A University of Newcastle undergraduate student saw her dream of a white Christmas in Antarctica become reality during the end of year break.

Tania Ritchie, studying a combined Physics/Engineering degree, spent almost three months at Davis station in Antarctica, servicing and maintaining magnetometers, the University of Newcastle’s ‘space weather’ monitoring equipment.

Tania’s work involved traveling by helicopter 150 kilometres from Davis station, in temperatures up to minus 20 degrees, to reach the ice plateau and retrieve the magnetometers, which have been buried for two years under snow and ice.

The magnetometers measure small scale changes in the Earth’s magnetic field, which are responsible for high altitude space weather and can cause disruption to power grids, communications, Global Positioning Systems, aircraft and satellites.

“We managed to locate and retrieve both of the magnetometers. The first one we retrieved early in the trip so we redeployed it to gather more data,” says Tania.

“The trip was amazing in many aspects – being a part of such a great community, experiencing the sea voyage through the icebergs, visiting the Chinese and Russian bases, assisting with other people’s research and getting to see a penguin rookery, and of course taking care of our own instruments on base and inland on the plateau,” Tania said.

Davis is the most southerly Australian Antarctic Station and is situated 2,250 nautical miles south-south-west of Perth, at 68° 35’ South, 77° 58’ East, on the Ingrid Christensen Coast of Princess Elizabeth Land. It is a key location in the network of Australian Antarctic research stations and supports the largest population of scientists during the summer season.

Summer in Antarctica means 24 hours of sunlight. “We had to put shutters on the windows so we could see our flashing Christmas tree lights.” Christmas day isn’t a holiday in Antarctica because time is precious and scientists need that time to complete their projects – but we still had a tree.”

“One thing I’m missing now that I’m home is not having to plan around darkness – we used to be able to start a long hike at 10pm for example.”

“Although it’s hard to leave family and friends for a few months, I’d jump at the chance to do it all again.”

A very white Christmas

Ourimbah campus increases enrolments

The University’s Commencement Ceremony held at the Ourimbah campus on 17 February heralded a big year for the campus.

More than 1,160 new students have commenced in undergraduate degree programs offered by the University at Ourimbah. As well, there is a record number of enrolments in the University’s enabling programs, Open Foundation and Newstep. This year’s cohort of new students has increased by more than 45 percent over 2004 enrolments at Ourimbah.

Director of the Central Coast Campuses, Dr Barry McKnight, said that the increase in student enrolments had been influenced by a number of factors.

“The first is the provision of 365 extra fully-funded Government places specifically for the Ourimbah campus and the third is that two new academic areas will commence at the campus in 2005 – the new Bachelor of Oral Health and the Sport and Physical Activity major within the Bachelor of Science,” Dr McKnight said.

“More than 1,160 new students have commenced in undergraduate degree programs offered by the University at Ourimbah. As well, there is a record number of enrolments in the University’s enabling programs, Open Foundation and Newstep. This year’s cohort of new students has increased by more than 45 percent over 2004 enrolments at Ourimbah.”

University’s new scholarship scheme

The University of Newcastle has long been recognised for its commitment to equity in education and this year, demonstrating that commitment, the University introduced its biggest ever equity scholarship scheme – one of the most generous of its type in Australia.

One million dollars has been dedicated to scholarships and a computer give-away scheme for new University of Newcastle students in 2005.

The scholarships, ranging from $1,000 to $4,000 per annum, will be awarded for the duration of each recipient’s degree program. Also, up to 140 personal computers complete with MS Office, virus software, CD burner and dial-up modem, each valued at approximately $1,400, will be given to students in need.

The University’s scheme is similar to the Commonwealth Learning Scholarships which offer accommodation scholarships, worth $4,000 a year for four years, and education costs scholarships worth $2,000 a year for four years.

Both schemes take into account applicants’ financial and other circumstances, ensuring that those most in need receive the scholarships.

In 2004, the Federal Government allocated 204 Commonwealth Learning Scholarships to commencing and continuing University of Newcastle students. This has increased to an additional 365 scholarships for 2005.
Welcome back to the University after what I hope has been an enjoyable summer break. This will be a most challenging year for the University. As we grapple with the changes that need to be made we will also be celebrating 40 years as an independent institution. We would do well to reflect on our past achievements as we plan for our future.

Comparatively speaking, forty years is not a long history in the life of a University, but the last forty years have been a period of enormous change and challenge, especially for universities around the world. The University of Newcastle has withstood these challenges and continues to make its mark both nationally and internationally. It is a university built on strong foundations.

