University to embark on major building projects

The University is about to embark on three major building projects costing nearly $13 million which will provide additional student residential accommodation on campus, a new Science Building and a new Administration Building.

Funds for the projects have been allocated by the Federal Government under assistance it is providing to the University as a result of the December earthquake and amalgamation.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Keith Morgan, said he hoped work on the projects would start as soon as possible, especially the provision of nearly 200 student residential places, which were needed for enrolment next year.

He said each of the projects were important in their own right and would be in addition to extensions to the Student Union costing $2.5 million and the Computing/Teaching Building, which is nearing completion at a cost of $4.8 million.

The projects are:

Student residential accommodation costing $3 million - extensions to International House and Evatt House (under construction) to provide a minimum of 150 places in each complex.

Science Building costing $4.5 million - to be completed as quickly as possible to enable some teaching and research activities from the Chemistry and Biological Sciences Building to be relocated. This will allow repairs to both buildings, which were severely damaged by the earthquake.

Administration Building costing $5.4 million - the building will be constructed as a result of amalgamation and will bring together many of the administration sections of the University and the former Hunter Institute of Higher Education.

Professor Morgan said many houses used for accommodation by students in Newcastle were damaged by the earthquake and that a University Village comprising nearly 200 places in mobile huts was established on campus as a temporary measure.

"This imaginative scheme in which the University has been supported by the GIO is intended to assist students only this year", Professor Morgan said. "This was pointed out to the Minister for Employment, Education and Training, Mr Dawkins, and he recently provided the $3 million for extra accommodation after realising the severity of the problem".

The University is also investigating the development of a fourth student residential complex (after Edwards Hall, International House and Evatt House) with a view to a detailed proposal being placed before the University Council by the end of the year.

The Federal Government has provided advanced funding for the Science Building because of the earthquake damage to the University, where the cost of repairs are expected to reach about $10 million. The Science Building was not to be constructed until 1992 but the government altered its funding arrangements to allow an immediate start.

Professor Morgan said the Administration Building was urgently needed because of a critical lack of office space for executive and administrative staff. He said the building was part of the amalgamation package put forward to the Federal Government by the University.

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Smooth progress made towards amalgamation

Discussions aimed at establishing one Union, one Sports Union and one Student Association at the University are well on target. According to the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Dean of Students), Professor Ken Dutton, the Interim Council will have before it in June agreed new constitutions for the organisations.

Professor Dutton, in a report to the Interim Council on April 27, said all the organisations had been informed of the Interim Council's determination that three University-wide organisations should be in place in the second-half of the year.

They are doing their best to ensure that the Council will have before it Constitutions that it can approve, rather than the alternative of Council itself determining the constitutional provisions and imposing them on the bodies concerned.

The Interim Council has established Interim Boards of the Union, the Sports Union and the SRC to prepare constitutions for the organisations to cover the whole student body. To oversee this work, the Deputy Chancellor, Mr John Peschar, and Professor Dutton were appointed to form a Liaison Committee.

Professor Dutton's report, among other things, says:

"The issue of the General Service Charge has been resolved by recommendation of each of the Interim Boards.

"In general terms, the recommendations have been such that the Hunter Institute Union is to receive that proportion of the General Service Charge which will enable it to carry out its planned program of activities for the period up to June 30.

"The arrangements proposed have been accepted by the Liaison Committee, which has recommended that the agreed payments be made; the Bursar has now paid over the relevant moneys into the University organisations, which have now disbursed the agreed proportions to the Hunter Institute Union.

"Each of the Interim Boards has addressed the constitutional issue in its own way.

"In the case of the Sports Union, the Interim Board is able to proceed in a simple way by the deletion from the present Sports Union Constitution of the words "and students of the Newcastle College of Advanced Education". This amendment will be put to a general meeting in the near future.

"In the case of the Union, progress has been substantial, even though the Joint Board has decided on a thoroughgoing revision of the present Union Constitution.

"A new draft Constitution has been discussed at two Interim Board meetings, and has now been agreed in principle - subject to the opinion of the Board's solicitors on the wording of a few clauses.

"The new Constitution will be put to the General Meetings of the relevant bodies in time for the recommendations of the latter to come before the Interim Council at its next meeting.

"With respect to the SRC, work on constitutional amendments is also proceeding, and the Interim Executive has now reached Clause 30 out of the 45 clauses in the existing Constitutions.

"Only two substantial issues remain to be debated - namely, whether the Vice-President should be elected by the student body as a whole, or appointed by the incoming executive; and whether there should be only one election per year for the whole SRC or an election of some members in March and others in September.

"I am assured that the present timetable for discussions will permit an agreed new Constitution to be submitted at the June meeting of the Interim Council, Professor Dutton said.

"The Interim Council noted the great success Mr Peschar and Professor Dutton had had with the discussions, which had proved to be very productive.

Arrangements for Council elections

Elections for the new governing authority of the University, the Council, will be conducted over the next three months.

The elections fall due under the provisions of the University of Newcastle Act 1989, which provides for eight elected members as follows:

● Two persons who are members of the academic staff of the University;
● One person who is a member of the non-academic staff of the University;
● One person who is a student of the University but not a member of the staff; and
● Four persons who are members of Convocation but who are not members of staff or students. In addition, the University will conduct an election for the Warden of Convocation.

