New species found in the Barrington Tops

A number of new species of crustacean have been found in the Barrington Tops plateau and surrounding areas by geography honours student, Lorna Adlem. She has also discovered a particular genus of crustacean in the same location which had not previously been recorded in NSW.

The new species which belong to two orders - Amphipoda and Isopoda (common names scuds and friarlucks) - will be described officially by expert taxonomists at a later date.

The Amphipoda will go to Adelaide University and the Isopoda to the Australian Museum in Sydney. The animals are very small - 1 cm would be considered quite big - and they are also ancient life forms.

"They have been around since Australia was part of the Gondwanaland mass, so you find similar creatures in South Africa, India, and New Zealand. The interesting thing about them, however, is because non-contract workers. However, the evidence suggests that Australia's leading examples of best practice management and work organisation have been established with the involvement of trade unions.

"First, the assumption that awards are a major impediment to flexibility and productivity improvement is wrong. The evidence shows that awards provide ample opportunity for organisational change and improvement, though not for strategies based on low wage competition," Dr. Green said.

"Second, the assumption behind the proposed Australian Workplace Agreements (AWAs) is also misconceived. There is nothing inherently preferable about individual contract relationships between employers and employees as compared with collective agreements and awards.

"Contracts can be used now by companies, provided they do not discriminate against non-contract workers. However, the evidence suggests that Australia's leading examples of best practice management and work organisation have been established with the involvement of trade unions.

"Third, the assumption that the Australian Industrial Relations Commission (AIRC) is the main obstacle to the spread of AWAs is also wrong. Large companies have opted for enterprise agreements as an effective way of structuring their relationship with the workforce. And small companies tend to prefer the stability and certainty of awards.

"The introduction of a new Employment Advocate to replace the public vetting role of the AIRC will do nothing to improve productivity. It will merely open up vulnerable segments of the workforce, especially young people and women, to exploitation," Dr. Green said.

The submission argued that the Workplace Relations Bill should be substantially amended or rejected in its entirety. A copy of the submission is available from Dr. Green.
A week of inspiration and motivation

Professor Lindsay Johnson, the Head of the Department of Architecture, admits that this University's architecture students are the most overworked in Australia. But once a year they get to relax just a little when at the beginning of second semester, they have Common Week where lectures, seminars and workshops become common for all students.

"The idea is to present a number of special lectures with guest speakers and to give students a chance to meet each other and to disconnect from the grind," he said.

This year's Common Week was run for the first time by the students themselves. The organisation is spearheaded by Katrina Julienne, Sacha Zehnder, Jaya Param and Brian Jones decided to call it Uncommon Week and they chose everyone out of doors and re-energised.

"We all just seemed to be lacking in energy and excitement. We're always in the studio working and I thought we just needed to get outside and into the fresh air," Katrina told the Ear.

The motivation for the week came when Peter Stevens who was the Curator of Grounds and who used to take us for site studies, left the University to take up another job. He was just so wonderful. He was the first person to actually take us outside and sit us down and just yawn about the environment. When he left we just panicked. We didn't want to lose what he'd given us so we decided to camp out for the week and learn about the environment, learn about ourselves, to become better people and as a result, better architects.

The students spent the week in tents camping out on Sydney Head behind Engineering and heard from guest speakers such as Richard Le Partriet, the eminent Sydney architect who recently won the Special Jury Award at the 1996 RAIA NSW Awards. Richard Le Partriet, the eminent Sydney architect who recently won the Special Jury Award at the 1996 RAIA NSW Awards. Richard Le Partriet, the eminent Sydney architect who recently won the Special Jury Award at the 1996 RAIA NSW Awards. Richard Le Partriet, the eminent Sydney architect who recently won the Special Jury Award at the 1996 RAIA NSW Awards. Richard Le Partriet, the eminent Sydney architect who recently won the Special Jury Award at the 1996 RAIA NSW Awards. Richard Le Partriet, the eminent Sydney architect who recently won the Special Jury Award at the 1996 RAIA NSW Awards. Richard Le Partriet, the eminent Sydney architect who recently won the Special Jury Award at the 1996 RAIA NSW Awards. Richard Le Partriet, the eminent Sydney architect who recently won the Special Jury Award at the 1996 RAIA NSW Awards. Richard Le Partriet, the eminent Sydney architect who recently won the Special Jury Award at the 1996 RAIA NSW Awards. Richard Le Partriet, the eminent Sydney architect who recently won the Special Jury Award at the 1996 RAIA NSW Awards. Richard Le Partriet, the eminent Sydney architect who recently won the Special Jury Award at the 1996 RAIA NSW Awards. Richard Le Partriet, the eminent Sydney architect who recently won the Special Jury Award at the 1996 RAIA NSW Awards. Richard Le Partriet, the eminent Sydney architect who recently won the Special Jury Award at the 1996 RAIA NSW Awards. Richard Le Partriet, the eminent Sydney architect who recently won the Special Jury Award at the 1996 RAIA NSW Awards. Richard Le Partriet, the eminent Sydney architect who recently won the Special Jury Award at the 1996 RAIA NSW Awards. Richard Le Partriet, the eminent Sydney architect who recently won the Special Jury Award at the 1996 RAIA NSW Awards. Richard Le Partriet, the eminent Sydney architect who recently won the Special Jury Award at the 1996 RAIA NSW Awards. Richard Le Partriet, the eminent Sydney architect who recently won the Special Jury Award at the 1996 RAIA NSW Awards. Richard Le Partriet, the eminent Sydney architect who recently won the Special Jury Award at the 1996 RAIA NSW Awards. Richard Le Partriet, the eminent Sydney architect who recently won the Special Jury Award at the 1996 RAIA NSW Awards. Richard Le Partriet, the eminent Sydney architect who recently won the Special Jury Award at the 1996 RAIA NSW Awards.

New species found

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certain groups are restricted to high altitudes and cold temperatures, they could be good indicators of global warming and so would indicate how conditions changed you would expect to see their habitat shrinking.

Lorna Zehneder, Jaya Param and Brian Jones decided to call it Uncommon Week and they chose everyone out of doors and re-energised.

"You can readily see the differences between the habitats found in the National Park and those in the ordinary agricultural land further north. On the agricultural land many of the species that used to be there have been drained with the result that in those places there are only remnant populations left."

Lorna's research took her two months and what with camping out for days on end and wading through freezing cold mountain waters with a net in hand to catch her samples, it was quite a difficult and time consuming business.

"I took friends with me, I didn't go camping alone, but when it came to walking into freezing water suddenly everyone had something better to do!"

There isn't too much about these tiny crustaceans that Lorna doesn't know or find interesting. In fact she's had a fascination with small life forms since she was a child.

"I was always intrigued by insects and I feel that as far as social organisation goes, they appear more advanced than we are."

Lorna is now planning to turn her thesis into a paper for the Linnean Society of NSW which gave her a grant last year to help with the research.

Aviation research takes off

by Alison Grahame

Sometimes it just doesn't pay to become too successful. Take the Department of Architecture and Technology as a case in point.

For the past six years, the staff have been turning out graduates who have been snapped up by the aviation industry - either as pilots or in a range of other professional positions. The employment rate for its graduates is very high, with recent graduates gaining employment as pilots with Qantas, Cathay Pacific, Ansett, the Royal Australian Air Force, Army and Navy; and as air traffic controllers with AirServices Australia.

Many graduates are working in flying training organisations throughout Australia as they gain experience before joining the major airlines. Graduates have also found aviation related research and teaching positions with the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) and the University of Western Sydney. But such success has been seen by many in the University as evidence that the Department's high standing in the industry as a source of rigorously trained employees, has been at the expense of its research output.

Whether such a view can be supported by the facts is another matter, but it is a view which Head of Department Dr Peter Harris has acknowledged and it has led to the formation this year of the Human Factors Research Group. The Department is now set to achieve in research what it has already achieved with its graduates - a product that is relevant to industry.

