telephone Extension 328.

Distinguished visitor to Classics
Professor Bernhard Kytzler, a distinguished Classical scholar who comes from the Free University of West Berlin, visited the Department of Classics to present seminars.

Having travelled to Australia to attend the AULLA Conference at Macquarie University, Professor Kytzler was able to accept Professor Godfrey Tanner’s invitation to give seminars on Utopianism in Ancient Literature and The Ancient Novel. He is Editor of the New Greek Text of the Corpus of Ancient Greek Novels. He said he was very interested in seeing this University, because it was an example of post-Second World War university development as was his own University, founded after Berlin was divided into East and West in 1948. Our photograph shows Professor Kytzler being introduced to student, Andrew Kallaur by Professor Tanner.
The Annual General Meeting of the PSA, University of Newcastle Workplace Group, was held on February 28, 1989. Ms Margaret Penson outlined restructuring of the PSA and answered queries on local organisation and support from Sydney.

General matters raised by members included:

- Amazement and disappointment at the choice of the General Staff Development Committee's first seminar of 1989. The proposed weekend seminar at Hawks Nest for women in senior management (l) was felt to be not only a trivial and token choice, but a misuse of scarce resources. We hope to see better and more informed, consultation in the selection of future courses.
- Concern was expressed at the lack of any fire drills on campus. The meeting directed the PSA representative to the Occupational Health and Safety Committee to raise this as a matter requiring serious attention.
- The PSA representative to the OHS & C to raise a review of University guidelines on use of word processing and associated keyboard use, and monitor the use of new technology and the health and safety of the operators.

Reclassifications

As part of the 1988 4 per cent agreement, the University Administration and General Staff Unions agreed to the setting up of a new Reclassification Committee to include an Association member. We feel that the inclusion of general staff representatives has been a positive step enabling the Associations to have an equal and active involvement in this critical area. We hope the recent high success rate of appeals will be a continuing trend.

Keyboard/Clerical Integration

Unfortunately we cannot report such a positive progression on negotiations in this matter. Following a meeting of all affected classifications in December last year, members unanimously rejected the Administration's proposal for restructuring keyboard and clerical staff. Main concerns were:

- Administration's refusal to acknowledge that clerks are affected by such integration;
- the denigration of the General Clerks' scale;
- Administration's rejection of job-restructuring as part of the integration process;
- relating proposed gradings of secretaries to the status of who they work for;
- the seemingly arbitrary separation of Departmental Secretaries into higher or lower gradings according to academic departments and divisions, and
- the lack of a comprehensive work value study to provide an objective comparison; and
- that the proposed salary levels were below those for similar gradings in the Public Service.

Chris Eyre, Susan McDonald and Greta Davies (PSA Working Party) hope to continue negotiations. Because this is an area which has historically proved contentious and produced so much dismay and resentment amongst members, the PSA is determined to see that this time the Administration 'gets it right'.

Child Care expenses

Direct PSA instigation has produced a gain for parents working on campus. Administration has agreed to pay additional expenses for child care incurred as a result of out-of-hours University work. The Association is happy to see that Administration will consider other expenses, such as costs incurred in the care of an infirm dependent, on an individual basis.

Off overseas to see other radio stations

Mr Brett Gleeson, Manager of the University's community radio station, 2NUR, will leave on March 20 for an overseas study tour lasting six weeks sponsored by Qantas.

Originally Mr Gleeson intended to visit radio stations in just the United States. However, he has been given assistance by the University, enabling him to extend his itinerary to include England.

His overseas study tour will be the outcome of his having won the 1988 Qantas Award for excellence in public broadcasting. Qantas makes the award for a project which will benefit public broadcasting in Australia.

Mr Gleeson will initially visit the Open University in Milton Keynes in England to inspect the BBC Production Centre. There he will examine educational programming, new delivery techniques, including sub-carrier technology, and funding and marketing methods.

Then, he will travel to the East Coast of the United States, where he will study fund-raising methodologies used by public broadcasting bodies such as the Funding Exchange in New York and the Corporation of Public Broadcasting in Washington.

