Engineering scoops pool ... and Uni wins new indigenous centre

The Faculty of Engineering has been awarded $4.5 million in Federal Government funds to establish two Special Research Centres. A total of eight centres are to be funded Australia wide, chosen from approximately 80 applications from 38 universities.

The two centres - one for Integrated Dynamics and Control (CIDAC), the other for Multiphase Processes - will receive a total of $1.5 million a year for three years with a possibility of funding for a further six years.

The Vice- Chancellor, Professor Roger Holmes, is delighted with the outcome and sees it as a recognition of the University's research strength.

"Given the intense competition, the award of two centres to the same Faculty at the same university is a strong indicator of the quality of engineering research at Newcastle," he said.

The two research groups awarded the centres are currently conducting significant industry funded research projects worth $1 million per year. In the past, the two research groups have worked with companies such as BHP, MIM, CRA, Industrial Automation Services and General Motors of Detroit.

The Director of the Centre for Integrated Dynamics and Control will be Professor Graham Goodwin who is currently Dean of the Faculty.

Professor Goodwin said that CIDAC will focus on the modelling and control of large scale industrial processes so as to assist with improved performance in product quality, waste minimisation, pollution reduction, energy efficiency and in other areas.

"These topics are of vital importance to all industries faced by global competitive pressures," he said.

The research will have a national as well as international focus and that emphasis will be placed on postgraduate training and new product development.

"It's particularly fitting that this Centre should be awarded to the University in view of its long standing contributions to the science of control systems and its existing substantial interactions with industry throughout Australia," Professor Goodwin said.

The Centre for Multiphase Processes will research the mechanics of bubbles and fine particles. Its Director will be Professor Graeme Jameson.

"The work of the Centre will be aimed at discovering more about the behaviour of very small particles like blue-green algae in water supplies, and new ways to remove or process them. Other examples include recovery of valuable mineral particles from ores, disposal of sewage sludge, and aeration in water and sewage treatment," he said.

The two centres - one for Integrated Dynamics and Control (CIDAC), the other for Multiphase Processes, will receive a total of $1.5 million over three years. (see VC's column). To be known as the Unillico Centres, it will be a centre of excellence for research, postgraduate training of Goori people, has been accepted by the Federal Government and will attract a total of $1.63 million over further six years.

Professor Cliff Eeles has been appointed by the Department of Philosophy for a further three year term.

Inter-media artist Richard Tipping from the Department of Communication and Media Arts has won a $10,000 grant from the Australia Council to help finance a catalogue and travel expenses associated with his solo exhibition at the Eagle Gallery in London next February. He has also won the 1996 John Robinson Literary Award for residents of Lake Macquarie.

Richard also has sculptures and prints on exhibition at the moment at the Ubu Gallery in New York alongside those of people like Meret Oppenheim, Man Ray, Yoko Ono and Christo in a show called The Subverted Object. (see photo page 11)

A new book by Dr Glenda Strichan, lecturer in Employment Studies in the Department of Management was launched last month in the Southern Cross Lounge. Called Labour of Love: The History of the Harriet Association of Queensland the book shows how the ideal of service and sacrifice influenced the nursing associations which sprang up around the turn of the century. The publisher is Allen and Unwin.

Less Stable Elements, an installation from the Memory/ utan Series by the University's Arts-in-Residence Janet Laurence, was officially opened last month by Yabba Serious. The exhibition in the Faculty of Art and Design Gallery will run until Sunday 15 December.

The 1996 Newcastle Lecture and John Doyle plays to a packed house (see page 13)
A major responsibility in indigenous higher education

The recent announcement by Senator Vanstone for funding of $1.63 million over three years for the establishment of the Umilliko Centre for Higher Education has been well received by the University. However, given the geographical distribution of the other Indigenous Higher Education Centres, located in South Australia, the Northern Territory and Western Australia, the University of Newcastle has been allocated a major responsibility, being the only university in the eastern states of Australia which will receive funding under this scheme to establish such a Centre.

The name of the Centre, Umilliko, is based on an Aboriginal word, meaning “to do, to make, to create”. The Umilliko Centre is being planned as a National Centre of excellence in research, postgraduate training and professional development for Australian indigenous peoples, particularly in aspects of public and community health, law and environment management, with a focus on the involvement of Goori people in all aspects of the Centre.

The Centre will be administratively located within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, which will facilitate interaction with the Wollotuka Centre with its proven success in undergraduate teaching and in providing support for indigenous students of the University. The Umilliko Centre will be jointly funded by the Federal Government and the University, and will be initially funded for a period of at least six years. The adherence to the cultural traditions and rights of indigenous peoples is a key feature of the operation of the Centre.

This opportunity comes at a time when the University is seeking to expand its programs and enrolments in coursework and research based postgraduate education overall. It is especially pleasing that The University of Newcastle has been identified as one of only five universities to carry out this important role in enhancing indigenous higher education.

Warm congratulations to all those involved in the preparation of this application, and particularly to the local Goori community for their input, trust and strong support.

May I wish you all a happy Christmas and a successful and healthy 1997.

Roger S. Holmes
Vice-Chancellor

... and Uni wins new indigenous centre

From Page 1

... and Uni wins new indigenous centre

which will inform undergraduate programs and ensure that undergraduates are at the forefront of knowledge and understanding of Goori culture,

• to develop existing undergraduate programs involving Goori people to provide a focus for recruitment to postgraduate research and coursework programs,

• to develop national and international links which complement and involve members of this Centre with other national and international centres with a similar mission,

• recognising the possible cultural limitations of research findings, to disseminate the research findings for the benefit of all,

• to improve the qualifications and experience of Goori people and to enhance employment opportunities

• to ensure that outcomes of research and postgraduate programs in the Centre are used to improve the conditions within Goori communities

• to ensure the acceptance of this Centre as a major resource of Goori communities in general but particularly of the local communities

• to ensure the acceptance of this Centre as a major source of advice to local, state and federal government agencies concerned with policy matters affecting Goori communities.

AVCC makes new appointment

The Australian Vice-Chancellors’ Committee (AVCC) has announced the appointment of Mr Robert Goddard as its new Director, International Relations. He will take up the position this month.

Mr Goddard was closely involved with the Government’s Higher Education Management Review Committee and was acting assistant secretary of the Australian International Education Foundation Task Force. President of the AVCC, Professor Paye Gale said that Mr Goddard would bring a new dimension of expertise and vision to the role.

"Close ties between Austral­ia’s universities and others in the region are immensely important as a means of extending and enhancing Australia’s intellec­tual and cultural understanding of the world’s understanding of us,” Professor Gale said.

"International students make a major contribution to Australia, intellectually, culturally and economically. Australian universities are able to provide a richer learning environment as a result of the presence of international students.

"The role which Mr Goddard will play in fostering these links is important not only to the universities and their students, but to the economy of Australia, particularly as international students bring to the Australian economy some $1.8 billion annually."

Employment figures tops for Newcastle

Civil Engineers graduating from the University of New­castle had the highest employ­ment rate in NSW. The most recent graduate survey has found that 95% of last year’s civil engineering graduates found employment as engi­ners, a significant 6% higher than graduates from any other university in NSW.

In commenting on the finding Professor Rob Melch­ers, head of the Department of Civil, Surveying and Environ­mental Engineering said that the outcome backed up other indicators.

"In the most recent national

Graduate Course Experience Questionnaire, Civil Engin­eering at the University of Newcastle was ranked highest in Australia for good teaching and overall satisfaction of stu­dents. This appears to have paid off for them in terms of employment of our graduates as engineers," he said.

He went on to say that the outcome was also helped by the research reputation of the Faculty at Newcastle. It currently ranks amongst the leaders in Australia in attract­ing competitive research funding and in producing high-quality research papers.

Clean-up

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Chair of the Environ­mental Management Advisory Committee, Professor Keith Lester, has accepted a cheque from the Keep Australia Beautiful (NSW) (KABC) and the Litter & Recycling Research Association as part of their City Litter Reduction Grant Program.

The annual grant program sought to encourage and support proactive litter reduction initiatives. The University’s submission, Cleaning Up Callaghan, aims to have students develop and design an anti-littering campaign relevant to the student population (primarily the 18-30 age group).

Kerry Hides-Pearson, General Manager of KABC said that this age group is often neglected by environmental education.

"This project is an opportunity to establish a model for other universities with a similar student demographic," she said.

The campaign will commence in orientation week 1997 with the influx of new students. For further information you can contact Janine Stablum, Project Officer (Environment), ext 7328 or email janines@ppe.newcastle.edu.au.

