GREAT HALL OPENED

The Great Hall of the University, which serves a number of University and public purposes, was officially opened at a ceremony in the hall on 28th November.

The Governor (Sir Roden Cutler), who has been Visitor of the University since 1966, performed the opening ceremony.

The occasion was also marked by the conferring of honorary degrees on the Deputy Chancellor (Mr. Bede Bertrand Callaghan) and Alderman Frank Outen Jensen Purdue, both of whom have had long associations with Newcastle and the university.

Reference was made to Ald. Purdue's meritorious efforts to have the public appeal for funds for the construction of the Great Hall brought to fruition successfully.

The gathering was attended by more than 700 people who represented the various categories of subscribers to the public appeal – Federal and State Governments, students, parents of students, members of staff, graduates, citizens, professional organisations, industrial and commercial concerns, councils, semi-government undertakings, trade unions, service groups and others.

The proceedings included items by the "Chromaticca", a woodwind septet.

The Chancellor (Sir Alister McMullin) presided and admitted Mr. Callaghan and Ald. Purdue to their honorary degrees.

The Vice-Chancellor, who introduced the Governor, said:

"This is obviously a proud and happy day for the University of Newcastle and we are very pleased that your Excellency, not only our Visitor as Governor of New South Wales, but also one of our own Doctors, should be with us to share our celebrations. It is the responsibility
The Great Hall is the soul of the University. It should be the most memorable feature of the site, reminiscent of great occasions - examinations, graduations, public and artistic ceremonies. The Great Hall, with the Library and the Union, should, together, form the core of our university life. The latter two are basic essentials without which no university can exist and so are a fundamental charge on the State. The Great Hall is not so much an essential as a sign of independence and maturity, and, hence, properly a co-operation project. Not only is it the first step in the long journey towards a great university, it is an essential part of the whole and gives character and a sense of independence to the university. The years have not often been accepted by a Governor of the State, and the custom has therefore been largely in the hands of the Liberal-Country Party coalition at Federal level. This does not, however, detract from the main purpose, to provide for the educational needs of the community and, consequently, the other buildings you can see in the background were financed largely from government monies. But this Great Hall is different. When the struggle for an independent university was at its height in the early 1960s, the demand grew that the people of Newcastle and the Hunter Valley should prove their interest in the idea of a university by supplementing in some way the basic support any university must obtain from government via the taxpayers.

Mr. B.B. Callaghan, and Alderman F.J. Purdue, with whom we hope to continue to work together in the future, will be the immediate successors of the Lord Mayor's Newcastle University Committee. Today, I am happy to welcome a new Lord Mayor, Mr. Allman Anderson, who in his other capacity as Treasurer, has done so with equal enthusiasm accepted his predecessor's commitment, and I am sure that by your attendance today in order to declare the building officially open you are emphasising your own support at our time of need. The Mayors of our towns and cities, and also the Federal Members of Parliament, have all co-ordinated for us by the University Administration, with the Foyer which you will seat 120 people. Whilst there is a Coffee Bar, the kitchen is so small that it will not be possible to cook any catering within the building, and whilst the hall has been ideally adapted to major musical events, as I hope you have felt this afternoon, we will also be able to hold many other social occasions. The coffee room forms an excellent place where many new graduates are already parents. What has impressed me most, of course, is the spaciousness of this main hall - almost medieval in its grandeur with the ceiling 65 feet above the floor at its highest point.

"It is a sign of the Great Hall's long period of gestation that there have been changes over the years in the Lord Mayoralty, but it is a particular pleasure to record that the one and only permanent member of the Lord Mayor's Newcastle University Committee has been yourself, Your Excellency, and I am sure that by your attendance today in order to declare the building officially open you are emphasising your own support at our time of need. The Mayors of our towns and cities, and also the Federal Members of Parliament, have all co-ordinated for us by the University Administration, with the Foyer which you will seat 120 people. Whilst there is a Coffee Bar, the kitchen is so small that it will not be possible to cook any catering within the building, and whilst the hall has been ideally adapted to major musical events, as I hope you have felt this afternoon, we will also be able to hold many other social occasions. The coffee room forms an excellent place where many new graduates are already parents. What has impressed me most, of course, is the spaciousness of this main hall - almost medieval in its grandeur with the ceiling 65 feet above the floor at its highest point."

"Truly the university is no longer a body without a place but a part of the living city. Our task is to ensure unity of purpose between the two. In the midst of a most attractive natural environment, which has been largely created and maintained by the people of this City, the University can take pride and a Great Hall which will forever remember those who have worked and studied here."

