Endorsement of Uni rail station

A Senior Lecturer in Civil Engineering and Surveying, Mr Michael Elfick, believes the proposal to build a railway station at the University is a good idea which would bring several benefits if implemented.

The General Manager of City Rail Newcastle, Mr John James, said recently in The Newcastle Herald that the building of the station was being investigated as part of a review of the railway system aimed at increasing suburban train patronage.

The Acting General Manager of State Transit Newcastle, Mr Len Regan, was quoted as saying that there seemed no end to the extra buses had been brought to help the University, which was the busiest station.

Recent years had seen successive improvements to services to the institutions. Time after time, the extra buses had been filled, leading him to put on even more routes.

Mr Regan said State Transit moved almost 3,000 University and HiHiE students each weekday.

He said the institutions deserved a more comprehensive public transport service. Buses were not enough.

The Herald claimed that Maitland-line trains ran behind the University every 20 to 30 minutes on week days, but did not stop anywhere between Waratah and Shortland stations, which were 5kms apart.

Mr Elfick pointed out to the Bulletin that if you looked at a map of the University, you could see that the distance from the proposed station site to the footbridge was about the same distance as Engineering was from the front gate.

'So a station is easily accessible on foot from all areas within the University and Institute,' he said.

'Second, a quick look at a railway timetable will show that the trains run all hours and there is one about every 20 minutes during the day. You can travel to Maitland in less than half an hour, and to Fassifern in 35 minutes. The benefits to the people who come to the University go beyond the simple benefits from faster public transport,' Mr Elfick said.

'There will be a far wider area suitable for student accommodation, there should be less pressure on the car parking facilities, and it will provide a direct link to the Warabrook Estate.'

To get maximum benefits, several projects should be pursued, he said.

First, the University plan should provide for this "second front door", with both a walking path and a bicycle path across the station to Warabrook.

'The location of future buildings should reflect the second entry point and provision should be made for a covered walkway for at least part of the way. The Warabrook Estate might plan for medium-density housing and a motel near the station to take advantage of demand for both long and short-term accommodation from the University.'

With a daily entry of nearly 12,000 people, the station could well be the busiest in the Newcastle area if people were encouraged to use it, Mr Elfick said.
Senate supports Interim Council proposals

Senate has endorsed proposals for the composition of the appointed members of the Interim Council of the amalgamated University.

At its meeting on May 31, Senate approved the Vice-Chancellor's suggestion that the Minister for Education, Dr Metherell, be advised to:

- Constitute the categories of membership of the Interim Council as follows — eight members representing the University Council, six representing the HIHE Council and one representing the Governors of Newcastle Conservatorium of Music, and
- Apportion membership within the University Council segment as follows — two academic staff, one general staff, one student, two Convocation and two appointed by the Minister.

The Vice-Chancellor said that the University of Newcastle Act amalgamating the University, the HIHE and the Conservatorium had been passed by State Parliament.

Professor Morgan said Dr Metherell had asked him for the names of those people whom he wished Dr Metherell to consider for inclusion on the Interim Council, which would govern the consolidated University until the establishment of the new Council within 12 months. Dr Metherell also asked for advice on a suitable commencement date for the Act.

Professor Morgan said he had asked members of Council whether they were available to serve on the Interim Council and advised them to consult with other members in their constituencies about the members who would be preferred.

The number of members on the Interim Council would be 20, comprising five ex-officio members (the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, the Principal of the HIHE, the Principal of the Conservatorium and the Deputy Chairman of Senate) and 15 nominated by Dr Metherell.

There had not been complete agreement on the representation of the participating institutions, he said. He had not been able to agree with some proposals.

The Vice-Chancellor said he had been swayed by the arguments for the University's interests to be properly represented on the Interim Council. If the size of the Council were the number originally proposed, that is 24 members, he would not have seen any fundamental problem.

Now that the Interim Council would be smaller, it would not be possible for the University's interests to be represented by fewer than eight members.

Professor Morgan said he had taken notice of the fact that the University was the senior partner, with the most diverse activities and the most diverse management.

He made the point that the Minister would make the decision about the composition of the Interim Council, although he had given several indications that he was willing to take advice.

The Deputy Chairman of Senate, Professor Ron MacDonald, described the proposal for the composition of the Council as a minimum situation. The formula allowed expertise of the existing Council to be carried forward.

The Vice-Chancellor said he intended to ask the Amalgamation Implementation Committee on June 2 for advice on the date of promulgation of the Act.

Projects Officer Appointed

A Newcastrian who holds a Bachelor of Economics degree with honours in this University has been appointed to the new position of Projects Officer.

Mr Geoff Barcan has spent the five years since he graduated with Newcastle City Council’s Planning Department and, later, the NSW Department of Industrial Relations and Employment.

Before joining the University, he was on secondment from the DIRE to the former regional industrial development organisation, HEIDS.

As Projects Officer, he is responsible for a range of projects, the centrepiece being the attraction of more resources, particularly Federal and State development funds, to this University.

He is called on to coordinate the feasibility study into the proposal for the establishment of an accommodation and conference centre on the campus.

He is also assisting in the preparation of educational profiles of the consolidated University, required by the Department of Employment, Education and Training.

Mr Barcan, son of Honorary Associate in Education, Dr Alan Barcan, is 27. He commenced duties at the University on May 22.

Three Sisters begins on campus on July 11

The Department of Drama will mount one of the most exciting plays in the modern repertoire — Three Sisters, by Anton Chekhov.


The Director is Victor Emeljanow, Head of the Department of Drama, and CONDA winner in 1987 and 1988.

Tom Bannerman, the designer, is well-known to Newcastle audiences for his Masterclass (1987), The Caretaker (1988) and his stunning costumes and masks in Byron’s Manfred.

The play will open on Tuesday, July 11, and run from Tuesday to Saturday until July 22. Performances will take place in the Drama Theatre at 8 pm.

Bookings are now open through the Department of Drama (685705).
Centre on campus for computing teaching

A perspective of the Joint Computing Teaching Building presently being constructed east of the Mathematics Building. It is expected that the project will be completed in April, 1990.