Then, he will spend three weeks on a tour of the United States which will include visits to about 15 public radio stations controlled by community groups or universities.

He will pass through Madison (Wisconsin), Austin (Texas), Salt Lake City (Utah) and San Francisco and Los Angeles (California).

Finally, he will stopover at Honolulu to inspect the University of Hawaii's radio station.

'As the purpose of the Qantas Award is to benefit public broadcasting in Australia, I will concentrate mainly on learning about techniques to support public broadcasting throughout the nation,' Mr Gleeson said. 'This sector is under-resourced and has limited access to the public purse.'

'I will submit a report to the next conference of the Public Broadcasting Association of Australia in September.'

Mr Gleeson said he believed the University would benefit from his study tour by gaining advice about how to increase funding for its radio station and how to improve programming and broadcasting.

'I will hopefully have a blueprint which can be adapted on my return to suit national and local circumstances.'

Mr Steve Ford will be Acting Manager of 2NUR during Mr Gleeson's absence from the campus.
The expansion of the Library's Video Collection, both in terms of numbers and diversity of subject matter and increasing usage, reflects the growing importance of videos as a teaching resource throughout the University.

The growth in the use of the Video Collection is apparent from the following statistics:

**Number of bookings handled**, 1985, 851; 1986, 1142; 1987, 1463 and 1988, 2054.

**Staff/Student numbers**, 1985, 2622; 1986, 4063; 1987, 135 and 1988, 7896.


**Number of faculties using facilities**, 1987, 26 and 1988, 37.

At December 1988, the Video Collection comprised 513 items. Titles held in the collection range from a series of videos on the professional aspects of engineering to Hayek, his life and thought, and the BBC Shakespeare series. Of interest to History students is *First Contact*, a study of the interrelations between the Australian gold prospectors and natives of New Guinea Highlanders in the 1830s.

The number of the videos in the collection pertain to Aboriginal studies, including *Black Futures* (a study of the impact of white settlement on Aboriginal health), *We’re going back home*, which traces the journey of the Warripari Aboriginals to traditional homelands, and in which for the first time Aboriginals use video to produce a documentary covering their culture, history, and lifestyle, and *Shake tm this country*, produced by the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Protection Authority, which traces the nature and importance of sacred sites at Kakadu.

Of relevance to English and drama students is the series *Australian Playwrights* bringing together data on the lives and works of major Australian playwrights. Students of cinema will find *Avant Garde* of interest.

As well there is a growing documentary collection which includes the *Living Planet* and all the *Life on Earth* series.

A separate collection of videos for medical students is housed in the Blomedical Reading Area. Titles from this collection include Geoffrey Robertson's Hypotheticals such as *Does Dracula have Aids?*, the National Heart Foundation's *Risk factors in heart disease*, and the BBC series *Can you avoid cancer?*

**Australian Encyclopaedia**

The fifth edition of *The Australian Encyclopaedia*, published last year, has reached the shelves of the Reference Collection at 032/242/Ref. Thanks to Dick Smith, and the Australian Geographic Society, this is the most Australian edition since the classic Angus and Robertson edition of 1958. Ownership passed from the US-based Grolter Society to a New Zealand company in 1985 and back to Australia through *The Australian Geographic* last year. This edition was also printed and bound in Australia despite the greater cost.

The high standards of scholarship evident in earlier editions has been maintained, with more $1,000,000 spent on major revision and research. Some 80 per cent of the articles have been revised and 400 new substantive articles written on such diverse topics as AIDS, Aboriginal Movements, Dancing, Fashion and Dress, Futures Studies, Genetic Engineering, Historical Archaeology, Information Technology, In Vitro Fertilisation, Leisure and Sport, Maritime Archaeology, Murals, Peace and Peace Movements, Puppetry, Science, Technology, and Tissue and Organ Transplants.

