NEW BUILDING OPENED

The Mathematics/Classrooms building, which provides the Faculty of Mathematics with its own accommodation and the university with additional teaching areas, was officially opened at a ceremony held at the entrance to the building on 6th September.

Professor B.H. Neumann, of the Australian National University, who has been personally connected with the development of Mathematics at the university, performed the opening ceremony.

The occasion was marked by the conferring of an honorary degree of Doctor of Science on Professor Neumann.

The gathering was attended by about 150 people.

The Deputy Chancellor (Dr. B.B. Callaghan) presided, welcomed guests and admitted Professor Neumann to his honorary degree.

The Vice-Chancellor said:

"It naturally gives me very great pleasure to associate myself with the welcome you have extended on behalf of the university to our guests here this afternoon. First, I must apologize for the absence of the Chancellor, currently overseas, but he has expressed his complete confidence in the success of this afternoon's proceedings under the presiding genius of the Deputy Chancellor and after all it could be argued that the professional career of the Managing Director of the Commonwealth Banking Corporation gives a special degree of suitability to his distinguished position on a mathematical occasion.

"In the Newcastle context, whether in the original university college or in the independent university which evolved from a slowly developing background, the teaching of mathematics has always held a special place, but what was once primarily a teaching and servicing department has now developed into an independent faculty - the first faculty of mathematics in Australia - and has added to its teaching responsibilities major activities in research and discovery.

"It is a great pleasure to have with us today Dr. Rose, who, with his early colleagues, did so much to establish our distinction as a teaching department handling students from all faculties, offering major honours courses, first in the faculty of Arts in co-operation with the University of New England, and it is a particular pleasure to have our old friend Professor Smith here with us on this happy occasion. The changes which Dr. Rose has seen from the time when he personally represented 50% of the full-time staff to the contemporary situation, when he could almost be lost in the rush if the entire faculty appeared together, are tremendous and Professor Keats and his colleagues are to be congratulated on the possession of the first independent faculty as distinct from departmental buildings on the campus. Equally they can be congratulated on the fact that the building is of a size that it should be able to handle faculty development literally for the foreseeable future. These no doubt are dangerous words, but they certainly could not be risked about any other building on the campus, and for some years to come the new building will offer hospitality as a staging post for other developing departments. Whether there is any significance in the fact that staff in Drama and Linguistics are the first guests I do not know - primarily the choice is due to the current condition of our building programme.

"Professor Neumann, our distinguished guest, is about to declare open the first mathematical faculty building in Australia. But I must here make two points: in the first place the example of the University of Newcastle in creating a faculty of mathematics has been followed by several other Australian Universities, so if our faculty established as recently as December 1970 is first in our Australian context it is no longer unique; and secondly, the complex of buildings surrounding you includes not only the offices, laboratories and staff accommodation for mathematics, but also the main class room areas for the whole university and as a result we are looking forward to considerably improved teaching conditions throughout all faculties and not merely in that of mathematics.

"Teaching space is in fact provided for no less than 1,200 students at any one time, though I sincerely trust such a time will not arise if serious thought is given to the consequent traffic blocks if the whole 1,200 moved at the end of any single hour. In any case continuous use of individual class rooms throughout the 12 or more hours of the university's working day would be a tremendous health hazard so I think it will never be attempted; we used to be seriously troubled at the over use of our first large lecture theatre, that danger should no longer arise. In this new complex there are 6 lecture theatres each seating 121; 6 class rooms each housing 48 students; 8 general seminar rooms; 4 mathematics seminar rooms and 6 research laboratories. For the faculty of mathematics there is accommodation for an academic
THE GAZETTE
SEPTEMBER, 1974

staff of 46 together with two general offices, and the seminar rooms and research laboratories previously mentioned. Members of the faculty will hardly know themselves in their new found freedom after previous construction in guests of the library and in the temporary halls, and even though there are some 235 students proceeding to degrees in music or in the field, there are still space for four or five more for any increased enrollment.