The Staff at the Public Affairs Unit would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

The University of Newcastle

The views and opinions expressed in this newspaper are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the University.

The University is the official newspaper of the University of Newcastle. Produced by the Public Affairs Unit. Editor: Alison Grainge (ph: 21 7112; fax: 21 6400; Email: agrainge@seagoon.newcastle.edu.au)
The most impressive results in Australia

by Kim Britton

A recent report on indigenous deaths in custody has revealed that the deaths continue to escalate despite recommendations made by the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody in 1999.

In the same way that our justice system seems to fail indigenous people, our health system leaves them with a range of largely preventable diseases such as diabetes.

The need for more undergraduate and postgraduate training opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professionals, particularly doctors has been put forward in recommendations not only from the Royal Commission into Deaths in Custody, but from numerous other Federal and State Government commissioned reports.

Despite this, the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students across all ten Australian medical schools is less than 0.6% of the total enrolled medical student body. While additional places are allocated and special admission procedures applied, it is clear that something in the tertiary system is failing as well.

At Newcastle, however, where the proportion of these students is just under 6%, the admission and retention rates give the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences the most impressive results in Australia.

There are 20 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students enrolled in medicine at Newcastle this year, including one in the Bachelor of Medical Science. Retention of students has increased from 50% in 1991 to almost 100%, according to Gail Garvey, Head of the Faculty’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students’ Liaison Office.

“Newcastle has conducted a nationally significant and successful program of entry and support for indigenous Australians in the undergraduate medical program since 1985,” Gail said.

“It seems that support from Newcastle has changed in the five years David has been studying medicine here, with more Aboriginal and indigenous components added to the course. “There is now quite a lot in the first two years about indigenous issues - trying to heighten people’s awareness and attack stereotypes,” he said. “It changes the way other students react to you when you realise what your background is and what a struggle it’s been just to get here.”

Latisha Petterson, a registered nurse from Thursday Island being sponsored in her medical studies by the Torres Strait Islander Regional Health Authority, also found the move to Newcastle a cultural shock.

“Our facilities are such an integral part of our culture and coming from an island of 3,000 people I find the biggest hurdle for me is being away from that extended community,” she said. “Latisha gets to return to her community, however, by working as a medical student and registered nurse in her breaks.”

“The Liaison Office hopes to turn its attention to a lack of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in other health care services such as registered nurses and occupational and speech therapists.”

“We also want to focus on our postgraduate courses in the future. We have had students who have gone into their postgraduate training and found that it doesn’t really suit the needs of their communities, so we will be trying to renegotiate these areas with the training colleges.”

“We’re breaking new ground as our students progress in their careers and their studies. We’ve realized that there’s a need to work more in that area so we are basically just going with the students.”

A conference will be held at Newcastle next year to discuss the strategies that work so well for our indigenous medical students.

Participants will include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students, under-graduates and graduates, with representatives invited from Canadian and Australian indigenous physicians groups.

For details about the proposed conference contact Gail Garvey by phoning ext 5633 or fax 7166. Email: ask@medicine.newcastle.edu.au
The Minister's vision of change

The following is the text of an article written by Senator Vanstone for The Age.

The Government’s vision for higher education has been clear since we launched our higher education policy. It is about quality, diversity and choice.

Our vision for higher education is one where universities have more freedom to follow their own visions.

We live in a rapidly changing world where industries survive and prosper through adaptability and readiness to innovate.

The Government is helping higher education adjust to the forces of globalisation and ever-advancing communications technology. We want to give universities the policy directions needed to deal with the sort of micro-economic reform that industries as diverse as automotive manufacturing and financial services have had to face over recent years.

Our policies aim to encourage greater flexibility on the part of institutions and reduce their dependence on government. We want to give universities greater autonomy and self-reliance as customer-focused business enterprises.

The Government is scarcely driven by fiscal demands alone. First, during operating grants to universities does not require legislation, let alone the Senate’s approval. That would be a substantial source of savings if savings were all we wanted.

Second, a government motivated by fiscal concerns alone would never consider returning the HECS contributions from students enrolled above the set quotas to universities as we will do. It would simply do what Labor did - pocket the money and offer its commiserations to university administrators for enrolling students above their allocated quotas.

Third, a purely fiscally driven government would not allow Australian students to buy a place at Australian universities like international students can. The fees paid by these students would go straight to the institutions. A purely fiscally driven government after a simple political solution would deny universities this opportunity.

Fourth, a purely fiscally driven government would not spend $2 million as we are planning to do to seek input from all the interested parties in a fundamental review of the future of higher education for the next decade and beyond.

Finally, a purely fiscally driven government would not be putting $130 million more into research.

Instead, we want to offer more freedom to the individual institutions while allowing them access to more funds and creating more vacancies for students.

The stakeholders in the higher education debate know the details of the issues involved.

Most members of the public do not. They rely entirely on news reports and other media coverage.

“"The media are the arteries of democracy. They carry information to its heart, the people. Tainted information, like tainted blood, can be a killer.”

The media are the arteries of democracy. They carry information to its heart, the people. Tainted information, like tainted blood, can be a killer.

The simple facts about higher education are these.

The Government is not slashing university funding by $1.8 billion. Instead, we are making $1.8 billion in savings through a combination of revenue measures and reductions to funding.

We are reducing the $20 billion forward estimates of university spending during the next four years by a mere $688 million. The balance of savings will be achieved by revenue measures, mainly the changes to HECS.

Rather than cutting student numbers, the Government intends to expand the number of fully funded undergraduate places by 6000 next year.

In a time of Budget cutbacks, it is an encouraging result for the future of higher education. As well as maintaining undergraduate numbers, the Government will introduce a new approach to quality assurance in Australian universities. Rather than trying to impose an external, uniform approach, each institution will set up a quality plan geared to its own strategic plan and vision.

The Government will allow full fee places over and above the current Government-funded vacancies. Universities will only be able to offer fee-paying places after all the Government-funded places in a course are filled.

Families of students who just miss out will not like to invest in them and their futures.

Many of those electing to pay fees will do so for courses and institutions of their first choice, freeing-up Government funded places they would have taken with their second or third choices.

Returning the HECS contribution from over-enrolled students to universities will encourage them to use up any spare capacity and let more students in, maximising their resources.

Under the Government’s proposals, undergraduate positions are still accessible to prospective students. There are no up-front HECS charges. HECS remains what it has always been - a real interest-free loan from the taxpayer until students and graduates start earning a certain level of income.

There is no need to borrow money from a bank or anywhere else to meet HECS obligations.

It has been said that our HECS proposals will lead to a fall in university enrolments. The same thing was said when HECS was first introduced and the opposite occurred. Enrolments actually rose in subsequent years.

While it is not always easy to predict the future, the past remains a good guide. It is difficult to concieve of potential students basing their course choices primarily on current costs rather than future financial and personal rewards.

The Government will introduce greater equity in HECS. Differentiation will mean teachers with low course costs and more modest income prospects will pay less than doctors with high course costs and higher earnings.

Graduates earn more, have appreciably lower levels of unemployment and enjoy a higher standard of living than non-graduates. Yet those non-graduate taxpayers - about 85% of the community - subsidise university students for no personal benefit. As an equity matter alone, it is not too much to ask future graduates to pay more for the personal benefits they will gain from their studies.

Higher education is a vital piece of social and economic infrastructure. The directions it takes affects (sic) not only its stakeholders but the broader community.

We want to see universities compete, be more responsive to student needs and have the freedom to fulfill their visions and face the future with confidence. With the facts at hand we can have a proper debate over its future.
Predicting space weather

by Michael Goughlan

Not much is known about the control of the bronchial circulation, and yet this tiny circulatory system is crucial in conditions such as asthma, emphysema, bronchitis, pulmonary oedema and lung trauma. As Professor Saxon White, Head of the Discipline of Human Physiology explains, the bronchial circulation is involved in the control of airway calibre and therefore obstruction to airflow.

This microcirculatory system is crucial for normal human and animal ventilation and the nutrition of lung tissue, and is extremely sensitive to the external environment as well as to internal influences. The bronchial circulation is also of critical importance in conditions of congenital heart disease and of lung/cardiac transplants," he said.

To further stimulate international debate on the control of the bronchial circulation, a scientific meeting of the Da Vinci Society (an international multidisciplinary society) was held in Newcastle last month. The three-day meeting attracted physiological experts in the fields of medicine, surgery, pharmacology and biochemistry from all over the world.