The University has always been a source of interest to the public and a deep sense of the honour you have done us by your attendance that I now invite Your Excellency, and the members of the University Committee, to declare the hall officially open; through the back of your seats we have the building dedicated further to invite us all to a plaque commemorating the occasion of the opening."
My Chancellor, I present to you Bede Callaghan, Professor of Mathematics, physicist, economist, scientist, and author, who has been invited to express on behalf of Dr. I. Cuinea and myself the sentiments of the Commonwealth and state governments, the University of Newcastle and the people of this state and the nation as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Bede Callaghan's birth.

Mr. Callaghan has a long and fruitful association with the University. He was appointed to the position of Research Associate in the first quinquennium of the University in 1919 and has been a member of the staff ever since.

In looking at Mr. Callaghan's distinguished career in banking and public life, his experience is outweighed in novelty, as several successive years, in the University and the world of government and industry. It was interesting to note that it was not only Sydney which took pride in these occasions, but the whole of New South Wales.

I do not believe there is any university in the world which has been as fortunate as the University of Newcastle in having had in its association a man of Mr. Callaghan's outstanding abilities, not only because of his personal qualities and his great public service, but also because of the influence he has had on the University.

Mr. Callaghan has been a member of the Board of Governors of the University since 1946, and has been President of the Board of Governors since 1950. He has served on many other committees of the University, and has been a director of many other organizations.

Mr. Callaghan's contributions to the University have been many and varied. He has been a member of the University's Board of Governors, a member of the University's Council, a member of the University's Senate, a member of the University's Finance Committee, a member of the University's Research Committee, and a member of the University's Development Committee.

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The University is to be the venue for the next Australian University Graduate Conference, which will be held at Swansea. The conference will act as host for the Conference, which will bring together representatives of all graduate bodies and alumni associations from universities throughout Australia.

In January 1970 the founder organisation - the Australian Federation of University Graduates - was dissolved in favour of the Australian University Graduate Conference. It was important to note that there was no break in continuity between the two organisations, nor was there any alteration to the objectives. The purpose of the change was to establish a loose constitutional arrangement for A.U.G.C., enabling some of the statutory graduate bodies throughout Australia to associate with A.U.G.C. Although they had been anxious to join A.U.G.C., several graduate organisations had been unable to do so because of constitutional difficulties.

In June 1967, the Federation published the first edition of "Graduate Organisations in Australia", the first occasion on which such information had been widely published. The booklet provided existing graduate organisations with an understanding of the formal structure of their organisations. In some cases, the same time, it gave an explanation of the variety of structures and procedures cited, with varying meaning to such graduate organisations. The booklet was very well received by constituent organisations, with the Australian Federation of University Women, participating in its activities.

The objects of the Conference are to encourage Australian Graduate Organisations which had a very high proportion of women participation to the American Annual Meeting. The American Annual Meeting in 1973 featured a seminar on the topic "The Role of the University in Society". The 1973 Annual Meeting in Brisbane included a discussion on a question "Whither Tertiary Education?" at which the principal speaker was the new Federal Minister for Education, the Hon. K.E. Beazley.

The A.U.G.C. has subsequently published the proceedings of both these seminars. Arrangement are now proceeding for the next Annual Meeting, which will be held at the University of Newcastle on the Australia Day Weekend in January 1974.

1973. From the outlet, the Federation sought to establish cordial relations with all bodies in Australia which might have an interest in the activities of the Federation. In particular, it conducted correspondence with the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee, the Australian Universities Commission, the National Union of Australian University Students, the Federation of Australian University Staff Associations, and the Australian Council for Educational Research. All these organisations were appointed to the Federation's constitution and aims and forwarded a copy of the booklet on "Graduate Organisations in Australia".

In 1966, a conference at the University of Tasmania represented the endorsement of the various organisations to establish the Conference. The Conference had developed time to its formulation of a constitution acceptable to all the organisations interested in the establishment of a Federation of Australian graduate organisations.

In January 1967, the first annual Council of the A.U.G.C. was held at Sydney University. This conference saw the emergence of certain broad lines of policy and areas of activity which the Federation immediately acted upon. In particular, it interested in the future. It was generally felt that the Federation had a major role to play in moving into the field of policy and to get away from the discussion of constitutional matters. In particular the Federal Council attended a seminar with the aims of an interest in matters of educational conversation, and to provide a loose arrangement of graduate organisations and universities in Australia.