New Senate proposal passed

Senate has endorsed in general terms a proposal for the establishment of an Academic Senate for the consolidated University.

Recommended by the Academic Structures Working Group, the Academic Senate, which will determine academic matters, will comprise the Vice-Chancellor (Chair), the Deputy Vice-Chancellors, the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Development), the Dean for Research, the Dean for Students, the Directors of Schools (current University) and the Heads of Schools (current HIHE), the Head of the Conservatorium of Music, the Librarian and the Director of the Computing Centre, eight members elected by and from academic staff in each School, including the Dean of each Faculty in the School if not already a member, one member elected by and from the academic staff of the Conservatorium and three members elected by and from the students of the amalgamated University.

The proposed Academic Senate will elect from amongst its members a Deputy President.

Senate was told that the proposal was based on the premise that amalgamation would be in terms of a structure initially composed of nine Schools.

Under the structure proposed by the Working Group, the number on the Academic Senate will be 96.

It is envisaged that the Academic Senate would meet every second month and Standing Committee monthly.

It is proposed that there will be an Academic Assembly which will meet at least once each Semester, to be Chaired by the Deputy President who will give a report on the business (past, current and forthcoming) of the Academic Senate.

At the Academic Assembly any member of staff may raise any competent business or seek to have it placed on the agenda.

Senate was told that the proposal would also be submitted to the Academic Board of the HIHE and, later, the Amalgamation Implementation Committee.

Some members of Senate expressed their opposition to some aspects of the proposal, including the number of members elected by the students, the proportioning of the members elected from the Schools, and the meetings every second month.

Senate was told that further views of members of Senate would be considered by the Working Group.

Lunchtime Tai Chi Classes

will be held on Tuesday or Thursday, 12.30 to 1.30 pm commencing on June 20.

For further information please telephone Robyn at Extension 601.
Things are tough says AWEUN

Things are tough for employees of the University of Newcastle at present and morale of the staff is low, according to the new President of AWEUN, Ms Margaret Henry.

AWEUN was especially concerned about the working conditions of women employees of the University, said Margaret. 'The policies of both State and Federal Governments, spending cuts, and fears about the future as a result of amalgamation are resulting in high levels of stress', she said.

Margaret agrees with some commentators that the productivity of universities may be affected for at least a decade.

'Recently it was claimed that the University has balanced its budget. I would have to say that it is at considerable cost to the morale and, ultimately, the health of the University staff, right across the board.'

'The work load for academic and general staff has increased. Some sections are grossly understaffed. With the lack of staff, academic staff are called on to do work which is wasteful of their time and the University's resources.'

There had been some improvements in employment opportunities and for women staff, Margaret Henry stated, some as a result of pressure from AWEUN, but there were still grounds for concern.

Women academics are still clustered at the lowest level, often with heavy teaching and marking loads. General staff have few career paths and are relocated arbitrarily so that expertise is squandered and job satisfaction declines. Women scattered across departments, and in too many cases missing lunch hours, become isolated. AWEUN provides an opportunity for women in all positions in the University to meet and discuss their common problems and to devise strategies to overcome them.

At the annual general meeting of AWEUN, the main issues to be tackled this year were outlined.

AWEUN wants a greater representation of women on all committees, especially selection and promotion committees. There is a great amount of talent out there that is not being utilised,' Margaret said. 'A register of women available and willing to serve on committees should be drawn up and the criteria for the membership of committees should be overhauled.

There is a need to restore the pool of temporary staff to substitute for women in the event of leave or illness. Currently, women who go on leave are not replaced unless there is a surplus of staff in the School. 'Child care is a top priority', she said. The Association is disappointed that the University has lost the opportunity to secure Federal funding for low-cost preschool places.

AWEUN intends to request the Administration to ensure that submissions for funding are drawn up with community consultation.

'AWEUN also seeks an increase in job-sharing. There have been some initiatives and they appear to have been successful, but more flexibility is required.'

On a positive note, AWEUN has found the Chancellor of the University, Justice Elizabeth Evatt, very supportive, Ms Henry said. The Association has had several discussions with her about matters relating to women. 'We're very anxious that she continue to be Chancellor', she said.

Salary scales cause concern

One of the aspects of amalgamation causing concern was the assimilation into the academic salary scales of people on other salary scales, the Vice-Chancellor said at Senate on May 31.

Professor Morgan reported that the matter had not yet been considered by the Amalgamation Implementation Committee and he was presently seeking the advice of unions and individuals at the University, as well as universities and people from the higher education system in general.

He intended to get 'a full picture of what's happening across Australia'. It was his wish to retain compatibility with the methods being used elsewhere. The University of Melbourne and some other universities, for example, had considerable experience in assimilating salaries following amalgamations.

The Vice-Chancellor said no decisions had yet been made and he would keep the Council and Senate informed.

One member of Senate claimed that it was widely perceived, in particular among non-professorial staff, that amalgamation would mean there would be substantial pay increases to HIRE staff.

Another member said that apprehensions came from the assimilation into the University's titles of people with other titles — not necessarily salaries.
Temporary Accommodation for University Visitors

The University provides a limited stock of accommodation for short-term rental to new appointees. Subject to availability, the properties are also available to University visitors.

Fully furnished (need only supply linen) and located within walking distance of the University they include:

- 3 x 2-bedroom units
- 1 x 3-bedroom house

Rents are currently $130 to $140 per week (inclusive of power costs).

A minimum three weeks occupancy and a maximum three months occupancy applies. Extensions to occupancy can only be granted subject to availability and then only on a week to week basis.

Bookings can be accepted anytime. However, availability can be confirmed no earlier than three months in advance of arrival.

Bookings must include confirmed dates of arrival/departure. If it proves necessary to alter the vacation date, refund of rent will only apply if a suitable alternative tenant can be found.

Once advised of availability, the applicant is required to pay one week's rent to confirm the booking. If arrival is delayed and no further rent received, the booking will lapse after seven days.

The tenant is required to sign a 'key issue receipt' in person. Therefore, arrival should be timed between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

For bookings forms and/or further information, please contact the University Accommodation Officer, Mrs Kathleen Dacey, at Extension 520.

HECS information update

All enrolled students have completed a Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) Payment Options Form for Semester 1.