The Act stipulates that the Council shall consist of parliamentary members (one each elected by the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly), official members (the Chancellor if not otherwise a member, the Vice-Chancellor and the Deputy President of Academic Senate), appointed members (four persons appointed by the Minister), elected members (eight), and a member who the Council may appoint itself. The maximum possible membership is therefore 18.

The Interim Council has resolved that the Council be established as soon as possible. With the need to prepare rolls and notices and comply with the regulations relating to calling nominations and conducting voting, it is not expected the Council will take office before the end of August.

The Warden of Convocation has been allotted a three-year term of office.

The necessary series of elections for the Council will begin shortly, with the issuing of notices calling for nominations relating to the election of academic, non-academic, Convocation and student members closing on June 18.

Voting will begin on July 2 and close on August 18.

The elections for academic, non-academic and Convocation members will be conducted by means of postal ballots and for the student member by means of voting booths operated at several locations at the University and at Newcastle University Conservatorium and the Central Coast Campus.

The Convocation roll has been reviewed to embody all the graduates of the new University whose whereabouts are known.

In accordance with the Act, graduates of the University are persons who are recipients of degrees or diplomas or of such other award or certificate conferred or awarded by the University, by or on behalf of any former institution that has become a part of the University (the former Hunter Institute of Higher Education and the former Newcastle Conservatorium of Music), by any predecessor of any such institutions and any other persons who have been admitted to Convocation.

By conducting a search of the records of the relevant institutions and their predecessors, including the former Newcastle Teachers' College and the Newcastle Branch of the Newcastle School, the University has obtained a roll which shows the names and addresses of a total of 11,200 eligible voters.

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Environment week coming up

To remind people of some of the important issues involving the environment, plans have been made for Environment Week to be held at the University from May 28 to June 3.

In the words of one of the organisers, Ms Wendy Jackson (final year student, Art Education):

"We must act now to ensure that our environment is preserved for future generations.

"I believe that universities have a special responsibility in this regard, as it is too easy for us to become tied up in academic pursuits and fail to consider the implications of our research", Ms Jackson said.

Environment Week is a combined effort of the former Hunter Institute of Higher Education's Student Representative Council, the Wilderness and Green Society (WAGS) and Student Action for the Environment (SAFE).

"We have been very happy with the response from various groups on, and off, campus", Ms Jackson said.

During the week there would be information stalls, displays, speakers, films and music on both sides of the campus. A bushdance, a trip to the Myall Lakes and a movie marathon were also being organised, she said.

"We hope to provide more than just information about various issues. We also hope to provide information about what we can do in our day-to-day lives".

As part of the week there would be letter-writing stalls and opportunities to recycle glass, tins and paper.

"There are still plenty of opportunities for individuals, groups or departments to become involved in the week", Ms Jackson said. "We hope that people will feel free to organise anything they can think of which focuses on the environment".

For further details please contact Wendy at 26 4983 or Larissa at 29 6319.

A group of Recreation and Tourism, Nursing and Physical Education students and their respective staff helped promote National Heart Week by running a foot rally around the Harbour Foreshore. Organised in conjunction with the Health Promotion Unit, the rally was the major attraction at a fitness expo organised by the National Heart Foundation. The event attracted thousands of Novocastrians.

Billed as a car rally on foot, the exercise involved participants walking a 4 km course whilst completing a question sheet about heritage sites in the Central Business District. Pulse rates were checked at the start, middle and end of the walk, to demonstrate what happens to the heart during exercise. A fitness testing booth was set up at the end of the walk and was capably manned by Mr Kevin Norton, of the Department of Applied Sciences, and Ms Wendy Brown, Ms Adele Buchanan and Ms Carolyn Clark of the Discipline of Human Physiology at the start of the walk.
The newly appointed Minister for Employment and Education Services, Mr Peter Baldwin, who has special responsibility for higher education, visited the University on April 26.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Keith Morgan, briefed Mr Baldwin on several matters, including rebuilding following the earthquake and the temporary student residence, University Village. Moreover, Mr Baldwin heard about the strong demand for places at student residence, University Village, Coast Campus and agreed to review following the earthquake and Government's funding arrangements.

The Government will fund the 50 new centres on a dollar-for-dollar basis, with 15 centres to be established in the first year.

Each centre is to employ about 20 full-time researchers and will cost $4 million per annum when fully established.

Wherever possible the centres will be located on, or adjacent to, university campuses.

State Government and industry participation will also be sought in developing the centres.

Professor Morgan said the University was eagerly awaiting the issuing in the next few weeks of guidelines for the establishment of the centres, all of which will require a university and a research body to be involved in the projects.

"The CSIRO and similar bodies are expected to play a major role in the Centres and preliminary talks have already been held between the University and the CSIRO as to whether Newcastle has a part to play", Professor Morgan said.

"The funding of the centres is expected to be a co-operative activity with an average amount of $2 million per annum by the Federal Government to be at least matched by the parties involved in any centre", Professor Morgan added.