The Society is named after Leonardo Da Vinci because of his seminal thoughts on a bronchial circulation based on dissections of oxen in the 16th century.

Professor White told the Ear that having the meeting in Newcastle was a recognition of the importance the University's researchers bring to the area. "We have developed a way of measuring blood flow continuously in the bronchial circulation and, in doing so, have started to recognise the unique way of measuring physiological experts in the fields of medicine, surgery,

The unlevel playing field

by Helene O'Neill

The inadequate coverage in the media of women in sport and the manner in which women are portrayed in the print media, in particular, is the motivation behind Dr Peter Brown's interest in women in sport. Dr Brown, Head of the Department of Leisure and Tourism Studies, played competitive sport at a high level during and beyond his student years and admits he didn't really consider gender-based inequalities within sport until the Hunter Academy of Sport conducted the Women in Sport conference at the University in 1989.

One of the recommendations of this conference was to examine the position of women in sport in the Hunter. Consequently Dr Brown received a grant funded by the Australian Sports Commission (the Aussie Sports Unit) aimed at improving the quality and quantity of women's sports coverage and increasing the participation levels of women and girls in sport in the Hunter.

The project, Hunter Medialink, not only surveyed media coverage but helped local sporting groups acquire the skills necessary to access the media. Encouraged by the success of Medialink, media coverage of women in sport became the topic of Dr Brown's doctoral thesis.

When Dr Brown received his PhD at the September graduation ceremony, he disclosed that newspaper coverage of women's sport had not really improved in 50 years. The historical perspective of the thesis was somewhat unique: the study was conducted on the Newcastle and Sydney Morning Herald (1890-1990). While the gap between men's and women's coverage narrowed between 1890-1940, women's share of sports news (compared with men's share) has stabilised at around 13% over the last 50 years. Dr Brown was surprised that the feminist wave of the 70s and a growing public awareness of REO issues had not really improved women's share of sports news in more recent times. However, he believes that government policy is essential if sportswomen and sportsmen are to play on a level playing field.

Dr Brown's findings confirmed the self-perpetuating cycle that media coverage is driven by the needs of advertisers. Sponsors want media exposure and many have started to recognise the potential of our top sportswomen in delivering their products. Sports such as basketball, netball, and triathlons have proved to be attractive to sponsors and have increased their media coverage considerably in recent years.

Other interesting conclusions drawn by Dr Brown include the fact that women's sport rarely receives media coverage on Friday, Saturday or Monday. Their appearance tends to be on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Dr Brown attributes this to the self-perpetuating cycle that newspaper readers' attitudes towards women's sport are based on women's sport coverage.

Dr Peter Brown - readers can make a difference

Members of the Da Vinci Society in the forecourt of the David Maddison Building.
“All the people have been just so welcoming and warm, especially my host family - Lindsay and Leigh,” Sri said as she described her impressions of Newcastle.

Sri, short for Desak Putu Sri Haryati Putra, arrived in Newcastle in mid October as one of eighteen students involved in the Australia Indonesia Youth Exchange Program (AYEYP). AYEYP began in 1981 and operates under an agreement between the Indonesian and Australian Governments. It was established in the interests of providing wider opportunities for the young people of Indonesia and Australia to appreciate the culture, development and the way of life of the other country.

Each year a group of 18 Indonesians (nine women and nine men), aged between 18 and 25, visit Australia at the end of September for a period of two months. One month is spent in a rural setting, the other in an urban setting. They are billeted with Australian families and are given work experience based on their areas of study. In December-January their Australian counterparts accompany the students back to Indonesia for a reciprocal visit.

Newcastle was chosen as the urban setting for the 1996 visit and Sri’s work placement for the three weeks was in the Media and Public Affairs Unit. The Unit’s Project manager, Michael Coughlan, said Sri had a brother studying tourism back in Bali and a sister in primary school. Sri had noticed various differences between university life and study in Newcastle and Bali.

“The fees for us are not all that expensive. But in comparison your facilities are excellent. The libraries, sporting facilities, access to the Internet. Everything is so big. At my university we have libraries but I feel they are not so advanced as yours.”

“But we have a credit point system that gives credit for your results. If you reach a certain average you can take extra subjects and finish your degree quicker. I think that’s a good idea. We also seem to do more subjects a semester about nine. Another difference is that we are expected at the end of our degree to go out to a remote village for three months and make use of what we have learnt. I’ll probably have to teach.”

“I like the relaxed attitude the students here have with their lecturers. They talk to them more openly and give opinions. There is not much communication between students and lecturers in Indonesia. I like the freedom here - being able to talk about your studies, your feelings and problems. I feel that that would be very helpful to your studies.”

“I would like to come back and study here. Maybe one day I will.”

During her stay, Sri stayed with Lindsay and Leigh Marshall of Cocks Hill.

The University of Newcastle

Getting the diagnosis right

A nutrition and dietetics researcher from the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences has won a Defence Reserve Prince of Wales Award which will fund a four week study tour including time with the US Army to study the purification of contaminated water supplies.

Winner of the award, PhD candidate Byleveld was ecstatic and saw significant benefits flowing from it.

“The US Army has expertise in the field control of a dangerous class of microorganisms, which are often seen in natural water supplies,” he said. “This information will be helpful for members of our Defence Force preparing to serve in developing nations and also for Australian water supply authorities particularly in remote areas.”

Paul told the Ear that the recent deaths of thousands of people in Zaire was attributed to contaminated drinking water. He said that chlorination can be used to kill most of its harmful organisms, but did not control certain protozoan parasites.

“At present the Australian Army has the technology to treat these parasites but not the ability to detect them. I’m hoping my trip will give me a greater understanding of the methods the US Army uses. I expect to gain some idea of how field detection systems for protozoan parasites and a better idea of how to apply special water treatment measures,” Paul said.

While on the American continent, Paul will also attend the 16th International Congress of Nutrition to be held in Montreal, where he will present some of his nutrition research work. He will also attend the 6th World Congress on Clinical Nutrition and visit a leading nutrition research facility at the University of Alberta. The trip is to be funded by the Citizens in Support of Reserve Forces (CISOF). Other major sponsors are Qantas and Ansett.

As well as being a biochemist in the Discipline of Nutrition and Dietetics, Paul also works for the Army’s 2nd Preventive Medicine Company as an Army Reserve Scientific Officer. The Prince of Wales Awards are offered each year to a small number of Reserveists between the ranks of Sergeant to Major in the Army. Petty Officer to Lieutenant Commander in the Navy, or Sergeant to Squadron Leader in the Air Force. Candidates can nominate for the award with the support of their commanding officer and employer.

Bogged on the Birdsville Track

by Sonja Duncan

Ecotourism, or tourism with an environmental slant, has been steadily growing in Australia. But what makes a good ecotour and how is tourist satisfaction achieved?

Honours student Chris Bache from the Department of Leisure and Tourism has spent the past year investigating the factors influencing ecotour satisfaction - the number of aspects which add to the ecotour experience.

Research indicates that tourists who are not disappointed find, or an unexpected event tends to have a positive effect upon the tourist’s level of satisfaction,” Chris explained.

“The opportunities of learning and education also play an important role in determining levels of satisfaction among students, with a key influence being here the performance of the tour guide and the methods of ensuring the tourists are able to learn.”

Chris’s research was based on a 15 day ecotour to Corner Country and outback NSW, covering areas such had “provided a useful perspective, the Flinders Ranges and Broken Hill. The tourists, who were with the Indigenous, were asked to contribute to the research by providing pre and post-tour interviews, completing a diary of their travels and send- ing postcards to Chris from two locations on the tour. The 11 participants were helpful. They took notes, wrote postcards and some of them wrote four or five pages every day. The most important piece of information to work on. I also received all the postcards from the tour.”

According to participants, a highlight of the tour was getting bogged on the Birdsville Track. This experience “added something” to the tour and provided a “bonus” that they were not expecting.

“The sense of adventure that being bogged created was enjoyed by all participants on the tour,” Chris said. “Mind you, they were experienced travellers and could therefore cope well with the unexpected.”

“According to participants, a highlight of the tour was getting bogged on the Birdsville Track.”

So how do you add an element of the unexpected to an organised ecotour?”

“According to participants, a highlight of the tour was getting bogged on the Birdsville Track.”

Chris said, adding that at no time should the tourist feel that his or her safety is being compromised.

The notion of fun and enjoyment also added greatly to the overall tour experience. “Expert guides were key. We always had a fun guide who knew the area well.”

“According to participants, a highlight of the tour was getting bogged on the Birdsville Track.”

