$7.5 million for earthquake relief

The Federal Minister for Employment, Education and Training, Mr Dawkins, announced a $7.5 million package on March 10 to help the University re-build and to boost student accommodation following the earthquake.

Mr Dawkins, who fitted an inspection of earthquake damage to buildings and student residences, at the University into a visit to Newcastle, said:

"I am delighted to be able to say that from existing resources, the Federal Government will allocate $3 million to provide new residential student accommodation at the University."

"We will also bring forward from pennies allocated in 1992, $4.5 million to allow an early start on a new science building", he said.

The Vice-Chancellor, thanking the Government, said the University would move quickly on the implementation of the projects. He said the intention was to replace University Village, the temporary student residence, with permanent facilities.

Mr Dawkins said the questions he had to answer were outside normal Commonwealth/State arrangements for emergency relief.

He said International House and Evatt House had been funded by the Government, because the accommodation problem faced by the University had been recognised. The University was a special case, since it had been underprovided in the past.

"Now, we are confronted with an additional problem. Students have been deprived of accommodation by the effects of the earthquake, and alternative accommodation is too costly.

"As far as the Government is concerned, the $3 million immediate grant for on-campus accommodation is given without strings, although we hope other funds can be found to stretch it further".

Mr Dawkins added that because damage had been caused to the University by the earthquake the Government had approved the immediate construction of the new science building, thereby permitting the damaged science buildings to be repaired.

Mr Allan Morris, MHR for Newcastle, spoke of the escalating rents in Newcastle and how students were competing in a tougher accommodation market.

He said it was very important for the University not to be disrupted at a time when it was growing at a fast pace.

Professor Morgan said the University Village was the answer to an emergency. Two hundred students had been given accommodation until the end of this year. The village was the achievement of a "marvellous construction team" comprising University staff.

He said he would like to see a new residential hall or college by 1991. He would discuss the project with potential benefactors in the hope that they might agree to be associated with the University.
Dear Editor,

As a Lecturer in the Open Foundation course run by the Department of Community Programmes, I am most disturbed to hear from some of last year's students of the conditions under which they are being taught subjects which have a huge first-year intake. I gather that many students are being forced to stand or sit on the steps of lecture theatres, blocking up the gangways. Such congestion is not only unhealthy and un conducive to effective learning, but is also downright dangerous in terms of fire regulations.

The lecturers of first-year students in over-subscribed subjects obviously find it equally depressing to be obliged to teach in such cramped and hazardous conditions. It must surely be against union and health regulations. However, I gather that the students are in some cases being told that conditions will soon improve, as many of their lecture theatres, clearly enjoying the right the hard way and will not easily be put off. However, I worry about what happens to them when the going gets tough, and about those straight from school, unused to the business of dying at once and "decrease the surplus population".

I know that the students that I and my colleagues have taught have been carefully prepared and by now have mostly fully prepared and by now have mostly expected to attend. No other geological conference in Australia has such a long history.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor K.J. Morgan, will open the symposium on March 24 at 9 am. A total of 33 papers will be presented in thematic technical sessions.

A popular feature of Newcastle Symposia is the field excursion and the 1990 Symposium excursion, led by Dr Konrad Moelle, will be investigating the geological controls of earthquake damage in Newcastle.

Open to the general public, a session on Saturday afternoon, March 24, in the Great Hall from 3 to 6 pm, will concentrate on the Newcastle Earthquake.

The meeting will be chaired by Alderman John McNaughton, the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, with speakers from the Bureau of Mineral Resources and Queensland University (seismologists), the Queensland Government Disaster taskforce, police, insurance and health workers and the engineers.

The symposium Keynote speaker, Dr D. Denham, of the Australian Seismological Institute, will deliver his address during the public session.

The public forum will deal with the following topics:

- The geological reasons for the Newcastle earthquake;
- Geological considerations of earthquake damage;
- Aftershocks and earthquake risk in Australia;
- The post earthquake trauma;
- Earthquake disaster management and building in Australia and earthquake risk.

All are welcome to attend the free public forum which is designed to inform the community about the basics of earthquakes and their implications. Prior registration is not necessary for this session.

Sydney Basin Symposium's long history

The Department of Geology will hold its annual symposium on Advances in the Study of the Sydney Basin from March 23 to 25. The symposium will be the 24th annual symposium and 250 delegates are expected to attend. No other geological conference in Australia has such a long history.

Exhibition of Egyptian antiquities

Certain to evoke considerable interest is an exhibition of Egyptian Antiquities to be held in the Green Room and Foyer of the Great Hall from April 6 to 10.

The exhibition will include pieces from the Old and New Kingdoms, the late Dynastic, Ptolemaic and Roman periods and, in all, will cover a period of some 4,000 years of Egyptian civilisation.

Among the pieces on exhibit will be amulets (talismans), ushabis (funerary statuettes), scarabs, funerary masks, early dynastic stone vases, necklaces, bas relief fragments from the Valley of the Kings, Luxor and Saqqara, coins, sarcophagus fragments, bronzes, and Coptic cloth fragments. All items on exhibit will be available for sale.

The exhibition is being brought to Newcastle by Dr Giovanni Rabito, of the Re-Entombed Galleries, of Sydney, at the invitation of the University's Art Advisory Committee. Dr Rabito has recently returned from a visit to Egypt, during which he acquired a number of new items for the exhibition.

A Preview of the exhibition will be held from 12.30 to 2.30 pm on April 6 and the opening will take place that evening from 5.30 to 7.30 pm. The exhibition will be open on Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 5 pm and on the Monday and Tuesday from 11.30 am to 2.30 pm.

Dr Jean Talbot

1990 Schools Visit Day, July 18

The University will host the 1990 Schools Visit Day on Wednesday, July 18. This date is slightly later than in previous years.

The number of schools attending Schools Visit Day has increased each year. In 1989 more than 5,000 students attended from schools within and around the Hunter Region.

The program for 1990 will include introductory lectures on some disciplines, talks on course content and visiting laboratories, workshops, libraries, etc.

Ms Julie Swain, the Adviser for Prospective Students, will contact members of the University staff seeking their assistance with the activities planned for Schools Visit Day.

One program will be printed, which will include activities on both sides of the campus.

Any offers of assistance will be appreciated.
Honouring Pat and Ted Flowers

The University and Convocation honoured Pat and Ted Flowers at a gathering in the Auchmuty Library on March 5.

In recognition of their contribution to the University, the Humanities Room was named the Flowers Room.

Mrs Flowers joined the staff of the Newcastle Technical College Library in 1943. She was Librarian-in-Charge from 1947 until 1960, when she resigned to have a family.

Mrs Flowers was associated with the former Newcastle Conservatorium of Music as Foundation Librarian for 13 years to 1983.

She has always been happy to work for the University and is a keen worker for the Book Fairs.

Mr Flowers became a staff member of the Newcastle Technical College Library in 1948. He moved to Newcastle Region Library in 1952 as Deputy City Librarian and to Lake Macquarie Shire Library in 1956 as Shire Librarian.

Mr Flowers took up duty at the former Newcastle University College as Librarian in 1961. When the University became autonomous in 1965 his position was changed to University Librarian. He retired at the end of 1988.

Whilst at the University Ted also worked in South East Asia as library consultant for Australian Government development agencies and acted as advisor on library development and library education.

Mrs Flowers spoke at the ceremony of having, in 1951, been asked to take on the role of Librarian for the University College.

"My brief", she said, "was train library staff (some of whom are here today and are still connected with this library) and develop a good basic collection, primarily in science, technology and the humanities for conversion courses from the Diplomas of the Technical College to degrees of the (now) University of New South Wales".

She said Ted and she were very proud of their association with the University and its libraries. "I don't think either of us felt that it was ever just a job", she said.

Ted said he was glad the Humanities Room was chosen to be the Flowers Room.

"It has been my joy and my despair", he said, "initially accommodating the entire monograph collections and having had more than its fair share of physical problems". He paid tribute to the academic staff, the library staff and the University's planners and staff for the University's "magnificent collections".

"I do believe", Mr Flowers added, "that this University is the best thing that has ever happened to this region".