Our University had humble beginnings as a college of the (then) University of Technology (now University of NSW). We opened our doors at Tighes Hill in 1952.

1965 represented the end of a successful campaign for autonomy supported by the Hunter community, leaders of business and industry, committed individuals and academics. It was also a new beginning – the right to grant our own degrees, the right to determine our own destiny and to extend beyond Newcastle to the next generation. It was also a new beginning – the right to grant our own degrees, and extend beyond Newcastle to the next generation.

In 1965 there were approximately 1,500 undergraduate and about 50 postgraduate students, the majority of whom came from the Hunter. In 2004 we had 18,292 undergraduate and 4,862 postgraduate students including 3,500 students from overseas. While we continue to be a university with a strong regional base, we are now truly national and international through our student enrolments, our research achievements and our graduates who now number about 80,000.

We who are members of the University community stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us. All around us we see the physical reminders of their achievements – the buildings, the facilities for the students, the natural environment of our various campuses. In the annals of our history and in the memories of our graduates, are stories of great scholars, teachers and students. Every graduation day we are reminded of the great tradition and ideals we have inherited and which we are duty bound to strengthen and pass on to the next generation.

What is not so obvious is the story of the struggle, the politics, the conflict and the tenacity, resourcefulness and leadership of committed individuals and groups who fought for their ideals. There is no part of our institution which has had a "dream run". Those that have flourished have had their champions, their supporters, their successes, their failures.

During 2005, we should reflect on the University’s achievements and learn from our mistakes. Above all we must be proud that the University has forged ahead through difficult and challenging times.

The fortieth anniversary, like a fortieth birthday, is a time to celebrate, to look back with pride and gratitude. It is a time to demonstrate to all our own communities, the richness and diversity of our achievements in research, teaching and community service.

It is also a time to look ahead with determination to make the next 40 years as good as, if not better than, the last.

Nick Saunders
Vice-Chancellor and President
21 February 2005

Recognition of Staff

On 17 December last year a ceremony was held in the Great Hall, Callaghan campus to present General Staff Excellence Awards and 25 Year Long Service Medals. Recipients are as follows.

Vice-Chancellor’s Award for General Staff Excellence

- Individual Awards
  - Alison Farrar
    Administrative Assistant
    Faculty of Education and Arts
  - Bronwyn Bloxham
    Administrative Officer
    Faculty of Science and Information Technology
  - Debbie Delbridge
    Personal Assistant
    Faculty of Business and Law
  - Peter Turner
    Professional Officer
    Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment
  - Phillip Lloyd
    Video Producer
    University Services Division

- Team Award
  - Examinations Team
    University Services Division
  - Warwick Foster
    Yolande Hoskins
    Michael Farrell
    Angela Parish
    Isabel Sherwood

25 Year Long Service Medallists

- Faculty of Health
  - Lorita Chahl
  - Paula Jarvis
  - Susan Graf
  - Terese Alder
  - Michael Hensley
  - Vicki Price

- Faculty of Education and Arts
  - Geoffrey Samuel
  - Robert Constable
  - Raymond Donaldson
  - Violet Roberts

- Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment
  - Harry Darlow
  - Russell Hicks
  - Dianne Piefke
  - Ronald Roberts

- Faculty of Science and Information Technology
  - John Shea
  - Lola Steel

- Faculty of Business and Law
  - Jenny Smith
  - Alison Roser
  - Bruce Cheek

- University Services Division
  - Alan Hornby
  - Cheryl Bailey
  - Sharon Howells
  - Marion Wilson
  - Adrian Isom
  - Sandra Jones
  - Richard Littlewood
  - Susan Rade
  - Denise Croft

- Research and International Division
  - Gary Weber

Pictured, (l to r) Back: Professor Brian English, Professor Ken Dutton
Middle: Phillip Lloyd, Professor Nicholas Saunders, Peter Turner, Isabel Sherwood, Warwick Foster, Michael Farrell
Front: Bronwyn Bloxham, Alison Farrar, Debbie Delbridge, Angela Parish, Professor Trevor Waring

UnNews is published by Marketing and Communication at the University of Newcastle.
Editor: Rowena Scanlan Design and Layout: Marketing Communication, Vice-Chancellor’s Division Photography: Bruce Turnbull, Chris Patterson Printed by Print National
Our thanks to contributors including the University’s Media Unit and Cae Pattison, Manager, Media and Public Relations, Ourimbah campus.
Letters and/or contributions may be edited due to space restrictions and are not necessarily endorsed by the University.