New biographical entries for prominent newsmakers from all walks of life are a prominent feature of this edition. Ita Buttrose, Harry Button, John Millon, Nick Greiner, Alan Bond, Greg Norman and Slim Dusty are among those included. The selection of new biographical and subject entries is well-balanced, reflecting current concerns and preoccupations. A useful new feature is the series of introductory essays on *Australia and the World* which ranges over the migration of peoples, politics, wars, sport, economics, science and technology. There is also an excellent collection of illustrations with colour photographs, maps, charts, diagrams, cartoons and reproduced advertisements. The Australian Encyclopaedia in the sturdy bound standard edition is exceptional value at $595. It is available direct from Australian Geographic, PO Box 321, Terrey Hills, New South Wales, 2084.

**Looking for a research topic?**

If you are interested in undertaking research in the Humanities/Social Sciences with an historical dimension, Dennis Rowe, the Archives Officer in the Library, could be able to assist. Dennis would welcome inquiries from interested staff and students. He is located on the Library's lower level adjacent to Reading Room 5.

**Round-up**

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The University Archives has achieved particular strengths in the following areas:

- The History of Education in the Region.
- Development of Hospitals, Medical Education and Medical Practice.
- Industrial and Urban Development.
- Business, Labour and Social History.
- The Environment.
- The History of Architectural and Engineering Design.

If the research materials that you want are not held by the Archives, Dennis will endeavour to locate them for you.

**Short Loans**

The Collection, formerly known as the Reserve Collection, contains much used library material — mainly recommended reading in heavy demand for essays and tutorials. In an attempt to improve the efficiency and speed of the service, the 2,700 books in the Short Loan Collection have now been arranged alphabetically under the first word of the ALLECAT short record. For most books this will be an author; in some cases a title. Students should check ALLECAT before requesting items to avoid confusion about the entry under which they are filed. Academic staff should ensure that their reading lists cite references as found in ALLECAT. Photocopied articles are not included in ALLECAT, but author listings of these may be consulted via printouts on a table adjacent to the Collection.
OBITUARY

Members of the University who have been here for more than 10 years would no doubt have been saddened to learn of the death of William John (Bill) Oakes, at the untimely age of 43, in Armidale.

Bill was a postgraduate student in the German Section and, as a Tutor in Introductory German, would have literally taught hundreds of students, apart from the students he took through their first paces in middle-high German.

Bill was one of the most colourful characters on campus. His conviviality, his many interests (from Christian fellowship — he briefly trained for the ministry — to the Army Reserve, motor cycling and Land Rovers) and the fact that he was an inveterate attendant at conferences where he gave a number of papers on medieval topics, would have made him of the the best-known Newcastle University members throughout Australia and, indeed, overseas. If anybody knew somebody from Newcastle, it was just as likely to be Bill Oakes than anybody else.

Bill's brand of native Novocastram speech presented the non-natives in his department with many problems. Yet, his German was impeccable. A man of few words, Bill was a consummate comedian, who skinned in several German Section plays and pay readings. His acting talent and his habit of appending lengthy annotations to every assignment stood him in good stead when, in 1987, he took up a position as a Tutor at the University of New England in Armidale, with its involvement in distance education.

I once ran into a group of students at a railway station who were looking forward to a residential weekend with Bill Oakes, and were full of praise of the tapes and lecture notes he had produced.

With the financial squeeze, Bill's contract was not renewed after 1984. Having got married, Bill stayed in Armidale and joined the Department of Social Security, after a brief interlude as a postman. We are not surprised to hear that his colleagues thought so highly of him that the Armidale office was closed for his funeral.

Numerous anecdotes about Bill could probably fill a small book. One concerns Bill as an undergraduate student at a German function, where — because of Bill's portly appearance, the fact that he wore a suit and smoked a cigar — the then Vice-Principal and (nominal) Professor of German literature mistook him to be an important member of the German business community and engaged him in a long conversation.

Perhaps my favourite anecdote concerns Bill as a schoolboy, who, during recess and luncheon, guarded a hole in the ground so that none of the younger children might fall into it.

To us, Bill was a good friend, who could always be relied upon to swap a class, and who was always ready to repair the lawnmower, pram or pool motor, digging into the vast supply of tools he carried in his car.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his mother and his wife, Elizabeth.

Assoc. Professor Fred Walla

Focus on Uni governance

The Australian University Graduate Conference (AUGC) is publicising a public symposium which will set out the pros and cons of various forms of governance for universities.