For contributing students, the payment option chosen on this form, that is, the up-front or the deferred payment option, will automatically remain for Semester 2 and subsequent semesters unless the student changes his or her payment option by completing another HECS Payment Options Form.

Any contributing student who wishes to change his or her payment option for Semester 2 should visit the HECS Office in Student Administration before August 24 to complete another Payment Options Form.

Students who were exempt from HECS in Semester 1 will also be exempt in Semester 2 and do not need to complete another Payment Options Form.

All students who have chosen to pay up-front will be sent a request for payment of their HECS contribution for Semester 2 in early August.

Students are reminded that their HECS liability for Semester 2 will be assessed according to their programme on the Semester 2 census date, that is, August 31, 1989.

In order to process changes to students' programmes by August 31, it is necessary for Variation of Programme Forms to be submitted by August 24. No guarantee can be given that forms submitted after August 24 will be processed by the census date.

A reduction in student load or complete withdrawal after August 24 will not reduce a student's HECS liability for Semester 2.

It should be noted that the dates for withdrawal without HECS liability are independent from those for withdrawal without academic penalty, which are listed in Faculty handbooks.

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

Live telecast of operations for conference

A highlight of the recent annual conference of the Australian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine held at the David Maddison Clinical Sciences Building was the televising of a number of operations from the Operating Theatre at the Royal Newcastle Hospital directly to a large video screen in the lecture theatre in the David Maddison Building.

The operations were televised 'live' to an audience of some 300 delegates via a closed circuit colour television system installed by the Medical Communication Unit.

The Director of the Unit, Mr Adrian Daniels, explained that the Unit was requested to install the system which required audio, video and telemetry cabling from the McCaffrey Building to the Maddison Building at the Royal Newcastle Hospital via a series of ducts to the television control room in the Medical Communication Unit and then to the lecture theatre.

During the sessions questions were relayed from the delegates in the lecture theatre to the surgeons in the Operating Theatre and replies were received in the lecture theatre from the surgeons over the sound amplification system for all delegates to hear.

A remote controlled colour video camera mounted in the Operating Theatre light was controlled directly from the lecture theatre. The remote control permitted the co-ordinator in the lecture theatre to pan, tilt, focus and zoom the camera as required.

Mr Daniel pointed out that the system installed will be of benefit to the Medical Communication Unit as operations can now be recorded from the television control room in the Unit rather than having to move video cameras and recorders into the Operating Theatre.

Future benefits of the system could see the linking of hospitals in the region by microwave or cable links which would allow transmission of operations to lecture theatres or seminar rooms in other hospitals in the region.
Geneology is one of Mr MacDougall's main interests. He has done some research into his own family history and has found that he is descended from early Canadian settlers. He is also interested in music, particularly choral singing and listening to concerts.

He is interested in the teaching side of the University more than the research side, but he feels that it is also important to contribute new ideas.

Although he is employed as a temporary lecturer, Mr MacDougall intends to stay in Australia. The MacDougall's have a son and a daughter.

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In a spin over the roundabout

With some motorists not signalling correctly while driving on the temporary roundabout at the University's main entrance, the Bulletin shows how to do it properly by following these simple rules:

If you are not turning left, give a right turn signal if it will help other drivers.

On medium or big roundabouts, signal immediately before leaving the roundabout.

(The diagrams on the correct signalling at roundabouts was provided by the Roads and Traffic Authority, Hunter Valley Division.)
Businesswoman studies German successfully

Concocting patés and terrines has apparently not affected Miss Judy Heyworth's German studies.

Miss Heyworth, who holds a BA degree in this University, runs a gourmet food shop in Bridges Road, New Lambton.

At a ceremony on May 23, she and Mr Andrew Kallaur received the Goethe Prize in German Studies, awarded every year for the highest performance in a German III subject.

The Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr Hermann Kröger, presented the two German IV (honours) students with gifts of books and certificates.

Mr Kallaur last year obtained a High Distinction in German IIA, and Miss Heyworth a High Distinction in German IIB.

Both Judy and Andrew have previously won prizes and awards in German.

Miss Heyworth received the German Community Prize for being the best student in German IS, while Andrew last year received the Germania Club/Goethe-Institut scholarship, which eventually took him to the Goethe-Institut in Göttingen.

Judy in 1987 won a scholarship for a course at the University of Freiburg, West Germany, although owing to her falling ill overseas she spent more time in the Universitätsklinik at Freiburg than in the University. Even though her doctor discouraged her, she came back to the University, initially continuing her studies part-time.

Judy, in addition to German, studied Italian at the University of New England, for which she also got a High Distinction, and Japanese in this University, for which she last year also won the prize for being the best student in her year.

Mr Kallaur has been studying history and classics in addition to German. Prior to taking up his scholarship in Germany, he had to pass a placement test here. When he arrived at the Goethe-Institut, for which he had been selected, it was found that he had progressed so much in the six months that had elapsed that he had to be sent to a different centre where a more advanced German course was available.

It is Andrew's hope that he will be able to obtain a position in the Australian Foreign Service.

Women in the workforce

The University will sponsor an exhibition aimed at encouraging women to take up studies in non-traditional fields.

Titled Women in the Workforce: An exploration of career options for women the exhibition will be held at the Hunter Technology Centre (in the grounds of the University) from June 13 to 23.

The exhibition is made up of four complementary parts:

A History for the Future: Women in Science and Technology in Australia is an exhibition which chronicles the experiences of Australian women in scientific, engineering or technical careers. The display is travelling around Australia and was created by the Women in Science Enquiry Network (WISENET) with funding from the Australian Bicentennial Authority.

To provide local flavour, a Women at Work in the Hunter photographic exhibition will be on display. This is a collection of photographs and interviews with Hunter women who have succeeded in non-traditional careers.

The exhibition will be further enhanced by the presence of women who are currently working or studying in the areas of science, engineering and technology-related fields. The women will act as role models for students from the region's high schools who will be attending the exhibition.