This Group will concentrate on the interface between humans and machines or to give this its proper title, human factors. This is the study of people and how they interact with all kinds of machines including ships, buses, trucks, trains and cars. It covers psychology both social and cognitive (areas such as stress, workloads, communication skills and decision making) as well as engineering (areas such as the ergonomics of technical equipment, and making the machine to fit the user rather than the other way round).

It is an area of research which is very important in many industries, particularly aviation, but which has been sadly lacking not just in Australia but worldwide.

The Group will draw on the academic strengths and industry experience of full time staff members Peter Pfister, Mark Wiggins, Mike Nendick, Scott Taylor, and Warren Wilks and all its part time staff members. Expertise will also be drawn from outside the Department with members such as Associate Professors Richard Heath and

Continued page 4
Major Pamela Malroy decided at the age of 11 that she wanted to be an astronaut.

The sight of a man on the moon really impelled me to make these career decisions at a very early age," the US Airforce test pilot, who hopes to fly the Space Shuttle in 1998 told an audience at the University last month.

A veteran of Desert Storm with over 200 combat and support hours, the 35 year old flew KC-10 cargo aircraft with her main task to refuel parcels of fighters in mid-air, frequently in Iraq air space.

"That’s when we started logging the combat time because of the danger of being in that air space. It was kind of an intense experience to know that fuel is in the back and yet with no weapon detection system and you certainly have no guns to fire."

While she was in the Gulf, Major Malroy learned she had been selected to train as a test pilot at Edwards Airforce Base.

After four years as a test pilot, she was selected to enter the astronaut corp. The class was comprised of half pilots and half mission specialists who went through an intensive year of training.

Major Malroy described many of the training tasks she undertook last year but said the most fun she had was experiencing zero gravity in the M KC-135 aircraft. "The pilots dive at the ground and at about 3000 metres they pull up and get to this amazingly intense 45 degree angle, much higher than you ever take an aircraft of this type. At the top you push the yoke over and you get about 26 seconds of zero gravity. It was a wild ride. I was really having a good time, I personally didn’t feel sick at all."

The candidates also got extensive training on the scientific experiments conducted on the Shuttle, including the way matter behaves in zero gravity.

"Right now there are three drugs for breast cancer, diabetes and AIDS developed from science learned from the Shuttle. They are currently being tested by the Federal Drug Administration in the States. We’re very proud of this!" The training also included geology, oceanography, atmospheric physics, meteorology and every aspect of earth observation. NASA’s plans for the future include a return trip to the moon in the next 10-15 years, Major Malroy said. "But the big thing is preparation for the first manned flight to Mars in about 20 years time. This is a huge undertaking. It takes eight minutes to reach orbit, three days to get to the moon, but six months to Mars."

And advice to Australian students keen to enter the space race? Major Malroy suggests you choose any aspect of maths, science, computer science or engineering that really interests you.

"Something that in pilot terminology ‘blows your airbags’ - that’s the thing that you’ll focus on. You’ll put your heart and soul into it and that’s where you’ll get your best achievements. The kind of things that help you progress in your career field are the things that will help you be selected as an astronaut. So I selected astronomy because it fascinated me and it worked for me."

Major Malroy’s visit was organised by the Department of Aviation and Technology.

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**Building a close working relationship**

by Tim Isles

Work has begun at the Central Coast Campus to regenerate the flood plain between the campus and the railway line, with plantings of a range of native species which it is hoped will bring the area back to its natural state. The project initially involves the removal of around 38,000 cubic metres of material including soil and noxious weeds such as privet, camphor laurels, lactana and blackberry bushes that have strangled the area.

Ted Watson, the Development Director in charge of the project, said that undertaking the clearance would provide a vast retention basin for floodwaters, helping to ensure that surrounding areas wouldn’t suffer serious flood damage in the future.

"It also prepares the way for us to construct, in cooperation with Wyong Council, a safe footpath for students who walk to the campus from Ourimbah station," he said. "Unfortunately it looks a bit bare at the moment, but once we’ve removed the intrusive plants that stifle native growth, we will be seeing the return of thin gums, melaleuca, acacia and swamp mahogany."

As part of the development the campus car park is being extended to cater for the increasing number of students now enrolling in TAFE, University and Community College courses.

One of the recommendations in his subsequent report was the introduction of regular short courses in Australia for Thai teacher-college lecturers, special school principals and provincial administrators.

One such course, coordinated through the University, involved a group of 15 Thai educators and administrators who undertook studies through the Special Education Centre as well as at Griffith University in Brisbane and Flinders University in Adelaide. Funding for the visiting group’s nine-week program has come from DEET, the AVCC and AusAID.

Dr Conway told the Ear that the course had three levels. In the first, the group participated in studies in Australia, in the second they returned home to where they would be assisted by a team of three visiting Australian educators to prepare an in-service program. "Then in the third stage of the program our Thai colleagues would become lecturers in their own in-service program with the support of the three Australian educators," he said.

Dr Conway said that during their Newcastle visit the group of Thai educators participated in a series of workshops on campus balanced by visits to schools with a special education focus.

"The idea was to make the workshops as practical as possible and then go out to a school with a special-education setting and see what they’re learning in action. So the emphasis in these short courses is very much on the practical - we’re trying to give as much information as possible about what we are doing. For this particular course, eight lecturers in special education were involved, as well as staff from our Early Intervention Program."

The course focused on issues relating to early intervention (a field in which the University excels) - intellectual disabilities and the integration of children with disabilities in regular schools.

Dr Conway said the visit by the Thai educators reflected the close working relationship which the University has built up with the Thai education community in the provision of special education services.

"The University has had a long history of involvement with the Thai Government. It has a contract with the Thai Government to train lecturers for their 36 Rajabhat Institutes (Teacher College) and five of their newly built Special Education Centres have been developed using this centre and the Tinga Centre at Floraville as their model."

I refer to Miss Sowapa Burarote, Mrs Sunanta Tiamgong and Mr Koon Namburint with one of the children at the Special Education Centre.
Architecture student wins two scholarships

Mature age architecture student, Helen Stronach who recently collected scholarships worth $10,000 - the James Hardie Scholarship and the WRAP Air Scholarship - was always interested in architecture but marrying at the age of 19 and starting a family soon after, put the idea of further study at the back of her mind. And there it stayed until three years ago.

"When my marriage ended I started up a children's clothing company called Ocky Docket in partnership with my sister. It was based in Newcastle and was extremely successful with agencies in every State - we even sold to D.J.'s," Helen said.

"But it was very hard work and at peak times like Christmas it was really difficult to spend as much time with my children as I would have liked, so in 1992 when my sister had her first child we thought it was time to call it a day and we closed the company down. Then I began my architecture degree the following year.

The Wreck Air Scholarship was given to Helen for academic achievement in her first degree, the James Hardie Scholarship, awarded for her third year design for a Wollotuka Centre, was presented at the recent Royal Institute of Architects awards night in Sydney.

In the future, Helen's design was so far ahead of the rest of the field that according to Dean of Architecture, Professor Barry Maitland, the judges did not need to go to interview - a process often needed to help select the winner.

In their written assessment, the judges said that Helen's submission was "an exemplary level of integration of design and theory with construction, precise thought and finishes... Helen's tenacity is evident in the presented detailed work and stands testimony of her desire to seek and design ideas with construction."

Helen is now into her fourth year of her Doctorate, and is firmly of the opinion that women are needed in the profession as the need to bring a different perspective.

"I'm particularly interested in environmental issues," Helen explained. "Most of our buildings are unhealthy in that the materials they contain like plastics and carbon fibre bicycle board give off gases. It's not unheard of for people to get quite ill when they move into a new project home. I'd like to design buildings that give you a sense of well-being."