---

Research grants and fellowships

National Multiple Sclerosis Society of Australia is inviting applications for the following:

- Project grants for approved clinical, laboratory-based, epidemiological or rehabilitative studies;
- Training fellowships; and
- Seeding grants.

Information and application details are available from: Ms Brenda Bradley, Research Co-ordinator (NMSSA), Neurology Department, Royal Adelaide Hospital, North Terrace, Adelaide, SA 5000. Telephone: (08) 232 0275. Closing date for applications is May 31.

Advance notice of SOCIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

(Equality, Education and the Environment)
The University of Newcastle, July 12 to 14.

A working conference for social justice, hosted by the School of Health, in conjunction with the Australian Institute of Welfare and Community Workers. International and Australian speakers Action oriented workshops Displays: Individuals, or groups, who may wish to present papers, lead workshops, mount displays etc., are invited to contact the Planning Committee. Contact: Inta Allegritti, or Greg Heys, C/- the School of Health, University of Newcastle. Telephone: 68 7452 or 68 7304
Chaplains' objective for this year

The Chaplaincy Centre has begun 1990 with a determined effort to provide the students and staff of the University with as complete a ministry of service as possible.

The eight members of the team have produced a booklet outlining some of the services available through the chaplains, including the more usual and obvious areas of prayer and spirituality, discussion and study groups and denominational worship.

The 11-page booklet also covers opportunities for retreats and quiet days, places to go for a bit of "time-out", chances for voluntary work in the local community and emphasises that, through social events, fellowship is an important part of the campus ministry.

The year began with a Pancake Party on Shrove Tuesday as an opportunity for people to get to meet the chaplains and some of the members of the Christian groups on campus. The barbecue worked overtime turning out a variety of odd shaped pancakes for the many eager mouths. It was lots of fun, and a good chance to say "Hi!".

Our second event was a picnic and look at Newcastle for recently-arrived newcomers to our city. A happy group moved delicately through earthquake-shaken Hamilton and then not so delicately into the surf at Nobby's.

The Chaplaincy Centre is staffed between noon and 2 pm from Monday to Friday, and chaplains are in the Conservatorium during Thursday lunchtimes.

The booklet is freely available around the campus and has lots more information about the ministry of service.
The Edwards Hall Scholarship Fund was given a significant boost by the generous donations made at the 1990 Edwards Hall Reunion Dinner in Singapore.

A total donation of $3,475 was derived from graduates who attended the dinner, bringing the overall total in the Edwards Hall Scholarship Fund to $11,275.

The money will be invested with a view to providing perpetual scholarships valued at $1,000 a year to residents of the hall. The first will probably be awarded next year.

The Warden of Edwards Hall, Dr Michael Blackmore, explained that the 1990 Edwards Hall Reunion Dinner was held at the Boulevard Hotel in Singapore on January 19. He and his family were returning to Australia after spending Christmas and New Year in the United Kingdom, while at the same time the Deputy Warden (Chen Swee Eng) and his wife were in Singapore on leave. Therefore, Dr Blackmore said, an ideal opportunity existed for a reunion dinner attended by former Singaporean residents of Edwards Hall.

Dr Blackmore said it was often forgotten that when Edwards Hall first opened in 1972 the overseas component of the resident students was as high as 40 per cent, and today between 15 to 20 per cent of resident students are drawn from overseas countries.

"Thus, we have many former residents from countries like Singapore. About 40 in all attended the reunion dinner, which was in the form of a traditional Chinese banquet. The fund was started following the 1985 Singapore Reunion Dinner, with an original donation of $400.

"Precise criteria upon which the scholarships will be awarded has yet to be determined, but the intention is to assist academically able rural and overseas students to reside on campus during their enrolment at this University."

Dr Blackmore also spoke of the large number of University Medallists who have lived in Edwards Hall. Apart from Chen Swee Eng, there were four other University Medallists at the dinner - Tan Khee Huat, Goh Chin Hoe, Chow Kok Kee and Kwan Tuck On, he said.

Donations for the scholarship fund were received from the following graduates:

Tan Khee Huat, Tay Buan Huat, Goh Chin Hoe, Sim Mui Hiang, Tan Chin Nam, Mark Chim, Chow Kok Kee, Chua Kim Poh, Kwan Tuck On, Tao Yeoh Chi, Ong Thiam Huat, Teoh Eam Khwang, William Wong, Yap Chin Beng and Yong Kee Seng.

Attention overseas students

Ms Joanna Thorman, Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB) Social Worker, and Mr Bernard Johnston, AIDAB Training Liaison Officer, will visit the University on Friday, March 30. They will be in Room T25 in the Careers and Student Employment Office in the Temporary Buildings.

Ms Thorman will be available to see any AIDAB, IDP or private subsidised students regarding personal, health, family or legal problems that may be affecting their studies. All interviews are confidential and free.

Mr Johnston would like to see all AIDAB students regarding their academic progress.

For appointments, please put your name down in advance on the appointment list in the Careers Office.

AIDAB is the overseas aid unit of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and has a welfare responsibility for AIDAB and private subsidised overseas students.

In between visits, Ms Thorman and Mr Johnston can be contacted at the Sydney Office: AIDAB, GPO Box 5293, Sydney, 2001. Telephone: (02) 212 4000. (Overseas students may reverse the charges.)
Research dollars for Chemical Engineering

Dr Nafis Ahmed and Associate Professor Terry Wall

The Department of Chemical Engineering's efforts to capture more research dollars seem to have paid off handsomely.

The Department reports an appreciable increase in grants from the National Energy Research Development and Demonstration (NERDDC) and the Australian Research Council (ARC). In addition, a research contract has been finalised with the Australian Mineral Industries Research Association (AMIRA).

The Department has received grants totalling more than $250,000 from the NERDDC.

Associate Professor Terry Wall has been awarded $180,000 for coal combustion studies. An award of $146,000 is a continuation grant with Professor K. Diessel and Ms J. Bailey, of the Department of Geology, on the origin of unburnt combustibles from coal. Professor Wall has also received $34,000 with Mr L. Lucas to work on volatiles matter and pulverised coal ignition.

Dr Nafis Ahmed and Professor Graham Jameson have received $71,000 from NERDDC to continue their on-going investigation on the dustiness characteristics of Australian coals. This is a relatively new area of research and it complements the strong base the Department has established in coal research.

The ARC has made a grant of $85,000 to Professor Jameson and Dr Ahmed for 1990 to look at the fluid dynamics of the Jameson Cell, a new flotation device developed by Professor Jameson, the principal investigator.

The Department of Chemical Engineering has finalised a research contract with AMIRA worth $143,000. Professor Jameson and Dr Ahmed will investigate ways of improving the grade of mineral concentrates obtained by using the flotation process. The work is being sponsored by a number of mining companies and will include actual in-plant evaluation and testing in their operating plants.

Stop Press

Award winner announced

A University of Newcastle graduate who has made major contributions to the work of the University and the cultural life of the Region has been selected to receive Convocation's 1989 Newton-John Award.

Father Peter Brock will be presented with the award at a dinner on April 27.

Father Brock was Catholic Chaplain at the University before becoming Parish Priest at Belmont.

He has been Director of the University Choir for the last 10 years.

Father Brock was awarded an MA honoris causa by the University on Graduation Day 1987.

West Campus students - Important enrolment notice

All students enrolled on the West Campus should now have received one of the following:

- An Approved Program complete with 1990 student care (re-enrolling students)
- A Confirmation of Program (commencing students)

The approved programs were to be collected at the re-enrolment approval sessions in February. Uncollected forms are being held at the Student Administration Counter (McMullin Building).

Confirmation of Programs were mailed on March 9.

If you have not received/collected either of these forms please contact Student Administration urgently.

(Note: Student Administration hours are 9 am to 12.30 pm and 1.30 to 5 pm.)

All students should have completed a Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) Payment Options form and lodged it with Student Administration. If you have not done so, please contact the HECS Office in the McMullin Building urgently.

Your enrolment for 1990 can only be confirmed if you have received your Approved Program/Confirmation of Program, completed your HECS form and paid your fees (General Service Charge).

Fees will not be accepted after Friday, March 30.

If fees and a HECS Payment Options form are not received by this date your enrolment at this institution will lapse.