The exhibition will be open from 9 am until 4 pm each day, with an evening session offered on Wednesday, June 14 from 6 to 9 pm. Members of the public are invited to visit the exhibition at any time after the official opening on Tuesday, June 13.
UN Professor writes paper in series for graduates

The Australian University Graduate Conference (AUGC) is responsible for publishing the papers in the Issues Series, which has the objective of communicating to graduates of all universities in Australia comments on matters of direct concern to them. The latest paper in the Issues Series, The Necessary Humanities, was written by Professor David Frost, Professor of English and Head of the Department of English at this University. In Professor Frost's own words:

No doubt Mr Dawkins and his White Paper have dented the morale of humanities departments in Australia: rumours abound (not always substantiated) of increasingly unfavourable staff student ratios, of shrinking library votes, of reduced research funding and of the closure or amalgamation of departments. Certainly, the terms for national research awards have been drawn up deliberately to disadvantage humanities applicants; and we all suffer that creeping loss of esteem both within the university and outside it which results from government attempts to steer universities and university students into fields of study that are held to be more in tune with "national objectives". It seems perverse, therefore, to assert that long-term prospects for the humanities are bright.

My optimism has a negative and a positive aspect. Negatively, I believe the Federal Government will eventually prove powerless to effect the changes it seeks. Dawkins and his works are the last in a line of social democrat attempts to adjust the economy by the limited means at a government's disposal — in this case, by influencing the nature of university education. The attempt will fail for the reasons that analogous interventions have failed. First, because government policy does not have the whole-hearted consent of a majority of those bureaucrats (and here, we are the bureaucrats) who are expected to carry it out; second, because the government cannot control the electorate, the students who this year (and following a trend already well-established in the United States), have voted with their feet for the humanities, as against science and technology. Till government can improve the woeful record of Australian industry in research and development, and so provide believable job-prospects, students will press into the humanities, demanding an increase in places; again, the quality of teaching and facilities that will undo the short-term damage which Dawkins' achievement so far.

My positive ground for optimism is that the humanities (despite widespread ignorance of what they achieve) are in fact as central to the Government's objective, the economic health of the nation, as is the development of applied science and high technology. Ministers are not in general blind to the value of humane learning, to the pleasures of culture, to the civilising effects of the arts; but they tend to see such things as cake, when the nation has an urgent need to safeguard its supplies of bread. What is urgent is that government catch up with industry, both in Australia and (more so) elsewhere, in appreciating both specialist, vocational training and also the range of aptitudes cultivated by a generalist degree. Overseas, it is noticeable among our more successful competitors that humanities subjects play a greater rather than a lesser part in the course-components even of engineers and technologists.

The reasons are not far to seek. Economic successes and failures are as much political, social and relational as they are technological. Often, the roots of failure are in history, in social mores, or in class attitudes. Ignorance of a foreign language and a foreign culture inhibits trade; failure to maintain relationships and in organisational know-how disrupt production; and the best of research languishes unappreciated without facilitators to exploit its possibilities. Those skills characteristically inculcated by the humanities — assessment of relevant evidence, assembling and weighing of arguments, lateral thinking, perspectives both historical and cultural, effective communication, social and political skills, imagination, insight, and human understanding — are the basic skills required for effective management of a complex and fast-changing society.

In the new Australia, universities, and within the universities the humanities, have a major role. Public and politicians will have to sophisticate their notion of 'relevance' even as they contest a subject as Sanskrit becomes 'relevant' in a multicultural Australia where it is the language of two major religions, and a foundation of several cultures with, which we trade. Universities, on the other hand, will need to modify the 'ivory-tower' image that was once held to protect the integrity of a subject: it is untrue, and in hard times needlessly offensive, to deny the practical applications of university disciplines. In the humanities, we will need to welcome far more scientists and technologists to portions of our courses, if the benefits of our special mode of education are to be felt as widely as they need to be. But I am convinced that, long after Dawkins and ill-judged interventions are forgotten, the 'necessary humanities' will be a valued contributor to the skills of tomorrow's society.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

Friends have called my attention to Associate Professor M. Evans' letter in the recent Bulletin and prevailed upon me to respond.

1. Associate Professor Evans points out that some audiences for Ghost Sonata were SRO. Some are audiences for Friese Night III, while some of the most stimulating and polished offerings from the Drama Department have played to pathetically small groups.

2. A professional director from Sydney praised a play that I panned. Some of my reviews have been praised by people from New York, London, Toronto and Barnsley. This only proves that some people agree while others differ.

3. His cast and crew were extraordinarily dedicated and committed, he says. Their sincerity was never in doubt.

4. Ken Longworth liked it. (see above).

It is a pity that some of my most enthusiastic reviews of past Drama Department productions were never published due to space constraints, but, even omitting these, a fair analysis of my past comments would show them to be, as Associate Professor Evans demands, 'sympathetic', 'helpful' and 'constructive'. They have
attempted to answer the simple conversational question, 'what was it about and what did you think of it?', not to indulge in the more esoteric aspects of critical analysis.

Along with my review of Ghost Sonata I reluctantly submitted my resignation as reviewer; other commitments preclude my continuing. The task has already been assumed most competently by Jane O'Sullivan.

This is a good opportunity, though, to affirm my high regard for Drama Department staff and the (generally) increasing quality of the work their students have done. The lunch-hour Green Room plays are especially outstanding, and I am looking forward to the upcoming Three Sisters with high expectations.

Dorrit Nesmith

Dear Sir,

Against Parking Fees

For many years the occasional overflow of the principal parking areas on our campus has been seen by some to be a problem. However, my letters tendered to the Traffic and Parking Advisory Committee over the past eight years have consistently shown that parking spaces have always been available in other areas of the campus during times of maximum usage when some of the popular areas have been overflowing onto the adjacent grass. It has been common for the No.3 car park to be barely half full at times when more than 50 cars have been overflowed onto the surrounding areas of No.2 car park. Even when there is overflow onto the grass it does no great harm, provided it occurs only occasionally, as surveys have shown to be the case in the past.

Only very rarely have cars been observed parking on Rankin Drive as an overflow area.

Pressures on parking spaces may be relieved in a number of ways: by the provision of better public transport and alternative access modes, such as bicycles and by the introduction of a more evenly distributed class timetable. The former has been improving year by year and the latter has been the subject of review.