ACPA

Paul receives his Award from the Minister for Defence Industry, Science and Personnel, Bronwyn Bishop, at a ceremony in Sydney.
**NOTICES**

**Academic Staff Appointments**

These are the appointments for September and October 1996.

**September Appointments:**

- Academic Staff: Nil Appointments September 1996

**General Staff:**

- Chisholm, J. A. : Admin Assistant, CCC
- Clarke, I. : Technical Officer, Mech. Engineering
- Walsh, R. : Admin Officer, AAU - Econ.
- Moncrieff, J. : Admin Officer, AAU - Health Sciences
- Butcher, J. : Admin Assistant, CCC
- Sames, R. : Client Services Librarian, CCC - Info. Research Centre
- Taylor, P. : General Library Assistant, CCC - Info. Research Centre

**October Appointments:**

- Academic Staff: Nil Appointments October 1996

**General Staff:**

- Graham, P. : Professor, Management
- Tavener, M. : Senior Research Co-Ordinator, CCEB - Medicine & Health Sciences
- Shepherd, L. : Research Data Manager, Surgical Oncology, Medicine & Health Sciences
- Furst, P. : Office Assistant, CCC - Student Centre

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**CLASSIES**

To Let:

- **Lambton, 4 Bedroom unfurnished House** with lock up garage available in quiet street close to shops and pool. No pets. $710pw Phone. 52 4076 for interview and inspection.

**House For Sale**

- In Caringbah Avenue, New Lambton Heights, this seceded 5 bedroom house, one bedroom currently a study with enclosed deck is in excellent condition, saltwater pool, security system, solar heating, reverse cycle ducted air conditioning $430,000 phone 52 2799.

House Wanted

- Visiting academic from Texas on sabbatical leave at Newcastle wants small house or unit for semester 1, 1997 please contact Phil Williams on 24 6326.

House for relocation

- 3 b/r hardplank home with zincalume roof in good condition. Recently rewired and all new plumbing, renovated modern kitchen and bathroom, with dishwasher and rangehood, fibreglass shower bath. House includes soft furnishings - curtains, carpet, external aluminium blinds. To be removed from site (Belmont). Open to all offers. Phone 5376 or 45 4831.

For Sale

- Box trailer, very good condition $250 please phone extension 3045
- Remote control truck "Climb Buster" requires AA batteries comes with recharge $80, also remote control hovercraft, never used, requires battery $50 please phone Robin Cone extension 3336 or 61 4923 after 5pm.
- 9" PGF Golf Bag, black with gold trim, brand new (won as golf prize) $150ono. Phone Jenny extension 6540 Mon - Wed or 51 2618

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**PAY PERIOD ENDING**

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**Apology**

In the last issue of the Inner Ear we inadvertently transposed two columns in the table relating to the payment of salaries. Below is the corrected version. Our humble apologies.
The University of Newcastle

LIBNOTES

LIBRARY TRAINING PROGRAM December 1996

The Library is offering training in information resource discovery and management to all staff and students of the University. Should your department or group have specific subject interests require a course tailored to it members' needs, please contact: your Faculty Librarian (p.10 of the Internal Telephone Directory).

Auchmuty and Hughley Library Training Schedule

To register, please obtain a registration form including course descriptions from the Reference Desks, Auchenmuy Library ph. 21 5851, Hughley Library ph. 21 6453. Training Sessions are listed on the University Library's home page at http://www.library.newcastle.edu.au

Callaghan DECEMBER

Monday 2/12/96 2 - 4 World Wide Web 1

Thursday 5/12/96 10 - 1 Endnote Plus

Monday 9/12/96 10 - 11 Expanded Academic Index

Tuesday 10/12/96 10 - 12 World Wide Web 1

Thursday 12/12/96 10 - 1 World Wide Web 2

Central Coast Information Resource Centre Training Schedule

The Information Resource Centre provides training for a wide variety of information tools including Netscape, World Wide Web page design, Online and CD-Rom databases and general information literacy instruction.

Training takes place in the computer training laboratory A/V1, in the Information Resource Centre. Descriptions of each course are available in the Library and on our web site at http://www.ccs.newcastle.edu.au.

To book a place in any of the courses contact the Information Desk in person or phone ext. 4023. At Central Coast DECEMBER

Tuesday 3/12/96 11 - 12 Introduction to the World Wide Web

Wednesday 4/12/96 1 - 4 Internet for Researchers

HOT SPOTS

This is our last selection of hotspots for 1996. We hope that you have enjoyed visiting some of the sites that we selected for you during the year and we look forward to finding more sites of interest in 1997. This selection is a mixture of some resources that may be useful in your study/research, and some fun sites to try during your holiday break. We hope that you enjoy them. All the best to you all for the Christmas/holiday break.

The Earth Times

http://www.evertimes.org/

The Latest in Science Discoveries

http://www.eurekalert.org/

These two terrific sites may be worth a look.

- A science, medical, business, and computer dictionary that can be searched by category.

- Australian and South Pacific Resources

- Australian National University and Sun Microsystems recently launched Australian SunSITE. The site provides a wealth of pointers to Australian and Oceanian resources of all types, and is particularly strong with respect to Australian government information sites. It also provides a South Pacific Information Network (SPIN), with further information and links to South Pacific Resources, as well as a developing "Women's Network for the Tertiary Education and Training Sector in the Asia Pacific Region (WINVET):'WINVET can be found under "Education" on the home page.

- For the holidays

- "Who killed JFK?"

- Fair Play is a magazine which is devoted almost entirely to the JFK assassination. Fair Play now offers its complete archive, as well as links to other JFK assassination Internet sites.

http://www.mcm.com/jk/evel/fb.html

National Geographic Society

http://www.nationalgeographic.com/

An index to the site is available:

http://www.nationalgeographic.com/global/pic/go/wd

Gourmet World

- No doubt you will be thinking of cooking some special meals for the Christmas/holiday season. This site is an epicurean delight. The Culinary Center offers hundreds of recipes, organized geographically and by main ingredient, as well as pointers to the pages of over twenty renowned chefs. Bon appetit!

- Directory of World Wide Electronic Newspapers

When you have finished your cooking, you may like to settle down with a cup of coffee and read the newspaper. However if at all that cooking has worn you out and you're too lazy to go and buy a paper then go no further than this site which provides a massive database of world wide online newspapers (1001 at present).

http://www.medialink.com/cphome/index/diary.html

Fodor's - Travel Resources

- If you're planning some time away from the computer in the near future, Fodor's new site can help you make your getaway. The Trip Planner allows the user to search for recommended hotels and restaurants by location, price range, and facilities/cuisine, and to get "inside info" and top tips from professional travel writers. The restaurant and hotel index provides listings for over 40 cities and regions: each establishment is reviewed and rated. Through a pull down menu, this page can be tailored to a specific destination, offering local telephone numbers and resources.

http://www.fodors.com/

SEARCHING FOR JOURNALS IN NEWCASTLE

Have you ever been frustrated, when searching for a journal in the catalogue, by having to wade through many screens of entries? I hope that this has been difficult. Up till now it has been difficult to screen out all the "hits" for books and leave only the journal entries. Now we have a new journal index in the catalogue which fixes this annoying problem. Simply choose the J option from the NEWCAT menu. On the screen it reads: J = JOURNAL (exact title of journal).

Simply enter as much or as little as you wish of the journal's title. For example, putting in the word "surface" will give you a list of twelve journals starting with that word eg.

Surface and Colloid Science

Surface and Defect Properties of Solids

Surface and Vacuum Physics

Note: This is not a random word searching option. You must type the words of the journal title in the exact order and include all words even those which are normally stopwords, such as "and". For example if you had just typed "surface colloid" you would not find Surface and Colloid Science.

LIBRARY HOURS

Long Semester Break Up to 14 February 1997

AUCHMUTY

Monday to Friday 8.30am - 5pm

Saturday Closed

HUXLEY

Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm

Saturday & Sunday Closed

CONSERVATORIUM

Monday to Friday 9am - 1pm

2pm - 5pm

CENTRAL COAST

Monday to Friday 9am - 4.30pm

Saturday Closed

All Libraries will be closed from: December 25 1996 - January 1 1997 inclusive.