J.D. Todd, Academic Registrar
1990 is the first full-year of operation of the University's Central Coast Campus. It is the first year of operation of the BA degree. Moreover, it sees the first full-time students on the campus - in the Bachelor of Business and the Bachelor of Arts.

Student enrolments have been high - in fact, higher than anticipated in all courses, except the BA. The Bachelor of Business has attracted 45 new full-time students, 31 new part-time and 30 re-enrolling from 1989. Twenty-four students, both full and part-time, comprise the first intake into the BA. The Associate Diploma of Police Studies has 20 re-enrolling students.

The postgraduate degrees have also been very well received. There are 12 students enrolled in the Diploma of Management and MBA and 35 new enrolments, together with 24 continuing students, in the BEdStud/MEdStud.

It would appear that the Central Coast Campus will be accommodating up to 150 EFTSU - considerably over its funding level of 110. This will put some strain on the resources available, but we would like to admit as many students as possible in this first full year of operations.

The campus Library is now open, under the management of Mrs Elaine McRae, the Library Technician. All texts and references for the courses taught on the Central Coast are held in the library building on the campus. A link is currently being effected with the Auchmuty and Huxley Libraries' Alleycat computer system. Loans and reservations of Central Coast books will be computerised, as at the Newcastle libraries, and Central Coast students may use the Alleycat to inquire what resources are available in Newcastle and access other computerised reference sources.

The Union Building for the Central Coast Campus will be in operation by mid-March. It will comprise a general sitting area, with vending machines. Service will be available for lunch and afternoon meal.

The Central Coast Campus is being developed in association with the Department of TAFE. It is anticipated that TAFE's teaching building will be located on the site by early April. The University will be sharing the use of their classrooms, since our own first teaching building and computer laboratory will not be completed until late in the year.

The Federal Government has allocated $700,000 towards the cost of the teaching building. This amount is not sufficient for the completion of the building to meet our requirements in the early years of the campus's operation and a drive is being launched by the Central Coast Tertiary Education Development Committee to raise the $250,000 needed for its completion.

With the considerable student numbers in the Bachelor of Business course, the first two full-time Central Coast Campus Lecturers have been appointed.

Ms Dale Miller has taken up her duties as Lecturer in Management, and Mr Robert Nuesink will take up duties as Lecturer in Marketing in March.

Professor Michael Ewans
The establishment of the Chair in Bulk Materials Handling and Conveying was an excellent initiative in co-operation between the University and industry, the Minister for Transport and Communications, Mr Ralph Willis, said.

The new Chair is a partnership created by TUNRA, Merz Australia, (consulting engineers with head office in Perth), and the Newcastle Permanent Building Society. The appointee to the new Chair is Professor Alex Harrison (see story).

It is the culmination of a number of years of planning by the Director of TUNRA’s Bulk Solids Handling Research Group, Professor Alan Roberts, and the group’s consultants and staff.

The group is actively involved in a program of research directed at improving the efficiency and reliability of materials handling and is applicable to a broad range of Australian industries.

Speaking at the launch on March 9, Professor Roberts said the Chair in Bulk Materials Handling and Conveying was the first of its type in Australia and one of the first in the world.

He said co-operative agreements, such as those formed between TUNRA and Alco Steel and TUNRA and Merz, allowed his group to provide total packages for the solution of bulk materials handling problems.

Apart from what was learned, the interaction with industry made the courses taught in the Department of Engineering more relevant.

Mr Willis, who was accompanied by the Minister for Industrial Relations, Mr Peter Morris, attended the inauguration of the Chair on behalf of the Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce, Senator John Button, who was ill.

In his prepared address, Senator Button described the establishment of the Chair as important because it could help to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Australian firms.

He said there had been increasing recognition in recent years that improvements in productivity, quality and service could be achieved through innovative approaches to work organisation, in areas such as production techniques, personnel management and bulk materials handling.

The Chair is the first of its kind to be established in Australia and is funded totally by industry.

Professor Harrison says that over-seas the trend is towards greater university and industry/business links and collaboration.

He says that Chairs that are essentially research chairs, like his chair, are becoming more common. In return for company investment, universities respond to the needs of industry and attract further substantial support.

“By enlarging the present research centre of excellence in bulk handling and conveying, the reputation of the Department in this field will be further strengthened.

“The centre will become a focus for postgraduate training, and subsequently, the trainees will join industry”.

Professor Harrison sees many opportunities for employing PhD students in the laboratory which he has established in the Hunter Technology Anexa. He has a grant from Elcom and Alco Steel for the appointment of his first PhD student, who will arrive shortly. He has also made an application to the Australian Research Council for a grant for the production of a test rig for conveyor belts.

Although he has been a Professor for only eight weeks, he has already commenced assignments in the Hunter Region.

He has applied non-destructive testing methods to conveyor belts at Newtown and West Wallsend No.2 Collieries with the object of preventing catastrophic belt failure and keeping the belts operating. He is advising Australian Wire Industries Pty Ltd on aspects of wirerope life research.

Apart from local research projects, Professor Harrison will remain active as a consultant for projects in the Illawarra Region, Queensland, Western Australia, the United States, Canada, Germany, South Africa and other countries.

He describes his research as investigating engineering problems in conveyor belt systems, by proposing theoretical concepts for new designs to solve these often difficult problems.

The disciplines which have to be applied range from electrical engineering, electronics and measurement to mathematical modelling and computing.

The multi-disciplinary task is in harmony with his training. He graduated with an honours degree in mathematics and physics from Macquarie University in 1974 and with an electrical engineering degree from the University of Technology, Sydney in 1977. Subsequently, he obtained an MSc degree in applied physics from Macquarie University and a PhD in mechanical engineering from this University in 1984.

“More than 80 per cent of Australia’s bulk exports are handled by systems of conveyor belts. These include iron-ore, coal and sugar. That being the case, conveyor belts are particularly important to the Australian economy”.

Because of his recognised skill as an analyst of the problems, his work has attracted substantial support from industry and government agencies.

Professor Harrison and his wife, Jann, who obtained a BSc degree in Biology from Macquarie University, have three young children.
'Impenetrable' works now more approachable

Dr Gavin Perram has been admitted to a PhD degree by virtue of his work on Peter Handke, the Austrian author. Dr Perram is a Lecturer in German language and literature at the University of New England.

He graduated with Honours Class I and a University Medal from this University in 1975, doing all his studies part-time. He was then a primary school teacher.

In his thesis, Dr Perram gratefully acknowledges the help he received over many years from Professor A. Barthofer, Associate Professor of German, who was the supervisor of his thesis.

Professor Barthofer said Peter Handke had always been considered to be both a controversial and difficult author, whose works, in particular the early ones, are somewhat obscure, even impenetrable, to the reader. Dr Perram’s thesis did much to assist in the understanding of the early narrative prose works (1965 to 1972) and to make them more approachable.

The period examined by Dr Perram also embraces most of Peter Handke’s controversial statements on art and literary theory, which attracted much critical and media attention and assured him of a quite sensational rise to fame.

In part, Dr Perram’s thesis documents and analyses the turbulent emergence of Peter Handke into the literary scene during the latter half of the sixties and up until 1972, by which time he had become an established and respected author, if still a somewhat controversial figure.

Dr Perram said the virtual notoriety which surrounded Peter Handke and his early works led to a lack of objectivity in much of the immediate criticism and much imprecise and conflicting appraisal of the works and Handke’s statements on literature and its form and function in society.

An extensive section of the thesis is given over to a detailed examination of Handke’s "poetics", and here a coherent and comprehensive view of the theoretical foundations of his literary concerns and practice emerges for the first time in Handke criticism.

In particular, Handke’s views on the whole question of "reality" and the manner of his literary representation (which brought him into acrimonious conflict with the literary establishment of the time) is rigorously analysed and evaluated.

Handke’s lengthy, and somewhat bitter, disputations with the New Left and the New Realist movements about the function of literature and what its subject matter should be is also examined.

At that time Handke did not write an intellectual vacuum, and like virtually all writers owed a debt to other authors and thinkers, Dr Perram said. The obvious influence of the Russian Formalists, in particular Viktor Sklovskij, of the nouveau roman writers of France, and the members of the German Romantic Movement is evaluated in relation to its effect on Handke’s writing of the period and his pronouncements on literature.