In fact, appropriate modification of the University class timetable could completely eliminate peak-volume parking problems, given that more than 2,150 marked spaces are currently available on the University campus and there is room for more than 300 cars on nearby overflow areas.

Any argument that attempts to justify parking fees on the grounds of need to provide funds for more parking areas at this University is untenable.

Parking fees are presently being levied by the majority of universities, with the land for parking being practically non-existent or prohibitively expensive. Rightly or wrongly, demand-supply economics is operating at those places, restricting access only to those willing and able to pay the parking fee. In such cases the fee is usually paid with the expectation that a parking space will be available at whatever time of day they arrive to perform their lecturing duties or attend lectures as the case may be. This requires control of parking by full-time parking attendants in manned booths at the entry points. The costs involved can be very considerable ($200,000 per annum for the 2,500 spaces available at the University of New South Wales), unless an automated system is installed (as at Macquarie University).

It is doubtful whether either system can be justified for the University of Newcastle: the Parking Action Group of the Wastewatch Committee envisions "... that the monies collected from both (my emphasis) the purchase of parking permits and the fines recovered from parking infringements will be used for the maintenance of the road, provision and maintenance of car parking facilities, signs and stickers, and will help (my emphasis) towards paying for the provision of parking staff necessary to police the parking system. There is no economic basis for hoping that the monies collected from fees and fines would match the need for funds in respect of road and parking construction and maintenance, let alone the on-costs of effective parking control.

Available evidence indicates that the introduction of parking fees will impose an additional burden on the recurrent funds of the University.

Mr Hennessy's 'variety of reasons' given in the Bulletin (and cited by The Newcastle Herald) include surplus from parking fees being used to finance a multi-storey car parking building. This is a highly dubious expectation unless the fees are raised to the $200 per year level levied at the metropolitan universities situated near central business districts. Taking the University and HIHE together and assuming 75 per cent of the total staff and student body contribute, the amount raised per year at the proposed rates would be $135,000 at the very outside, assuming the maximum proposed staff rate of $850 per annum is levied in most instances.

After all overhead expenses have been met from the parking income, not to mention the 'secondary objective ... to provide for improved carpark and road maintenance and upkeep', it is difficult to imagine how the 'primary objective ... to finance major carpark development' can ever be achieved, much less in this century. Staff and students are being asked to underwrite a development which they have little hope of enjoying. The introduction of fees will be seen as a foot-in-the-door exercise, with higher fees becoming inevitable when the financial shortfall demands them.

As a public relations exercise, parking fees are costly to the University and a disincentive to community involvement.

At a time when the Federal Government is making University education more difficult for students through the introduction of the Tertiary Tax Scheme, students will inevitably view a levy of a parking fee as yet another attack on their very limited funds. The University should avoid providing further grounds for student protest.

The morale of the staff of the University is falling quite seriously because of a number of worries (amalgamation) and dilemmas, deterioration of working conditions and privileges, worsening salary relativities, undermanning through early retirements, and so on) and the levy of parking fees will be perceived as a further imposition. At this critical era in University history, staff unrest should not be incited by actions of doubtful value to the University.

Colin Keay
Member of Council.

Dear Sir,

The Deputy Chairman of Senate has issued (on his very own letterhead, too) an encyclical rebuking those academics who did not attend this year's Graduation Ceremonies. It appears that there were quite a few of us. Given the present appalling state of the University, that is not surprising.

I regard ceremony as a most important aspect of human life. I am not lacking in respect for our graduates. I therefore regard participation in official University ceremonies as inappropriate, even improper.

A.W. Sparkes
Department of Philosophy.
University attracts Chinese visitor

An academic from the People's Republic of China has been attracted to this University by its reputation as a centre for high quality research in econometrics.

The objective of Mr Han Tingchun's collaboration with staff in the Department of Economics is to become accomplished in the subject and teach econometrics to students in China.

Mr Han, a Lecturer in the Department of Management Science at Shandong University, which is south of Beijing, accepted the Department of Economics' invitation to be a Visiting Scholar for approximately a year.

He will carry out research under the guidance of Professor Barry Hughes and Assoc. Professor Robert McShane and attend some lectures.

Young Australians miss out on Higher Education

Thousands of young Australians missed out on entry to universities and colleges this year, despite a significant increase in higher education places funded by Federal and State Governments.

A report released by the peak bodies in higher education — the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee and the Australian Committee of Directors and Principals — has revealed that the growth in places has simply kept up with increased demand, leaving a big pool of people who qualify for entry but miss out because of a shortage of places.

The report says that up to 20,000 young Australians failed in their efforts to enter higher education this year, even though they qualified for entry on academic grounds. This is the same level as last year, according to the annual survey of unmet demand carried out by the AVCC and ACDP.

In a joint statement, the Chairman of the AVCC, Professor Brian Wilson, and the Chairman of the ACDP, Dr Barrie Thistlethwayte, said that the survey showed the need for a steady expansion of opportunities for young people.

'Once again this year there are thousands of students keen to enter higher education and frustrated, not because they are not good enough, but because of a lack of funds and a lack of places in universities and colleges', they said.

For many of these students, their failure to gain a place is a personal tragedy: for the nation it is a sad waste of talent at a time when we need a better-educated workforce.

'After years when successive governments refused to put more money into the system, the Hawke Government agreed to increase the number of places this year by some 6300, with a commitment to an extra 5600 places in 1990 and 4600 in 1991. '

'The increase was welcome but, as our survey shows, it is just the beginning of what needs to be done to ensure that young people have the chance to pursue higher education and move out into the workforce as capable, skilled workers, contributing to national development.'

'Efforts by some State Governments have also helped to mop up some of the increased demand. The Queensland Government has for the first time funded 960 places this year, while the Victorian Government has maintained its commitment by funding an extra 1708 new places'.

Professor Wilson and Dr Thistlethwayte said that higher education institutions understood the Federal Government's reasons for pursuing steady growth in the face of temporary demographic pressures, but urged the Government to expand its funding commitment to provide more opportunities now for young people.