At last Deputy Bursar, Lionel Norberry, has been recognised by the University Council at his August meeting. He has served some years as a bursar, and some years as a staff officer, and has served as a staff officer in the Mathematical Society, serving as President 1964-1966. He has been President of the Australian Mathematical Society and has continued to serve the University in various capacities.

Mr. Lionel Norberry, a member of the University Council, is well-known to the University staff and students and is very much respected by all.

Mr. Lionel Norberry will leave a great blank in the University Administration and, more particularly, in the Bursar's Department. His work on the Building Committee, and his services to the University and the Mathematical Society have been very generous.

Mr. Norberry has been a member of the University Council and has served as President 1964-1966. He has been a member of the Mathematical Society, serving as President 1964-1966. He has been President of the Australian Mathematical Society and has continued to stay on as a member of the University Council.

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INTRODUCTION

TREES

I do not think that Sherrill will be half as lovely as Tighe's Hill.

These splendid buildings do not matter.

You have no Throsby Creek rezaga, it's very grand, but even still it took real guts to stand Tighe Hill!!!

Satisfaction Guaranteed

I'll be pressed like a State Express

If you're smoking more now and enjoying it less.

A brand new escort I wouldn't snub

Provided he takes care I don't have to join the club

I'm as cool as an Alpine

But I went all my wrath, man,

On a guy who saw filters and then claims he's a tough man.....

UP THE CLUB

Let's all go up the club

Let's all go up the club

I'll play the pokies

I'll play carpet bowls

We have a go at

With a frothy shochu from Cokes.....

Ladies' choice (dedicated to lady bowlers)

We can all be seen on the bowling green

In our uniform Beatrice and clean

When we've done our chores,

Then we form four rows

Out bowling on the green.....

We've got a lovely coloured blazer

We've got a lovely panama

Big girls, small girls

All can join the club

Oh what a sight, we've Periel white

We've just stepped out the tub, the tub.....

Super Sell

Well - hello those folks

Say how do I sound

I thought that I'd pop around

The hottest property in town


Dancing at the Reunion Ball. Rho Deane and Peter Carroll.
Tell the assistant the page number.
EDUCATIONAL UNIT

Dr. Harry Maddox recently joined the university to work in a new unit to be called Educational Research and Services. He had had academic posts at Birmingham and Melbourne Universities and has been attached to the Education Research Unit at the A.N.U. Dr. Maddox has written the following article about the new unit.

The new Educational Research and Services Unit, like similar units in other Australian Universities, will have three main functions: (i) consultation and cooperation with staff on problems of scale have already arisen in some larger centres, inform the University of relevant research being done elsewhere, and consider how promising innovations can be adapted to its particular requirements.

The need for tertiary education research units has been felt perhaps most strongly in the larger metropolitan universities where the great increase in student numbers has created new and difficult problems and, to some extent, upset the traditional balance between teaching and research. Newcastle is in this respect fortunate in still being relatively small, but problems of scale have already arisen in some departments, and undoubtedly will increase in the future.

The Unit therefore has a considerable fund of experience on which to call.

The ISLAND VISIT

Forty First Year B.Sc. (Architectural) degree students sailed from Belmont on M.V. Julie to Pulbah Island.

The Island visit linked two projects in the Architecture IC Course. The first was for each student to design and construct a habitability structure to fulfill certain performance specifications. The second project was to carry out a survey analysis of flora and fauna on an island location while living in the habitability structure.

If these goals are taken seriously, and are not just academic rhetoric, considerable changes in traditional patterns of instruction are called for, more especially in the later years of undergraduate courses.

The formal expository lecture, if it is the principal method of instruction, hardly meets the first goal. The formal end-of-year examination does not meet the second. And the learning of skills requires a greater variety of supervised practice than is usually provided.

Many innovations, however, demand that teaching staff spend long hours in classroom or laboratory. Therefore, much thought needs to be given to the design of courses in order to achieve a balance of instructional methods, which will make at least some progress towards important objectives without imposing unacceptable workloads on staff. This problem is in fact to tax the ingenuity of the Unit more than others.