Copy deadlines for the next editions are: April – 13 March, May – 19 April, June/July – 3 June. For UnNews enquiries please phone 02 4921 5610 or email: uninews@newcastle.edu.au

2 UnNews March 2005
Decoding Cancer

Researchers at the University of Newcastle have developed a computer program that implements a novel algorithm, which will aid in the identification of specific cancer-causing genes. Dr. Pablo Moscato from the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment, and Director of the University's Bioinformatics Initiative, who led the team that developed the new algorithm, explained that it is capable of "rapidly extracting hidden information from an otherwise uninformative jumble of biological data." Humans have over 20,000 genes. Understanding their role in health and disease requires analysis of how the genes behave under different circumstances. It is now possible to map the genes that are active in different parts of the body at different times or during development, and to determine how diseases, drugs or toxic chemicals can alter the pattern of gene behavior.

"The algorithm identifies specific genes and then groups together those with similar patterns of activity. The patterns of activity provide a molecular fingerprint which could potentially be used to identify specific cancer genes," he said. By using these findings to identify gene profiles, biologists will have new mathematical methods to understand their roles and identify ways to control these genes. New methods are needed as a deluge of data is expected from new biotechnologies in the 21st century.

Equity Research Fellowships

The Fellowships, worth up to $25,000 each, allow "time relief" from teaching, administrative and other non-research duties and are available for Level A or B women and Indigenous staff. An additional Equity Research Grant of up to $10,000 is also available to cover research expenses. The Fellowships have been introduced by the University to provide eligible staff with time and resources to enhance their research output or to advance their research higher degrees.

It is just one of a number of strategies being implemented in response to the findings of a working group of the Research Portfolio Committee in 2003 which found that women and Indigenous academic staff are under-represented in research and encounter more barriers to gaining access to research development opportunities. The Fellowships will be available each year until 2007, at which time the scheme will be reviewed and a decision will be made about its future.

Queer* Friendly Staff Project

The Newcastle University Students Association (NUSA) is calling for academic and general staff, who have an understanding of difficulties faced by queer students, to become involved in a support project. As a queer friendly staff member your role would involve: providing an understanding point of contact for queer students in distress; referring queer students to appropriate support programs and services; and providing information on grievance procedures as a last resort.

Recipients of 2004 and 2005 Equity Research Fellowships are:
- Dr Surindar Baines (Health Sciences, Health);
- Ms Lynn Brunet (Humanities, Education and Arts, Ourimbah);
- Ms Penny Crofts (Social Sciences, Education and Arts);
- Dr Nancy Cushing (Humanities, Education and Arts, Ourimbah);
- Ms Sally Hewat (Language and Media, Education and Arts);
- Ms Kathryn Holmes (Education, Education and Arts);
- Ms Julie Lee (Policies, Business and Law);
- Ms Judith Sandner (Design, Science and IT);
- Ms Kathryn Swan (Architecture, Engineering and Built Environment), and;
- Dr Ann Taylor (Social Sciences, Education and Arts).

*Queer – a term which includes gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex, fluid, questioning and anyone else who doesn’t identify as heterosexual.
This year the University of Newcastle celebrates 40 years of autonomy. As a tribute to those who helped shape our University, UniNews will publish a series of articles throughout 2005. In doing so, we recognise that we cannot possibly mention every person or event – but we will try!

The articles will be the result of a combined effort between the 40th celebration working party and University Archives. We hope we are able to paint a vivid picture of our last 40 years, bring back fond memories and highlight the important work of the many who have contributed to our University.
A Sea Horse?

Over the years much has been said about the University’s ‘sea horse’ on the Arms of the University, some complimentary, some not so, but always with curiosity. Just where did it originate?

The original inspiration for the design came from Plate 46 (Figure 2) in Fairbairn’s Book of Crests.

The Arms of the University, granted in 1965, are based on the family crest of Lieutenant John Shortland, RN who charted the entrance to the Hunter River where Newcastle now stands. Initially the suburb where the University was established was given the name ‘Shortland’ until 1992 when, in honour of the late Sir Bede Callaghan, it was renamed ‘Callaghan’.

The Sea Horse or Hippocampus as it is sometimes known, is a mythical creature considered a sign for sailors – the sign of fertile and active sea movement. It is frequently used in heraldry (present on the Coat of Arms of the City of Newcastle upon Tyne) and has been used in architecture – Lady Maie Casey (wife of the then Governor General of Australia) sent a drawing of one of the Sea Horses from the Essex Bridge in Dublin to Professor James Auchmuty.

