The new Department of Biological Sciences will have its initial intake of first year students in 1973. However, these will not be its first students. Already two students have been enrolled in the Department as a part-time students working towards an M.Sc. qualification.

Although the Department anticipates a large intake of first year students next year, it does not yet have its own building. The Biological Sciences building has been designed and recently the initial work on its construction was begun. But it will not be ready until the 1974 student intake.

During 1973 the Department of Biological Sciences will be sharing facilities with the Department of Chemistry. Practical sessions will be given in the Chemistry I laboratories on the lowest level of the Chemistry building. Forty-eight students will undertake practical work at each session. The preparation and storage of materials required in the practical sessions will occur in the basement of the Chemistry building. At the present time storage units, tables, desks, chairs, etc., are being put into the basement of Chemistry in preparation for the activities to be seen there next year.

As well as utilising the area available in the Chemistry basement, the Department is also making use of the three laboratories at the rear of the Science Lecture Theatre. In these laboratories experimental material for the practical classes will be prepared, and also the academic staff members of the Department will be able to have some small amount of space in which to carry on their research activities.

The aim of the first year course in Biology is to provide a general framework upon which further biological knowledge can be built in the future. The course is designed to be appropriate to all university students, not just Science students, nor those students who will study Biology further.

One has only to reflect on some of the biological principles which have become common place in our daily lives during the last 50 years to recognise the necessity for an educated person to have an understanding of the basic principles in Biology. We have come to accept in our every-day life such things as blood transfusion, Rh groups, Rh disease of the new-born and its prevention, modern anaesthetics, tissue (both heart and kidney) transplantation, immunisation, antibiotics, food preservation, sterilization by gamma irradiation, animal and plant breeding leading to increased food production, artificial insemination, reproduction control etc. etc. At this stage it is impossible to forecast what biological principles will be adopted technologically into our daily lives in the next 50 years but, hopefully, the first year course will give the foundations for the understanding and appreciation of such adoption so that the students who undertake the course will better handle, and understand better, their daily lives.

The first year course of lectures will commence with a study of cells, the fundamental units of all organisms. Chemical reactions, which obtain energy for cells and which release energy for utilization, will be studied. These are the synthetic and metabolic reactions.

This will be followed by studying how cells are united into tissues and organs, and how the functions of different organs are coordinated by nervous and hormonal control. The principles involved in studying heredity and evolution will be dealt with, followed by the principles of ecology or the inter-relationships between organisms and their environments. Principles in microbiology and immunology will be studied.

The final series of lectures at the end of the year will deal with human biology, where it will be shown that the principles dealt with during the year as applying to diverse sorts of organisms apply equally well to man. A series of weekly practical sessions dealing with the same sorts of topics will be given, and it is anticipated that there will be a weekend field trip at some stage during the year.

The second and third year studies in Biology will be divided into two parts. It is envisaged that Biology IIA and IIIA will deal with biological studies where the units being studied are molecules or individual cells. Biology IIB and IIIIB will deal with studies of whole organisms and also populations.

There will be no subject such as the traditional ones of Botany and Zoology. Such a traditional breakdown of Biology tends to highlight differences between plants and animals, whereas our way of studying them will tend to highlight the similarities between plants and animals. The chemical reactions by which both plants and animals obtain energy for carrying out many different processes are fundamentally the same. The laws of heredity which control the breeding of plants and animals are fundamentally the same. When studying the interactions between organisms then the interactions between plants and animals are equally as important as between organisms of the same type.

At this stage it is not certain when the subjects Biology IIA, IIB, IIIA and IIIB will be introduced. Possibly, if sufficient students are interested in these subjects, they will be offered as from 1974. However, this depends on the amount of student demand for the subjects and also on the assessment of the role of Biological Sciences in the overall Science Faculty Course Programme. (The above ideas are my own, and at this stage have not even been put to the Board of the Faculty of Science for their comments. If there is insufficient student demand for courses in second year Biology to enable us to mount two viable second year Biology courses, then a course basically what is envisaged as Biology IIA will be the one introduced in 1974. The introduction of Biology IIB would then depend on development within the Department).

The staff so far appointed to the Department are:

Professor B. Boettcher, whose interests are in genetics and immunology, especially with regard to their application to humans;

Dr. R. Jones is at present in London doing post-doctoral research work in the field of reproductive physiology, with special emphasis on electron microscopy to study fine structural detail of spermatzoa;

Dr. J. Patrick is at present at Aberystwyth studying the uptake of nutrients by vascular plants;

Dr. R. Murdoch is at present at Sydney University as a post-doctoral fellow working on the biochemistry associated with reproduction, with particular emphasis on some of the enzymes involved.