Aviation research takes off

From Page 2

and Phil Moore. There will also be regular input from experts in New Zealand and Australia such as Dr David Hare from Otago University, Dr Ross St George from the NZ Civil Aviation Authority and Dr Simon Oldfield from DSTO.

Speaking to Michael Nendick, an ex-navigator, air traffic controller, and a pilot who has recently completed his Masters in Industrial/Organisational and Aviation Psychology, it was clear that the staff are highly enthusiastic about the new developments and keen to make their research effort as successful as their teaching.

"We currently have four Doctoral students as well as four Masters students in the Department and I intend to start my own PhD very shortly," Mike said. "We are a relatively young Department and what we are now trying to do is negotiate the transition from being a place which has relied on staff with wide ranging industry experience with the best "real world" credentials, to one where there is an increasing role for those with an additional academic and research background. Ideally we would like to have some like Captains who also hold a PhD in Aviation."

This transition, he said, will benefit not only future students but will ensure the Department will make an even greater contribution to the Australian aviation industry than it does at present.

"The University of Newcastle is one of 13 universities throughout the country offering some form of aviation training but it is the only one offering the full range of aviation degrees and a fully developed research function. When the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA), industry representatives and major airlines from throughout Australia, New Zealand and the Asia Pacific region recently met as a working group to look at developing licensing and training requirements for implementing the new Global Positioning System (GPS) technology, the only University to be invited to participate was Newcastle," Mike said.

As it happens, Mike's Masters thesis was on GPS and the human factors aspects of its use by pilots and so it was he who took part in the working group. He has written the chapter, Human Factors and GPS, for CASA's GPS handbook for pilots and his proposed PhD will delve more deeply into the subject.

Before we go any further a bit of an explanation of what GPS actually is and does.

GPS is a satellite based positioning system which enables a pilot to enter flight details into a machine (in many cases not much larger than our average pocket calculator or car radio), and it will automatically keep the plane on course. But as Mike explained, it has its drawbacks.

"Traditionally, aviation technology has been developed from advanced military and civil research and has undergone comprehensive testing before being installed firstly into the big airliners, and then finally into light aircraft. But GPS is an example of flight instrument automation that reverses that trend. It has been rapidly adopted ahead of any regulatory provisions or training requirements because it was a product of commercial technology and one that was immediately available and readily affordable. The speed of the development of GPS has meant that the aviation industry has had to try to develop standards and training well after the event." From our earlier research it's clear that many pilots with little knowledge of its limitations or capabilities are relying on GPS far too heavily. In fact what I call technology with lethal implications. GPS makes it possible for a pilot to press a button that says "go-to-darling" and off the plane will go. But if the pilot hasn't entered information relating to the topography being flown over, then the pilot can "go-to-direct" into a mountain!"

For Mike's PhD research the Department is planning to install GPS into four flight simulators and he is hopeful that as a result, some of the human factors problems relating to the technology will be identified and resolved.

"It's really a matter for the marketplace. There are a number of different models of GPS equipment and not all of them are user friendly. Many have large screens that are too hard to read and their buttons are too small. This can lead to study and loving it and however, that if we can lay down well researched data about them and what isn't acceptable, that through market pressure, the companies currently making the equipment will make a better, standardised product."
Get great marks for your essays

John Gernov from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology has written a user friendly guide to writing tertiary level essays. Titled Get Great Marks For Your Essays, the book is published by Allen and Unwin and was officially launched last week as part of the University's regular "In Print" series.

John who was given the University's Award for Excellence in Teaching this year, holds a teaching philosophy which emphasises linking knowledge with study skills such as reading, researching, critical analysis, referencing and essay writing. It is useless to try to inspire critical thought, he says, if students don't have the skills to put it into practice.

"Many students are ill-prepared for tertiary study and experience a great shock when their first assignment is returned with a lower than expected mark," he said.

"For academics have the time to teach academic skills to their students. Therefore, students are often left on their own to sink or swim." The book addresses this issue by providing a short, step by step, practical guide to academic skills. By using the book and acquiring the necessary skills, students can be assessed on their true knowledge and understanding.

Get Great Marks For Your Essays is written in an accessible style with plenty of humour and covers every aspect of writing the tertiary essay. Topics include time management, planning, interpreting the topic, brainstorming, how to find information, how to read academic texts and save time in taking notes, referencing, and how to write in an academic way.

"Perhaps the most important aspect of the book is that it shows students how to analyse and how to support an argument," John said.

It may be cold but the research is hot

Spending a year in the Antarctic as part of your post graduate studies may not be every one's cup of tea but it certainly proved a major attraction for post graduate student David Neudegg.

Working as part of the University's Space Plasma Waves Group (SPWG), David spent 12 months in the Antarctic assisting the Solar Terrestrial Energy (STEP) Program, a coordinated world wide program of over 2000 people researching energy in space with the aim of assisting in the prediction of weather patterns.

As a consequence Neudegg was part of the Davis Base winter party, and went on several vehicular traverses from Davis Base on to the polar ice cap. The purpose of the traverses was to set up equipment to measure plasma waves propagating at an altitude of 350km with velocities near 500km/sec. These waves bring energy into the atmosphere from space.

David said that the University's Physics Department is at the forefront in near-earth space research and this is what attracted him to study here. He said the SPWG has been taking part in studies of the Earth's space environment - a region 100km to 50,000 altitude known as GeoSpace. The Earth's magnetic field and plasma (highly charged particles) dominate this environment.

He explained that the Magnetosphere is the area in GeoSpace that protects the earth from solar particle radiation with the most visible attribute being the Aurora. What causes an Aurora to brighten is an intensification of electric currents in a magnetic storm. This we know seriously affects satellite communication links and power distribution grids at high latitudes and as a result is an important area of study.

The Earth's magnetic field funnels down onto the North and South poles around regions known as 'cusps'. Situated at an altitude of 100km, charged particles and waves in the plasma coming from space enter the atmosphere through them. The cusp moves in relation to the Earth's surface, due to the Earth's rotation and the sun's activities, causing the focus of the funnel to change.

To study the effects of this, the Department of Physics has formed close links with the University of Maryland. Newcastle's Professor Brian Fraser and Doctor Fred Menk have recently received funding for the joint SHIRE (Southern Hemisphere Imaging Riometer Experiment) project, building a riometer at Australia's Davis Base in the Antarctic. The riometer uses radio waves to create images of the regions of enhanced ionisation as detected by the Aurora. The riometer will be operating by the end of February 1997.

The SHIRE project will explore the idea that the energy input from the polar cusps may affect the weather. The results will be fed into STEP.

One hundred people from Australia stay in Antarctica each winter and Neudegg suggests that for Australians the experience of minus 30 degree temperatures and a 6 week winter night are quite odd. An intense level of activity with the Aurora has been noted. He said the effect on the environment has yet to be determined.

Chinese delegation visits Central Coast

Australia must improve its performance in marketing if it wants to capture the Asian market on its doorstep, according to Associate Professor Chris Yuen of the Food Technology Department at the Central Coast Campus.

Professor Yuen was addressing a delegation from the Science and Technology Commission of the Fujian Province in the People's Republic of China. "Asia has become the fastest growing economy in the world," he said. "It is expected to account for 60% of world income by the year 2025 and if Australia is to take advantage of this growth, it must overcome high production and transportation costs, low productivity and ignorance of Asian cultures."

The delegation of seven experts led by Professor Cheng Yuenrong, is in Australia to study food and agriculture production and to promote collaboration in research, teaching and training between Australia and China. Its visit to the Central Coast Campus was part of a comprehensive 10 day program.

Professor Yuen spoke to the delegation about Australia's agricultural industry and its untapped opportunities to export food and fibre to Asian countries. He said there were similarities between China and Australia in that both countries occupied some 768 billion hectares of which only a third was arable.