Our Environment

In the lead up to the establishment of the University at Shortland, members of the Opus (student newspaper) team investigated the site. In 1962, an article read, “If the buildings are so situated as to preserve much of the sloping hillsides and natural bush, Newcastle University could become one of the most beautiful university sites in Australia.”

It has. Since its beginnings, the University has made a commitment to protecting the campus environment both at Callaghan and Ourimbah. Both campuses have significant tracts of undisturbed native bush land, complete with resident wildlife. International students are overwowed when, for instance, a wallaby crosses their path. (On the other hand, both staff and students are totally underwhelmed when we catch sight of a snake.)

The commitment to the environment, both natural and built, has resulted in the University becoming internationally renowned for its beautiful campuses. It is the perfect place in which to grow – academically, professionally and personally.

Share your memories with us...

If you have a story to tell or photos which you think should be included please contact either the UniNews Editor on email uninews@newcastle.edu.au or phone 4921 5610 or Acting Manager of Archives Rare Books and Special Collections Unit, Mr Gionni Di Gravio on email Gionni.DiGravio@newcastle.edu.au or phone 4921 5819.

Recently a group of ‘founding fathers and mothers’ gathered in the Friends Reading Room in Archives to participate in Chasing Our Pioneering Tales: Great Stories from the Secret Archives. Facilitated by Deputy Chancellor, Ken Dutton OAM, – it was a chance to reminisce and share amusing anecdotes.

On that occasion, Tom Jones, former lecturer and current chaplain, – after relating a very amusing story – told of how his life had been affected by those he had met along the way. He mentioned the impact four men had, in different roles, in changing the path his life followed – for the better. In the midst of memories and laughter, it was a sober and very moving tribute. It was also a timely reminder of why the University was established and what it still works towards today.

Our Environment

In the lead up to the establishment of the University at Shortland, members of the Opus (student newspaper) team investigated the site. In 1962, an article read, “If the buildings are so situated as to preserve much of the sloping hillsides and natural bush, Newcastle University could become one of the most beautiful university sites in Australia.”

It has. Since its beginnings, the University has made a commitment to protecting the campus environment both at Callaghan and Ourimbah. Both campuses have significant tracts of undisturbed native bush land, complete with resident wildlife. International students are overwowed when, for instance, a wallaby crosses their path. (On the other hand, both staff and students are totally underwhelmed when we catch sight of a snake.)

The commitment to the environment, both natural and built, has resulted in the University becoming internationally renowned for its beautiful campuses. It is the perfect place in which to grow – academically, professionally and personally.
The new year is progressing and planning for IT development in 2005 is well advanced. However activity in 2005 will be significantly limited by the University's budgetary constraints. At this stage the IT-MAP (IT Management Action Plan) budget for 2005 is expected to be around $5.7M, down from $10.2M in 2004. Almost $3M of this amount is pre-committed for meeting the operating costs of the University's existing IT infrastructure - eg software licence costs and hardware maintenance agreements. A significant portion of the remaining $2.7M must be allocated to the cyclical replacement of IT equipment in student computer labs, lecture theatres and so on, and to complete projects still in-progress from 2004. Thus there is little capital funding available for any new initiatives in 2005 and careful choices will need to be made.

To inform these choices, a series of workshops were conducted in late 2004 with the major IT stakeholder groups across the University – ie the faculties, student groups and the administrative divisions. The workshops included a client assessment of IT services over the previous 12 months; a discussion on the client group's future directions and any IT implications; and client sites on priorities for IT development.

The findings from these workshops are currently being consolidated. Some preliminary observations on critical areas for IT service improvement in 2005 can be made:

- Email and calendaring services
- University website and content management services
- IT risk management
- Data storage services
- Datacentre environment
- IT management
- IT architecture and standards
- Document management services

On another front, the Review of University Administrative Support Structures and Processes is likely to have implications for the provision of IT services at the University. One of the review focus areas will be the University's IT governance, organisational structure and processes. It is difficult to gauge the impact of the review on IT-MAP activities but, at this stage, it is hoped that funding to specific IT-MAP projects is expected to be finalised in March. Stay tuned for further developments.