Professor B. Boettcher
It is anticipated that an ecologist will be appointed to the staff in the near future, for whom the interests and capabilities of the staff members will permit him to give a well-balanced course along the lines set out above. All staff members will continue their research along their own lines of interest. It is anticipated that they will interact with people with similar interests in the local community; already Professor Boettcher is collaborating with staff members at the Royal Newcastle Hospital on research projects of mutual interest.

Professor Boettcher has received a grant from the Australian Research Grants Committee to continue some of his studies on Australian Aborigines in the Northern Territory, examining their tribal structure and how this is being influenced by the white man and the destruction of their tribal lands, which are being replaced by a smaller and localised government reserve.

At the present time Dr. Jones is in Africa studying animal reproduction extensively for zoos and nurseries into countries where the animal is used as a beast of burden. In Europe the number of elephant handlers killed during breeding seasons is exactly the same as the number of the bull elephants in captivity. It seems the bull elephants, during the breeding season, become unaware of what else is in their vicinity except the female, and hence a stray bull elephant's trunk, can suffer far more serious injuries than a stray female elephant's. This occupational hazard would be able to be avoided with the successful introduction of artificial insemination. In countries where the elephant is used for work, it is impossible to obtain work from the elephants during the breeding season. This causes a reduction in the work output and is economically wasteful.

Dr. Marriott's work is associated with attempting to make the reproduction of domestic animals such as sheep and cattle much more efficient, again with economic benefits. Dr. Marriott's work on the uptake and utilisation of nutrients by vascular plants also is in a field which has economic implications related to the artificial fertilisation of areas important for agriculture.

New students undertaking a science degree commonly look to see what vocational possibilities are there within their degree and are unclear whether they are undertaking. As with all science degrees, new students majoring in Biology are interested in knowing what opportunities there are for work following graduation. What is the best way for them to gain industry work experience?

New students attempting to undertake a science degree need to be made aware that there are many different career opportunities available to them. As Biology is a truly interdisciplinary discipline, involving a wide range of areas, from biological sciences, to medicine, veterinary science, and agriculture, there are many different career opportunities available to students.

The recommendations in the Fifth Report of the Committee are that in the future, the Department of Agriculture would ensure continued controlled development at the University of New South Wales through the Newcastle University College. He was assisting in the chair of Botany and in 1969, he was awarded the degree of B.S. in Economics. Dr. Ip holds the degrees of B.S., B.A., LL.B. (New South Wales) and Ph.D. (University of London). As a Post-doctoral Research Fellow at the University of Newcastle, he then spent several years on the research staff of the National Foundation for Educational Research before coming back to Australia as a Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Sydney in 1973. He has recently been appointed as a Research Professor of the University of Melbourne and is currently working on projects in the Department of Psychology.

The committee of the appointed University announced that Dr. Richard Lindgren, B.A. (N.S.W.), LL.B. (Lon­don), has been appointed as Professor of Mathematics. He holds the degrees of B.S., B.A., LL.B. (New South Wales). As an Associate Professor of the University of Edinburgh, he was recently appointed as a Lecturer in the Department of Mathematics. Dr. Ip has been appointed as Associate Professor of the University of Newcastle College of Science and Engineering, and in 1973, he was appointed as a Research Professor of the University of Melbourne. As a Post-doctoral Research Fellow at the University of Newcastle, he then spent several years on the research staff of the National Foundation for Educational Research before coming back to Australia as a Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Sydney in 1973. He has recently been appointed as a Research Professor of the University of Melbourne and is currently working on projects in the Department of Psychology.

The building grants recommended: Education/Sociology/Psychology, including additional accommodation for language teaching and research $1,130,000; Mathematics/Classroom block, to provide shared classroom accommodation of a minimum of 1,200 square feet; lecture, tutorial and seminar rooms, as well as to accommodate Research Assistant places, $1,060,000; Biological Sciences building, $720,000; Architecture extension, $250,000; and Equipment for Research Centre but with specified preparation areas for the Departments of Geology and Physics, $190,000.
CONVOCATION

The Standing Committee of Convocation is presently looking closely at the career opportunities available to graduates of the University of Newcastle. The investigation was prompted by reports from Sydney, which had discovered that the overwhelming majority of graduates were employed in teaching.

Mr. Flierer said the range of jobs available to Newcastle graduates was limited. Graduates themselves were depressed when they found they could not estimate jobs of their own choosing. A survey which Melbourne University had conducted showed that the five most financially rewarding professions in Victoria — dentistry, medicine, law, optometry and veterinary science — were not catered for at the university.

The Standing Committee elected Miss F. Burns and Messrs. J. Corneliers and E.J. Buckman to a sub-committee and asked them to look into the matter of ways in which the frustrations being experienced by graduates who were seeking careers could be solved.

Buckman later obtained information from the Secretary of the University of Sydney that the University of New South Wales had been able to address the problem. It was said that a committee had been formed to look at the problem and then had met to discuss the problem and attempts had been made to implement solutions. It was hoped that the committee would meet next week to discuss the problem again.