"Australia is the world's most efficient food producer but exports are hampered by quotas, high tariffs, subsidies and quarantine regulations imposed by its major competitors," he said.

"As the market for products in the unprocessed form tend to be volatile and unstable, Australia's major growth area is now in processing and manufacture, but like China, it has historically looked principally to the domestic market. As demand from the Asia Pacific region is growing at 4% a year, Australia's future in food agriculture lies in Asia."

The new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Roger Holmes will take up his appointment next Monday and will be profiled in a forthcoming edition of The Ear.
Unisaysgoodbye

Over thirty overseas students were given a farewell at the University last month. The purpose of the farewell was to formally acknowledge the contribution the students have made to University life.

The farewell is held every six months for overseas students who have completed their courses at the University and will be returning home.

The students came from a wide variety of countries including: Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, India, Indonesia, New Guinea, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Africa, South Korea, Scandinavia and the United States. The length of their stay has varied from six months for students here on short term exchange programs to several years for those who came to study for a full degree.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Keith Lester and Pro Vice-Chancellor (External Relations) Professor Jenny Graham both attended the function.

"Besides the millions of dollars which are brought into the New Newcastle economy by overseas students, they also contribute significantly to the social and cultural life of Newcastle and the University," Professor Graham said. "They are also of tremendous help in assisting the University in its internationalisation initiatives, she said.

"This function is one of the ways we have of recognising the positive involvement of the overseas students both in University life and in the general Newcastle community. It highlights the vital part overseas students are playing in internationalising the Newcastle region."

Complementing the farewell, the University also holds an overseas graduation ceremony in Asia each year for those who opt to accept their degrees in front of their families. This year's ceremony will be held in Singapore later this month.

Study aimed at helping stressed out principals

When one of his best students abandoned his postgraduate studies and quit his job, Dr David Gamage knew that there was something seriously wrong. The principal of a small school, Dr Gamage's student was forced to retire due to work-related stress.

In a study on small schools, Dr Gamage has found that principals who also teach, face unique problems filling the roles of full-time teacher and full-time administrator. They often have to work without clerical assistance and they have difficulties with inadequate relief time, and lack of professional development opportunities.

Dr Gamage welcomed the recent announcement by the Minister for Education, John Aquilina, increasing the number of yearly relief days for the smallest 13 schools in the Hunter by 7 days and the other 77 schools by four days.

"I think that's a very good step. It's a step in the right direction," he said.

Dr Gamage said that teaching principals in smaller schools are often isolated from their peers, and other teaching colleagues. Unlike their contemporaries in larger schools, teachers in smaller schools have to perform their duties and responsibilities with inadequate facilities and access to services.

One of the toughest problems is in attending to the behaviour problems of kids, especially when many small schools are in remote, isolated communities without the degree of support that larger schools have.

Dr Gamage, a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Education, commenced his study earlier this year. He is working with a consultative group of teaching principals, departmental officials and academics.

Dr Gamage feels that the findings of his research would be useful to the practitioners in schools, the Department of School Education, scholars and school communities. He hopes that the government authorities will take note of his study and put into effect desirable and badly needed changes to current practices.

Successful SP microscopy conference

The first Australasian Scanning Probe Microscopy Conference was held in Newcastle last month under the auspices of the University. Organised by Dr Simon Biggs from the Chemistry Department, it attracted 45 delegates from Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

"In the world of science and technology, SPMs are one of the newest and most exciting pieces of technology available," Dr Biggs told the Ear. "They are able to image individual atoms and molecules, a level of resolution unattainable by any other route. The development of the SPM led directly to the Nobel prize in Physics for its inventors, Binnig and Rohrer." Twenty two papers were presented at the Conference on a wide range of topics including mechanobiological engineering, mining, steel making, optical lens manufacturing, and, of course, microscopy.

Invited presentations were given by Dr William Decker of the University of Otago and Dr Craig Decker from Digital Instruments in Santa Barbara, California. Dr Decker presented recent work he has been undertaking into the aggregation of surface active materials on mineral surfaces. His presentation highlighted the need to understand and control the forces operating on the imaging probe in an AFM in order to get maximum image resolution. Dr Prater's presentation centred on some of the recent developments of AFM techniques and allowed delegates some insight into how and where this new form of microscopy is heading over the next few years.

"We are planning to hold a similar meeting in two years time, although the venue and dates have yet to be finalised," Dr Biggs said. "In the meantime, it is hoped to formalise a network of Australasian SPM users."

Bike thieves strike again

A new rash of bike thefts on campus has cost at least four students their bicycles each of which were valued at between $1000-$1500.

The Manager of University Security Services, Mr Peter Boyd, says two of the bikes were stolen from an area adjacent to a public telephone booth outside the Engineering Building. Mr Boyd says sometimes the locking devices used to attach bikes are not appropriate to the value of the bike and suggest that bike owners could safeguard their bikes better by buying more expensive securing devices.

"Bike riders should also look at insuring their bikes. This may be covered in some household insurance policies. So owners should check with their insurance companies about cover."

He says the last rash of bike thefts occurred in June from an area outside the Auchmuty Library and claimed two bikes, one of which was valued at over $2000.

"We get these people who seem to turn up now and again and steal a number of bikes, and of course it is difficult for our Security Officers because we can keep an eye on bicycle areas for only so long, and we never know when they will strike next."

Asked about the possibility of setting up a secure area for bikes, Mr Boyd says such a move was mooted some years ago, but problems arose as to a site convenient to all cyclists, the costs involved in employing an attendant and the need to pass costs on through user-fees.

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Hugh Mackay
Wednesday, 28 August 1996

Phillip Adams AD PESA
Tuesday, 3 September 1996

Prof. Geoffrey Blainey AD
Wednesday, 11 September 1996
NOTICES

Distinguished Visitor in Health Promotion

Newcastle is soon to receive a visit from distinguished guest Professor Lawrence Green from the University of British Colombia, Canada. Professor Green is known for his extensive research in the field of behavioural science and health promotion over the last decade.

The Hunter Centre for Health Advancement is hosting Professor Green's stay after successfully competing for a grant from the Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Visitor's Program.

The Hunter Region will make the most of Professor Green's visit through a number of workshops and seminars where he will discuss his prominent health promotion work, which includes the comprehensive planning and evaluation framework for health promotion known as the PRECEDE-PROCEED Model.

His two month visit during August and September, a scheduled event, will include a Workshop on Planning and Evaluation for Health Promotion (19-23 August), a Health Promotion in Schools Symposium (9-10 September), a public lecture, meeting with health science managers, internal staff seminars and consultation with The Hunter Centre for Health Advancement on current projects occurring in the Hunter.

All staff and interested parties are encouraged to attend the public lecture to be held on 18 September 5pm-7pm in the David Numbers Building, King Street, Newcastle. Light refreshments will be served and those wishing to attend are requested to RSVP.

It is expected that visitors will travel from throughout Australia to attend the scheduled events.

For further information regarding Professor Green's visit to Newcastle contact The Hunter Centre for Health Advancement on 24 6378.

The Institute of Counselling

Counselling and Careers: A Conference Across Australia September 26, 27 & 28 at Macquarie University - For further information please contact Conference Secretary Institute of Counselling 190 High Street Wollongbar 2068

DISCOVERY DAY

The University will be holding a Discovery Day

8 September at the New South Wales Campus
21 September at the Callaghan Campus
Both days run from 10am to 4pm.
For further information contact Car Patterson on 7228.

Information Technology Research Day

The Departments of Computer Science and Software Engineering, Management, and Electrical and Computer Engineering will host the University's Information Technology Research Day on 11 September, 1996.

The day will consist of lectures on current research in Information Technology at the University. The lectures will be given by experts in areas including Information Visualization, High Performance Computer Architectures, Electronic Commerce, and Data Security.