Although the matching contribution from universities and associated parties can be assessed in terms of facilities, staff and equipment, the funding situation is expected to place constraints on the University. However, Professor Morgan believes the clear advantages will outweigh any disadvantages this might create.

Professor Morgan told the Interim Council on April 27 that this University had a clear advantage over some other universities, because there was space available on the campus.

He said the University had had fruitful discussions on the proposal with the CSIRO, which was expected to play a major role in the proposed Co-operative Research Centres and might see advantage in moving part of its operations from North Sydney to Newcastle.

Discussions had previously been held with Elcom, which had committed itself to undertaking a major development at this University.

The establishment of Co-operative Research Centres in Newcastle could be a possibility, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Keith Morgan, said.

The proposal for the research centres, announced recently by the Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke will bring together outstanding research groups and researchers presently located in universities, the CSIRO and other research organisations.

The proposal for Search Centres in Newcastle could be a search. The Government will fund the centres on a dollar-for-dollar basis, with 15 centres to be established in the first year. Each centre is to employ about 20 full-time researchers and will cost $4 million per annum when fully established. Wherever possible the centres will be located on, or adjacent to, university campuses.

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Music, movement enhances play

Music and movement will add to the charm of Jean Anouilh's Leocadia, when the Drama Department stages the play at the University.

Written in 1939, Leocadia tells of a young man's obsession with a past that is not regainable and the compromise he makes to ensure he has a future. The somewhat sobering themes of idealism -v- compromise and lost £) and innocence are offset by Anouilh's striking depiction of warm, humorous and eccentric characters which give the play charm and energy.

The production will be directed by Dr Erica Rowley, a BMed graduate of this University, who is an honours student in Drama.

The play will be presented in the Drama Studio for a season from May 28 to June 2 at 8 pm. There will be an extra performance on Thursday, May 31, at 5 pm.

LETTER TO EDITOR

Dear Sir,

In the past three weeks the centre of political activity in semi-autonomous bodies has moved from the Union to the Sports Union. In the case of the Union, the elections did not involve ex-HIHE sector students because the Union Board had transferred funds to...

cont. next page
their Guild for catering and other operations to continue until July 1 under the management of that body.

But the Sports Union held that it was a federation of Sporting Clubs, and that all enrolled members of the University had the right to participate and vote.

An unfortunate incident occurred when a group of members were incited by placards to demonstrate against the Sports Union at an Interim Sports Executive meeting to be held at HIHE. When Dr Bernie Curran moved this to the Pavilion, further handbills accusing him of cowardice and urging a demonstration there were circulated.

The unpleasant scene, with placards denouncing him as liar, cheat and coward was featured on NBN News, together with his own lucid account of the problems of the merger.

In these circumstances a large crowd attended the AGM on Tuesday, April 24, for the first time held in the Great Hall and with printed electoral rolls and ballot papers.

The Presidency of Dr Curran was not contested; but Mr Lowry of the Cricket Club ran unsuccessfully against Mr Floyer, the incumbent Treasurer, and the vacant Secretaryship was won by Mr Trevor Hughes with an absolute majority over the other candidates, including Mr Justin Tamsett, President of the HIHE Guild.

Mr Paul Rosenbaum, the recent HIHE Sports Officer, was elected to the Executive at the Committee meeting afterwards. Also chosen then were Mr Don Millar (Kendo Club) as Vice-President and Mr David Scharlie (Rugby Union) as the other Executive members.

On Friday afternoon, April 27, at 4 pm Mr Adrian Iakin at the Amenities Office received a requisition in due form signed by 22 students for a Special General Meeting to consider a list of firm amendments to the Constitution - a matter the President understood was still on the agenda of the Interim Sports Executive. This document of five pages embodying amendments, or deletions to 28 clauses, will be debated at a Special Meeting within 28 days as required. The time and venue of this important meeting, which all students are urged to attend, will be set out at the next Sports Union Committee Meeting.

All readers should also note that a further motion attached to the Requisition requires a new election of all Officers under the amended Constitution to be held this July.

(Choir Director wins award)

The fifteenth recipient of the Newton-John Award, Father Peter Brock, displays the award itself, a Val Anderson pen and ink sketch, presented by Convocation at a dinner on April 27.

Many of Peter's friends and admirers, quite a few with links with the University, were present to congratulate him.

Father Brock, the priest in charge of the Catholic parish of Belmont, has been Musical Director of the University Choir for more than 10 years. He is a former Catholic Chaplain to the University.

He graduated as a BA, majoring in History and German, in 1977, and was awarded an Honorary Degree of Master of Arts in 1987 in recognition of his work with the choir.

Father Brock received his award from the Warden of Convocation, Mr Vic Levi.

At the same ceremony the Professor of Mechanical Engineering in Bulk Solids Materials Handling at the University, Professor Alex Harrison, was presented with the Convocation Medal for Professional Excellence by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Keith Morgan.

Professor Harrison received the award in recognition of his reputation as one of the world leaders in the area of conveyor dynamics and his work in pioneering modern developments in belt conveyor research.
Visitors to the University

Dr Manuel Martinez knows a great deal about the kinetics and mechanisms of inorganic reactions in solutions. So does Dr Geoff Lawrance, Senior Lecturer in Chemistry.