Trevor Gerdson 
Executive Director
Infrastructure Services

One of the keynote speakers at the Conference, Vivian Hutchinson, Community Advisor to the New Zealand Mayors Task Force for Jobs, presented a paper which explored how employment, anti-poverty and sustainable environmental objectives can be met in a low or no growth economy. It was the first time Professor Victor had presented this work to an academic audience, and the positive feedback from the conference was evidence of support for the achievement of these aims. Over 50 other papers were presented at the conference. A book of Proceedings is available through the CofFEE Shop link at the CofFEE website, http://c1.newcastle.edu.au/coffee/

Information about the 2005 event, also presented in the conference, is being made available at http://c1.newcastle.edu.au/coffee/conferences/2005/index.cfm

Jobs growth and environmental sustainability compatible

There doesn’t have to be a trade-off between jobs and the environment.

That’s the message of the conference A Future that Works: economics, employment and the environment that was held at the University of Newcastle in early December. Hosted by the University’s Centre of Full Employment and Equity (CoFEE), the three-day event incorporated CoFEE’s annual Path to Full Employment Conference as well as the 11th National Conference on Unemployment.

The conference brought together over 100 academics, policy makers, service providers and social activists from across Australia and around the world to examine environmentally sustainable ways to promote full employment and greater social equity. A significant portion of the remaining $2.7M must be allocated to the cyclical replacement of IT equipment in student computer labs, lecture theatres and so on, and to complete projects still in-progress from 2004. Thus there is little capital funding available for any new initiatives in 2005 and careful choices will need to be made.

To inform these choices, a series of workshops were conducted in late 2004 with the major IT stakeholder groups across the University – ie the faculties, student groups and the administrative divisions. The workshops included a client assessment of IT services over the previous 12 months; a discussion on the client group's future directions and any IT implications; and client sites on priorities for IT development.

The findings from these workshops are currently being consolidated. Some preliminary observations on critical areas for IT service improvement in 2005 can be made:

- Email and calendaring services
- University website and content management services
- IT risk management
- Data storage services
- Datacentre environment
- IT management
- IT architecture and standards
- Document management services

On another front, the Review of University Administrative Support Structures and Processes is likely to have implications for the provision of IT services at the University. One of the review focus areas will be the University's IT governance, organisational structure and processes. It is difficult to gauge the impact of the review on IT-MAP activities but, at this stage, it is hoped that funding to specific IT-MAP projects is expected to be finalised in March. Stay tuned for further developments.

Trevor Gerdson 
Executive Director
Infrastructure Services

One of the keynote speakers at the Conference, Vivian Hutchinson, Community Advisor to the New Zealand Mayors Task Force for Jobs, presented a paper which explored how employment, anti-poverty and sustainable environmental objectives can be met in a low or no growth economy. It was the first time Professor Victor had presented this work to an academic audience, and the positive feedback from the conference was evidence of support for the achievement of these aims. Over 50 other papers were presented at the conference. A book of Proceedings is available through the CofFEE Shop link at the CofFEE website, http://c1.newcastle.edu.au/coffee/

Information about the 2005 event, also presented in the conference, is being made available at http://c1.newcastle.edu.au/coffee/conferences/2005/index.cfm

Have you seen our new homepage? www.newcastle.edu.au

New Appointments

Pro Vice-Chancellor – Business and Law
Professor Bernard Casey has moved from the position of Pro Vice-Chancellor – Business and Law to Special Adviser to the Pro Vice-Chancellor, until his retirement at the end of 2005.

Mr Martin Fitzgerald will be Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor – Business and Law until the new Pro Vice-Chancellor is appointed.

Pro Vice-Chancellor – International
Professor William Purcell has been appointed as the University's Pro Vice-Chancellor International for a five year term. Professor Purcell was the Professor of International Business and Head of the Newcastle Graduate School of Business.

Professor Purcell's background includes positions in both the education and private sectors and, through various appointments, he has had substantial specialist academic and professional engagement in the international arena. His previous postings include senior academic appointments at the University of NSW and the University of Tokyo.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
Professor Adrian Page, Pro Vice-Chancellor Engineering and Built Environment has taken up the role of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), replacing Professor Ron MacDonald who will retire at the end of March.

This will ensure continuity in the research activities of the University until an outstanding person for the DVC(R) position is recruited.

Professor Page agreed to take up the role until the end of this year at which time he intends to retire from the University.

He will maintain a strong link with the peak body representing not-for-profit Job Network providers in Australia, took up a complementary theme in his presentation, which highlighted the need for paid employment opportunities for youth.

These are goals that the Mayor's Taskforce endorses and promotes at a local level. CoFEE's research work has been used in the NZ Government recent announcement of a Youth Job Guarantee which is a tangible outcome of the Taskforce activity.

