The University of Newcastle was established as an autonomous institution in 1965. The triennia since have brought considerable progress with buildings and students and staff numbers, but one of the most significant developments was delayed until this year. Work on the first stage of this project, a Hall providing students and staff members of the University with living accommodation on the site, was partially concluded on 4th June, 1972.

Stage 1 of the Hall consists of three buildings—an amenities block and two residential buildings. A residential building with 111 accommodation places opened on 4th June and the second residential building, with 72 places, will be opened after the August vacation.

At first, applications for places in the Hall were received at a slow rate, because many out of town students had found accommodation at the start of the academic year. Nonetheless, the Hall was 90% full when the Gazette went to press.

The Hall is available also to graduates and members of the public in University vacations when bedrooms and eating facilities can be hired for every kind of purpose—from conferences to overnight accommodation for tourists.

The first Warden of the University’s first Hall of Residence is Dr. Michael Blackmore, who, at 28, is probably the youngest Hall Principal in Australia. A quietly-spoken man, Dr. Blackmore originally came from Queen’s University, Belfast, Northern Ireland. He immigrated to Australia in 1966 and was on the academic staff at La Trobe University when he took on part-time duties at that University’s residential College, Menzies. He holds a Ph.D. in Inorganic Chemistry and, additionally, is attached to the teaching staff of the Department of Chemistry. Dr. Blackmore lives at Edwards Hall with his wife and considers that he can use his residency and his age to the Hall’s advantage.

He says: “A hall principal must be available to speak to the residents at all reasonable times. By living in, I have to face the same problems as the students. Youth is an advantage since it was not many years ago that I was a University student, and I am still a long way from wanting to withdraw and retire from certain University activities.”

Asked what quality he regarded as singularly most important for a Hall of Residence, he said: “Co-operation. Every member of the Hall is required to behave in such a way that no offence, inconvenience or disturbance is caused to any other member of the Hall, or to any person employed directly or indirectly by the Hall. Noise should be minimised in a community consisting of people who are often studying.”

Externally the Hall is governed by an Interim Board of Trustees, appointed by the University Council and including two students. As regards internal government, the residents voted for the drafting of a constitution for an association to “exercise, administer and control activities of common concern to the members.”

Everyone of the applicants for residence is personally interviewed by the Warden. “This is important as a means of removing any suggestion that the Hall is anonymously controlled, and it also lays a path for personal representations by residents,” Dr. Blackmore said.

How much does it cost the students to live in Edwards Hall? The weekly residential fee during term is $24 and for this amount the undergraduate gets a serviced single bed/study room, membership of a community in which there is a fairly constant cross-fire of academic dialogue and admission to special tutorials at which assistance is given with University courses by four residential subwardens.

In addition, the fee permits the resident to have 16 meals per week in the communal dining hall. Dinner and breakfast are provided every day and lunch on Saturdays and Sundays. The menu gives one the impression that only high-class restaurants in Newcastle could do better.

The Hall has already been used as a place of accommodation for delegates to conferences and some officers of the University have been guests for dinner. As a result, it has been shown to be a collection of attractive brick buildings nicely set near the University’s very green Sports Fields.

Architecturally speaking, the most impressive building is the Amenities Building. The dining hall inside this building holds about 450 people. On entering the dining hall one is struck by the polished parquetry floor and the ceiling, which consists of pieces of wood arranged in a scalloped pattern. Windows run from ceiling to floor and a carpeted stage is overlooked by a large University shield. The serving of meals in the cafeteria style tends to become tedious, so twice a week meals are brought to the tables by waitresses.

The hallways of the two residential blocks are carpeted and heated. The original plans called Part of one of the two residential blocks of Edwards Hall (left) and the Amenities building.
The First Hall of Residence at the University was named Edwards Hall in recognition of Dr. G.A. Edwards' part in the development of the University.

Dr. Edwards has been Deputy Chancellor since 1966. He holds the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science of the University of Oxford and is affiliated with the Royal Institute of Chemical Engineers and the Royal Institute of Chemistry. He was posted to Australia as Managing Director of Courtaulds (Aust.) Ltd.'s plant at Tomago.

The Vice-Chancellor (Professor Auchmuty), said in a speech given by Dr. Edwards to assist the university to develop as a new and autonomous teaching and research institution has been long and noteworthy. Originally a member of the Newcastle University College Advisory Committee, he was appointed to the University of New South Wales to its first Council, and contributed much to its work in preparing the way for independence. He succeeded the late Mr. Lyon McLarty as Chairman of the Board of Studies and is now the first Chairman of the newly independent University Council. In 1966 he received the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science.