Dr Martinez, a Lecturer at the University of Barcelona, Spain, is working with Dr Lawrance during his sabbatical leave, until next October.

His stay in Australia is funded by the Education Department of Spain and the collaboration with Dr Lawrance has in part been made possible by ARC research funds.

Dr Martinez said he had no ideas about visiting Australia until, when looking through some academic literature, he discovered that Dr Lawrance and he had a lot in common from a research point of view.

Dr Lawrance said that while he was on an Outside Studies Program at Oxford University in 1988 he and Dr Martinez communicated on the subject of Dr Martinez possibly coming to Newcastle. Dr Martinez's expertise was proving very useful to the research they were pursuing.

Dr Martinez, who is a bachelor, lives in a flat in Cooks Hill which luckily was not affected by the earthquake. He proposes to take a break from research "to see something of Queensland and the outback."

Professor Anne Koehler, from Miami University, Ohio, United States, is making a second welcome visit to the University.

Since her first visit to Newcastle in 1972, she has switched her academic specialisation from mathematics to applied statistics.

Professor Koehler’s late husband, Professor Don Koehler, was attached to the Department of Mathematics on their first sojourn and she undertook some tutoring.

Now, she is spending three months as a visitor in the Department of Management, for which she is teaching business forecasting.

Professor Koehler is Panuska Professor of Business Administration and Head of the Department of Decision Sciences at Miami University, which, she says, was founded in 1809, is part of Ohio State University, and has student numbers of about 15,000.

She accepted an invitation to work in the Department of Management extended by Dr Joan Cooper when Dr Cooper was Head of the Department. Since then Dr Cooper has taken up a position at the Australian National University and Professor Koehler has completed sabbatical visitations to Penn State University, United States, and the University of Bath, England.

"I will be visiting Joan Cooper in Canberra and presenting a talk on econometrics to her students. I will also be visiting other institutions, such as Monash and James Cook Universities", she said.

Professor Koehler commented that she had wanted to pay back the first visit to Newcastle. She had almost forgotten, she said, how beautiful the Newcastle beaches were and how interesting Newcastle's heritage buildings were.

"I have been a friend of John and Zeny Giles since 1972. They have taken me to see many of Newcastle's highlights, such as the Botanic Gardens and the Museum."

Professor Koehler's son, William, who is a student at Ohio State University, will drop across the Pacific to see his mother next month.

Employer campus visit program, 1990

A large number of organisations have booked visits to the University for the purpose of recruiting Final Year students.

The dates of the visits and the fields in which the students are being offered positions are:

First Semester


Second Semester


Details of the visits can be obtained, and bookings for personal interviews can be made in person, at the Careers Office, Room T25, or by telephoning 68 5466 during office hours.
From the Central Coast Campus

The heavy rainfall during March and April had a particular impact on the Central Coast Campus. The main access road into the campus (Brush Road, Ourimbah) was cut off by flood water on four separate occasions. Fortunately, there were classes on only one of these days. Arrangements have now been made for classes to be held in the Ourimbah/Lisarow RSL Es auditorium.

The weather has also delayed the placing of the Student Union building, which has been stored in Atco Es Gosford depot. The site has now been cleared and the building should be on site and being placed in commission at the time this report is printed. The Union Board expects to open the facility on May 28.

The Department of TAFE building has also been delayed; the heavy rainfall has delayed the construction team on other sites, and they now expect to erect their classroom building during May.

There are 183 students enrolled in 1990 (114 EFTSU). A survey of student opinion indicates that the part-time students all come from the Central Coast; but half of the students in the full-time class in the Bachelor of Business degree have come to Ourimbah to study from Sydney. Clearly, the Central Coast Campus is in a position to recruit students not only from its own region but from the North Shore of Sydney, which has excellent connection links by rail and the free-way to the Central Coast Campus. Accordingly, the campus will be represented at the Careers Market to be held at Castle Hill in mid-May.

The campus was represented at the Central Coast Careers Market at Gosford Show Ground on April 5. Professor Evans and Mr Dale Miller answered a large number of enquiries about the new Central Coast Campus from students in Years 10, 11 and 12 from all over the region. With the co-operation of the Central Coast Careers Advisers, a survey is currently being conducted at high schools, both public and private, to determine which subjects students would be interested in studying at the campus. This information will be used in the preparation of the Academic Master Plan for the next five years.

The Federal Government has recently given its approval for the calling of tenders for the main teaching building to be erected during 1990 to service our main needs in 1991/1992. Vigorous fundraising by the Central Coast Tertiary Education Development Committee is currently in progress, and the Committee expects to have raised the extra $250,000 needed to complete the building before construction begins.

The new Minister for Higher Education, Mr Peter Baldwin, spent a large portion of his time in Newcastle, on April 26, in a discussion of funding for the Central Coast Campus.

The Interim Council, on April 27, approved the establishment of a Faculty of Law to be responsible for teaching and research in the proposed Law School.

When the BULLETIN went to press, it was expected that an advertisement inviting applications for the position of Dean of the Faculty of Law would be inserted in newspapers in Australia and overseas.