Entitled "Who Rules at the University of New South Wales?", the symposium will be held in the Main Lecture Theatre of the Australian Graduate School of Management at the UNSW on March 14 at 6 pm.

The AUGC said that as part of a policy of corporatising statutory authorities in New South Wales, the New South Wales Government proposed to restructure the governing bodies of universities in New South Wales along business lines. This threatened participation of graduates, staff and students.

Chaired by the Chancellor of the University of New South Wales, Mr Justice Gordon Samuels, the symposium will be sponsored jointly by the UNSW Alumni Association and the Staff Association.

The speakers are: Mr Charles Curran, author of the Curran Report; Dr Jessica Milner Davis, Deputy Chancellor of the UNSW and Mr Michael Bartos, FAUSA.

Attention all Students

All students must complete a Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) Payment Options form as a condition of their enrolment.

If a student has not completed a HECS Payment Options form, he or she should visit the HECS Office in Student Administration immediately. Bring your Approved Program with you. If you have not collected this you may do so from the Student Administration Office on the payment of a $20 late charge.

If a student does not complete a HECS Payment Options form and lodge it with Student Administration by 3.30 pm on Thursday, March 23, 1989, he or she will not be enrolled at The University of Newcastle for the 1989 academic year.

Students are reminded that their HECS liability for Semester 2 will be assessed according to their program on the Semester 1 census date, i.e. March 31, 1989.

In order to process changes to students' programs by March 31, it is necessary for Variation of Program forms to be submitted by Thursday, March 23, 1989. No guarantee can be given that forms submitted after March 23, 1989 will be processed by the census date.

A reduction in student load or complete withdrawal after March 23, 1989, will not reduce a student's HECS liability for Semester 1.

The census date for Semester 2 is August 31, 1989. It is necessary for Variation of Program forms to be submitted by Thursday, August 24, 1989. A reduction in student load or complete withdrawal after August 24, 1989 will not reduce a student's HECS liability for Semester 2.

Any enquiries in relation to HECS should be directed to the HECS Office in Student Administration (Extension 711).
REVIEW

KID STAKES

by: Dorrit Nesmith

Ray Lawler's Kid Stakes is the first play in the 'Doll Trilogy', though it was written long after the final chapter of the story, The Summer of the Seventeenth Doll, had been produced.

Kid Stakes is a gambling term: nothing to gain, nothing to lose — the casual attitude of Queenslarry cane cutters who attach themselves to two Melbourne girlfriends during the off season. The play has neither the poignancy of 17th Doll, but it deals with younger people whose Idealism (about themselves, each other, the nature and durability of love) has not yet even begun to fade away by the years. It offers its characters only meagre hopes and foreshadows the bitterness that will emerge in the final play.

It might have worked at the Sydney Entertainment Centre, but not the Civic Playhouse. One simply can't parade a group of thirtyish to fortyish actors into wrinkle-counting range and ask the audience to believe they are 18 or even 26 years old.

Susan Leith (Olive) arched her back and flashed her pearls and cavorted coquettishly. At a reasonable distance she might have appeared to be a youngster in the throes of her first passion. Susan Newey's ferocious maternal defense of her daughter's chastity made one wonder if the daughter was retarded or the mother demented, even allowing for the moral values of the 1930s.

Rod Ansell's delicate underplaying brought dignity to a role (Dicky) that could too easily have become a caricature. He, too, was presumably meant to be barely out of his teens; the actor's extra decade made the character's aspirations especially touching.

Toni Scanlan and Shane Connor seemed closest to the right respective ages, though 'Nancy' might have been a bit younger and 'Roo' a little older. She gave us a rounded, real person, a pragmatist with few illusions, who rarely allows herself the luxury of sentiment — and who will extract herself from the annual assignation some time before that seventeenth summer. He tried hard to exude stolc decency and sincerity, with many frowns and muscles akimbo. His least convincing scenes were those in which he suddenly waxed expressive while reciting rote-learned Bible verses. He might just possibly grow up to be the Roo of later years.