For further information, contact Dr Mirka Mitic on 3791 or 6204. Email: mikitcsa.cs.newcastle.edu.au

Congress on Adult Continuing Education

15-17 February 1997. For details: International Institute for Adult Education Methods PO Box 19395s 6/194
Tehran 19156 Islamic Republic of IRAN Ph: (02) 205 03/1, Fax (02) 640 6940

Office Relocation

Staff Health Safety and Welfare formally the Occupational Health and Safety Unit has relocated from the Bowman Building to the Chancellory Stage 2. You can find us located in the Human Resource Management Branch. Contact details are as follows: Helene-Anne Wilson Team Leader Staff Health Safety and Welfare on 6546 and Liz Pilgrim Team Assistant on 6543. Email: epiligmaint@nmail.newcastle.edu.au

You may contact John Hassender Human Resource Officer on 6542 and Mary Barnes workers compensation claims on 5263.

Please note the new fax 5285 or 5288.

Vice-Chancellor's Research Best Practice Scheme

Information for Applicants for the 1997 Round

The Australian Taxation Office has advised that the honourarium for the payments made under the above scheme is subject to PAYE for Australian residents. For international visitors, the honourarium is not subject to taxation. If further information is required, please contact Sue Beach, Office of the Vice-Chancellor ext 5937.

Australian Federation of University Women

Hunter Valley Branch Theatre to the comedy "Dinners Assorted". Venue: Newcastle Repertory 90 De Vlivo St Lambton Date: 29 August Cost: $1 Phone: 29 5226 for bookings.

Department of Geology

Seminar 12 noon, ROOM G 04, Geology Building 19 August
Ms Sue Dippel The Australian-Antarctic discordance - implications for mantle flow regimes
Mr Daman Kindra The role of mantle plumes in continental break-up.
26 August
Ms Sonia Cousins (to be announced) and Mr Mark Tawley Models for the accretion of the Earth & formation of the core.

Do you need publicity?

Do you have an event or function you would like publicised to the media? If so contact Carolyn Warner by fax 7420, email: cwarner@nmail.newcastle.edu.au or phone her on 6856 by the Friday before the event. Carolyn will be happy to include it in the media diary which is sent out each Monday to local media.

Deadline

Deadline for the next issue of the Inner Ear is Tuesday 20 August at 10am.

Second Indonesian Students Conference

Indonesia-Australia: Toward Understanding and Co-operation The Conference will be held on 21-22 August 1996 and will take place at Leonard Husky Lecture Theatre, the Australian National University, Canberra. For more information e-mail Swardni Carina.serrin@ouwnatanu.edu.au

Continuing Professional Education Unit

Professional Education Program
Communicating Effectively $175 Code 451
9am-5pm Thursday 13 August
Improving Individual and Team Workplace Performance $355 Code 433
6-9pm 6x3hr sessions commencing Tuesday 20 August
Leisure and Recreational Program
Broughton Island National Park $40 Code 251
Sunday 8 September (Cruise)
3181 Governor Macquarie Names - Windsor $80 Code 250 Sunday 15 September
For full programs see the CWIS.

STORE BULLETIN

The 1997 Government calendars are now available from the Purchasing office, please call in and collect. First in first served basis, 1997 diaries are expected to be in the store by the beginning of October.

Amendment - Issue 8 - NEW PART NUMBER
PS348035 Ink cartridge Epson Stylus 820 (S020047)
Printing Requisitions - NEW 1724H PS215 066 Lloyd Scott Printing Requisition Pads No Charge
For further information please contact Robin Cone 3336.

Programs offered by CALT during August

Teaching large classes series
A special series presented by Dr Lee Andrews, formerly of the University of New South Wales and Professor Alan Jenkins of Oregon State University.
Teaching Large Groups: concern and strategies Tuesday 29 9.30am - 12.30pm
Australasian More Students: Thursday 29 2.30-4.30pm
Designing University Education for Life Long Learners: Friday 30 9.30am - 12.30pm
Reflecting on Fieldwork: Friday 23 9.30am - 12.30pm
Postgraduate Supervisors Program
Overseas Students Friday 16 2 - 4pm
Associate Professor Trevor Tanley of Macquarie University will discuss his experience supervising overseas postgraduate students.

Women's Career Development Program
General Staff Workshops: Career Movers Series - Session I Monday 26 & Monday 23 (Sept)
For women in clerical, secretarial and administrative positions at HEW levels 2-4.
Promoters: Australia England, CalT and Max Martin, DEC.
Those who participate will gain a greater understanding of their roles and responsibilities; increased personal valuation of their contribution to the organisation; enhanced understanding of the concept of career paths and its applicability for clerical and administrative staff; and increased communication and negotiation skills.

For more details see the CWIS
**MATTERS**

Our IT Infrastructure

Information technology permeates all the University’s activities: teaching, learning, research, administration and community service. Information and communication technologies are systems, and using information technology, provides the foundation for these activities. Increasing the University’s information technology (IT) infrastructure will be a critical factor in the ongoing success of the institution. The IT infrastructure includes items such as the expansion or enhancement of the University’s corporate information systems, data network, educational technology in centrally managed teaching spaces and computer laboratories which service several Faculties. The infrastructure provides the foundation for the University to provide new and enhanced services and to be more effective and efficient in its operations. In order to remain an academically abreast of their assignments and provide access to similar electronic information, and to improve the learning through the use of appropriate technologies. The University’s teaching, research and learning processes are supported by a suite of information technology that the University does: its teaching.

The University’s infrastructure the process does provides the foundation for the University’s continuing professional development. Plans and budget for core infrastructure. The Library has been funded through the University’s Information Management Plan being developed by the Director of Information Technology through the Information Technology Planning and Policy Committee. The first draft of the plan will be complete by the end of 1996 but in the absence of such a plan we must continue to develop the information technology infrastructure to meet our immediate and emerging needs in the short to medium term. With this goal in mind, staff within the Information Technology Division have examined the infrastructure needs for IT infrastructure development and an initial plan and budget has been given to the Vice Chancellor. The plan will require a review within the context of the IT Management Plan as it evolves. Acceptance of this initial IT infrastructure development plan will be contingent upon the University’s commitment to such a strategy within the context of forecast budget costs.

**LIONBYS**

Electronic Publishing by University Staff

A increasing number of research is now being published on the Internet, and specifically on the University’s IT infrastructure. Mark, a graduate of our University, was most recently IT Client Services Manager for Energy Australia (the largest energy services company in Australia with over 1.2 million customers) with responsibility for managing multi-million dollar IT projects on behalf of the University. Mark’s goal is to ensure that the University’s IT infrastructure is aligned with the overall directions of the University, providing the University with maximum return and minimum risk for its investment in information technology and ensuring competitive advantage for the University through the innovative use of information technology.

The University will like to collect and provide access to all such electronic documents produced by staff, as it already collects and provides access to similar documents in print format. However, we do not yet have a means of finding out what is being published by staff in electronic format.

We would therefore appreciate it if any staff publishing substantial amounts on the Internet or the WWW would let the Library know, so that information about the documents can be added to the RMIT University Library database. If this includes documents held in the Library in question, we would like to know about:

- Electronic journals edited by staff members or published by departments
- Papers presented at conferences by staff members
- Research papers
- Any document which is similar in substance and permanent value to a printed book.

At this stage, we would consider the following to be out of scope for NEXTCAT:

- Articles in electronic journals (since their printed equivalents are not found in NEXTCAT)
- Personal home pages or departmental home pages
- Contributions to Unites or to other electronic discussion groups, unless they are of some substance and are to be preserved permanently on the Internet or WWW. Information about such electronic documents should be sent to the Quality Control Librarian, Libs Martin (email address:sivewaynenewcastle.edu.au), and include the author, title and URL of the document. We will try to create records in Newcastle in the Australian Bibliographic Network for these documents, while in the future we may set up a mechanism for permanently preserving them on a computer in the Library.