From the examination of Handke’s "poetics" Dr Perram shows the emergence of three central concerns. The first is the primacy of the individual over society, the second the concern with the artificiality of the literary text and the concomitant destruction of accepted forms of realisation of literary texts and the third the conviction that literary reality, in its linguistic form, functions other than to mirror empirical reality - rather that its function is to startle us into a new perception of quotidian reality and of literature itself.

Dr Perram has recently begun work on a new project which involves the production of computer generated instructional videos for the teaching of such linguistic phenomena as the German case system and German sentence structure. These instructional videos will be used in the external teaching program at the University of New England.

National conference of PR officers

Observers from the newly-created universities, including Charles Sturt University and the University of Western Sydney joined delegates from 22 universities for the Fifth National Conference of University Information Services Staff at the University of Tasmania in February.

The University of Newcastle was represented by Messrs J.W. Armstrong and K. Powell, of the Information and Public Relations Unit.

The diverse conference program examined Australian universities at a time when their PR role is broadening, some of the main sessions considering higher education from a marketing viewpoint, how the universities are seen from abroad and ideas for university fund-raising programs. Delegates expressed concern at the apparent unwillingness of the political parties to give any priority to higher education issues in the current Federal election campaign.

The conference was organised by the Australian Vice-Chancellors’ Committee and the Chairman of the AVCC’s Standing Committee on Public Relations, Professor Ken McKinnon, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wollongong, and Professor Alec Lazenby, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Tasmania, were among the guest speakers.

In an address on Journalistic Ethics and Public Information, Professor John Wicklein, Kiplinger Professor in Journalism at Ohio State University, and a Fulbright Senior Scholar at Charles Sturt University, said:

"Searchers for truth most certainly include the practitioners of public relations at a university.

"Above all, the university is a place where we expect open and honest communication.

"To be faithful to the ideal, this must exist at all levels of the institution and between the institution and the public - which includes the press", Professor Wicklein said.

In an address which drew a lot of attention, Ms Margaret Eldridge, President of the Council of Groups Supporting Overseas Students in Tasmania, said:

"No longer do we have a group of overseas students grateful to Australia for a scholarship or a subsidised place.

"Now we have a large consumer group, paying enormous sums of money to study in Australia and it is looking for value for money.

"There have already been complaints and in some cases these have led to the closure of unethical institutions. Rightly so".

Ms Eldridge said that one complaint she had heard many times was that institutions provided glossy brochures which included pictures of what purported to be student accommodation.

"What they don't say is that this accommodation is well beyond the budget of many students, difficult to obtain and may not be available to overseas students because of racist landlords.

"Australia ranks 20th in popularity as a destination for study. If it wishes to move higher, it will need to look very carefully at its publicity, information and fees, ensuring the return home of highly satisfied customers. We must bear in mind that not all full-fee paying students come from wealthy families and even wealthy people want value for money.

"Large numbers of Australian-educated full-fee paying students will have long-term implications in the areas of trade, foreign investment, foreign affairs and international relations, not to mention at the personal level", she said.
Student opinions changing

A recent survey of student opinion on the West Campus (the former University) has shown that attitudes to traditional services and extra-curricular concerns are changing.

Students are showing more interest in child care, career and employment opportunities, academic support services and living accommodation and less in the more traditional student priorities.

Dr Bethia Penglase, of the Department of Community Programmes, who conducted the survey, believes that changing attitudes and interests can probably be traced to higher proportions of mature-age students, a phenomenon, she says, which has affected universities nation-wide, and to the changing economic climate.

Dr Penglase comments that a widening catchment area, bringing many students from outside the city and its environs, as well as the influence of overseas students, may also be significant.

The study, which was funded by the University, was based on interviews and responses to a questionnaire, which involved 13.3 per cent of the 1990 enrolment in University award courses. Respondents included undergraduate and postgraduate students in all faculties, and, in gender and student status (full-time, part-time), formed a representative sample of the student body.

Dr Penglase says economic pressures were evident in dissatisfaction with employment opportunities. Some 30 per cent of the full-time students involved in the survey said that before enrolling they had been looking for full-time employment. Although nearly three-quarters of the full-time students had worked in vacation jobs, or in a part-time or casual capacity while studying, more than half were still concerned about the difficulty of finding paid employment.

She notes that child care proved to be an issue for many people. There was much concern about costs, about delays in getting places, and difficulties involving transport and lecture timetables. Many felt that part-time or irregular child care opportunities on campus would solve their problems.

Dr Penglase says that because their time on campus is limited, part-time students are more concerned with facilities to help with study commitments, especially in the evenings, than with social activities or advisory services. On the other hand, overseas students and other newcomers to the city want to be involved in more organised social and cultural activities.

"For an increasing number of students, studying at the University involves moving to Newcastle for the academic year", she says. Consequently, living accommodation and the limitations of public transport were already becoming major concerns before the earthquake severely reduced the available accommodation in the University's traditional 'domitory' areas.

Dr Penglase points out that another shift in the focus of students' interests is indicated by increasing demands for extra-curricular learning opportunities. This might be associated, he says, with changes in vocational aims in response to increased emphasis on the needs of science and industry, with mature students returning to study for re-training, and with the higher costs of failure since fees were imposed.

"Almost 40 per cent of the sample said that they had taken one or more bridging courses, or special workshops, and a remarkable 95 per cent indicated a desire to do so."

"A surprisingly high proportion of these students were engaged in study extraneous to the main-stream courses, mainly in preparatory mathematics and science programs, while the demand for short non-award courses focussed mainly on micro-computer skills, study skills, writing and assignment preparation."

Dr Penglase adds that not all is change. Complaints - about the fees, the disposal of Union funds, the parking, the food, the chairs, the photocopiers and other traditional inequities and inadequacies remain, but on the whole the signs of change may be very encouraging ones.
New faces at University Conservatorium

Staff appointments made recently at the University of Newcastle Conservatorium of Music include a Lecturer in Singing, a Lecturer in Flute and a Hall and Concerts Manager.

Mr Paul Curtis, Lecturer in Flute, was a member of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra for 20 years. He then worked providing students with tuition in flute at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, subsequently becoming a freelance performer in Sydney. Mr Curtis studied at the Guild Hall Music School in London, freelancing and playing for the BBC as well. Last year he taught at the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education (now the University College of Southern Queensland).

Ms Kay Capewell, Lecturer in Singing, has come to Newcastle from Sydney, where she was a professional singer and teacher, including singing with the Song Company. Originally from Victoria, where she took a BMus degree at Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, majoring in piano, and taught in high schools, she subsequently went overseas to study. In the United Kingdom, she was a member of both the Welsh National Opera Company and the Covent Garden Opera Company, as well as a freelance singer.

Mr Wayne Sheean, the only member of the trio to come from Newcastle, has succeeded Mr Damien Geraghty as Halls and Concerts Manager. Wayne was a piano student at the (then) Newcastle Conservatorium for two years prior to taking a BEc degree at the University of Sydney. Whilst living in Sydney he sang in the Choir of St. Mary's Cathedral.

From being a student he went to London where he studied organ and choral works at the Royal School of Church Music. On returning to Australia, in 1982, he became manager of a motel. His musical activities include singing in the Choir of Christ Church Cathedral.

Recognition of work done for the disabled

A University lecturer, whose dedication and service to disabled people has taken up a great deal of his spare time, has been presented with a medal in appreciation of his effort.

Mr Leon Burwell, who is the Course Director for the Bachelor of Education (Physical Education) course, was presented with the medal on Australia Day at a special ceremony held in Speers Point Park.

The Australia Day Appreciation Medal for services in the sporting field for the disabled is the fourth such award that has been made to Mr Burwell, who has been involved in helping disabled people for 25 years.

The medal was one of only two presented in this region and the only one for service in the sporting field.

Mr Burwell is the Australian Coaching and Training Director for the Special Olympics, a program which provides physical fitness training and sports skills for disabled people and which functions under the auspices of the Federal Commission of Sport. He has been involved with the Special Olympics for the past 12 years.