The decision to proceed to introduce a full law degree follows a submission made last year to the Department of Employment, Education and Training, which expressed no objection to the proposal.

The submission argued that the University of Newcastle provides an ideal centre for the establishment of a new Law School for the following, among other, reasons:

1. The University already possesses a sound and developed infrastructure in Legal Education, which was established as early as 1973.
2. Newcastle is the centre of a large population, is at the intersection of several regions in the State and is a major focus for business and industry and consequent legal activity, and
3. There is strong demand for law graduates and wide support for the establishment of a Law School.

The submission pointed out that there are already substantial numbers of students taking courses in the Department of Law.

The submission described the existing Law Library collection in the University's Auchmuty Library as very substantial. The collection is valued at about $5.5 million.

The objective for initial student numbers for a Bachelor of Law degree, based on the demographic nature of the region and the difficulty law firms have in obtaining graduate solicitors, is 60.

The Professor of Law, Professor Frank Bates, said the committee established to advise on the development of the Faculty of Law would look at a number of matters, such as the composition of the Faculty Board. Traditionally, bodies controlling Law Schools included professional lawyers in their memberships.

Professor Bates said the University had had a Law School in mind for the last 20 years. Although he had not been in Newcastle for this period, he welcomed the Interim Council's decision with open arms. A full law education program would enhance the University's standing and broaden its disciplinary base.

"With the formation of a Legal Qualifications Committee in New South Wales, we know the core subjects we have to teach in order to be accredited. Many are already taught by the Department of Law in one form or another, he said.

Law School brought closer by decision

The large collection of law books in the library will prove invaluable to the proposed Law School.

Associate Professor Michael Evans, Warden, Central Coast Campus
Staff members' new book

Dr Richard Middleton and Professor Graham Goodwin point out that many books already exist on the topics of digital control and estimation.

The two academics from the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science admit that the prospective reader of their new book, Digital Control and Estimation: a Unified Approach, might well ask "why another book in this area?"

One problem with the existing literature, they say, is that it emphasises the differences between discrete and continuous theory. This dichotomy is largely historical in nature and may not be the best approach from a pedagogical viewpoint.

"Our philosophy, as presented in this book", the authors say, "is that the continuous and discrete cases can, and should, be understood under a common framework.

"Thus, the book presents continuous and discrete control and estimation theory in a unified fashion, highlighting the interrelationships between the two cases."

Our firm belief is that this unified view of discrete and continuous theory is much richer and more informative than when either of the two are studied in isolation", Dr Middleton and Professor Goodwin say.

Another thrust of the book is to unify practical considerations with theoretical analysis. This is achieved by discussing implementation issues in detail and presenting an industrial case study.

The book has a dual audience. Part of the book would be suitable for an undergraduate course in digital control. The remainder would form the basis of more graduate courses in advanced control and estimation.

Digital Control and Estimation: a Unified Approach is published by Prentice Hall, of New Jersey. The hardcover sells for more than $100.

Supplementing the book is an item of software allowing the reader to implement the programs described.

Sub-Dean of Students

The Vice-Chancellor has announced the appointment of Ms Marjorie Kibby as Sub-Dean of Students.

Ms Kibby holds the degrees of BEd (Canberra), GradDipMedia (Canberra) and MA Mass Comm (Macquarie). She is presently Acting Course Director for the degree of Bachelor of Arts (Communication Studies) in the Department of Visual Arts and Media Studies. She lectured in Communication and Media at Canberra CAE from 1982 to 1988, and joined the staff of the former Hunter Institute in 1989.

Ms Kibby is a member of the University's Academic Senate, she has had experience on a number of student appeals committees and is a member of the Board of the School of Visual and Performing Arts.

The Dean of Students, Professor K.R. Dutton, said that Ms Kibby would bring valuable experience and insight to the position of Sub-Dean.

She would assist the Dean in the handling of student grievances and represent him on occasion in a number of other areas of his responsibility.

Student enquiries should continue to be directed in the first instance to the Dean of Students' Office in the Auchmuty Library Building (telephone: 68 5670).

University to strengthen South-East Asian ties

The University is looking to strengthen further its ties with South-East Asian universities through a formal agreement later this year with one of South Korea's most prestigious universities.

Initial discussions have already been held with Ehwa Women's University in Seoul to start a staff and student exchange, possibly in 1991.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Keith Morgan, will visit Korea later this year on his way to Helsinki in Finland to attend an international conference of Vice-Chancellors. He is to visit Ehwa University and the Pusan National University.

"The University's School of Health and Faculty of Medicine have been in contact with Ehwa University and my visit in July will be to discuss formal ties and specific academic programs", Professor Morgan said.

Ehwa Women's University was established last century and is now recognised as one of the leading universities in that country.

This University already has agreements in place with Kumamoto and Yamaguchi Universities in Japan, Zhejiang University in China and the Suandoksi Teachers' College in Thailand.

A group of teacher education students will be visiting Bangkok next month for a four-week practicum.
Mr Charles Smith looked up to

The Board of Newcastle History Monographs has paid tribute to Mr Charles Smith, of Merewether Heights, for his contribution to the study of the history of the Hunter Region.