The opening hours may be subject to change. Updates will be available:

- NEWCAT under = Library INFORMATION
- notices in foyers
- Loans Enquiries
- Auchmuty 215850 / 215830
- Huxley 216692
- Conservatorium 218860
- Central Coast 043 494020

The following information is available on the CWIS

- University Legislation and New Rules
- New Staff Appointments
- National Tertiary Education Union (Uni Branch) Contacts
- 1997 Rhodes Scholarships Details
- Continuing Professional Education Unit Program

If you aren't familiar with the procedure this is what you do. Open the computer program Netscape and you should automatically find yourself on the University's home page (http://www.newcastle.edu.au). You then click on University of Newcastle local information then click again on campus news and services. Now you're on your way.
Captive animal displays help us understand

by Sonja Duncan

It's not often that your research project earns you a reputation as a thrillseeker but that's just what happened to Honours student Sue Broad.

Her research project, which involved investigating tiger exhibits, has led her to spend "close up" time with tigers, something many of us would have to think twice about.

A student in the Department of Leisure and Tourism Studies, her Honours year project involved examining how visiting captive animal displays helped people learn about animals and become committed to conservation.

To achieve this, Sue studied two tiger exhibits - one at the Western Plains Zoo and the other at Tiger Island at Dreamworld on the Gold Coast.

"Most people go to zoos to look at and study the animals," Sue said. "My main aim was to study the people visiting the zoo."

Sue found that about half of the visitors had learnt something about the tiger and the needs for conservation from their visits to the sites. This was particularly interesting as both exhibits used different techniques to get the message across. "Western plains zoo had one single tiger housed in a naturalistic exhibit and used graphics and keeper talks to provide interpretation," Sue said.

The visitors had learnt something about tigers as a result of their visit. Sue sees the role of captive animal displays in an important one in continuing to educate the public about captive animals and the plight of animals in the wild.

"The findings of my study are relevant to anyone concerned with wildlife conservation and education, and how these can best be realised," she said.

Sue Broad and friend from Dreamworld.

Keeping toxic wastes out of our ground water

It's true that a little bit of fluoride in water stings your teeth from rotting, but too much can be toxic to humans and animals.

With large amounts of fluoride-containing wastes being produced as a result of a number of manufacturing processes, there is increasing public, industry and government concern about the adequate handling, storage and disposal of such wastes.

The safe containment of this toxic material is of particular concern to researchers from the University's Department of Civil Surveying and Environmental Engineering, given its potential relevance to the Hunter Region.

Dr David Smith says that heavy industry such as aluminium smelting, ceramics, fertiliser production and electricity production via coal-fired power stations all result in the production of fluoride-containing waste.

"Excessive ingestion of fluoride by animals can cause fluorosis, a painful condition characterised by calcification of ligaments and the growth of bony spurs," he said.

"Leaching of fluoride into ground water can have adverse effects on the ecology of an area," Dr Smith explained. "Excessive ingestion of fluoride by animals can lead to fluorosis, a painful condition characterised by calcification of ligaments and the growth of bony spurs."

Whilst much of the fluoride from industry is emitted in gaseous form, fluoride contaminated solid waste is also produced. In fact, some 9,000 tonnes of fluoride contaminated solid waste is produced annually from one aluminium smelter alone.

"The problem faced by the environmental engineer is how to safely contain large volumes of potentially toxic wastes for long periods of time," Dr Smith said.

This challenge has been taken on by two PhD candidates, Paul Kau and Philip Hitchcock under the supervision of Dr Smith and Dr Philip Binning.

Paul has carried out extensive investigation into the different properties of various clay soils, and based on these results, Philip has taken on the task of mathematically modelling the movement of fluoride through the soils.

"Mathematical models enable us to assess the long-term impact of fluoride movement through soils. We can predict at what speed the fluoride will travel and thereby quantify the concentration of fluoride in a given area over a given time," Dr Smith explained. This information can prove vital in risk assessment and environmental impact studies.

"We believe that the combined efforts of our two PhD students will lead to the formulation of some general design guidelines for the environmental design engineer," Dr Smith said.

Donation opens 450 years of history

The Anglican Church has elected to make a gift to the University of an historic collection of books known as the Tyrrell Collection. The handing over of the collection is just one of many events planned to mark the Church's celebrations in 1997 of the sesquicentenary of the founding of the Diocese of Newcastle and the appointment of its first Bishop, William Tyrrell.

The Bishop of Newcastle, the Rt Rev Roger Herft, said that over the years the Morpeth books have been housed in great libraries and handled by distinguished scholars.

"They have survived wars, plague, fire, floods and a long and uncertain sea voyage from the other side of the world. It is fitting that they should now have a safe and permanent home in a place of learning where they will be handled and housed with the respect and care that they merit, and restored, where necessary, to their original condition."

The Morpeth Collection, containing 2,710 volumes, is closely associated with Bishop Tyrrell. Many of the books in the collection have belonged to him. Others belonged to early Anglican clergyman like the Revs GK Rusden and RT Bolton or to pioneer settlers such as Edward Charles Close of Morpeth.

Included in Tyrrell's original collection are books published as early as the mid-sixteenth century. These are not only the products of the Renaissance that was sweeping through Paris in 1544. The work had originally been written in the fourth century and was the first major history of the Christian Church. Other notable works include those by Saint Thomas Aquinas (1559), John Calvin (1667), Pope Gregory I (1705), Isaac Newton (1739) and Thomas Paine (1791). It can be said that the collection reflects the state of our spiritual awareness and the advancement of our knowledge over a 300 year period.

"The size and coverage of the Morpeth Collection make it one of the major research resources in this country. As such, it has been received with great enthusiasm by the University."

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Holmes, said that the donation "will ensure the collection's future restoration and allow selected access to the volumes by members of the community. It will provide scholars with access to first hand evidence of history."
As you read this story there’s every chance that Ashley Richardson and Terje Carlsson will either be working on their tans at Byron Bay, climbing up Ayers Rock, or feeding the dolphins at Monkey Mia. With exams behind them and facing the prospect of a return to an inhospitable northern winter, the two exchange students will be making the most of their time here.

Ashley, a biology major at Stanford University, has been studying here for one semester (History, Management) and Terje, an information science student from the University of Skövde in Sweden, for two (Sociology, Australian History) and it would appear that despite an odd misgiving or two about Newcastle, both have had a great time.

“I’m not quite sure why I chose Australia,” Ashley told the Ear. “Although I speak French I knew I didn’t want to go to Paris. I guess I wanted somewhere English speaking and Australia was just about as far from home as I could go.”

As for Newcastle, she said, it was purely luck that brought her here.

“No one ever said I should go to your Parliament House in Canberra twice but I’ve only been to the one in Sweden once!”

Ashley has been sharing with seven girls and three guys in International House and said that everyone got on really well. People had been very helpful and she’d made lots of friends. She’s been down to Sydney and travelled the Manly ferry (a friend from Stanford was living in Bondi at the time) and she went with Terje to Byron Bay during the break.

“I also met up with a friend from Pittsburgh and we visited Alice Springs, Darwin, Cairns and Kakadu and had a great time.”

Such trips don’t come cheaply but Ashley said that she saved for them before she left the States by working as a waitress in a local restaurant and by mowing lawns.

“But even with the trips and the cost of getting to Australia and the fees for the courses I’ve been studying, it was still less than a semester at Stanford, so with the credit I get for my work here, Mum and Dad thought it was good value.”

So was there a downside?

For Terje it was access to university computers.

“Everyday I went to use one there were at least 50 people in the room and I’d always get a headache.”

For Ashley who is a member of Stanford’s sailing team, it was the realisation that the University wasn’t as close to the water as she had thought. There was also the effort of trying to get with Neighbours.

“It’s growing on me but it’s been taken a while. But I don’t know how one is supposed to manage back home without all your near Aussie food - I just love Fruity Bix. But I don’t think there’s any hope ever for Vegemite!”

To get another perspective on being an exchange student, the Ear also spoke to BA in Communications student, Kirsty Ford, who has returned after studying for one semester at Ohio University.

“We have exchange agreements with a lot of universities but I chose Ohio solely on the courses it offers. Before I chose it, I looked at a number of different universities in the States and then narrowed it down to three that all offered Public Relations. As it turned out the School of Journalism at Ohio is ranked seventh in the US for both PR and Journalism so it was a good choice.”

Ohio University is in the small town of Athens and according to Kirsty it proved to be a bit of a culture shock.

“I come from Dubbo and when I was growing up I hated the isolation and smallness of it but at least it had 35-40,000 people. Athens has about 21,000 residents and in term time that number doubles.

But coming straight from Newcastle with well over 300,000 people it was hard to get used to, especially as Athens lacks facilities and transport. I felt I’d been stranded in the middle of nowhere.