The Standing Committee decided to arrange for the speech notes to be made available for examination by members. The Committee decided to arrange for the speech notes to be made available for examination by members. The Committee decided to arrange for the speech notes to be made available for examination by members. The Committee decided to arrange for the speech notes to be made available for examination by members. The Committee decided to arrange for the speech notes to be made available for examination by members.

The Standing Committee approved the following procedures for the submission by Convocation members of proposals to the University Council:

1. A member or group of members must submit a written proposal to the Standing Committee;
2. Standing Committee, at its next meeting, will receive the proposal and hear representatives of the proposers;
3. Standing Committee members shall vote to accept or reject the proposal (a simple majority required);
4. Once carried, a Sub-Committee shall be formed to deal with the proposal. The Sub-Committee shall continue to represent the proposers, and the Standing Committee shall meet to consider the proposal made by the Sub-Committee;
5. The Standing Committee shall make recommendations to the University Council on the merits of each proposal;
6. The Standing Committee shall vote final approval of the proposal (a simple majority required);
7. Standing Committee shall meet to notify the University Council of the action of the University Council on the proposal, and to inform them about Convocation and its function.

We are able to exert real influence within this university. The letter states: "We are a self-governing body, with a Standing Committee elected each year by the members. We are empowered by the University to speak to its Council on any matter whatsoever. Thus we are able to exert real influence within the University, and, to some extent, the community, should we wish to do so."

The committee listened to a report on the scheme for the establishment of a student's hostel offering low-cost accommodation. Mr. G. Martin, representing the Newcastle University Students' Hostel Steering Committee, asked Convocation to support the scheme. The Committee decided to arrange for the speech notes to be made available for examination by members. The Committee decided to arrange for the speech notes to be made available for examination by members. The Committee decided to arrange for the speech notes to be made available for examination by members. The Committee decided to arrange for the speech notes to be made available for examination by members.

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A Course in Numerical Analysis aims to give the student sufficient experience in Mathematical Analysis to enable him either to use it effectively in scientific and technological computations or to undertake further courses that prepare him specifically for research in the subject. The book on Numerical Analysis was published by Harper and Row, of New York, and by the Academic Press, of New York and London.

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In the Preface Mr. Burke says the empirical study was undertaken to investigate the relation which guided the actions of Australian management with respect to capital budgeting decisions and other related issues. The study sought to test three matters. First, to determine whether the capital budgeting practices of overseas controlled firms operating in Australia are superior to firms owned locally. Second, business firms were classified by industry, the object being to try and determine what approach to capital budgeting was made by various industry groups and further, to see whether any differences may emerge as between different industry groups. Finally, firms were classified by size in an attempt to see whether size had any significant bearing upon the capital budgeting methods employed.
The Encyclopaedia of Geochemistry and Environmental Sciences, just off the presses of Longman, New York, contains articles by Asso. Prof. A. Ritchie and St. Asso. Prof. J. Warne, of the Department of Geology. The encyclopaedia has been written by 236 international authors and provides the most up to date data on geochemistry and the environmental sciences. Drs. S. St. J. Warne contributed eight articles and Professor Ritchie one.

New Theatre

The University’s Arts/Drama Theatre is expected to be completed by February, 1973, and in full operation as a venue for stage productions soon afterwards.

The Theatre, which will have a seating capacity of 250, will be air-conditioned cost approx. $200,000 and be equipped with dressing rooms, projection, box, ticket box, stage manager’s booth and basement workshops and excellent stage lighting, sound and communication systems.

It will embody two main sections - the Auditorium (with tiered seating) and Stage/ Dressing Rooms. The space under the stage auditorium section has been developed for use as a workshop (scenery shop and other stage equipment can be stored there); a 16 mm projector will be installed; seats will have writing tablets for note-taking when the theatre serves as a lecture hall and these will fold out of the way for stage productions.

The theatre will have a stage 75 feet wide and 25 feet deep, with a proscenium: 30 feet by 25 feet deep, with a proscenium: 30 feet by 25 feet deep, with a proscenium: 30 feet by 25 feet deep, with a proscenium: 30 feet by 25 feet deep, with a proscenium: 30 feet by 25 feet deep, with a proscenium: 30 feet by 25 feet deep, with a proscenium: 30 feet by 25 feet deep, with a proscenium: 30 feet by 25 feet deep, with a proscenium: 30 feet by 25 feet deep, with a proscenium: 30 feet by 25 feet deep, with a proscenium: 30 feet by 25 feet deep, with a proscenium: 30 feet by 25 feet deep, with a proscenium: 30 feet by 25 feet deep, with a proscenium: 30 feet by 25 feet deep. An amplifier, sound mixer, tape deck and record player will be installed in the booth, together with stage and auditorium dimmers. During a dramatic production the stage manager will be able to control lighting and communications with dressing rooms and projection booth from his office in the wings. While lectures are in progress spotlights will be able to operate the lights and sound system from the lectern at the front of the stage. Inter-house phones will connect the projection booth, the ticket box and dressing rooms.