Between September and November, 1972, the Newcastle Region saw its first systematic archaeological survey. Our early settlers was most generously given. Through the Swansea Channel, the site has been filled in with dark soil, which possibly the proceedings of both these seminars. Arrangement are now proceeding for the next Annual Meeting, which will be held at the University of Newcastle on the Australia Day Weekend in January 1974.

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NEW VICE-PRINCIPAL

The University Council has appointed Professor A.D. Tweedie Vice-Principal and a Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University to succeed Professor B. Newton-John, who intends to retire on 5th March next year.

The Vice-Chancellor said Professor Tweedie, an Honours Graduate from the University of New Zealand, who saw service during the war in the Royal New Zealand Navy, joined the staff of Newcastle University College as Senior Lecturer and Head of the Department of Geography in January, 1955, after service in the Universities of Otago and Queensland. He was promoted Associate Professor in 1961 and after advertisement was appointed first Professor of Geography at Newcastle at the end of 1964.

In 1965, Professor Tweedie was elected by his colleagues to be the first Deputy Chairman of Senate in the newly independent University and did much to lay down the standards and principles for Senate operation in the developing years. In 1969-70 he was Dean of the Faculty of Arts. During his time at Newcastle he has held visiting Professorial appointments at the University of Colorado and the California State University, Northbridge, and has represented Australia at a number of international conferences concerned with Geography in general and Water Resources in particular. Professor Tweedie is the author of a major work Water and the World, now in its third edition, and also of some 20 or more shorter books and articles in his field of specialization.

The Vice-Chancellor added that Professor Tweedie had also been active in the general life of the University, being at one time President of the Athletics Club, whilst on the National scene he has been President of the Institute of Australian Geographers and President of the Geographical Section of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the advancement of Science.

UNIVERSITY NEWS

At the General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union in Sydney in August, Professor C.S.L. Keay, of the Department of Physics, was elected Chairman of an international committee to investigate the establishment of a chain of automated meteor recording stations in different parts of the world.

October brought with it the 10th anniversary of computing services within the University. On 22nd October, 1963, an IBM 1620 computer was installed at Newcastle University College, Tighes Hill. This served the university until September, 1966, when an IBM 1130 was installed in the present computer room at the Shortland site, and the 1620 returned to IBM. In November, 1970, the system was upgraded with the installation of an ICL 1904A computer.

Mr. David Wallace, who is enrolled in the Faculty of Arts, has been elected President of the 22nd Students' Representative Council. Mr. Milorad Pavlovic was elected Honorary Secretary to succeed Miss Jan Chambers. Miss Barbara Calcutt was elected local A.U.S. Secretary.

The Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, appointed Mr. Leslie Gibbs, B.E.M., F.A.I.M., to the Council of the University. Mr. Gibbs succeeded as a member of the Council the late Dr. G.A. Edwards, former Deputy Chancellor of the university, who died last June.

Newcastle Flora and Fauna Protection Society made a donation of 50 Australian plants to express its support for the University's policy of retaining the natural character of the original site. The shrubs were planted by members of the Society in the precincts of the Great Hall.

The University of Newcastle's debating team quelled the University of Melbourne's team to become winner of this year's Inter-Varsity Debating Contest, conducted in the last week of the vacation at the University of Sydney. Milorad Pavlovic (Captain), Geoff Sheldon and Larry Galbraith won the title for this university for the first time ever.

The University of Newcastle was host from 16th to 19th August to a Women's Hockey team representing Combined Universities of New Zealand. On 17th, New Zealand defeated a Newcastle representative team, which included members of staff, Denise Markwell and Isabal Heath, by three goals to one. On 18th, New Zealand defeated the University of Newcastle by five goals to one at University Oval.

Peter Allan, an Electrical Engineering student, recorded the best individual score to win the University Open Golf Championships and trophy at Newcastle Golf Club on 16th September. The championships were held in conjunction with the annual Students' v. Staff match for the Vice-Chancellor's Trophy, which was again won by the Staff team.

University's First XV was beaten by The Waratahs in the 1973 District Rugby Union Final. However, the Reserve Grade team won through to the Grand Final, which they won against Merewether-Carlon 11-10.

University Squash Club was host to the British Universities Squash team, The Churchillians, in July. A large number of spectators saw The Churchillians defeat a Newcastle representative team and a University team by 5 rubbers to none and 4 rubbers to one respectively. The Churchillians were undoubtedly the best squash players ever seen at the University courts.