The Federal Government's policy is that residential halls at Universities are intended to be self-supporting, a political fact of life that has consequences for need finance apart from resident fees.

Dr. Blackmore says: "If the University is to be in a position to reduce the residential fees and buy extra facilities for the students, it must earn revenue from such external sources as conferences, wedding receptions and the tourist trade. It may ask any legitimate external source. Therefore, we hope that the Hall will be busier in vacations than during term."

DEGREES CONFERRED

The University's graduation day on Friday, 17th March, was the last (unless something unforeseen happens) to be held in Newcastle City Hall. In future, degrees will be conferred in the Great Hall at the University.

The City Hall held capacity audiences of families and friends of graduates at both the morning and afternoon graduation ceremonies. The Chancellor, for Alister McPhail, administered the certificates to his degree after they had been presented to him by the Deans of the respective faculties.

At the morning ceremony degrees were conferred in the Faculty of Arts, and degrees in the Faculties of Applied Science, Agriculture, Economics and Commerce, Engineering, Mathematics and Science were conferred in the afternoon.

The occasions were addressed by the Vice-Chancellor (Professor Auchmuty) and the Chairman of the Australian Atomic Energy Commission, Sir Philip Baxter (australian c e n t e r )

The Chancellor and members of the University Council gave a reception for the graduates in the Union on the night preceding Graduation Day and following the ceremonies the Graduation Hall was conducted by Convocation in the City Hall.

Occasional address delivered by Professor Auchmuty:

It is a tremendous pleasure on behalf of the University to congratulate so many Arts Graduates and to welcome so many of their friends and relations to this impressive ceremony—ceremony which we hope will be even more impressive when we meet in our own Great Hall on our Shortland site next year. We are all grateful of this public opportunity to recognize the abilities and success of our new members.

Convocation who held their own private moments of satisfaction when the original results were announced but today are publicly associated with our pride and joy in their achievement. A Graduation Ceremony is one of the signs that a University is achieving its purpose, or at least one of its purposes and one which is most easily measurable and recognizable by the general public.

At the two ceremonies today no less than 409 degrees at all levels and in all faculties have been or will be conferred; but as you can calculate from your programme there are no less than 219 graduates in the Faculty of Arts, 204 at the Bachelor Level, seven at the Masters and 3 Graduating as Doctors of Philosophy. This points to the remarkable recent development of the University and to the importance not only of the work done by so many talented students...
We have heard a good deal recently, both here and overseas, of the over-production of university graduates, and of their difficulty in finding employment. As a person who graduated in 1925, in England, when graduate employment opportunities were virtually non-existent, I can both understand this problem, and not be unduly concerned about it. The situation is improving. To any country based in science and engineering will, I believe, have no permanent difficulties though they will have to adapt to a rather different market. I recall that after graduating with first class honours, the University Medical Doctorate, I went into industry and spent a considerable time on shift work on the firing platform of a coal fired cement kiln. We worked seven shifts a week and sixteen hours at the changeover. It was dirty and unpleasant, but it did me a world of good, and I learned things I have never forgotten.

Today we are not likely to be so hard, but some real experience will not hurt anybody.

You can be sure the pendulum will swing back. Our future depends upon people who can practice in science and technology, and no temporary depression can alter this. Although, because of the intense specialization in their courses, today's graduates will have had very limited time with people in the science-based faculties - I think that those present this afternoon have some idea of what the University is doing in those all-important areas - I am very encouraged to see the excellent work which the University is doing in these all-important areas.

I am reminded of an occasion in the early days when Newcastle University had a guest speaker. At that time, there was a movement in Newcastle by people who considered that what was wanted was a university. They felt that they might grow out of the College, which was being developed by the University of Technology. The then Bishop was chairman of the governors. This desire was shared by many competent people in many countries, including number in Australia, where the Bishop prophesied that Newcastle would face his greatest crisis somewhere between 20 and 30 years from now. This will be a crisis of the type produced by events in which the man and overriding and one of the biggest concerns of world population history, will go from 3.5 billion now to 8 billion by the turn of the century, and, if not interrupted temporarily, probably by 2050. Parallel with this growth of population is the development in the affluent countries of consumption and materialism. It is clear, for example, of which the United States of America is a prime example, or of which the United Kingdom is a less vivid example, that the world is consuming food products of increasing nutritive value, and these are augmented by products and dispersed in large quantities in the agricultural and industries and in malaria control, but these are extremely complex problems. In particular, there are those overpopulation will improve. In any case, graduates finding employment. A a person who graduated with first class honours in science in their disciplines will have read enough of the current concern that the University of Newcastle, not withstanding the immediate problem of malnutrition, can be brought about by many complicated factors which lie ahead. The role we can play is not so great and we should seek to do both.