Several serious costuming lapses undermined the play's Depression-era milieu, which was generally effective.

If this review seems to harp on age rather than ability, it is because it seems a terrible waste of the considerable young talent available when a director (Brent McGregor) miscasts an interesting play so dreadfully and so distractingly. He needed only to use some of the very good actors who have emerged recently in this University's Drama Department.

Alas, it is too late to replace the current players, who are scheduled to be at the HVTU until March 18 before leaving for three weeks in Fenrit.

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The Greenhouse Effect

(Planning for Climate Change)

What can we do in the Hunter?

Come to the Union Courtyard on

Friday, March 17

at

12.30 pm

hear and ask

MR STUART WHITE

of

The Friends of the Earth and a Physics postgraduate student of Sydney

Sponsored by Students for Peace,
The University of Newcastle

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Farewell to Ellen Braye and Brian O'Shea

Mrs Ellen Braye and Mr Brian O'Shea recently retired as Lecturers from the Department of Commerce.

Friends of Ellen and Brian are invited to attend a farewell dinner on Wednesday, March 22 at 7 pm in the Staff House.

Those interested in attending the function are requested to contact the Secretary, Department of Commerce, at Extension 735 by Friday, March 17. The cost of the dinner is $25 per person (wine and soft drinks included — spirits and beer to be purchased).

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STUDENTS FOR PEACE

MEETING

Tuesday, March 21, Noon

in the Nelson Room,
University Union.

Everybody is welcome

Wine, Juice and Cheese provided
Advertisements

For Sale
1981 Bluebird GX Manual Sedan (NKB957). Features include: registered until October, pink slip, cassette/radio and this car has just been serviced and tuned. Please telephone Extension 404 or 59 6244.

Pine bookshelves, 2m x 1m, $90. Wooden bookshelves 1.5m x 1m, $75. Small pine dining/kitchen table, $65. Comfortable lounge chair on swivel base, $45. Please telephone 51 5219 or Extension 679.


Accommodation Wanted
Visiting Fulbright Lecturer and family require house to rent from July until November, 1989. Please contact Dianne Oslund at Extension 338 or the English Department at Extension 219.

Diary of Events

Tuesday, March 14, Noon - 2 pm
Entertainment in the Courtyard featuring Moonscope (local band).

Wednesday, March 15, Noon - 2 pm
Entertainment in the Courtyard featuring Big Storm (Sydney band).

2 pm

2 - 4 pm
Ageing in the Hunter: Facing the Future — a forum for senior citizens week. Professionals working with and for ageing people discuss community care, residential care and support services. Guest speaker: Virginia Chadwick, Minister for Family and Community Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Aged. Enquiries: 68 9522.

Thursday, March 16, Noon - 2 pm

2 pm
Department of English presentation by Alan Warne, author of The Nightmarkets, currently University of Newcastle Writer-in-Residence, will read from, and talk about, his work. Venue: 132A, McMullin Building.

Thursday, March 23, Noon

Friday, March 24, 8 pm
Easter music with Newcastle University Choir — The Passion according to St. Luke, by Heinrich Schutz. Soloists: Paul Bevan, Peter Brock. Guest Conductor: Marcus Neale. Tickets for Holy Week and Easter. Conductor Peter Brock. Tickets: $10 and (concession and full-time students) and may be purchased from the University Union and at the door.

Tuesday, April 4, Noon
Entertainment in the Courtyard featuring The Pressmen (band).

6 pm
Entertainment featuring Rod Knight of Funk Liberation Organisation (band).

Wednesday, April 5, Noon
Entertainment in the Southern Bross Lounge featuring Peter Allsop (guitar).

Friday, April 7, Noon
Film Buffs Club presents.


Musica Viva

Musica Viva is profiling tickets for its concerts this year for just $6 each. However, you must be under 25 to be eligible.

The scheme is called Youthpass. A book of four Youthpasses can be bought for $24 from the box office at the Civic Theatre (telephone 29 1977).

On the day of a Musica Viva subscription concert any person aged 25 or under (proof of age required) can present a Youthpass to the box office and receive the best available seat at the concert.