Mr Smith, formerly Newcastle Public Library Manager, recently resigned from the Board after serving for 23 years.

The Chairman, Dr John Turner, said the Board was extremely appreciative of Mr Smith's contribution and regretful that he was no longer able to hold the position of Executive Editor.

The monographs produced during Mr Smith's editorship are:


All their own work

An exhibition by Demonstrators in Art is presently on display in the Art School.

Research seminar series

Informed Consent
Can a child give informed consent?
When can a child be considered to have the right and responsibility to give consent?
At what age can adolescents speak for themselves?
Do children and the elderly infirm have satisfactory protection as participants if consent is given (or withheld) on their behalf?

These and many related issues will be discussed in the seminar entitled Informed Consent by Children and the Elderly.

The panel for the seminar will be Dr Don Munro, a psychologist and member of the Research Ethics Committee, and Ms Jo Bentley, a lawyer and Chair of the Research Ethics Committee.

A discussion paper has been prepared by Dr Munro and is recommended reading before the seminar. Copies are available from the Office for Research at 68 5302.

The seminar will be held on Thursday, May 31, in the Lecture Theatre V10, Mathematics Building.

Rescue Station: the Development of a Mine Rescue Organisation on the Northern District Coalfield of New South Wales, by Rhonda Geale.

Book Display

A book display which will be of interest to both staff and students of the University will be held on campus next week.

The display is being presented by the Chevalier Bookshop and will offer titles relating to social issues, psychology, counselling and health, as well as texts on morals, values, ethics and bio ethics, catechetics, biblical studies, ecumenical studies, womens' studies, theology and spirituality.

The display has been organised by the Chaplaincy Service of the University, will be held on Monday and Tuesday, May 21 and 22, in the main foyer of the Union Building and on Wednesday and Thursday, May 23 and 24, in the Concourse of the Hunter Building. Cassettes are also available for purchase.

Music making at the Con

Wednesday, May 23, 1.10 pm
Bruce Brown (organ). Works by J.S. Bach. $2 and $1 concession.

End of Term Concert, Student Ensembles. $4 and $2 concession.

Thursday, May 24, 1.10 pm
Michael Dudman (organ). Bach, Bossi and Langlais. $2 and $1 concession.

Wednesday, May 30, 1.10 pm
Philip Matthais (organ). $2 and $1 concession.
Working in areas of environmental science

A new arrival in the Department of Applied Sciences, Dr Ron Sequeira, comes with qualifications in unusual areas of environmental science.

He worked with the Institute of Atmospheric Physics at the University of Arizona for five years before joining this University, had previously been attached to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Maryland, and studied air pollution and atmospheric chemistry at university in India.

Dr Sequeira has been particularly involved in the study of acid rain.

He intends to make an application for a grant to carry out a research project in connection with rain chemistry. He says a lot of researchers subscribe to the idea of micro-particles in rain and snow-melt water being responsible for the consumption of acidity.

However, he says, his theoretical calculations do not support this stand, except in regions of the globe where there are very large amounts of desert dust, such as in the eastern Mediterranean.

Dr Sequeira holds a BSc in the University of Mysore, a MSc and a PhD in the University of Bombay and a MS in the University of Arizona.

Newcastle-Thai link leads to second visit

An academic and student exchange visit program established last year with Suandusit Teachers College in Thailand will see 16 students from the School of Education fly to Bangkok next month to undertake their compulsory practicum.

The group, selected after a call for applications, comprises four Primary Education students and 12 Secondary Education students and will spend four weeks in Bangkok. It will be led by Lecturers, Mr John Gill (Pedagogical Studies) and Ms Margaret Lloyd (Expressive Education), while a teacher from the Mayfield West Demonstration School, Ms Joanne Farmer, will also be a member of the group.

The second year Primary students, Ms Patricia Colman, Ms Lara Harvey, Mr Bruce Robinson and Mr Alexander Urba- nowicz, will attend the Pratom Sathit Demonstration School and teach English as a Second Language at Suandusit Teachers' College. Secondary students, Ms Joanne Dunn, Ms Deborah Easton, Ms Bess Anne Gibson (third year English History), Ms Louise Kleinberg and Ms Kristen Roche (third year Physical Education), Ms Talie Park (fourth year Physical Education), Ms Julie Boulden, Ms Anna Ignasok, Mr David King (third year Science), Ms Linda Benwell (fourth year Science) and Mr John Carswell (fourth year Social Science) will teach English as a Foreign Language at Suandusit.

Ms Farmer's trip is being sponsored by the Hunter Regional Office of the Department of Education and she will assist Mr Gill and Ms Lloyd in supervising the practicum but also teach English as a Second Language at Pratom Sathit as a resource person and teach demonstration lessons to the staff at Pratom Sathit.

Details of the visit were recently finalised following a visit to the University by six senior members of Suandusit. They included the Dean of the Faculty of Education, Dr Prakit Bhalapatna, the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Mrs Anchali Jitsukon, the Head of the Department of Home Economics, Mrs Umpuntog Musikasuta, the Head of the Department of Mass Communications, Miss Wanida Tannapai, Early Childhood Lecturer, Mrs Sunee Piaci, and Special Education Lecturer, Mrs Nilana Tanpairoj.