“But you guessed it. By the time the semester was over, Kirsty was sad to leave it all behind, not just all the friends she’d made but even the town itself.

“Ohio itself is beautiful - I was there for spring but I’m told it’s even more beautiful in autumn. The University was opened early in the 19th century and has such a sense of history and the architecture of the place is really quaint.”

After completing her studies, Kirsty travelled around the US for seven weeks. Going on exchange, she told the Ear, was the best thing she’s ever done.

“It really makes you get to know yourself and learn to be independent. To learn about another culture, even one that is so similar to ours, was great.

And one of the things I really enjoyed about my trip was being able to tell other people about Australia.

“Going on exchange is one of the most amazing opportunities you can ever experience and I would recommend it to anyone.”
Winner inspired by Catch 22

Postgraduate student Kylie Peake, is the 1996 winner of the prestigious National Tertiary Art Prize.

The prize winning work is a large two dimensional piece which uses oil paint, tin, cement, timber and "liquid light" to portray a theme inspired by the book Catch 22. The art work relates to the 71 missions which the central character of the book, an airman in WWll, must fly before his tour of duty is finished. Kylie has long held the desire to pursue a career in art. "It has been my dream since I was eight years old. It's all I ever wanted to do."

After finishing a TAFE associate diploma in Fine Art Kylie enrolled in the University's Fine Arts degree program and has studied her chosen discipline for the last four years. Now at the end of her Postgraduate Diploma in Art she is hoping that winning the prize, along with the $1000 prize money, will help her achieve that ambition.

Auto-manic symposium creates a lot of energy

by Jacqueline Lo

A u t o - m a n i c w a s a n i n t e r d i s c i p l i n a r y symposium on performance of self and person in contemporary life. Convened by Therese Davis and myself, the symposium was a joint effort by the Departments of Drama and Sociology and Anthropology with the support of the Faculty of Arts and Social Science. The event featured a range of disciplinary and theoretical perspectives as well as different performance modes.

Professor Stephen Marscke (UTS) presented the first paper which looked at how our bodily identities are related in the perpetuation of political forms. It seems that the formation of State societies (out of tribal ones) involved investments in the body of the king. Do we still make this investment of energy in sovereign power? How does the individual body relate to the body of the community or state?

Maze Turner's (UWS - Nepean) paper focussed on the construction of self in the surrealist visual art works of Meret Oppenheim and Leonora Carrington. Ed Scheer looked at the diversity of self-images by Artaud and the problematic this poses to a theory of subjectivity in self-portraiture. Ed's paper was accompanied by a manic self-portrait by Crow.

Pam Robertson's (English Dept.) presentation used the example of Sandra Bernhard's film, Without You I am Nothing to consider how camp uses blackness as an authenticating presence and reinscribes racial difference to position a more white author as less fixed, queer (white) identity.

Elizabeth Share (Sociology) presented a performance of queer ethnography with Erica Southgate (Education) looked at ethnographic writing and sexuality with the lesbian body. Two parallel workshops were run in the afternoon. Mary Kibby (Sociology) and Bridie Costello (Communication & Media) led a home-pageworkshop on creating cyberselves. Kathy Tift (Fine Arts) facilitated a self-portrait workshop where participants used a variety of media including polychromes, photocopyer, paint and crayons.

The response to the hands-on approach in the workshops was overwhelming.

There was also a video and photographic exhibition featuring the works of John Giffles (UTS), Merlinda Bobis (U. Wollongong), Jim Wafer (Sociology) and Hannah Driscoll (Fine Arts).

The formal side of the symposium concluded with a performance by ex-Sydney Front member and director of Playworks, Clare Grant and a general discussion led by the conveners. The discussion confirmed the productive tensions and resonances that arise from interdisciplinarity encounters.

Plans are underway to produce a book and CD Rom on the topic which will include some of the presentations and papers delivered.

In strict observation to the Greek description of a symposium as a "drinking party with intellectual discussion, food and music", the day ended at the Staff House Bar!

Sculptor makes his mark

by Michael Coughlan

Glenn Henderson, lecturer in sculpture, has been granted a two month stint as artist in residence at the prestigious Brettan Moore Foundation and the Moore Centre. The Centre said, "We are very pleased to have Glenn as artist in residence at the Moore Centre. He has also been commissioned to undertake a major project to be displayed in Britain and also at part of the Newcastle Bicentenary. In addition, he will have the opportunity of studying part of their University of Newcastle degree in England. Reciprocal arrangements are also being explored. Glenn also saw a number of significant events on the local Newcastle art scene including the completion of 30 small works which will eventually be displayed in Britain and Newcastle as part of the 50th anniversary of the British Council in Australia and also as part of the Newcastle Bicentenary. In addition he saw the 50th anniversary of the Civic Park fountain, a sculpture of world significance, as pointing to the maturity of the local art scene. The concept of public outdoor art was being embraced strongly by the local community he said and currently opportunities existed to make Newcastle known for its art just as it is becoming known for its music and the Stewart piano. We are looking forward to offering students the opportunity of studying part of their University of Newcastle degree in England. Reciprocal arrangements are also being explored. Glenn also saw a number of significant events on the local Newcastle art scene including the completion of 30 small works which will eventually be displayed in Britain and Newcastle as part of the 50th anniversary of the British Council in Australia and also as part of the Newcastle Bicentenary. In addition he saw the 50th anniversary of the Civic Park fountain, a sculpture of world significance, as pointing to the maturity of the local art scene. The concept of public outdoor art was being embraced strongly by the local community he said and currently opportunities existed to make Newcastle known for its art just as it is becoming known for its music and the Stewart piano. We are looking forward to offering students the opportunity of studying part of their University of Newcastle degree in England. Reciprocal arrangements are also being explored. Glenn also saw a number of significant events on the local Newcastle art scene including the completion of 30 small works which will eventually be displayed in Britain and Newcastle as part of the 50th anniversary of the British Council in Australia and also as part of the Newcastle Bicentenary. In addition he saw the 50th anniversary of the Civic Park fountain, a sculpture of world significance, as pointing to the maturity of the local art scene. The concept of public outdoor art was being embraced strongly by the local community he said and currently opportunities existed to make Newcastle known for its art just as it is becoming known for its music and the Stewart piano.
A fine grasp of design

Designs for Badgery's Creek Airport Terminal, the Olympic Equestrian Centre, a centre for the Australian Opera on Cockatoo Island, a Sydney Institute of Industrial Arts and an 800 seat Chinese Performing Arts Centre for Singapore were displayed last month at the exhibition of final year works by Faculty of Architecture students.

Called "Grasp," the exhibition was held in both Sydney (at The Rocks) and in the foyer of University House.

In preparing their designs, the students had to interact with real clients, prepare drawings and models and had to pay strict attention to technical resolution and cost planning.

Virginia McLeod who designed a facility for the Australian Opera on Cockatoo Island told the Ear that she had spent most of the year investigating the issues related to the project.

"Cockatoo Island used to be leased by the Defence Department but now it's abandoned and so there was the issue of how to give the people access to this public land. I also had to take into account the huge costs of cleaning up a site which is incredibly polluted. I think the costs would make it prohibitive for the government to pay for the clean up as it owns it. I believe makes the project only happen!"

Virginia said.

"The Australian Opera is also in need of help. They have to pay very high rentals for rehearsal in the Opera House which is not necessarily a good use of their funding. With my design proposal they could have better office space and a rehearsal theatre with the same dimensions as the Opera House so there would be no difficulty working between the two. It would also be used for experimental theatre."

Virginia's design incorporates a beautiful outdoor amphitheatre overlooking the water as well as a marina to accommodate both private boats and public ferries.

The estimated cost of the whole project would be $520 million - $360 million to clean up the polluted site, $120 million for its purchase and $40 million building costs.

"It's that clean-up cost which I believe makes the project only viable one if governments come to the party," she said.

"My suggested approach would be for the Federal Government to pay for the clean up so it owns the land and to then hand it over as a gift to the people of NSW to be run jointly by the State Government and the National Parks and Wildlife Service."

And what reaction did Virginia get to her design from her client, the Australian Opera?

"They said it was wonderful but will never happen!" Virginia explained.

Another of the projects on view at "Grasp" was a design by Nick Hibberd for the Sydney Institute of Industrial Arts and like Virginia's it aimed to make use of an abandoned industrial site. But no harbour views here. The main site boundary overlooks the tangle of railway lines converging into Sydney's Central Railway.

"The site is a dumping ground for State Rail," Nick told the Ear. "But to clean it up would not be difficult or very expensive."