He said that the program aims to improve the socialisation of handicapped people through physical improvement and sports skills and also serves to build self-esteem and improved body image.

"Some of the people have not only represented in their sport within Australia but have also travelled overseas", Mr Burwell said.

"On these trips away they are not treated as disabled people but as sportspersons. This is the most heartening spin-off of the program as well as that of pride in their achievements", he added.

Sports in which disabled people are involved are basketball, soccer, gymnastics, athletics and aquatics (including swimming) with other sports planned to be added in the near future.

Mr Leon Burwell displays his medal for services to the disabled
University's own graphic designers

The Medical Communication Unit (MCU) is drawing increasing attention across the University because of its fully comprehensive graphic design service. University departments are able to discuss their requirements for the production of brochures, booklets, leaflets, posters and other publications with the MCU, which can provide a full service from rough rendering through to finished artwork.

Moreover, the Unit, which is located in NEWMED 1, makes use of new technologies in graphics and print reproduction.

Pictured with a display at an Information Day staged by the MCU in the Auchmuty Library on March 6 are the Director, Mr Adrian Daniel, the Designer/ Illustrator, Ms Marie-T Wisniowski, and the Chief Medical Illustrator, Mr John Single.

New "Other Times"

Other Times, Ray Lawler, Hunter Valley Theatre Company, March 7 to 31.

Review by: Marea Mitchell

Having ended its 1989 season with the familiar and well-loved Arms and the Man, the HVTC begins its new season with Other Times, the lesser-known antecedent of Summer of the Seventeenth Doll. This performance is an original in two ways: firstly, it completes the HVTC's production of Lawler's trilogy, making the company the first in Australia to stage all three plays independently; secondly, the play performed here has been re-written by Lawler, who has strengthened the role of Nancy and her desire for change.

The changes made to the play render it more modern in approach and focus than its counterparts. Nancy here is eager to encourage the young Bubba to escape the claustrophobia of the menage a quatre shared by Roo, Olive, Barney and Nancy himself.

While education is heralded as the means of enlarging Bubba's opportunities, knowledge for Nancy leads to a search for escape via the whisky bottle. Nancy's dilemma results from her refusal to play the collective game, thus displaying her unwomanliness, and her reluctance to spoil the fun that the game brings.

The threat she encapsulates for the others is not only the collapse of the couples, through leaving Barney unattached - to play gooseberry to Roo and Olive - but, more seriously her involvement with Josef Hiltz, the friendly alien, the educated Austrian Jew.

The clash of cultures between Roo and Barney, hardworking, hardliving ocker Australian soldiers, and Josef (perhaps the sign of things to come as poetic and sensitive male) is well dramatised in scenes where Roo (Geoff Morell) and Josef (Rod Ansell) demonstrate their differences through language, accent, and appearance. Morell and Ansell graphically represent the differences between cultures, and the threat that Josef represents even after the war is over. Their juxtaposition provides a more interesting focus for the play than the male/female struggles presented in Summer of the Seventeenth Doll. Josef and Nancy, separately and together, carry much of the tension and interest of the play, and explore territory that is not familiar to us from Summer.

Belinda Delaney (Bubba) and Sian Newwy (Emma) deserve considerable praise for their portrayal of characters at either end of the play's generation gap. Newey, in particular, is impressive as the troubled and manipulated figure out of her depth in the post-war racketeering: Newey's rod posture expresses Emma's inability to move or change with the times.

However dated the play may appear, in spite of the changes, Lawler's ability to write plays that work on stage are evident in this production by Brent McGregor. The action is never dull, although at times the tension is repetitive, anger, frustration and incomprehension being too often the source. Because of this, the scenes focussing on Nancy, and Josef seemed to me the most interesting and effective, and to be the play's greatest claim to exploring new ground. Credit to Lawler for having the courage to revise an earlier work, and credit to the HVTC for giving him the opportunity to do so, and for us to see it.

Forthcoming seminars

Tuesday, March 27, 1 pm Department of Sociology seminar. Guest speaker: Professor Bill Newell (Anthropology, Sydney). Topic: The Taiwanese Aborigines in modern Chinese society: a study in cultural stratification.


Tuesday, April 10, 1 pm Department of Sociology seminar. Guest speakers: Gary Dowsett and Mark Davis (Sociology, Macquarie). Topic: The Macquarie AIDS project and AIDS research in Australia.
Referee-drain causes crisis

Newcastle Rugby Union (NRU) has been forced to conduct an urgent appeal for referees, Lecturer in Physiology, Mr. Bruce Cook, claims.

On account of an unusually high tally of job transfers during the summer, as well as retirements, the Rugby Union has found it difficult to find referees to control the 60 games played every round.

As the President of NRU's Referees' Association, Mr. Cook ought to know what the position is.

He has requested members of the University, staff and students, to help the NRU out by volunteering to become qualified as referees.

Courses are held every second Wednesday evening at Newcastle Rugby Club in National Park Street, he said.

"You will be given matches to referee each weekend and you will be viewed in these games by a member of the coaching panel. "Moreover, discussion meetings are held on the last Friday of every month, with a presentation by a senior referee giving a presentation", Mr. Cook said. "Mr. Kerry Thompson, Lecturer in Physical Education, will be the speaker at the meeting on March 30th."

A great deal of personal satisfaction was derived from refereeing, Mr. Cook submitted.

Newcastle referees travelled to all parts of New South Wales and Brisbane on exchanges and the trips were subsidised by the Referees' Association. This was a direct result of the sponsorship of the State Government Employees' Credit Union.

"If you can make it to first or second grades, then you are likely to get Country appointments - again all subsidised. Most referees had good relationships with clubs. "Sledging" refs was only practised by an ignorant few these days. University Club, Mr. Cook said, would be one of the clubs affected by the drastic shortage of referees. It seemed likely that there would be only two referees for four University fixtures.

The solution was not to ask a spectator to "have a run" with the whistle.

"If clubs ask somebody from the ranks of their supporters to do a match, then players cannot be sent off for foul play. Also, there would be inference of bias."

People who can help the NRU by becoming a referee are requested to telephone Mr. Cook at 68 7226.

$20K worth of Supercomputing

The Second Australian Conference on Super Computers was held at Wollongong University.

This University was represented by researchers from the Civil Engineering Department (Dr. G. Willgoose) and the Chemistry Department (Dr. E. I. von Nagy-Felsobuki, Ms. D. J. Searles and Ms. F. Wang).

Ms. Searles and Dr. von Nagy-Felsobuki gave a talk on Accurate N-Vibrational States Arising in the Variational Procedure, in which they demonstrated the need to have access to a supercomputer in order to be able to calculate potential energy surfaces of spectroscopic quality.

Dr. Willgoose spoke on Physically Based Modelling of Landscape Evolution and Channel Network Extension: Some Supercomputer Experiences.

During the conference, Leading Edge Technologies Pty. Ltd., Port Melbourne, offered prizes of $26,000 worth of computing on the Cray-XMP super computer. Entrants had to outline the project they would undertake using the Cray. Ms. Searles won the first prize of $20,000 worth of Cray time.

On announcing the prize the conference organiser, Dr. J. Barry, stated that "...the prize could not have gone to a more worthwhile project or researcher".

Ms. Debra Searles
Earthquake conference recommendations

A conference convened by the Institution of Engineers, Australia, to assess the implications of the Newcastle earthquake concluded that existing buildings should not be retrospectively upgraded for their continued use.

The conference, held at the University of Newcastle, agreed that the exceptions to this were:
- Buildings which have suspended awnings, or parapets, or other projections, likely to be damaged by earthquake forces;
- Buildings and structures having a possible post-disaster function (e.g. hospitals, and fire stations);
- Buildings such as schools where significant loss of life may occur in an earthquake event.

More than 350 structural engineers, architects, seismologists, local government officials and others concerned with building regulations, risk assessment and the repair of structures attended the conference.

According to the convenor, Professor Rob Melchers, delegates felt that the seismic data collection system for the Australian continent should be improved, particularly in areas of higher population density.

Delegates also urged the building industry, the mechanical and electrical engineering industries and disaster management organisations to consider earthquake risk in their operations.

"There was considerable support for the enforcement of current Australian codes for masonry construction", Professor Melchers said.