The Thai visitors spent three weeks in Newcastle to observe curriculum and teaching techniques and visited a number of facilities, including the Mayfield West Demonstration School.

Mrs Anchali said the Australian education system used more technology than Thailand, especially in the way of computers, headphones and teaching aids. Many ideas gained in Newcastle would be taken back to Thailand with the aim of implementing them in the Teachers' College.

Suandusit has 2,000 full-time students and 4,000 part-time students and in addition to teacher education courses provides programs in art, English language, management, business and communications.

The Suandusit group is the second to visit Newcastle following an initial visit last year after the exchange program was developed by the then Hunter Institute of Higher Education. It also will be the second time a group of Newcastle teacher education students travel to Bangkok for practicum experience after Mr Gill and Ms Lloyd supervised Newcastle students in Bangkok last June/July.
1990 Budget - Good News!

The final Budget for 1990 was presented to Council by the Council's Finance Committee and was approved by the Interim Council at its meeting on April 27. The detailed work of putting the Budget together was undertaken by the Budget Committee, which consists of the three Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Professor M.P. Carter, Mr L.F. Hennessy and Dr D. Huxley, (with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Mr Hennessy, in the Chair), the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Development), Dr L. Eastcott, the Bursar, Mr J.M. Falconer, and two Academic Senate representatives, Associate Professor I. Wullschlager and Dr J.A. Caldwell, with, of course, the active participation of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor K.J. Morgan. The Budget Committee is serviced by the Deputy Bursar, Budget and Accounting, Mr B. Penfold, and Mrs E. Roulstone, Budget Officer.

The Budget Committee began its work in October last with the preparation of the Preliminary Budget, and has worked extensively over the last three months to develop the final Budget. That final outcome was a balanced budget: total income for 1990 is estimated at $83.7 million; total expenditure is estimated at $84.4 million. Allowing for a small accumulated surplus from 1989, the estimated cumulative deficit as at December 31, 1990, is $390,000; a "balanced budget" is defined by the Budget Committee as a cumulative surplus or deficit not greater than 0.5 per cent of income.

The total expenditure of $84.4 million has still left a necessary reserve in the Vice-Chancellor's Discretionary Fund whereas for a number of years the Fund was used to shore up the operating deficit.

The financial policy behind the 1990 Budget was to produce a balanced Budget, so that the University would continue to live within its means. "Living within its means" basically equates to living within the Government Grant which, for as long as anyone can see ahead, will still constitute the greatest part of the University's resources. In the current year, the Government Grant amounts to 97.94 per cent of operating expenditure.

The institutional policy behind the 1990 Budget was to produce the first integrated budget for the combined institution, bring together the expenditures of the University, Institute and Conservatorium as a single operating expenditure plan. This represented a most difficult task, which, given the time and tools available, could only be partly achieved. The final Budget for 1990 improved enormously on the Preliminary Budget which was a "quick fix" prepared late in 1989, immediately after amalgamation, simply to bring the three separate budgets together into the one budget framework. However, in the short time available then, it was only possible to identify major expenditures and very little was achievable in terms of integrating expenditures. The final Budget does much better, but still falls short of satisfying those who prepared it. Many common items such as minor works, maintenance and so on have been brought together, but with the exigencies of time and the complexities of financial systems, we could record only partial (although significant) success. As well, the time constraints did not permit normal bidding and submission processes to be undertaken.

The statistical and financial data deriving from the three separate systems has been very difficult to pull together and we are still struggling with separate systems relating to payroll, staff, students, etc. Very intensive activity is taking place in all these areas, but it is unlikely to produce all the desirable changes and improvements quickly. The year 1991 is likely to be an improvement on 1990, but it can already be said that it will again fall short of what we would like to have in the way of expenditure analysis, staffing profiles, and so on, in creating a full and clear Budget picture. Nevertheless, appropriate bidding and submission processes will certainly apply for 1991.

The educational policy behind the 1990 Budget has been to strengthen the expenditure of the new institution in selected areas of teaching and research. In this respect a key feature of the 1990 Budget has been the provision of $1 million for the development of areas of research excellence. An intensive internal competition for these funds has been considered by the Research Management Committee and its results will soon be announced. As well, a substantial New Development Fund of more than $1 million has been made available to commence new initiatives and provide establishment grants for new academic developments including the following:

- Academic Staff Development, $100,000;
- Chair in Information Systems, $110,000;
- Chair in Social Work, $110,000;
- Department of Aviation - Establishment Grant, $120,000;
- Newstep Program - Establishment Grant, $60,000;
- Postgraduate Re-entry Fellowships for Women, $80,000;
- School of Engineering and Architecture - Computer Graphics Laboratory, $270,000.

The 1990 Budget has supported a total student body of 10,000 (excluding full-fee and non-award students) in equivalent full-time student unit (EFTSU) terms, an increase of 660 or 7 per cent on 1989. This is one of the highest growth rates in the country, entirely justified as we seek to increase our participation rate and provide increased educational opportunities for the region. Even with the increased support from Canberra for the Newstep (equity) program, there is a long way to go - but that needs to be the subject of a separate article.