The theatre will be used by University departments as well as by students for lectures between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

After lecturing hours the theatre will primarily be used for the teaching of drama, language and literature in the University, but it is hoped that it will also be possible for other bodies, both in Newcastle and elsewhere, to make use of the theatre from time to time for stage productions, musical recitals, film screenings and other cultural activities.

Applications for bookings the theatre should be addressed to the Secretary, University of Newcastle, 2308. Enquiries about the theatre and its facilities should be addressed to Professor A. M. Gibbs, Chairman of the Theatre Committee, the University.

The projection booth at the rear of the seating area will be the main control point for sound and lighting in the theatre. As an amplifier, sound mixer, tape deck and record player will be installed in the booth, together with stage and auditorium dimmers. During a dramatic production the stage manager will be able to control lighting and communications with dressing rooms and projection booth from his office in the wings. While lectures are in progress spotlights will be able to operate the lights and sound system from the lectern at the front of the stage. Inter-house phones will connect the projection booth, the ticket box and dressing rooms.

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NEW DEPARTMENT

The University Council gave its consent to the establishment of a new department at the University to be called the Department of Community Programmes. The decision will make the University responsible for activities in the field of adult education for the first time.

The Vice-Chancellor said that the University would take over the staff and the work of the Department of Adult Education of the University of Sydney and develop this programme so that the University’s resources became relevant, and readily available to people in the community.

Since 1970 a Committee appointed by the Senate of the University had considered the contribution which the University could make to both adult education and community development. Two views of the relationship between the University and the community had been assessed.

The limited view of the University’s role in adult education saw it in terms of the extension of opportunity for members of the community to receive instruction, or near, the level of University undergraduate courses.

The wider perspective followed from an acceptance of the proposition that the resources of the University had relevance to the community and should be readily available. The University was now seen as having: A commitment to the promotion of intellectual values and their expression in the search for solutions to problems; a pool of specialised knowledge; a capacity for undertaking research and development on a wide range of problems having immediate interest to the community; a community which was interested in theatre music and arts and facilities for the promotion of this interest.

Members of staff of the Department of Adult Education of the University of Sydney who are at present stationed in Newcastle (one Senior Lecturer, two Lecturers and two Secretaries) would be offered appointments in the new Department of Community Programmes without any loss of salary and with existing entitlement to long service and study leave.

The University had recognised its obligation to continue to provide courses in conjunction with the Workers’ Educational Association. At present Sydney University cooperated with the W.E.A. to present 26 courses a year, the Department of Adult Education being responsible for academic aspects and the W.E.A. for publicity, enrolments, collection of fees and the provision of facilities.

Professor Auchmuty said that the minimum academic staff numbers of the Department of Community Programmes would be four, including a Director whose salary would be in a range from Associate Professor to Professor.

SPORTING NEWS

Accapad (Accounts, Bursar’s and Planner’s) went in first and made 150 runs to defeat Arts which scored 103, in the final of the Inter-faculty Cricket competition at University Oval on 10th December. For Accapad, the highest scorers were S. Roxby (38), R. Swetnam (35) and G. Searles (27). T. Ryan took 2-21 and B. Murphy 2-28. Arts’ best batsman was B. Murphy, who scored 33, C. Ware accumulated 15 and R. Laidlaw 13, R. Goodbody captured 3 wickets for 28 and M. Edmonds 2 for 24.

The University has established a Board of Community Programmes responsible to the Senate and consisting of about 25 people, including two representatives of the W.E.A. and three community representatives.

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The University’s Orienteering Teams turned in outstanding performances last August to win the Intervarsity competitions. The women’s team (Jill Marquet, Roslyn Ellis and Rhonyn Eason) won Silver Boot and the men’s team (Laminos Kavaliers and Ray Dawes) was awarded the Gold Boot.

Staff was successful against Students in the annual golf match for the Vice-Chancellor’s trophy held at Newcastle golf links on 10th September, 1972.

Work on the construction of No. 2 Oval is progressing and the new playing field is expected to be ready for sporting activities in the summer of 1973-74. The sports field is an oval in shape, with 630 and 430-feet diameters, and provides facilities for athletics. All works associated with the project are estimated to cost approximately $60,000.

University Basketball club performed well last year after two years’ inactivity. In the local competition, all four men’s teams (A, B, C and CR grades) reached the semi-finals, while two women’s teams (A, BR grades) only narrowly missed out on the semis.

University’s senior Rugby League team won the Newcastle Second Division premiership by defeating Cardiff 15-11 at the International Sports Centre on 24th September, 1972.