The site was suggested to Nick by his clients - TAFE and City West Development Corporation - both of which have responsibility for the Australian Technology Park which is close by.

"They were interested in cross site links and my design has enabled those links to be established. Students from Sydney University would also have access to both the railway stations and the technology park by being able to walk via the Institute," Nick explained.

Although the site runs alongside the railway line, Nick told the Ear that the noise from trains was not the problem one might imagine.

"Most of the trains verging into Central do so very, very slowly. In fact, as regular commuters would know, half the time the trains aren't moving at all."

Nick has also managed his design in such a way that there are views of beautiful heritage buildings close by and he has also been able to make use of mature trees which blend the borders of his site and the next.

The total cost for the project is $25 million.

Virginia McLeod and Nick Hibberd... both made use of an abandoned industrial side for their final year work.
When too much comedy is barely enough

by Alison Grahame

Having redeﬁned the word "critic" as a totally unstructured measure, a deﬁnition, he said, that shouldn't trouble too many of our former students, comedian John Doyle (alias Rampaging Roy Slaven) proceeded to give a wonderfully evocative and hilarious account of his memories of student life at Newcastle.

The occasion was the annual Newcastle Lectures sponsored by Convocation and which attracted a standing room only crowd of around 1000 to the Griffith Duncan Theatre.

The memories began more or less around 1971 when John arrived in Newcastle from his hometown of Lithgow to take up a teaching scholarship. "I had accepted the teaching scholarship in preference to joining the Commonwealth Public Service as a clerk, the Commonwealth Bank as a teller, the Griffith Duncan Theatre, at Newcastle, or less around 1971 when John ended up in front of a classroom being instructed which was interrupted by the call of whatever political entity that made for a conﬁdence in the University and the community that made for a conﬁdence in the University, the public opinion but a follower of the government will be. This was the start of most exciting journey.

The University, John said, was responsible for a speciﬁc generation of conﬁdent people like Jonathan Biggins, Glenn Butcher, Mikey Robbins, Vic Romey and Tony Squire. "There was something about the direct connection between the University and the community which made that conﬁdence and the way it's covered has an absolute genius for stupidly. Their style was predicated on anticipation. "Sport is all anticipation. I often think that Jim Maxwell and Keith Stackpole would much prefer the cricket to be permanently delayed so they could dwell for ﬁve days on what might have happened. Because there are just so many issues: the selection details, the state of Shane Warne’s finger, the state of the pitch as compared with the pitch in the season of 68, how would it be if the auspicious substitute to open the batting, or the bowling, or both...and this sort of clichéd nonsense has kept as going for 10 years." The name Club Buggery, John conﬁded, came to him at the opera. From memory it was Turendot. "Just as the lights were coming down for the opening of the ﬁrst act, the name leapt out at me. We had experimented with Club Flute, Club Brown, and others, but Buggery seemed just right. It was a very Australian place to go, most importantly it sounded like a club that could only exist in Australia.

To much cheering and clapping, John told the audience that despite the setbacks to the ABC, another series of Club Buggery would go ahead in 1997. There would be no shortage of material, he said, especially now with the ideological forces "steering the country as variously as the rear view mirror as the guide". And here comedy gave way to some serious and thoughtful judgements about where Australia is heading.

"I often think that Jim Maxwell and Keith Stackpole would much prefer the cricket to be permanently delayed so they could dwell for five days on what might have happened."
BOYS IN SCHOOLS

by Ruth Gresham
HarperCollins
RRP: $19.95, 234pp

Title: Boys in Schools
Edited by: Rollo Browne and Richard Fletcher
Publisher: Finch
RRP: $19.95, 234pp

Canterbury Boys' High School's colleagues disappointed in their relationships with young people, particularly boys, was one of negotiation based on mutual respect. Like most of the chapters in the book, the writers take the place of a boy on a journey to earth.

One can easily relate with the quotes from teachers and students and follow the steps (often forward and back) to achieving the goal. Boys in Schools focuses on a cross section of issues relating to boys; bullying, school violence, relationships, peer pressure, masculinity, gender stereotypes, identity, self esteem, homophobia, underachievement and non-involvement in school life. Each chapter deals with one or more of these issues, usually starting with the identification of the problem and moving through strategies which generally lead to a full or partial resolution. The book is set out in such a way that the reader can easily identify the most relevant chapters for their purpose.

However, there are general messages which flow through each experience and on completion of the whole book the reader is left with cohesive approaches to working with adolescent boys effectively. One of the basic criticisms of the book is the lack of experiences shared by teachers and parents of adolescent boys, with the exception of the chapter, "Boys and Relationships." I am sure many infants and lower primary teachers (usually female) and parents of young boys will be left with some feelings of disappointment that their needs and experiences go largely unaddressed. Some chapters about preventative strategies and positive pro-active school welfare programs would have brought balance and a greater sense of completeness to the book.

Despite this, "Boys in Schools" is a book long overdue. Given Steve Biddulph's reference to many schools as "emotional and physical jungles" staffed by "under resourced and overworked teachers" doing "battle with children who have been wounded by parental failure and family breakdowns," it is clear that much work needs to be done if we are to restore a sense of co-operation and understanding to the classroom experience. This book affirms the roles of teachers and parents as central players in helping young people to understand who they are, to build strong positive identities and fulfilling relationships.

This book is a compilation of over 100 short bursts of information, will be a part of the solution to the knowledge gap in men's health.

As a young teacher much of my time was spent on a daily basis "managing boys." Oftentimes felt resentful that lessons were disrupted by the demands of a few boys behavior. Often having to face a backlash against young men's health nor has it been driven by much rather individually or group. Many of our front line health workers, have been most active in promoting attention to men's poor health.

When with subjects from tattoos and tailing it's time to go, for replacement therapy for men, this book also puts paid to the idea that 'men are all the same' and what's men's plumbing and is best to urologists. There is a concentration on the physical and biomedical aspects of health, and some will notice a "gee whiz" fascination with these aspects, but this is useful, coming as we do from a publishing history of books about men's health, which is incompletely discussed the physical and talked only of men's "need to cry". Within the title, the phrase is implied under headings, "Men at Work", "Men in Bed", "Men in the Mirror", they remain basically newspaper-level tips and discussions about health. One benefit of this arrangement is the catch phrase openness, which is the one for Diverticular Disease. It begins with the nurseryman who strained his urine, planted the residue and grew tomatoes! Publishers say that they pitch these sort of books at women since it is women who are most likely to buy the book and give it to their men. Having a book that you can open anywhere may appeal more than a developed discussion linking physical and psychological factors to men's poor health status.

The drawback is the lack of correlation between men's health books on taking precautions - inspect your stool, check your urine, watch your weight, start at the doctor at the first sign of mental swell, feeling thirsty or sore knees. If yes (that's you fellow males) were to read this book from cover to cover you would be certain to find some complaint for yourself. After all, this book is another anal incontinence, two thirds have smelly farts and 30% are alcoholics, and if another 30% have heartburn or if they are over fifty, swollen breasts and 8% are colour blind then there is bound to be something for every male body.

If you are thinking of giving this book to a friend as a gift for Christmas, tell him to open it last. That way he'll at least get to enjoy a few moments before rushing off to the mirror, the toilet or the doctor.

Title: Last Orders
Author: Graham Swift
Publisher: Picador
RRP: $29.95 (cloth);
$16.95 (paper)

by Dr Caroline Webb, Lecturer, Department of English

In 1983 an extraordinary novel was published which brought its author, Graham Swift, finally and definitely to the attention of serious readers. Waterland dazzled with its endlessly reflective narrative, spoken by a history teacher, Mark Swift, and narrated by Trist Crick who, obsessed with the history of his country (the Fen), his family, and his own actions, Francois, bridge the nature of history itself and its capacity to absorb and reflect humanity.

Swift's earlier novels, The Sweet Shop Owner (1980) and Stiffen the Loveliness (1974) had charted related if less complex territory, meditating on the relation between a difficult past and a painful present to ever darker effect.