Weekend Library Hours

The Library would be open on saturdays from 8 am to 5 pm. Please telephone (ah) 6444 for further information.

The Lionel Murphy Foundation

This scholarship was established in 1996 principally to provide scholarship opportunities for the study of law and science. Applications close 1 October. 1996. Brochures are available by phoning 02) 223 5151 or 223 4311.

If you are not 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 (URL, 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.

The University of Newcastle
Award-winning artist Tina Wilson, in her final year of her Bachelor of Arts (Visual Arts), found inspiration for her remarkable art work from her upbringing on the family sheep farm in Snake Valley, Victoria.

One of five children, Tina and her brothers and sisters shared a love of animals and drawing. "We used to go frog hunting and we loved spiders and insects. We'd always be bringing them into the house to scare Mum and we had pet lambs and other animals as well."

While both her parents and her siblings all had artistic ability, Tina was the first family member to decide to pursue a career in art. Good at maths and science, she had a struggle to convince most of her teachers at Ballarat High School that she was doing the right thing dropping most of her "serious" subjects to do Art and Graphics in Year 12.

"My art teacher, Len Brookman, was inspirational," Tina said. "He helped me emotionally to stick up for what I wanted to be an artist." Encouraged by her parents, Tina wrote to naturalist and photographer Desmond Clyde, who told her about Newcastle University, the Ear Centre in Ballarat and the unique plant and wildlife illustration course at the University of Newcastle. "I was amazed at how big Newcastle was, I had no idea before I came," Tina said. "It was really scary but also exciting and because I lived on campus and most of the people I lived with were from the country as well, I never really got homesick."

Being alone so far from the sleepy hamlet of Snake Valley (30km outside Ballarat) was no impediment to Tina's artistic career. As well as being able to supplement her Austudy payments by selling artworks, Tina recently won both the contemporary and watercolour sections of the William Dobell Art Competition, and received an honorary mention in the plant and wildlife section. She also took out second and third prizes in the Australian Entomological Society insect illustration competition last year and her works adorn the walls of the newly opened Victorian Nature Education Centre in Ballarat.

"I want to be a freelance artist and hope to illustrate children's books because I love the creativity it involves," Tina said.

The guilty pleasures of feminist camp

by Kim Britton

Camp - a sensibility committed to arbitrage, elegance and theatricality, especially in relation to sex and gender roles. (Pamela Robertson)

Madonna has been referred to as "Mae West for puppys". What both performers had in common is their ability at camp. In her book, Guilty Pleasures: Feminist Camp from Mae West to Madonna, lecturer in Film Studies Dr Pamela Robertson examines the role of camp as a sensibility for both producers and consumers of camp.

"It's about the role of women in camp, arguing for a feminist tradition that parallels gay male camp but isn't exactly the same thing," Dr Robertson said. "I was interested in feminist camp as an issue in specularity, in the way women can find a space in camp. Is it all just misogynist? What is it that the women are doing? Are they just being made fun of or are they in on the joke too?"

Being West picked up on aspects of burlesque tradition dating back to the mid nineteenth century but also modelled herself on female impersonators, Dr Robertson said. "That version of female burlesque, where women played male and female roles, which involved very aware and direct sexuality and a lot of innuendo and wordplay doesn't exist anymore. In some ways she reinvented it, in the way that Madonna reinvented Mae West." Robertson says Madonna is linked to two strands of post-60s camp.

"The first is a revival of camp as queer identity politics using drag as a symbol for 'out' parodies and things. But the other side is a kind of mainstreaming of a pop or post-modern camp, because she is so clearly a pop figure."

Through analyses of films from Busby Berkeley's Gold Diggers of 1933 to Joan Crawford's performance in Johnny Gurrer, as well as video and television, Dr Robertson shows how the gold digger is to feminist camp what the dandy is to gay male camp - its original personification and defining voice. "There is a kind of self- oppression in camp even though you take pleasure in it," she said. "You recognise the images as stereotypes and enjoy and laugh at that, but camp is never totally ironic. It is always about the relationship you have to it so you are recognising yourself in it. I think there is some aspect of guilt in that."

Guilty Pleasures explores the way camp tends to emerge during moments of backlash against feminist politics in America. "It is a way to retrieve something that has become outlawed politically at those terrible moments when you can't have serious activism - a kind of self-owning," Dr Robertson said.

"A lot of people have argued that gay camp comes out of feeling oppressed, not being able to be 'out' or open in public and therefore developing ways of passing and double entendre, a kind of performance style that is a code for self-owning," she said. "I think that for women too, camp is a substitute. If we could get to the point where there wasn't oppression of various kinds then we wouldn't need it."

But as well as the historical and political contexts for camp, Robertson recognises there was some irresistible magnetism about performers like Mae West. "It is also the case that these girls are just extremely appealing, funny, beautiful and wonderful."

Guilty Pleasures: Feminist Camp from Mae West to Madonna is published by Duke University Press and is available through the Coop Bookshop.
What is it about young male drivers?

by Alison Graham

Dr Kate Hartig from the Department of Geography has been given a grant of just over $12,000 by the Federal Road Safety Research Grant Program to see if young male drivers are at higher risk. Her research will look at the influences on the driving behaviour of young men including peer pressure, the effects of media and sociocultural factors, and their attitudes to driver education campaigns.

"Last year Dunn from the University of NSW and I undertook research on the effect of roadside memorials - the bunches of flowers and simple wooden crosses - that have been left by grieving relatives of road accident victims. What we found was that over half the men under the age of 26 whom we interviewed drove much more cautiously after having driven past a memorial but only 16% of the group felt that they gained anything from road safety messages on television commercials. It was clear that their attitudes needed further investigation," Dr Hartig said.

The national statistics for young male drivers are alarming. Of the 1744 males between the ages of 15 and 24 who died in 1993 for example, over 33% were killed in car accidents as compared to 25% through suicide. Within the Newcastle RTA zone, males were involved in 80% of the fatal accidents over a five year period and males under the age of 26 are the most likely age cohort to be involved in a fatal accident. "Roadside memorials in the Newcastle RTA zone, overwhelmingly commemorate the deaths of young males," Dr Hartig said.

Dr Hartig will investigate the relationship between young males' attitudes towards driver education and driving practices; identify how the social construct of masculinity, including peer pressure, influences driving behaviour; determine if socio-economic factors help shape attitudes towards driver education and driving behaviour; and examine the locations and causes of all the fatal car accidents which have happened in the Newcastle RTA zone over the last five years.

"We hope that this analysis will provide an in-depth understanding of young male drivers' perceived and actual strengths and inadequacies," Dr Hartig said. "From there the various agencies will be able to develop road safety programs that are acceptable to young male drivers. The long term benefits must be a reduction of male mortality rates and a reduction in motor vehicle accidents."

A typical roadside memorial

Conservatorium buys new building in the city

Northumberland House, the three storey Georgian building on the corner of King and Auckland Streets in the city has been bought by the Conservatorium and will house Early Childhood Music and Music Therapy.

Dean of the Faculty of Music, Professor Robert Constable told the Ear that the building is directly opposite University House, which is to be the home of the State Government's Department of Planning.

"There is no doubt that the building is worth considerably more than what we paid for it. However I believe it has been important for the Government, just as it is for us, to ensure that the building remains in public hands so that it will continue to benefit a substantial cross-section of the people of our region. Although we are no longer a State Government department, our community work is, as it has always been, a vital part of what we do," Professor Constable said that the offer he had made of $550,000 had been readily accepted and represented a great bargain.

The first part of the deal is that we are able to pay $50,000 a year over five years and we are getting considerably more with the repayments from the Conservatorium Foundation which has pledged $10,000 a years a year. Also included in the deal is making the building the subject of a major fundraising project.