(The 1989 unmet demand survey found that the number of students eligible for entry but who were unable to obtain a place was between 13,000 and 19,800, the same range as 1988. The wide range reflects a variety of methods used by each State to define 'eligibility' and the difficulties in applying various statistical 'discounts' to measure real unmet demand).
Chief economist appointed

Professor McShane has been appointed to a newly created position of Chief Economist of the Hunter Valley Research Foundation.

Over the past 12 years, Professor McShane has established an international reputation in the field of forecasting developments in meat markets. He will utilise this experience and expertise in his new role with the HVRF.

The Office of the Director of Equal Opportunity wishes to see set numerical targets for the recruitment not only of women, but of Aboriginals, people with disabilities and people from a non-English speaking background. These targets are not quotas, but are goals to aim for. To set targets, we need better information on our turnover rates, and this is now being investigated by the Staff Office.

Professor McShane would be heavily involved in the monitoring and analysis of the Region’s economy through the HVRF quarterly, Hunter Region Economic Indicators publication, play a crucial role in the development of products which would analyse the New South Wales economy at the regional level and seek out large-scale research contracts for the HVRF.

Professor McShane said: 'It is an exciting opportunity to work with the HVRF as it expands the scope of its research work and scale of operation. I feel certain that the HVRF, with its sound reputation and established infrastructure, has a great future with which I am pleased to be involved.'
Amalgamation: Placement of General Staff in Integrated Structures

The issue of placement of general staff in new administrative structures has been raised with the Administrative Structures Working Group of the Amalgamation Implementation Committee by the Representative Committee of the Public Service Association covering the University and the Institute. Along with Mr Foster, Bursar of the Institute, and Mr Covill, the University’s Director of Staffing Services, I recently met with PSA representatives Mr Martin and Ms McDonald (University) and Ms Steddes and Ms Wallom (HIHE) to discuss a paper prepared by PSA representatives following a recent Trade Union Training Authority seminar. The paper suggested detailed procedures for evaluation of positions in the new structure and placement of staff in them.

I also canvassed a discussion paper on placement procedures, which was related to the draft first report of the Administrative Structures Working Group which was circulated for comment on 23 May.

No agreement was reached as a result of the recent meeting but I believe that, as they say, there was a useful exchange of views. We agreed to meet again on 7 June and that I would bring forward a revised discussion paper from the Administration. I was encouraged by the HIHE representatives to make some preliminary comments on the issue, which could be circulated to staff, especially those at the Institute. Hence, this edition of ADMIN NOTES is being copied to the Institute.

The preliminary comments which I would like to make are:

- The first issue for the new University on the administrative front is to determine the new structure and the senior personnel responsible (heads of division): this is under-way through the first report of ASWG.
- This will be followed by a second, detailed report of ASWG proposing the establishment (funded positions) for the approved structure. The number of funded positions, and their grades, will be at least equal to the number of staff to be placed.
- Placement of staff in new structures takes place after the structures and positions are determined; however, it was agreed that procedures for placement should be considered and advised to staff as soon as possible.
- It was also suggested, I believe, that procedures worked out for central administration staff placements could also be appropriate for subsequent placement of other general staff in other integrated administrative structures.

The point I would like to emphasise is that most general staff of the University and Institute are not involved in the issue of placement in the foreseeable future. A placement issue arises when:

- you are involved in integration, and
- your position is changed.

Technical, professional, support and other staff attached to schools and faculties — some 240 out of 640 — are not involved in integration unless or until their schools and faculties are integrated. Even with the 300 or so general staff involved in the central administrative proposal, a first guess is that some 50-60 could be looking at major changes in position, and that the remaining 250 will find little or no change in what they do. A particular point made in relation to this is that staff concerned with admissions and enrolments at all three campuses will be operating the existing separate procedures at least for 1990.

To sum up, there will be changes but they will take place over time, at least some months and in some cases, years. I accept not only the principle of consultation with the staff associations, but, to the maximum extent practicable, their participation in these processes. I am hopeful that, in the near future, it should be possible to produce some agreed processes for placement in integrated structures.

Administrative Structures Working Group

As this issue of the Bulletin goes to press, the deadline for comments on the proposed first report of the ASWG has closed. As a result of the large number and wide variety of comments received, the ASWG has decided to hold a special meeting to review the submissions and make revisions to the report. It will be arranging further consultations on key aspects of the report.

The report will not go forward to the AIC prior to these matters being considered. However, the ASWG is concerned that there be early progress towards integrated structures and therefore, in advance of the report, it has decided to recommend to the AIC the four-dimensional structure forecast in its Amalgamation Newsletter of December 21 together with a separate buildings and grounds unit directly responsible to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration).

It will also seek confirmation of the senior personnel to be appointed as divisional heads and as head of the buildings and grounds unit. The assignment of these personnel will enable the process of spelling out the details of divisions, branches and sections to be speeded up and staff to be more involved in preparing detailed proposals.

L.P. Hennessy

Professor Burrows to retire

Professor John Burrows, who has been a Professor of English at this University since 1976, will retire at the end of July.

Announcing this at Senate on May 31, the Vice-Chancellor said he knew Senate would want to record its warm appreciation of John Burrows’ services to the University.

Professor Morgan said Professor Burrows would be staying at the University as the first Director of the proposed Centre for Literary and Linguistic Computing.

Professor John Burrows
Economists argue for the frigates for Newcastle

The University's Institute of Industrial Economics and the Hunter Valley Research Foundation has announced the findings of their joint study of the economic advantages of the construction of 12 ANZAC frigates in Newcastle.

The study was commissioned by Australian Warship Systems (AWS), an industrial partnership which has tendered for the Government contract and which proposes to carry out the work in Newcastle.

The researchers who contributed to the study are: Institute of Industrial Economics. Professor Barry Hughes, Associate Professor Robert McShane, Mr Gary Keating, Mr Winston Dunlop and Mrs Kathy Kennew; Hunter Valley Research Foundation. Dr Wuj Paradise and Mr Andrew Searles.

Professor Hughes presented the result of the investigation at a press conference in the Great Hall on May 24. He said the effects of awarding the prime contract for the construction of the frigates to AWS could be summarised in three parts:

Employment and Expenditure

Impact on Newcastle of the Award of the Prime Contract

A 12 ship build leads directly to the employment by AWS and the principal sub-contractors of 1,500 to 1,800 people in the Newcastle area at any one time throughout the 1990s.