In the immediate future work is likely to be done on progressive assessment as an adjunct to formal examinations; on some specialised uses of television; on tape-slip presentations in which audiovisuals are used to pace group and individual instruction; and on the organisation of laboratory work.

In view of its modest size it is also intended, that the Unit should liaise closely with other larger centres, inform the University of relevant research being done elsewhere, and consider how promising innovations can be adapted to its particular requirements.

SECOND CHAIR OF ENGLISH

The appointment of Dr. Andrew Gurr, currently Senior Lecturer in English at the University of Leeds and previously Professor of Literature at the University of Naiboi, to the second Chair of English at the University has been announced.

Dr. Gurr graduated with First Class Honours in English at the University of Auckland and subsequently proceeded to his Doctorate of Philosophy at the University of Cambridge. He has been an Assistant Lecturer in the Victoria University of Wellington and joined the Department of English at the University of Leeds in 1963 where he has been successively Assistant Lecturer, Lecturer and currently Senior Lecturer.

From 1969 to 1973 Dr. Gurr was on leave from Leeds University on a 4-year contract as Professor and Chairman of the Literature Department at the University of Nairobi. From 1963-69 he was Warden of Bodenham Hall, a large private boarding school in South Wales.

Dr. Gurr is expected to take up his appointment in 1975.

EARLY MAN SHELTER

Dr. Neville Cluett, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Architecture, recently returned from an archaeological excursion to Cape York. A team of prehistorians led by Dr. Andre Roskopf (A. N. U.) is currently undertaking a major research project in the archaeological excavation of the Early Man Shelter, north-east of Laura. Others in the team include Dr. Bob Layton (University College, London) and M. Michel Lorblanchet (France).

The new Board replaces the Adult Education Advisory Board which had the task of study and making reports on relevant matters. The new Board’s initial responsibility will be to plan, in collaboration with other appropriate bodies, the Unit’s programme of development for adult education in New South Wales. One member elected by the academic staff from their own number, Mr. G.L. Harrell, was a member of the new Board.

Mr. G.L. Harrell, who graduated with a B. A. degree with honours in 1970, has returned to Australia after having worked for a Ph. D. degree at the University of Hull. He will take up a position with Comite Riosteno at University of Melbourne.

Mr. W. J. Shellen, Senior Lecturer in Economics at the University is fulfilling his appointment as a full-time member of the Grants Commission for a period of two years from 1st March, 1974. Mr. Shellen is a former Senior Lecturer in Accounting and has a keen interest in State and Local Government fiscal practices.

Professor L. N. Briggs, the new Head of the Department of Education, is Foundation Chairman of the N.S.W. Board of Adult Education, which was established by the methods of Intergovernmental Agreement Mr. Willis) earlier this year.

The new Board replaces the Adult Education Advisory Board, which largely confined its activities to making recommendations in respect to the distribution of funds. The new Board’s initial responsibility will be to plan, in collaboration with other appropriate bodies, a coordinated and integrated programme of development for adult education in New South Wales. The Board has the task of fulfilling the provisions of course in adult education by appropriate bodies and in appropriate institutions.

Professor Beryl Nather, Head of the Department of Geology, was recently elected World President of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women’s Clubs. Professor Nather will be president of the Federation for three years.
Mr. Colin Fisher, M.L.A. for Upper Hunter, was welcomed by the Chancellor to his first meeting of the University Council on 17th May. Mr. Fisher is a member elected by the Members of the Legislative Assembly and fills a vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Leon Punch, M.L.A., Minister for Public Works, who served on the Council since 1965.

Mr. John Oliver, President of the Rural Bank of New South Wales, who was born at Wallsend, was welcomed by the Chancellor to his first meeting of the University Council on 19th July. Mr. Oliver is a member appointed by the Governor and fills the vacancy caused by the resignation of the Hon. Sir Allen Fairhall.

The Australian Mathematical Society staged its 18th annual meeting and conference at the University of Newcastle from 27th to 31st May. Approximately 170 members attended and 60 papers were discussed.