Revenue generated by Early Childhood Music and Music Therapy will also go towards the repayments.

Uni to be linked to SWAMP

A $500,000 Commonwealth grant to upgrade the University’s electronic communications facilities will increase internet capacity and provide for the development of electronic learning resources and networking connections between the Callaghan and Ourimbah campuses.

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Ron MacDonald told the Ear that the University was very pleased to have received the Commonwealth funds and that it had planned to use current technology in its work but hoped that the new system would be up and running by the end of the year.

"The grant will help us establish a microwave link between Newcastle and the Sydney Wide Area Microwave Project (SWAMP), the network which links all Sydney’s universities plus Wollongong University. This will enable to the facilities with the Central Coast Campus, lower our communications costs, and give us a much better service into Sydney," he explained.

"When the link is completed, researchers here who have to rely on Sydney-based super computers will benefit from a much quicker file transfer rate, making their use a much more attractive proposition. It’s also likely that a lot of our voice traffic could be transferred to the new line and this would give us considerable savings."

Total cost of the project is expected to come in at around $850,000. The remaining $350,000 will come from a number of other grants.

Beware of hot phones

University notice-boards have been used as a selling point for a mobile phone scam, said Mrs Johanna Conners, a spokesperson for Network Mobile Phones at Mayfield.

"A student who recently came in to see us had bought a second-hand analog phone for $60 as the result of seeing the phone advertised on a noticeboard. The person who sold it delivered the phone to the student’s home, and without a name and address there was no way to track the person selling it," she said.

"It turned out that the lady who owned the phone had lost it at Jesmond, and someone appears to have found it and sold it to the student as a second-hand phone," Mrs Conners says that mainly analog phones and not the more modern and more costly digital phones have been involved in the scam.

"The analog network has been running for about seven years and is due to be phased out by the year 2000. If an analog phone is stolen it’s really useless to whoever wands up with it, because the number on the phone plus its serial number are locked into a data base, and that’s how it was possible in this case to identify the real owner of the stolen phone, which has now been returned.

"But people need to be very careful with digital phones. The digital network has only been going for about 18 months to two years and transmitters are still being put in, and while frantic efforts are being made to establish a similar data base, protection against theft, as far as I know, no such safeguard is in place and consequently digits are being targeted by thieves.""}

Recently a digital phone had even been snatched from the sales office at Network Mobile Phones.

Her advice to digital owners: insure your phone against theft and keep an eye on it.

And to analog phone owners: be particularly wary of any analog phone being sold without a re-charger - it’s a dead giveaway that it’s ‘hot’.

Celebrating 10 years of service

Program Specialist Mr Wim Monasson from the Bernard van Leer Foundation in Holland was one of a large number of friends and supporters who gathered in The Treehouse recently to celebrate the 10th birthday of the Hunter Caravan Project.

Mr Monasson was making his annual visit to the University since 1986, initially for the Hunter Caravan Project (HCP) and since 1992 for the National Dissemination Program of the HCP. The Family Action Centre which now attracts nearly 1 million per year from State and Federal government departments, and which employs 25 people, has grown out of this original Project.

Joining in the celebrations were Dr Wendy Schillar, the Caravan Project’s first director and many former project staff, caravan park residents and members of the University and the wider community who have supported the Project’s work.

According to Ms Di James, the Project’s Director, the Hunter Caravan Project is truly unique in Australia and the world.

"In a broad sense it enables communities and families living in caravan parks to become more empowered and to take better control of their own lives. This support can take many forms from running play-groups for children to adult discussion groups and parenting courses," she said.

"The birthday celebrations were also used to launch the Friends of the Family Action Centre.

"This is an attempt to become more independent of external funding. We have developed a total funding resource strategy of which this is a part. It provides for different categories of sponsorship. Everyone who has supported us over a number of years has been invited to become an Honorary Friend and we will also welcome individual membership and Corporate Friends."

Di James, Wim Monasson and Wendy Schillar celebrate a special birthday
A Principal Research Scientist at the Australian Museum, Dr Flannery has received international acclaim for a number of major scientific discoveries. He even boasts the honour of having a dinosaur (Timimus) named after him, after discovering dinosaur remains in Victoria in 1980.

In 1981 Dr Flannery began survey work on modern mammals in the little-explored mountainous forests of New Guinea.

"The work I conducted there over 15 years provided me with an incredible learning experience. Melanesian culture is so very different to ours, as is the concept of animal abundance over there," Dr Flannery explained.

In trying to track down a species of previously unidentified possum, Dr Flannery was told by the locals that there were plenty around - but catching them required strong magic.

"The men would go into a man's house and abstain from sex for six months, eat only sweet potatoes and then, if the magic was strong, they would go into a distant forest three days walk away. They believed that, if the magic was really strong, they would see a possum."

Despite these cultural obstacles, Dr Flannery has discovered and described 16 new species and many sub-species of Melanesian mammals and described most of the named extinct fossil mammals from the Melanesian islands.

So, how do you find a previously unknown species? Dr Flannery explains that this is achieved in one of two ways - either through a kind of sleuth-like tracking down, or by pure accident. "The sleuth-like tracking down comes from an understanding of the biodiversity of a region, the distribution of organisms, blank spots of a species on a map, or other clues like a piece of fur owned by a native, or a headdressing seen in a photograph," detective Flannery said.

"Sometimes it takes you years to track down an animal, other times you find one by accident."

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"Sometimes it takes you years to track down an animal, other times you find one by accident."
A brilliant, teasing, witty first novel

and the blinis are great too!

by Dr Tim Dolin
Associate Lecturer, English Department

I'm convinced that the BBC is in league with the British Tourist Authority, treating us on cold Sunday nights to their version of post Thatcherist Britain, which seems pretty much a land of country houses, summery sound-effects, cottage gardens and climbing roses, all nestled snugly between the motorway and the cooling tower (just off screen). But not till the excellent Pie in the Sky turned up on our TV screens last year could we have conceived that this slick packaging of a lost Anglo-Saxon monoculture would stretch to the nursery pap and fried bread that is the British national cuisine. Though this oozes of cooks and crooks has been careful not to offend the incredulous by snubbing Eurofood or the arcane combination of Tokyo shop windows; zip-out caviar (pp14-18).

John Lanchester's brilliant, teasing, witty first novel does this post modern moment to perfection. Something like a cross between a thriller and a gourmand's pastoral, The Debt to Pleasure is structured around seasonal menus, each dish lovingly elaborated by the Ancient and Meanings in the novel: for this book; and especially the ingredients list.

Enigmatic and playful, Winot is a tyrant and a connoisseur of knowledge, and knowledge in the culinary arts is a tricky business (even Pie in the Sky's Crabb deals in the sly, secretive knowledge that is real cooking). The arcane combination of knowing that and knowing how that is haute cuisine suits Winot's chair-dalliance with art and meaning in the novel: for him, the menu is the work of art, lying "close to the heart of the human impulse to order, to beauty, to pattern. It draws on the original ethnics upwelling that underlies all art. A menu can embody the anthropology of a culture, or the psychology of an individual; it can be a biography, a cultural history, a lesson; it speaks to the sociology, psychology and biology of its creator and its audience and, of course, to their geographical location; it can be a way of knowledge, a path, an ordering, a shaping, a manifestation, a talisman, an injunction, a memory, a fantasy, a consolation, an illusion, an evasion, an assertion..."

This is a book that could well be kitchen-tested as well as reviewed, but perhaps, after all, reading is as satisfying as eating. In any case, I recommend this book; and especially the blinis with sour cream and caviar (pp14-18).
"I believe we are in a position to provide a very high quality service and I believe we can make some money at the same time."

by Kim Britton

The Director of the newly formed Continuing Professional Education and Projects (CPEP) Division, Ms Pamela Finberg, sees her own professional experiences as an ideal example of the increasing need for lifelong education and retraining.