"But delegates believed many of the problems - such as workmanship, detailing, the properties of brickwork ties and the durability of masonry construction - would be enhanced by the effective enforcement of requirements which already exist".

Other recommendations emerging from the conference were:
- Closer involvement of engineers and building inspectors with counter-disaster organisations;
- The identification of structural engineers through registration;
- The formulation of Australia-wide minimum design-level requirements for earthquake resistance of buildings.

Professor Melchers said considerable concern was expressed over insurance claim and settlement procedures in situations such as the Newcastle earthquake, where long-term effects due to ground movement would be expected.

Engineers and builders believed it was inappropriate for insurance companies to press for early claim settlements.

Important HECS information

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

You are reminded that your HECS liability for Semester 1 will be assessed according to your program on the Semester 1 census date, i.e. Friday, March 30.

You are requested to lodge any variation to your program before March 30 to allow time for processing.

A reduction in your Semester 1 study load or complete withdrawal from studies after March 30 will not reduce your HECS liability for Semester 1. Also, you cannot add Semester 1 or full-year subjects to your program after March 30.

The census date for Semester 2 is Friday, August 31.

If you elected to pay your HECS liability up-front, you should have received an account for the payment of your Semester 1 HECS liability. If you chose the upfront payment option and have not received an account for Semester 1 you are asked to contact the HECS Office in the McMullin Building urgently.

All students enrolled on March 30 will receive a Notice of Liability confirming their HECS payment option, their program on the census date and their consequent HECS liability (if applicable). This will be sent to you after March 30.

Any enquiries in relation to HECS should be directed to the HECS Office in the McMullin Building (Extension 565).

ST. MATTHEW PASSION
J.S. BACH

THE NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY CHOIR
AND ORCHESTRA
WITH THE WARATAH GIRLS CHOIR
DIRECTOR - WYNETTE HORNE
CONDUCTOR - PETER BROCK

GOOD FRIDAY, 13th APRIL, 1990, at 7.00pm
GREAT HALL, UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE
Professor Laura's ABC lecture series

Professor Ron Laura has commenced a 10-week lecture series titled the Paradox of Progress on ABC radio in Adelaide.

Presented as a health education special, Professor Laura argues that the major crisis confronting public health is, at one level a problem of the degradation of the environment, but, at another and deeper level, a problem relating to the philosophical assumptions which motivate scientific technology.

Professor Laura urges that the theory of knowledge underpinning western science is inspired by our insatiable appetite for power and control over the environment. "We have traditionally seen the earth as a threatening force to be subdued, dominated, and exploited", he says. "In our search for objectivity, I suggest that we detach ourselves from the subject matter we traditionally investigate. However, in so doing we should realise that we encourage unwittingly the temptation to see those things which make it up as nothing more than objects for our commercial manipulation and economic exploitation."

The real issue, he says, is not just to redefine our philosophy of nature, but to reconceptualise the framework within which scientific knowledge takes its point. The degradation of health and the degradation of the environment are, in epistemological terms, one and the same phenomenon.

Among the more unusual examples of technological holocaust Professor Laura discusses in the series are: the health problems caused by fluoridation and chlorination, the health hazards of television and VDUs, the effects on health of artificial light, health and the internal ecology of buildings, health aspects of powerlines and even microwave ovens.

Professor Laura has, in recent years, published extensively in these areas and has just submitted for publication his most recent book manuscript titled, Health and the Environment - Away From a Technology of Holocaust, written in collaboration with Mr John F. Ashton, Chief Chemist of Sanitarium Food Laboratories.

Professor Laura and Mr Ashton have published a number of jointly authored papers on these topics, and their paper on the health risk of dietary aluminium, published in Search, Vol. 20, Number 6, 1989, has given rise to a considerable controversy. In the light of the lively discussion sparked by their paper, Professor Laura and Mr Ashton have continued the debate with a reply in the most recent volume of Search, Vol. 21, Number 1, 1990. A series of their articles on a range of contemporary health issues has also appeared in Nature and Health.

A cassette of Professor Laura’s ABC series will be made available by the ABC at the completion of the series.

Food for brain power

Students are invited to attend a series of classes on vegetarian cooking and nutrition which will be conducted over the next four weeks.

The classes, which are hosted by the Wallsend Seventh Day Adventist Church as a community service, will be held on four consecutive Tuesday evenings, March 20 and 27 and April 3 and 10 from 5.30 to 7 pm each night.

Entitled Food for Brain Power, the classes will focus on vegetarian food which saves both money and time, is low in fat, sugar and salt, provides good nutrition and variety.

The classes will feature lifestyle and nutrition talks, demonstrations and videos. A small charge, registration fee of $2 and $2 each night to cover the cost of food tastings and recipe booklets will apply. A different program will be held each week.

They will be conducted in the Cafeteria area of the Hunter Building and a place in the class can be gained by telephoning either Julie at 53 1475 or Lynne at 58 4166.

Welcome for overseas students

Above: Overseas Student Adviser, Ms Alice Munnings, and Overseas Student Welfare Officer, Ms Catherine Browne, pictured with a group of overseas students who attended an official welcome ceremony hosted by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Keith Morgan.

The students pictured above come from Singapore, the Solomon Islands, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka and Malaysia and were taken on a guided tour of the campus as part of their introduction to the University.

More than 150 overseas students have commenced studies this year in a variety of courses offered by the University.
Hamster eggs applied in fertility tests

Professor Tim Roberts, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, and Dr Heraldo Povea-Pacci, a PhD student from Chile, are pioneering the use of hamster ova in Australia as a technique for testing male fertility.

The demand for a way of telling whether a man's sperm is able to do its natural job is high, so high that many men go to Hong Kong to have tests carried out.

Professor Roberts and Dr Povea-Pacci have imported hamster ova packed in liquid nitrogen from Chile and are collaborating with Dr Jim Stanger, of the Intravital Fertilisation Research Unit at the Lingard Private Hospital at Merewether, on the initial application of the technique. Hamsters are gentle, alert little members of the rodent family and apparently multiply faster than an other mammal. They are not found naturally in Australia.

Professor Roberts invited Dr Povea-Pacci to join researchers in the Department of Biological Sciences because their common research speciality is the immunology of reproduction. In recent years Tim and Heraldo have each focussed on improving methods for the assessment of male fertility.

When Professor Roberts visited Santiago in 1986 he was introduced to Dr Povea-Pacci, then a researcher at the Catholic University Hospital. Dr Povea-Pacci commenced his doctorate at the University late last year, supervised by Professor Roberts and Dr Cheng Smart, of the Division of Surgical Science, after he and his family had paid a "look-see" visit to Newcastle.

"It was a hard decision to leave my country, but it was the right decision and I do not regret it", he says. "I saw the University as one of the few places where research in reproduction could be done in perfect conditions, because of the fine academic environment".

Professor Roberts spoke of the large number of couples who went to the Department of Biological Science and claimed that they were infertile. "You can look at the man's sperm and it very difficult to understand why it can't penetrate and fertilise the woman's ovum".

Dr Povea-Pacci talked to the BULLETIN about Professor C. Barros, of the Catholic University Hospital, who experiments with hamster eggs in his laboratory in Santiago. Professor Barros has developed a test which he applies to ascertaining whether a man's sperm has all the attributes for fertility, including enzymes and motility. If the sperm can penetrate the egg then the man is fertile.

Professor Barros' test, called the Zona-free Hamster Oocyte Test, is used in every country of the world except Australia. It has not been available in this country because hamsters are prohibited in ecological grounds. However, frozen unfertilised eggs can be imported.

Professor Roberts and Dr Povea-Pacci obtained permission to import hamster ova for the purpose of introducing the test.

"It has been a tricky operation", Professor Roberts says. "We had to learn the technique thoroughly from Professor Barros and arrange for the eggs to be put in liquid nitrogen and shipped to Australia".

With Australia now recognised as the world's leader in in-vitro fertilisation research it is ironic that the hamster test has previously not been available to researchers in the field.

Professor Roberts expressed his gratitude to the Hunter Region Enterprise Agency for having been entrepreneurial enough to provide a loan for the project.

The hamster ova is being distributed to in-vitro fertilisation research centres in other parts of Australia.