Nevertheless, the intelligent and planned development of our country and its resources, their contribution to a world-wide scheme of activity both to support a sensible number of people. It is very likely that much food and such goods and food as we can to people in the rest of the world, will depend primarily upon the availability of people competent in the application of science to determine these duties. We have nothing to fear from the intelligent and understanding government.

We have seen much of Australia being developed scientifically and organized with foreign organizations, with food and materials to which we are so well adapted. For us to develop our own heritage requires respect for other things than has been the case. It is likely that it is essential to supply sufficient Australian scientists in science - graduates in science and technology at the beginning of our country and its resources, which the availability of people competent in the application of science to determine these duties. We have nothing to fear from the intelligent and understanding government.

The second role which we must consider is this. If the world is overtaken by disaster, say famine and disease on a scale greater than the Black Death, with complete breakdown of social order in many places, then Australia may prove to be a refuge for many people, and if Australia is not overpopulated, although we are not oversupplied, we are probably increasing our population at some time or other. On the other hand, the use of DDT has enabled vast amounts of additional food to be produced and we must remember that these methods are quite labour-saving, and large numbers of people have avoided death by starvation as a result of the use of DDT. If properly applied, this control has probably saved millions of lives and eliminated gross malnutrition and suffering in many countries. In a world disaster, we have an opportunity of being a reservoir of wide sanitary knowledge and from which we may rescue our many problems, as we can to people in the rest of the world.

The Chancellor admitted the following to the students in the science-based faculties - I think that those present this afternoon have some idea of what the University is doing in these all-important areas - I am very encouraged to see the excellent work which the University is doing in those all-important areas.

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THE GAZETTE

AUGUST, 1972

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Elizabeth Anne Coomans (Mathematics - Honours Class I and University Medal); Geoghegan (Mathematics - Honours Class II); Vogt-Jorgensen (Mathematics - Honours Class I and University Medal); Roy (Mathematics - Honours Class II); O'Keefe (Mathematics - Honours Class I); Edward Keith Campb-ll (Physics - Honours Class I); David Ross (Geology - Honours Class I); Joan Francis McCann (Chemistry - Honours Class I); Steve Maloney (Chemistry - Honours Class I and University Medal); George Paul Born (Chemistry - Honours Class II); Bronwyn Scott Thomas (Chemistry - Honours Class II); David John Whitfield (Geology - Honours Class I); David William Bewley (Geology - Honours Class II, Division I); Dalley (Geology - Honours Class II, Division II); Bonnie Bunting, Kenneth James Brown, Dale Andrew Carrey, Raymond George Dowies, Michael Gordon, Graeme Davidson, Philip John Dennis, Ann Dinnin, Graeme Dobson, Richard William Donohue, Anne Fraser, Bernard Shirley Gosling, Vincent John Hall, Paul Geoffrey Harrington, Carolyn Heath, Anne Lynndall Henderson, Ann Jarvis, Susan Keld, Karen Franklyn Leah, Gregory Thomas Meredith, Paul Owen Melphem, Patricia Louise Bond, Rodrick Rodolph, Elizabeth Shewan, Roma Binti Sitiq, Charles Louis Spoolstra, Mary Susikotan, Barbara Weatherstone, Danny Brawne, Elzabeth Fiegen, Beverley Edenil, F. Philip, and E. Phillipson.

Diploma in Industrial Engineering


PRIZES

Applied Science


Architecture

Board of Architects of New South Wales Prize: David J. Stafford. James Hardie Prize in Architecture: David J. Stafford. The New South Wales Institute of Architects (Newcastle Division) Prizes in - Year 1 or Stage 1: Carol A. Seymour. Year 2 or Stage 2: David J. Stafford, Colin A. C. Filmer. Year III or Stages 3 and 4: Alan J. Butler. Year IV or Stage 5: Ewa bin Maharaj.