"Employers are looking for workers with leading edge skills and without continuing education the leading edge can soon become the trailing edge." Pamela said.

In common with many other workers in the 90s, Pamela’s aspirations have changed dramatically since she began a science degree at the University of Natal in her native South Africa. "Growing up in Africa, I went to university to do wildlife management," Pamela said of her early ambition, dashed when her family emigrated to New Zealand.

"We went to New Zealand, where the only native mammals were two species of bat - not quite consistent with my initial aspirations with working with the large mammals of Africa!"

Completing her Bachelor of Science at Massey University in New Zealand, Pamela then followed her family to Sydney, where she worked as a medical technologist.

"Experiencing living in a number of different countries is in fact part of my normal landscape. I think it has certainly challenged me from an early age to have to adapt, to work outside the social and cultural norms and to be resourceful." Her resourcefulness was demonstrated by her rise to the position of National Product Manager for a clinical products company. It was then she first felt the need to retrain.

"I found myself in middle management on the strength of my technical and scientific expertise and informal business skills," she said. "I could see that I wasn’t going to have a good chance of improving on that commercial success without the benefit of some formal business training."

Pamela gave up her well paid job, the company car, the overseas travel and went back to university full time to do an MBA at the Australian Graduate School of Management. "I needed to be flexible and multi-skilled and I wanted to be able to talk to the accountant in his language when I was arguing for my resources," she said.

It is this type of retraining and career upgrading that Pamela plans to turn into a significant revenue raiser for the University in her position as Director of the CPEP Division.

"The Division was established to capitalise on our teaching resources and to develop a market for short courses on a commercial basis with a view to raising funds for the University Foundation," Pamela explained. "The professional education market is highly competitive. There is a potential in this market which has been serviced in part by some of the activities of the previously called Department of Community Programmes." The former Department of Community Programmes that provided adult education, training and leisure courses for over 20 years, as well as the Newstep and Open Foundation courses, has been disestablished with the CPEP Division.

"All organisations, regardless of their size and turnover, understand the value of training and development in the workplace."

"The Division is responsible for about 2000 students on this campus, more than some faculties. We have very few resources and an enormous responsibility to student education and career."

Pamela’s overall objective as defined by her position description reads: "To be responsible for developing University activity in short education courses, professional education programs and in providing these and other marketable services to the community, at home and abroad and thereby to generate an annual surplus to the University."

The duties listed as a consequence of this objective are numerous and detailed. She pauses reflectively. "We haven’t even mentioned the conference management proposals or the market in the area of contract courses, professional education programs and in providing these and other marketable services to the community, at home and abroad and thereby to generate an annual surplus to the University."

"The Newstep and Open Foundation programs were an important consideration for her Pamela said. "One of the real benefits of being market driven is that one has to offer a high quality product to succeed," she said. "I believe we are in a position to provide a very high quality service and I believe we can make some money at the same time."

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The duties listed as a consequence of this objective are numerous and detailed.

"I thrive on activity and action and I can be a busy diary planner."

Pamela also enjoys living in Newcastle, although she hasn’t as yet found an outlet for one of her favourite leisure pursuits, flamenco dancing.

"I’m attracted to the story around flamenco, the passion, the lifestyle, the community and apart from that it’s a lot of fun. I gave up my lessons when I came to Newcastle but I still play my castanets occasionally."

The Division of Continuing Professional Education and Projects (CPEP) is responsible for the development and delivery of short courses, professional education programs and in providing these and other marketable services to the community, at home and abroad.
Mariners come on board
by Helene O'Neill

Although the rugby league playing future of the Hunter Mariners will be decided in the courts, the club has offered three $10,000 scholarships to students selected on their ability as Rugby League and Rugby Union players.

Rugby League exponents, Gavin Thompson, is enrolled in a Bachelor of Chemical Engineering degree. He has represented NSW Country in Rugby League as well as the Newcastle Knights at both under 19 and 21 level and is eagerly awaiting selection in the Knights senior teams.

In an unusual twist, two scholarships have been awarded to Rugby Union players. Combining a Bachelor of Teaching degree with a Bachelor of Arts degree leaves just enough time for Ben Darwin to further his Rugby career. He is currently playing with the Newcastle Rugby Football Club (Wildfires) and has experienced past success with Australian Schools squads.

The third scholarship recipient is Andrew James, a first year Bachelor of Science student. Andrew is a multi-talented sportsperson with a background in soccer, shot put and swimming. His highest Rugby representative honour was as a member of the Australian under 19 side in a series against New Zealand earlier this year.

Participating in football activities specified by the Mariners is a condition of the scholarship. The three students are also required to maintain a satisfactory level of academic progress in order to retain the scholarships for the full three years.

CRICKET - The annual General Meeting of the cricket club was held last week. Club members are proud to welcome back Professor Saxon White as club patron while Peter Tate has been returned for a fifth term as President. Life membership was conferred on Alan Smyth who has served the club for some 17 seasons.

If you are interested in supporting the club for the 96/97 season turn up at the club training sessions which are held each Saturday at No 4 oval from 10.30am. Male and female players are welcome if you would like more detailed info. contact Peter Tate on 51 1356.

RUGBY LEAGUE - Big things are expected from the Rugby League club over the final few weeks as they have planned a big bash for Presentation night at the Crazy Crab. The U19 team are currently in 2nd place despite struggling to field a side during the vacation period. The open team has experienced a mixed season but under-coach Shane Fernando, should finish the season on a high.

Goal attack
One of the recipients of a Sports Scholarship, outstanding netballer Danielle Harvey, applauds the University's scholarship initiative and welcomes the monetary contribution to help cover training expenses. Danielle has experienced representative netball since the age of 14, and is currently key member of the Sutherland team in the State League Region 1 Division 1 side.

Travelling to Sydney up to 4 times a week for matches or practice means that Danni does a lot of her studying in the car while her mother drives the 3 hour trip. Such are the sacrifices of many athletes who wish to have "something behind them" if their sport does not provide for life after the game. Danielle looks forward to a career as a Physical Education teacher but does not discount the idea of following a combined playing/coaching path.

If the form Danni showed during the recent Eastern Conference Games in Armidale is any indication, watch out for D Harvey, Goal Attack, in future Australian netball teams.

It's gold! gold! gold!
by Kim Britton

The big day had finally arrived. All the training, the weeks of competition, the stress of the semi, the loss that led to underdog status, a restless night and at last - grand final day. Butterflies the size of eagles defied the notion of breakfast, the colours were lovingly donned hours before the event and the probability of defeat raised and soothed with the inevitable consolation "at least we made it to the grand final". All the stress and excitement is definitely beginning to toll - and that's just on the player's mother! No, it's not the Olympics. The U12 Division 3 boys basketball club competition had come to a head. The boy seemed annoyingly composed as he practiced at the stadium for the 40 minutes we had to kill before the match. Having never beaten Central Charlestown 2, he had nothing to lose and everything to gain. It was definitely the parents and coaches who were feeling the pressure, with an adjudicator giving strict instructions to retain a neutral bench and leaving us no way to vent a natural excess of emotion. No Olympic athlete could have felt more elated than the players and supporters of the University team as they defied the odds to win 37 to 30. And the emotion and drama was relived by the families of the University Basketball Club's numerous other junior teams who made it to grand finals.

The Basketball Club is the only University sporting club to have junior members and they have certainly acquitted themselves heroically during the 1996 season with University teams carrying off gold medals in four of the five grand finals contested in the U1/2 and 13 girls and boys competitions. University teams will also contest grand finals in the U14 boys Division 3, U1/6 boys Divisions 1:2:4, U14 girls Divisions 1 and 2.

One boy on a high.

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