Regular broadcasts of organ music

Organist, Mr Michael Dudman, plays organ music from Newcastle University Conservatorium every Sunday night over 2NUR at 8 o'clock.

Mr Dudman, who is Dean of Music and Director of the University Conservatorium, is recognised as one of Australia's leading concert performers. He studied at the Conservatorium in Sydney and, following the award of the Vasanta Scholarship, with Andre Marchal, in Paris. Whilst overseas, his concerts included recitals at Westminster Abbey and Kings College Cambridge.

He has been resident in Newcastle for 20 years as organist and music educator. In 1985 he accepted an invitation to become the first Australian Artist-in-Residence at the Sydney Opera House, giving major series of 16 concerts covering a wide range of the organ literature.

He makes frequent solo and concert appearances throughout Australia, and, in addition to his concert activity, has become identified with a number of documentary series dealing with the organ as an instrument. Series broadcast by ABC FM have included Organs of the Hunter Valley (1973 and 1978), Organs of Western Australia (1975), Historic Organs of Sydney (1984), Historic Organs of Tasmania (1987) and Great Organs of America (1985 and 1990).

In the Newcastle programs he will normally play the fine organ by Knud Smenge in the Conservatorium Concert Hall, but plans also to play for 2NUR-FM listeners on instruments in our own Hunter Region and further afield. He will also introduce and talk briefly about the works that he plays each Sunday and the programs will be published in advance by 2NUR-FM and in the BULLETIN.

Programs for the forthcoming weeks are:

Sunday, March 25
Pièce Heroïque, Cesar Franck. Priere and Verset, Alexandre Guilmant.

Sunday, April 1
Five Pieces, Arthur Wills.

Sunday, April 8
Passacaglia, Dietrich Buxtehude and Camenish Suite, Jean Francaix.

Sunday, April 15
Fugue, O Fili, Jean Langlais, plus Prelude Fugue and Chaconne, Dietrich Buxtehude and Incarnation pour un jour saint, Jean Langlais.

Sunday, April 22
Concert Variations: The Last Rose of Summer, Dudley Buck.

Sunday, April 29
Trio Sonata No.5, Bach.
University gains OH&S officer

Miss Helen Anne Wilson

Former Regional Rehabilitation Co-ordinator with the Department of TAFE, Miss Helen Anne Wilson, has joined the University as OH&S Officer.

Miss Wilson has had extensive training in occupational health and safety management including a period with the Department of Health in Newcastle as a Community Sister.

As Regional Rehabilitation Co-ordinator with TAFE she was manager of the Occupational Health and Safety Unit, and Safety Officer for, the Newcastle Technical College at Tighes Hill. She is also a part-time teacher of OH&S in the Associate Diploma of Business Studies Course.

She holds a Diploma in OH&S management.

Miss Wilson is responsible for implementing the Occupational Health and Safety Act within the University.

"Your lifestyle has a great deal with coming to work in a healthy state and performing well at work", she says.

"Today it is understood that no duties at work should expose you to occupational hazards and affect health.

"Staff who have doubts about their occupational health and safety should telephone me".

Miss Wilson is devising the OH&S programs in association with the Staff Training Officer, Mr John Hattander.

She commenced duties on February 12 and has a room LG59 in the McMullin Building. Her telephone numbers are 685 504, if unanswered please phone 685 518.

CD-ROM Training for Medical Students

The Faculty of Medicine has this year integrated CD-ROM training into its curriculum for first and second year students. First year student groups are being trained in basic searching techniques using MEDLINE as the example. Second year students are being taught how to use demographic data bases with particular emphasis on using the SUPERMAT CD-ROM at the University Library, and MEDLINE on CD-ROM for nutrition and GP attachment at the Gardiner Library. In all the Biomedical Librarian, Miss Janet Brice, will provide 17 hours of CD-ROM training for Medicine.

In addition to MEDLINE on CD-ROM, the Biomedical Library currently has two other CD-ROM data bases: OSHROM - for occupational safety and health data.

CHEMBANK - for information on potentially hazardous chemicals.

Display

A display featuring the People of the Pacific was mounted in the Foyer of the Library adjacent to the AV section on March 12. The display is being set up with the cooperation of the History Department, and Ms Senta Hendry who is lending us some items from her Gallery Primitif collection.

CD-ROM for Engineers

The Auchmuty Library has just received Compendex Plus, the CD-ROM version of two merged Engineering Information Incorporate publications: Engineering Index and Engineering Meetings. The five CD-ROM discs covering the period 1985 are available from the Reference Desk. Prior bookings should be made as the CD-ROM workstations are heavily used. Demonstrations will be arranged for engineering staff and all fourth year students will be introduced to Compendex Plus as part of

Wine offer from Convocation

Did you know that two Hunter Valley wines are available from Convocation? The wines are of top-quality and make worthwhile mementoes.

The bottles bear Convocation’s special label.

The offer comprises:

- Semillon Chardonnay 1985 (Wyndham Estate)
- Cabernet Malbec 1982 (Hungerford Hill) or
- Mixed dozen

The cost of the wine is $78 per case.

The wine can be collected from the Convocation Office in the McMullin Building if notice is given.

For deliveries outside the Newcastle area, add $8 per dozen to the price.

Please telephone the Convocation Office to make an order (68 5370).
At the launching of the NEWSTEP program (left to right): Mr Ian Whitson, the teaching co-ordinator, Ms Anita van der Wal (Equity Project), Ms Kylie Forde, Ms Kylie Armstrong, Ms Gail White (Equity Project) and Associate Professor John Ramsland.

New step in Tertiary Education

A new bridging program designed to assist young people who have not met normal matriculation requirements had its first intake of students at the University recently.

More than 60 young people enrolled in the NEWSTEP program after initial promotion earlier this year resulted in a rush of enquiries.

NEWSTEP has been specifically designed for people aged between 17 and 21 years who either have not gained the Higher School Certificate or have not gained sufficient marks in the HSC for normal entry to university courses and who can provide evidence of the disadvantaging factors which prevented them from reaching normal entry requirements. NEWSTEP offers these students a second chance at matriculation.

The program is being administered by the University's Student Equity Unit, of whom Ms Gail White is the Liaison Officer. She says the response to the 30-week full-time course is pleasing as the University is increasing its efforts to have more people in the Hunter Region participate in higher education.

"The program can be likened to the University's existing Open Foundation course which offers alternative entry to mature aged students. NEWSTEP aims to provide younger students with knowledge and skills in the fields of numeracy, literacy, basic computing and general study methods which are required for successful completion of studies at tertiary level", Ms White said.

"The group will also be provided with an insight of the standards expected of University students in the various courses and information on those courses and services offered by the institution.

"Students who study under NEWSTEP and complete all requirements will then be eligible for entry to undergraduate degree courses which will be offered by the University in 1991", she said.

Inquiry call following judgement

The Staff Association of the University has called for an inquiry to be conducted into a matter on which the University's Visitor has given a judgement.

Announcing the Staff Association's decision, the Secretary, Mr Jock McQualter, said that at its annual general meeting on March 6 the association passed a motion calling for "an unfettered and unrestricted inquiry into all aspects of the affair".

Mr McQualter said the University Visitor, the Governor of New South Wales, Sir David Martin, determined on February 15 that the University pursued "a fruitful course" in seeking to terminate a higher degree candidate on the grounds of dual enrolment at Newcastle and the University of Technology, Loughborough, England.

The Visitor also recommended, Mr McQualter said, that the Faculty of Arts Doctoral Degree Committee should consider the report of Associate Professor D.N. Parkes on the work of the candidate.

In a press statement, McQualter said: "This is the second judgement Visitors to the University have made. The previous judgement, in May, 1987, completely exonerated Professor Parkes in his role as supervisor. This judgement supports that finding."

"The Staff Association is calling upon the Interim Council to conduct an inquiry under terms agreed to by the Council in April, 1988".

The Chancellor, Justice Elizabeth Evatt, had previously made it clear that an inquiry could not proceed until the Visitor's judgement on a petition by the candidate had been received.

"Clearly, this impediment no longer pertains", Mr McQualter said.