Conventional regional employment multiplier analysis, based on the input-output technique, indicates that the indirect effects on employment will be of the same magnitude.

Since location of the prime contract in Newcastle will act as a catalyst to upgrade the engineering sector, there is major potential for spin-off benefits to employment. These jobs are additional to the 3,000 to 3,600 direct and indirect employment from the project, but they cannot as yet be gauged with firm numbers.

Award of the prime contract would thus have a powerful impact on employment in Newcastle and the Hunter:

- it would add at least 8 per cent to the stock of manufacturing jobs in the Lower Hunter;
- it would bring at least a billion dollars of income in today's prices to the Region.

The prime contract would reverse the drain of skills out of the Region:

- there would be at least 300 new apprenticeships at any one time resulting from the project;
- there would also be local jobs for the majority of University of Newcastle engineering and computer science graduates who are now forced to move out of the Region to find employment;
- unique opportunities exist for the re-employment in the region of displaced skilled workers from the coal, steel, and shipbuilding industries, particularly those in the electrical and metal trades.

The Region, particularly the Inner industrial areas, has suffered from substantially above-average unemployment and hidden unemployment for many years. The jobs associated with the prime contract would be a major contributing factor to the resolution of this serious problem.

Restructuring and Retraining: The Future of the Area's Heavy Engineering Base

The heavy engineering base in Newcastle and the Lower Hunter is one of the nation's major resources, but it has been under threat over the past decade.

The industry has fought back:

- job restructuring has been pioneered in the area;
- consortiums of firms have been formed to compete more effectively;
- major progress has been made in reforming industrial relations practices;
- productivity has lifted sharply in many firms.

But "metal bashing' alone is no longer enough. The activities associated with the prime contract would be of major assistance to these efforts. They are not more of the same. Rather, their concentration on project management, advanced design, skills and the necessary electronics software and electrical engineering capabilities provides locally the "missing piece in the jigsaw' of the area's engineering base.

These attributes would sit alongside the University's Centre for Industrial Control Science, established by the Commonwealth as the nation's key special research centre in this range of studies. The theoretical and innovative efforts of the CICS would assist further the catalyst effect of breathing new confidence into the Region's engineering base so that it can develop into a major export oriented project sector.

Excess capacity exists in many areas of the Hunter TAFE network relevant to the project. Newcastle has the opportunity to become a major training centre for New South Wales, particularly after the closure of the Cockatoo Dockyard.

- There would be a flow of Dutch and other investment and technology transfer into the Region, exemplified by the recent investment of the Dutch company R&H in the Newcastle firm HCB.

Utilisation of the Existing Social and Economic Infrastructure

The decline in employment in the inner industrial areas in the past two decades has left much of the existing social and economic infrastructure substantially underutilised. This part of Newcastle, which by itself would have been the nation's thirteenth biggest centre in 1971, as big then as Ballarat, Launceston or Toowoomba, has lost a quarter of its population.

The silver lining to this run of misfortune is that many of these inputs, particularly on the capital side, are available free or close-to-free of charge on the nation's productive resources. These under-utilised inputs include:

- public sector schools, post offices, police stations, fire brigade quarters, health facilities and the like;
- private sector shops, leisure and entertainment facilities; and
- infrastructure like transport and communications links and water and sewerage works.

Were the existence of these under-utilised resources not available, a major project like the frigate contract would require expensive construction and a charge on the public purse. Location of the prime contract in Newcastle would save both a waste of existing resources and social costs.

Tertiary sector productivity would rise in the Newcastle area in both private and public sectors. This is especially the case for capital productivity, but labour productivity is also likely to rise.
Dissertation Abstracts Ondisc

The Auchtmuth Library now subscribes to Dissertation Abstracts Ondisc, the CD-ROM version of Dissertation Abstracts International. Master Abstracts International and American Doctoral Dissertations. It provides access on two discs to all American doctoral theses, many Canadian theses and an increasing number from other countries. Masters theses are also selectively indexed. One disc covers the period July, 1984 to December, 1987 and the other January to December, 1988. Updates are provided annually, but theses added this year can be accessed via Dissertation Abstracts Online, which is updated monthly.

Dissertation Abstracts Ondisc includes both bibliographic citations and 350-word abstracts. You can browse through broad subject areas, as you might the printed text, or carry out sophisticated subject searches on keywords from the titles and abstracts of theses. Keywords can be combined and truncated to retrieve all variations in a manner not possible in a manual search. It is also possible to search on author, date and institution alone, or in combination with subject terms. Once you have identified relevant theses, the references can be printed, or downloaded to a floppy disc. Copies of the theses can be ordered from University Microfilms International, American Library Loans Section if they are not available for loan from other Australian libraries. Softbound paper copies cost $70 to $80 and microform $50 to $60.

If you wish to use Dissertation Abstracts Ondisc or have a search done for you by a librarian, contact the Reference Desk at Extension 248 to make an appointment for instruction or a search interview. Ideally, postgraduates commencing literature reviews prior to embarking on their own research should consult the relevant subject librarian to ensure that they are aware of all the relevant bibliographic tools for their discipline.

The subject responsibilities of each librarian are listed below:

- Janet Bricc, Extension 690, Biology and Medicine
- Sheila Brown, Extension 605, English and Drama
- Jim Cleary, Extension 242, Engineering, History and Sociology
- Alicia Hardy, Extension 252, Architecture, Linguistics, Mathematics and Philosophy
- Gary Jones, Extension 254, Management, Psychology and Physics
- Anne Robinson, Extension 248, Chemistry, French, German, Geography, Geology and Japanese
- Jennie Scobie, Extension 246, Classics, Education and Engineering
- Ann Stokes, Extension 275, Commerce, Economics and Law

Examination Papers

Copies of the 1988 examination papers are now available in the Library, and are housed with previous years' papers adjacent to the Photocopying Room near the entrance of the Library. Members of the academic staff authorise which examination papers are to be released for students' use. Therefore the library does not hold a complete set of examination papers.