Since Waterland Swift has written three more novels and a story collection, each of which extends his investigation of a world always less innocent than it might appear, to the nostalgic or despairing narrator, have appeared. All five novels investigate personal failure within the family, finding especial pain in the relationship between parents and children. In particular the narrators discover fathers who are not heroes they were thought to be. Swift has a number of ruminating or personal, that the butcher in the past that so bounds of the civilised; its sites of all significant, that the butcher in the past that so bounds of the civilised; its sites of all significant, that the butcher in the past that so bounds of the civilised; its sites of all significant, that the butcher in the past that so bounds of the civilised; its sites of all significant, that the butcher in the past that so bounds of the civilised; its sites of all significant, that the butcher in the past that so bounds of the civilised; its sites of all significant, that the butcher in the past that so bounds of the civilised; its sites of all significant, that the butcher in the past that so bounds of the civilised; its sites of all significant, that the butcher in the past that so bounds of the civilised; its sites of all significant, that the butcher in the past that so bounds of the civilised; its sites of all significant, that the butcher in the past that so bounds of the civilised; its sites of all significant, that the butcher in the past that so bounds of the civilised; its sites of all significant, that the butcher in the past that so bounds of the civilised; its sites of all significant, that the butcher in the past that so bounds of the civilised; its sites of all significant, that the butcher in the past that so bounds of the civilised; its sites of all significant, that the butcher in the past that so bounds of the civilised; its sites of all significant, that the butcher in the past that so bounds of the civilised; its sites of all significant, that the butcher in the past that so bounds of the civilised; its sites of all significant, that the butcher in the past that so bounds of the civilised; its sites of all significant, that the butcher in the past that so bounds of the civilised; its sites of all significant, that the butcher in the past that so bounds of the civilised; its sites of all significant, that the butcher in the past that so bounds of the civilised; its sites of all significant, that the butcher in the past that so bounds of the civilised; its sites of all significant, that the butcher in the past that so bounds of the civilised; its sites of all significant, that the butcher in the past that so
Snakes Alive!

What immediately takes the eye of the visitor to Dr Kenneth Zimmerman’s biology laboratory at the Central Coast Campus are the snakes in bottles.

by Charles Graham

T hey vary from large to little, dull to the point of camouflaged, brightly coloured, coiled, still a trifle menacing to the lay person, even behind glass. They are representative of the approximately 52 known species of sea snake, and all were caught by Ken, by hand, underwater.

"Sea snakes are 10 to 50 times more deadly than a cobra so you have to be careful with them," he says with admirable understatement in his quiet American drawl (although he’s now an Australian citizen). "They should only be handled by experts."

One becomes an expert through experience and knowledge, and Ken has an abundance of both. He became acquainted with the perils of the water when he was very young.

"I guess I started diving when I was five years old," he recalls. "My father was a diving instructor and that helped a lot."

That was in the USA in a town called Slippery Rock, where young Ken duly went to school and university, in the general vicinity of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. "My dad got me interested in marine biology. We’d go diving in fresh water lakes and rivers and then in the Atlantic 300 miles away. He was one of the pioneers of underwater rescue squads. He taught me to respect the power of the sea."

Kenneth Zimmerman came to Australia to the University of New England’s Zoology Department and took his PhD there in 1989. Two years of his research was spent on Herron Island studying the effect of sea snake venom on prey species, figuring out what sort of venom components were used by snakes to subdue prey. Herron, east of Gladstone off the most southern part of The Great Barrier Reef, has a research station run by the University of Queensland.

"One of his current projects is designing a degree course for 1999 with a major in Marine Science which will be unique to the Central Coast Campus".

His next step was a position at a Marine Research Centre in the United Arab Emirates. He spent two years there, while incidentally the Gulf War was going on. "The biggest problem was internal terrorism," he recalled, and "we noticed marked changes in daily life after the exodus from Kuwait. We made sure to keep stocks of food and water in case anything nasty happened." Nonetheless his biggest interest at this time was the behaviour of the Arabian Gulf sea snake.

Absorbed by the biochemistry and venom of sea snakes, he undertook post doctoral work in venom biochemistry laboratories run by the Atomic Energy Commission in Paris before beginning another Master’s degree back in Australia in the Southern Cross University, Lismore. By this time he and his wife Deborah Shohet (they met at the University of New England, and Debbie is now a research assistant in the Food Technology Department at the Central Coast Campus) had begun a family with the arrival of son Daniel in 1992, followed later by Joshua in 1994. Ken’s life away from work is centred on his family.

He remains a keen swimmer and scuba diver, recreational sports that "go with the territory". He and his family live at Blue Haven on the Central Coast, an ideal location with its nearby lakes, rivers and ocean, and he divers most weekends, for pleasure and research. Research diving has become more rigorously controlled in Australia as safety requirements have increased, he says, and he makes sure students in his Marine Biology courses observe the higher diving qualifications specified. He says the President Coolidge in Vanuatu is a must for all divers, "a war relic and much protected". For a month out of each of the last three years he’s conducted sea snake research in South Pacific islands - like Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu, New Caledonia and Okinawa - sponsored by the Japanese Ministry of Education. "The Japanese are authorities on snake venoms," he explains.

One of his current projects is designing a degree course for 1997 with a major in Marine Science which will be unique to the Central Coast Campus. It will focus on an applied approach to course work, with a goodly helping of field experience.

"We want to train our students to carry out this kind of work," he says. "We need people who can establish marine data bases, monitor and research sea life, and take a marine ecological approach. We’re fortunate in our Biology Department here to have an advisor and research associate in Dr Hal Cogger, formerly Deputy Director of the Australian Museum and an expert on reptiles and amphibians."

After so much connection with the deep and its inhabitants Kenneth is anything but complacent about it.

"I have a great respect for the ocean," he says, "it can have no mercy."
A student’s time at University can provide not only an educational experience but also memories of extra-curricular activities. With this in mind, the Sports Union provides students with the opportunity to participate in social sporting competitions or represent the Uni at the Australian Universities Games level. There is also another group of elite athletes who successfully juggle their studies with almost full time commitments to their sport. Unfortunately contractual agreements prevent some of these students from representing the Uni but they still become involved where possible.

The 1996 year has had no shortage of highlights for our outstanding athletes. The Hunter Mariners have provided opportunities for rugby league players Gavin Thompson and Richard Swain who this year played with the Newcastle Knights, to take a part in the new Super League competition. Other Knights players include Matthew Lee, Craig Nippress and Danney Petriei.

Rugby Union stars Ben Darvin, Graeme Thompson and Andrew James enjoyed a successful year with the NewcastleWildfires. James went on to make Wildfire history when he became the club’s first international representative after being named in the Australian under 19 side for a series against New Zealand. Thompson has just been named in the Emerging Waratahs with a real chance of making the side for the Super Twelve series. Allison Daily has stamped herself as a future Australian Hockey rep after touring Scotland and Wales with the Australian senior youth team. Joined by her sister Lisa in the NSW team, the sisters played a vital role when NSW won the National Hockey League.

The Dallys were also prominent players for the Uni women’s team which reached their first ever grand final in the Newcastle competition (Uni were named joint premiers when the score was locked at full time). To cap off a great year, Alison was also named University Sports Person of the Year. The Newcastle Breakers commitments in the national soccer league meant a switch to part time studies for Glenn Moore but team mate Harry James is continuing his PE/PD health studies in full time capacity. Moore was selected to take part in an Australian under 20 training camp with the chance to impress and make the national team. James has recently made the starting line up of the Breakers first team. Soccer and students seem to go together. Just ask the boys who took out their second consecutive Australian Universities championship.

Many of our students will go on to make Australia’s team for the 2000 Olympics. But Stephanie Forrester who is studying in Newcastle and gaining valuable triathlon experience, may have to choose whether to represent Australia or her native Scotland. Forrester enjoyed success at the Coiffs Hills triathlon over the Christmas break and is currently training with local coaches. Her sporting ability is not restricted to running, riding and swimming. Stephanie was a national soccer player and has lent her expertise to the Uni women’s soccer club as club coach.

Speaking of the 2000 Olympics, judo exponent, Martin Kelly has his sights on new medals through the education system. Besides many of the names mentioned above, Danielle Harvey (squash), Joel Pembroke (Hunter Eagles baseball) and Dimity Taylor (CBA basketball) have reached a high level of representation while Daniel Beckett and Robert Synmonds have been amongst the runs for Uni in the district first grade cricket competition.

A new year will bring new talents to University but the Sports Union activities will be amongst the happy memories of all student athletes when they look back over their year.

A sporting Christmas

If you’re wondering what to buy for that last minute Christmas gift, call the Sports Union and purchase a copy of Blood and Bandages, the history of the Sports Union. For $20 you will make the sportsperson, historian or bookworm in your life a happy, informed reader.

Maybe you would like to try a racquet sport over the Christmas break. The Squash Pavilion has a large range of Pro-Kennex and Ennik squash racquets available as well as Slazenger tennis racquets. And if you’re after a pair of walking shoes, there is a range of New Balance for your selection.