"The Staff Association remains convinced that a grave injustice has been done to Professor Parkes, and it is imperative that all the circumstances surrounding this matter be brought to public attention."

"An inquiry could be conducted by a person with suitable administrative and legal expertise, and the Staff Association is happy to provide assistance with respect to establishing the inquiry".
"Microjazz" workshop

If the enthusiasm of a group of Music Education students didn’t tell a story, then the sounds coming from various musical instruments certainly did, when a workshop of "Microjazz" was conducted at the University campus recently.

"Microjazz" is a series of music books backed up by computer software which feature short rhythmical pieces in a range of popular styles for piano solo, duet, wind instruments and strings.

Its inventor, New Zealander Christopher Norton, created an electric atmosphere at the workshop, which he fitted into the busy schedule of a whirlwind tour of Australia.

Chris describes himself as an aspiring concert pianist and teacher who now makes a living out of "commercial" music. He says the "Microjazz" allows music teachers to teach rhythm accurately and quickly and encourages familiarity with simple modern patterns.

"Teachers will find enough to keep them happy as far as encouragement for instrumental expertise is concerned, but underneath the rhythms keep bubbling away, keeping all but the most conservative students happy and busy", he says.

C.H. Currey Memorial Fellowship

The C.H. Currey Memorial Fellowship has been established by the Library Council of New South Wales under the terms of the bequest made by the late Charles Herbert Currey "to promote the writing of Australian history from the original sources".

The amount of the award this year will be $10,000. However, this may be divided between two or more applicants.

Application forms are available from the State Librarian, State Library of New South Wales, Macquarie Street, Sydney, 2000. The closing date for applications is October 1.

Correction

Several lines were omitted from the article on the Pregnancy and Birth Study Program and the column Library Roundup in the last issue of the BULLETIN.

The last paragraph of the former read:

"Over the years the program has been conducted, some very special friendships have been made between the students and the mothers-to-be. Some women have already been involved in the program more than once", she added.

Participating mothers-to-be are fully briefed on the study by nursing lecturers from the University before being "linked" with a student.

Women who would like more information about the program can contact Ms Rutter at the Department of Nursing Studies at the University of Newcastle by telephoning (049) 68 7404, 68 7576 or 68 7572.

As for Library Roundup, the copy should have concluded:

Display

A display entitled Egyptian and Classical Civilisation has been set up in the Foyer adjacent to the Audio-visual area. The display has been mounted with the co-operation of the Huxley Library and the Classics Department. A feature of the display is the "then and now" series which provide a superimposed view of historic sites of ancient Greece and Rome and Pompeii set over present day photographs. The display will continue until March 14.

Hours of Opening

From Monday, February 26, the hours of opening of the Auchmuty Library have been as follows:

Mondays to Thursdays, 8.30 am to 10 pm
Fridays, 8.30 am to 7 pm
Saturdays & Sundays, 1 to 5 pm.

Union Board elections

Nominations for election to the Board closed on March 22. One graduate member and eight student members are to be elected.

Voting will take place in the Union Foyer/Secondhand Bookshop from April 2 to 6.

The annual general meeting of the Union will be held at 1 pm on Tuesday, April 10, in the Union Courtyard.

Jim Cleary and
Elizabeth Guilford
Advertisements

For Sale

1981 Suzuki Carryvan. Features include: one-owner, good condition, rear passenger seat, bull bar, stripping (Registration LD1746). Asking price: $3,400 or near offer. Please telephone 69 5236.

1983 Toyota Landcruiser Deluxe Station Wagon. Features include: petrol, long-wheel base, air-conditioned, ARB bull bar and tow bar, white spoked wheels, side steps, roof-racks, driving lights, power brakes, etc. This is a country vehicle and has been well-maintained (Registration JM 3723). Asking price: $19,500 or best offer. Please telephone (049) 96 4093.

1978 Honda Civic (three door automatic), Registration JYT 274. Asking price: $3,800 or near offer. Please telephone 43 2361.

1972 Volvo Grand Luxe, four-door automatic sedan in good condition and is registered until July, 1990 (Registration ONL 640). Asking price: $2,500 or near offer (prepared to negotiate). Please telephone 49 8548 or Extension 288.


1985 Holden Astra. Features include: low kms, sunroof, four speaker radio cassette, roof racks, sunvisor on rear window, red in colour, very economical and is registered until March, 1991 (OKJ 604). Asking price: $10,000 or near offer. Please telephone 26 6836 or 26 4080.

1976 Mazda 929 sedan (white). Features include: excellent mechanical and body condition with radio (registered until May, 1990). Asking price: $3,000 or near offer. Please telephone Warren Brisley at 68 5678.

Salvio leather ballet shoes, size 10 (barely used), $20. Please telephone 52 5170.

Ballet gear - women's x-over (new), $10; character shoes (as new), size 6, $30; Demipointes (as new), size 5-1/2, $25; pointes (new), size 3-1/2, $30. Please telephone Kathy at 43 6618.


Typewriter/word processor - daisy wheel printer (Silver Reed EX350 FD). Asking price: $535. Please telephone 48 7037.

Rola car roof racks to fit OK Sigma station wagon. Asking price: $65. Please telephone 48 7037.

Hills spring tensioned rowing machine. Asking price: $45. Please telephone 48 7037.


Wanted

American visitor to Newcastle from August, 1990 is looking for the following to buy cheap or borrow: Cycling helmet for small adult head; rides to and from Rankin Park to University daily and a running partner for slow distance runs (4 to 6 miles at 9 to 10 minutes per mile). If you are able to assist please telephone Carla at 68 5453 during office hours.

Call for helpers

Graham Dunkley, well known Maitland pharmacist, would like to hear from people who are keen to help Liberal Candidate for Hunter, Ashley Saunders by manning polling booths on March 24 in Maitland. Interested Ph 33 7230.

David Kay, of Biological Sciences, who is Campaign Director for the Labor candidate in the Federal Electorate of Charlton, reports that he needs the names of members of staff, or students, who would be willing to help hand out how-to-vote forms on polling day, March 24. Dave can be contacted at 68 5570.

Chamber orchestra's 1990 season

The Australian Chamber Orchestra has announced its 1990 season of concerts in Newcastle.

The series of three Thursday night concerts by a chamber group described by the Newcastle Herald's critic as "truly great, yet so young" will be held in the University Conservatorium of Music in Laman Street.

The highlights of season are expected to be:

- Vivaldi's virtuosic violin concerto, "La Tempesta di Mare" (The Storm of the Sea); performed by the ACO's Concertmaster, Richard Tognetti.
- Handel's Water Music, scored for oboes, horns and strings; and Telemann's delightful Concerto for two violas and strings.

The first concert of the year on April 19 includes Vivaldi's violin concerto and works by Bartok (Diverimento Strings), Haydn (Diverimento for Strings in A major from the String Quartet, Op.2, No.1) and Lutoslawski (Musique funebre in memorium Bela Bartok).

The other concerts in the season will be held on May 17 and July 19. Students and young people 20 years and under can attend the three concerts for only $24.

Subscription prices for pensioners is $36 and for adults, $48.

Bookings can be made by telephoning the University Conservatorium during business hours at 29 4133.

Tune In for first Art Auction

March 29 will see Australia's first on-air art auction, the newest idea for raising funds for the 2NUR Building Appeal.

The three paintings to be auctioned - Nobbys Beach, by John Earle, Botanical Gardens, by David Van Nuenen, and The Beach Boys, by James Willebrant - can be seen at Mark Widdup's Cook's Hill Galleries.

If you are interested in buying one of the paintings, or listening to the auction, you should tune into 2NUR (103mHz) between 8.30 and 9.30 pm, or go to the Galleries in Bull Street, Newcastle.

You can make a bid by telephoning 2NUR (68 5713) or making an offer at the Galleries.

Moreover, you can fax you bid to the Galleries - .049 26 5529 - or submit your bid, in writing, to the Galleries or 2NUR.

Last November, 2NUR conducted an art auction in the City Hall and raised $1,200 for the appeal to build new studios adjacent to the Mathematics Block.

The donations received to date amount to $152,000 and promises of a further $60,000 have also been received.

"The Bill ITIN's Slogan for March

If you think universities are expensive, try ignorance."