Arts


PRIZES

Chemistry


Diploma in Industrial Engineering


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Arts


PRIZES

Chemistry

The University was host for Rugby and Rowing Inter-Varsity Competitions in May. Rugby matches were played in Newcastle, but the Manning River was selected as the venue for rowing events. R. Wilkinson, R. De Tuer and T. Angus T. Angus was selected in Combined Universities Rugby Fifteen. The Chancellor went to Taree to present the trophies for the rowing competitions.

The Inter-Varsity Badminton Contest was held in Tasmania and Newcastle Men's and Women's teams were each placed second. Alison Smith, Gwendra Thomas, K.H. Wei and S.H. Goh were selected in the Combined Universities team.

Brent Cooper, a member of the University's men's basketball team, was chosen to play for Combined Universities when Melbourne University hosted Inter-Varsity teams.

Judy Walters was named to play in the Combined Universities Hockey team and Paul Harrison, Trevor Leeden and Harry Alléus were selected in the Combined Eastern Zone Australian Rules team.

Professor H.M. Lieberstein, who is attached to the Faculty of Mathematics, organised a session also on "Pollution: Engineering and Scientific Solutions" held in Tel Aviv, Israel, in June. He also attended an international conference on water pollution research in Jerusalem.

Father Guiseppe Tejon, a Spaniard, has taken up his appointment at Catholic Chaplain to the University. He holds a theology degree in St. Theresa of Avila College, Spain, a B.Lit. degree in the University of Oxford and a Doctorate of Philosophy degree in the University of Manila. Father Tejon belongs to the Dominican Order.

The Vice-Chancellor expressed deep regret when the deaths occurred in May of M.G. Harri, Senior Lecturer in Physics, and M.F.L. Ward, a former Senior Lecturer in Chemistry.

The Council of the University appointed Dr. M.J. King, B.A., Ph.D.(Oxld) currently an Associate Professor of Psychology at Macquarie University, to the newly created second Chair of Psychology.

Dr. King is a First Class Honours Graduate in Arts in the University of Queensland, where he also took his Certificate in Education and later proceeded to a Doctorate of Philosophy. He has had experience as a Primary and Secondary Teacher, as a Demonstrator in the University of Queensland, as a consultant Psychologist to the Australian Army and on the academic staffs of the Universities of Melbourne and Sydney and finally Macquarie University. He was Leverhulme Visiting Fellow at the University of Hong Kong in 1970.
The University was host to rowing and rugby teams from other universities for 1972 Inter-Varsity competitions. Newcastle and Macquarie are pictured playing above; N.S.W. and Sydney are seen below.

The University Library issued a record number of books to students and members of staff in 1971. The Assistant University Librarian (Reader Services), Miss J.E. Murray, reported that 96,930 books were taken out on loan in the year compared with 90,814 in 1970.

The university's enrollment increased this year, but not as significantly as in 1971. The student numbers are 3,758, an increase of five per cent over the enrollment for last year. Last year's tally was 3,571, an increase of 15 per cent compared with 1970.

Two eminent Historians accepted invitations to visit the University on 10th and 11th August. They are Professor Manning Clark, Professor of Australian History at the Australian National University, and Professor Joel Hurstfield, Astor Professor of English History at the University of London.

The University's No. 1 Squash team won the Newcastle and District Squash Racquets Autumn Competition. The team consists of Les Darcy, Terry McLennan, Cliff Hanna and John Pegg.

Mr. J.A. Lambert, formerly Senior Lecturer in Mathematics and Acting Director of the Computer Centre, was appointed Director of the Centre in April.

A small band of enthusiasts has begun to meet at the university regularly to bring to fruition their plans for the establishment of an Alpine Lodge on the Snowy Mountains. The National Parks and Wildlife Service is willing to lease land at Perisher Valley for use as a building site by a properly constituted club. The enthusiasts are members of staff and students who believe that it should be possible to organise in Newcastle a co-operative club with the objects of enabling members to ski, bushwalk, fish for trout and engage in other outdoor activities at Perisher.

Amendment of the University's Act created a second place on the Council for a member elected by undergraduates. As a result of an election last April, Miss Barbara Callcott (Engineering II) is serving as this member of the Council.

Biennial elections for membership of the Council were conducted in June and July, with five new members being elected. Professor B.D.O. Anderson was elected by Professors; Mr. C.J.A. Cornelius was elected by members of Convocation and Dr. Patricia Kirton and Mr. B.T. Lotan were elected by members of the Council themselves. Mrs. Barbara Lord was the only candidate forwarded by students and was declared elected.