New Signposting System

Visitors to the library will note that a new signposting system has been installed directing users to various parts of the collections and various services and facilities. The system is based on the HOSPLAN system, used in public hospitals. As the library has grown in physical size, collection size and the number of services offered, the need for such a system to guide users has become increasingly necessary.

Jim Cleary and Elizabeth Guilford.

Living in a Global Greenhouse

On June 9 and 10, the Board of Environmental Studies and the Hunter Environmental Institute will present a series of public workshops entitled Living in a Global Greenhouse: Seeking Solutions, at the University.

The focus of the workshop will be on public participation with the major purpose to raise public awareness about the greenhouse-gas warming problem and to discuss possible solutions.

There will be five workshops, repeated three times in two-hour blocks, to allow participants to attend more than one workshop. Workshop topics are coastal planning and development; social and urban problems; agriculture, forests and natural ecosystems; education; and can greenhouse-gas effects be limited?

Participants are encouraged to register early in order to have a place in their first choice of workshop. There are already over 50 participants registered, with a total registration expected to be well over 100.

A brochure containing registration form and further information can be obtained from the Department of Community Programmes or Dr H.A. Bridgman, C/- the Department of Geography.
The University needs YOU! The current Grievance Advisers (ranks thinned by some resignations) have completed their term of office and new people are needed.

The role of the Grievance Adviser is to assist people to resolve discriminatory (or potentially discriminating) work situations by assisting them in accordance with the principles set out in the University Grievance Procedures. Training will be offered to those expressing interest, and the final panel of advisers will be selected by a committee of six people with the Director of Affirmative Action in the Chair. Once selected, your term will last for three years, but you are free to resign at any time, of course, if it becomes difficult for you to continue.

The Grievance Procedures require that in addition to the EEO Co-ordinator, the panel of advisers shall include at least two members of general staff, and at least two students. Current Grievance Advisers are eligible to re-nominate. This is a good opportunity for you to be of some service to your fellow employees, and therefore to the University. With amalgamation just ahead, we will have particular need of some wise and sensible people to help with the adjustment. Please indicate your interest by writing to the EEO Unit. You will be notified in due course of the proposed dates for the training sessions which will be held in work time.

Susan M. Jones, EEO Co-ordinator

Members of the University will be interested to know of a recent successful appeal by a member. The Promotions Review Committee upheld her appeal against the appointment of another person to a position that she (the appellant) had in substance been filling for some time. As this Committee is known to have a history of rejecting appeals we feel that the new Chairperson, Mr Sid Wells, has revitalised one avenue available to staff unhappy with job application/promotion decisions.

Keyboard/clerical integration

Negotiations on the introduction of an integrated classification for clerical, keyboard, and administrative staff are entering a new and hopefully constructive phase. A new working group has been set up including representatives from the Staff Services and General Staff Associations. The PSA is aware of the anxieties felt by staff affected by the proposals and we are hopeful that this working group will resolve the inherent difficulties in integrating the classifications concerned.

Amalgamation

Members of the HIHE/University PSA Representative Committee staged a protest at the meeting held on May 18 of the AIC Administrative Structures Working Group. We were concerned that the ASWG was about to endorse its own report without reference to staff and forward it to the AIC. As a result, representatives of the ASWG met with delegates from the PSA Representative Committee on May 25 to discuss placement of staff and other issues.

The PSA had lodged an industrial dispute over the lack of consultation and provision of information by the AIC Working Groups (with the exception of Industry Relations Working Group). This dispute was heard on May 23 by Commissioner Mills. As a result of the compulsory conference he ordered between the University and the PSA representatives (Mr Giles Martin and Ms Judy Wallam), Mr Mills was told that Messrs Foster and Covill would put to the AIC that each of the AIC's Working Groups have two union delegates.

Susan McDonald, Chairperson
Greta Davies, Honorary Secretary

Have you heard about the Old Wares Shoppe Yet?

We stock a variety of oak and other furniture. There are shelves stacked with bric-a-brac and collectables also crystal and glassware. It's an experience that won't break your budget. Remember — the Old Wares Shoppe, 3 Beaumont Street, Islington.

It's worth a look!!
DIARY OF EVENTS

Friday, June 9, 9 am to 5 pm

Friday, June 9, 8.30 am to 5 pm

Wednesday, June 14, Noon

Thursday, June 15, 9 am to 5 pm
Decision-making Seminar (for personal, organisational and staff development). Presenter: Mr Roger Baxter. Enquiries 68 5600.

Friday, June 16, 9 am to 5 pm

VACANCY

Research Officer — Newcastle University Students’ Representative Council

Applicants must be interested and well informed in student issues, and must be able to write reports quickly and concisely.

The position is ideal for a student who is politically aware and who also possesses a good working knowledge of the University’s governing bodies.

For further information, please contact Alison Kinder at the SRC Office in the Union Building. Telephone 68 1281 or Extension 329.

Advertisements

For Sale
Sakal Electric Guitar with amplifier in good condition. Asking price: $150 or near offer. Please telephone 26 2907.

JAZZ BAND BALL

THURSDAY
June 29 8 ’til late
UNIVERSITY UNION, N’C’LE.

PROCEEDS TO
2NUR BUILDING APPEAL

$20 EA.

TICKETS:
Uni. 2nd-hand book shop.
049 68 3717 ext.17
or 2NUR 68 5713 b.h.

Wanted to exchange

Willing to exchange three bedroom house in East Finchley, London, plus car for similar house and in Newcastle for five weeks c&mencing December 17, 1989. Please telephone 63 5812 for further information.

Position Wanted

Gina Campbell would like to type theses, reports, occasional papers etc. Please telephone 43 2869.

Blues Dinner

The annual Dinner for presentation of University Blues, Sports Union Colours and Sportsperson-of-the-Year awards will be held in the University Union on Friday, July 28 at 6.45 for 7.15 pm.

Guest speaker for the occasion is Brian O’Shea, former Lecturer in Commerce and now Rugby Co-ordinator for the Australian Institute of Sport.

Staff and students of the University are invited to attend the Dinner and may purchase tickets from the Sport and Recreation Office (after June 12).

7 WEEKS TO BOOK FAIR, July 22 to 29