Professor Brian D.O. Anderson, Foundation Professor of Electrical Engineering, and Professor J.J. Mahony, who has been appointed to a vacant chair in Mathematics, have been elected Fellows of the Australian Academy of Science.

INTRODUCTION TO CHEMISTRY

Many people in Business and commerce, administration, the Arts and a vast range of professions have, and are conscious of having, an almost complete lack of knowledge of chemistry and other sciences. This is generally hard to remedy because the instruction normally provided at the necessary basic level is too unsophisticated to be a practical proposition for mature, educated people.

As an experiment in meeting this problem the Department of Community Programmes, University of Newcastle 2308. has arranged a course of lectures as well as classroom lectures and demonstrations as well as classroom lectures and discussions.

If this course is well received, others will be arranged in Physics, Biology, Mathematics and so on, with the same style and purpose.

The course will be held at the University, in the Chemistry Department, on Wednesday evenings 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm, during the first term of 1975. For further information write to Department of Community Programmes, University of Newcastle 2308.

GREAT HALL EMBELLISHMENTS

A piano, two artistic banners and a set of stained glass panels were donated to the university for the Great Hall since the appeal for funds for the building was officially closed at approximately $1,200,000.

The piano was bought partly with money raised by Newcastle Cricket Association and Newcastle Rugby Football League at a testimonial dinner which the organizations staged to honour Mr. H.L. Wheeler. Later Mr. Wheeler contributed the balance of the amount required.

Mr. P. Handel, of Beacon Hill, Sydney, a specialist in stained glass art, made four glass panels and installed them on top of the main doors of the hall. The four stained glass panels contain artistic symbolism of the Faculties of the university, including the proposed Faculty of Medicine, as well as the arms of both the city and the university. The commission took the artist three months to complete. Part of the cost of the commission was borne by the Joint Coal Board and Mrs. R. Anderson, of Glenbrook.

The stained glass panels that have been placed in the Great Hall

The stained glass panels that have been placed in the Great Hall

Newcastle artist, Rae Richards, executed four banners for the hall, two of which she gave to the university.

As many people in Business and commerce, administration, the Arts and a vast range of professions have, and are conscious of having, an almost complete lack of knowledge of chemistry and other sciences. This is generally hard to remedy because the instruction normally provided at the necessary basic level is too unsophisticated to be a practical proposition for mature, educated people.

The series will be conducted by Mr. Rick Tietze, Senior Lecturer in Chemistry at this University, and will include laboratory demonstrations as well as classroom lectures and discussions.

If this course is well received, others will be arranged in Physics, Biology, Mathematics and so on, with the same style and purpose.

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THE AUCHMUTY LIBRARY

The University Council has named the University Library the Auchmuty Library as an appropriate tribute to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor J.J. Auchmuty, who will retire on 31st December, after more than 22 years' service to the University and its predecessor, the Newcastle University College.

A testimonial fund marking the retirement of Professor Auchmuty had been organised and members of Convocation have already contributed more than $5,000. Professor Auchmuty's many friends outside Convocation have also been invited to contribute. The fund has as its aim the provision of a valuable special collection of books for the Auchmuty Library. The target figure for the fund is $10,000 and the organisers are hopeful of reaching this amount before Professor Auchmuty retires.

The Auchmuty Special Book Collection will consist of volumes in a most valuable publishing venture, known as The English Experience. The titles are exact and fully-sized facsimile editions of significant works published in England between 1475 and 1640. They are copies of priceless volumes held by special book museums such as the Bodleian Library, Cambridge University College, Yale and Harvard University Libraries, and the Huntington Library.

The target figure of $10,000 will permit the University Librarian, Mr. E. Flowers, to acquire approximately the first 1,500 titles in the series. The fact that $5,000 is on hand has allowed a firm order to be placed for the first groups of volumes. As more facsimiles of rare books are published they will be added to the Auchmuty Special Collection.

The Warden of Convocation (Professor K.R. Dutton) expressed his gratitude to the members of Convocation who had already contributed in such a generous and substantial way to the Vice-Chancellor's Testimonial Fund.