To cope with the increases in student numbers and the changes resulting from amalgamation, the 1990 Budget provides for increases in academic and administrative staff: some 40 additional (6 per cent) academic staff positions and an additional 11 (1.3) administrative positions. Notwithstanding these increases, the University remains stressed and strained in very many areas of its work, and the Budget Committee was conscious that it could go nowhere near satisfying all the needs for staffing, equipment, and for physical accommodation changes. The last - involving the minor works and repairs and maintenance functions - has been especially stressed, given the substantial workload resulting from the earthquake. New buildings such as the Information Sciences and Computing Building will offer some relief.

On the one hand, the University has been gratified at the early and sympathetic response of the Commonwealth Government to the problems arising from the earthquake especially in terms of student accommodation and support to the academic program in the form of the accelerated Science Building. However, we have been dismayed at the lack of appreciation of the especially difficult issues facing the University in its amalgamation, under which 40 per cent of the work of the University is advanced education programs of the Institute and Conservatorium, probably the largest advanced education component, proportionately, among the older university amalgamations. Yet the University has been provided, in 1990, with no Reserve Fund grants to enhance educational quality and effectiveness, and only one small grant under the Research Category B infrastructure scheme. The University will certainly be taking these matters up in its forthcoming Profile negotiations with DEET.

At the end of the day, the Budget Committee had to make a judgement whether, in this context, it should seek to alleviate the widespread stress across the board or whether it should follow a policy of selective concentration of expenditures to enable the University to build up its strength in a wider range of activities. It could, for example, have spread the $1 million for areas of research excellence across the operating expenditures of the multidisciplinary different academic and administrative units, with negligible impact, in its view, on their general "living standards". Hence, it preferred to opt for a determined effort to build up strengths in selected areas of academic work, following an internal competitive process. We believe that, in the longer term interests of the University, we have made the right judgement.

L.F. Hennessy
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration)
To Let

Fully-furnished four-bedroom home in Warners Bay (suit visitor with family in second semester). This house is available from July 1 until mid-January, 1991. Rental: $160 per week. L300 family van is also available. Please telephone 685 554 (University) or 48 7373.

Wanted to Rent or Lease

Visiting American professor wishes to rent or lease a car for the period June to September. Asking price: $160 per week.

Wanted to Buy

Either VW Beetle 1968-1970 or old Holden (free of rust). If you are able to assist please telephone 68 5365.

For Sale

Spacious family home featuring three bedrooms, all with built-ins, open floor plan with formal lounge, and dining rooms and large kitchen with separate family room. Includes garage, carport, large storage sheds, backyard barbecue and fennery (close to Wallsend Hospital and within easy access to Sydney freeway and is only five minutes by car or 30 minutes walk to the University). For inspection and further information please telephone J. Trzecinski at 29 4053 or telephone 68 5644.

Digital VT100 and Bit Blitzer Modem together with all necessary cables and manuals (ideal equipment for dialup access to University VAX). Asking price: $400 or near offer. Please telephone 71 2856.

Ibanez Roadstar II with lead and practice Amp, with hard case. All in excellent condition. Asking price: $520 or near offer. Please telephone 68 5700 or 54 8512 after hours.

Van Trefight lounge suite (modern), 1x3, 1x2 seaters and chair (seven years old). Asking price: $850 or near offer. Please telephone 33 6985 after hours.

Electronic keyboard JVC KB303, auto rhythm and chord memory, $100. Electric guitar (as new) with soft case, $120. Please telephone 68 7290 or 56 1329 after hours.

Brown Bag Lunches

A "brown bag lunch" organised by the Standing Committee on Asian Studies will be held on:

Monday, May 28, 12.30 to 2 pm
Dr Geoffrey Samuel will speak on Tibet and its Southeast Asian Context.

The venue is the Upstairs Dining Room in the Staff House, Main Campus.

Please buy your lunch from the Staff House beforehand.

FORTHCOMING SEMINARS

Tuesday, May 22, 1pm

Monday, May 28, Noon
Department of Geology seminar entitled Geophysical Anomalies over Copperplutonic Deposits with Special Reference to the Parkes Region, NSW. Speaker: Mr Ian Dunlop.

Tuesday, May 29, 1 pm

The History Club's

The History Club's Lunchtime Papers will be held on:

Wednesday, June 6, and Wednesday, August 1, at 1 pm
in Room ALG29.

Cost is $2, and wine, juice and snacks are supplied.

The speakers will be:
Mr Robert Mackie
and the newest member of the History staff,
Mr David Lemmings.

All interested persons are welcome to attend.

Election of Members of AAEEOAC

The Secretary, Mr P. Alexander, has announced the election of Dr Bethia Penglase and Ms Judy Wallom as members of the Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity Advisory Committee (AAEEOAC). Dr Penglase was elected by the academic staff and Ms Wallom by the general staff.

May's Slogan

"If you think excellence is elitist, try mediocrity".

BULLETIN Contributions

People who wish to contribute to the BULLETIN are invited to contact John Armstrong at 687 333 or Linda Aurelius at 687 328