David Thompson, CEO of Jobs Australia which is the national peak body representing not-for-profit Job Network providers in Australia, took up a complementary theme in his presentation, which highlighted the need for paid employment opportunities for youth.

This central role of government in achieving full employment was also highlighted by Professor L Randall Wray, of the Center for Full Employment and Price Stability (C-FEPS), University of Missouri, USA. His presentation, a joint paper with Professor Bill Mitchell, CoFEE Director, answered in detail critics of CoFEE's Job Guarantee approach to full employment.

Professor Wray introduced Argentina’s Head of Household Job Guarantee scheme which was introduced at the height of the recent crisis in that country.

The scheme, inspired by work of CoFEE and C-FEPS, has been a spectacular success and official data from Argentina’s Economy Ministry show that between May 2002 and the 3rd Quarter 2003, 1,900,000 new jobs (13.3 per cent growth) were created, 618,000 from the Head of Household Program and 1,377,000 from the general labour market (13.3 per cent growth). In the recent period, general labour market growth has steadily absorbed workers from the guaranteed jobs and unemployment has continued to decline, exactly the way CoFEE’s Job Guarantee predicts. This real world application of the research work of CoFEE is highly significant.

As would be expected, leading environmental economists also participated in the conference. Professor Peter Victor York University, Canada presented a paper which explored how employment, anti-poverty and sustainable environmental objectives can be met in a low or no growth economy. It was the first time Professor Victor had presented this work to an academic audience, and the positive feedback from the conference was evidence of support for the achievement of these aims.

Over 50 other papers were presented at the conference. A book of Proceedings is available through the CofFEE Shop link at the CofFEE website, http://c1.newcastle.edu.au/coffee/

Information about the 2005 event, also presented in the conference, is being made available at http://c1.newcastle.edu.au/coffee/conferences/2005/index.cfm

Retirement of Professor Ron MacDonald

After a long and distinguished career at The University of Newcastle, spanning 25 years, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Ron MacDonald has announced that he will be retiring on Friday 1st April. His friends and colleagues are invited to attend a Farewell Dinner to celebrate Ron’s achievements and his contribution to the University. The details are as follows:

Date: Friday 29 April 2005
Time: 7pm for 7:30pm
Venue: The Brennan Room, The University of Newcastle
Cost: $70.00 per person, this price includes hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and drinks on arrival followed by a 4 course dinner with cheese platter and drinks for the evening. A donation to the gift is included in the cost.
RSVP: Please RSVP by Monday 11 April 2005 to Leanne Cleare ph 4921 5441, fax 4921 7052 or email leanne.cleare@newcastle.edu.au
Payment: You can make payment by cheque, cash or money order. Please make payment to the University. The details are as follows:

RSVP: Please RSVP by Monday 11 April 2005 to Leanne Cleare ph 4921 5441, fax 4921 7052 or email leanne.cleare@newcastle.edu.au
Payment: You can make payment by cheque, cash or money order. Please make payment to the University. The details are as follows:

Enquiries: Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Leanne Cleare, details as above. Partners are welcome to attend.
University faces a financial challenge

The University of Newcastle has recorded a 2004 end of year deficit of $28 million, representing a shortfall of about nine percent of the University's annual budget.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nick Saunders, who was appointed in October last year explained, "The deficit has been caused by a number of factors including the need to make adequate provision for the University's liabilities, spending in excess of budget across the University and a change in payment practice by the Department of Education, Science and Training necessitated by legislative requirements associated with the implementation of the Higher Education Support Act 2003."

"The 2004 deficit and the predicted 2005 deficit of approximately $15.5 million were announced publicly on 14 February following a meeting of the University Council, where members were appraised of the exact financial state of the University." Professor Saunders further explained, "A potential application of the Centre's research, in conjunction with BHP-Billiton, is bacterially enhanced mineral extraction. Improved dynamic control of this process may significantly improve the environmental impact and economic efficiency of some mineral extraction processes."

International award for coal research

Late last year, engineering researchers received an international award for their paper on coal combustion at the 21st International Pittsburgh Coal Conference in Osaka, Japan.

"Dr Buhre explained, 'The paper focused on the environmental issue of fine ash emissions during coal combustion, and established an improved understanding of the way in which this fine ash is formed.'" The paper, authored by Dr Buhre and Professor Terry Wall from the University of Newcastle and Professor Peter Nelson from Macquarie University, is part of a research project for the Cooperative Research Centre for Coal in Sustainable Development (CCSD).

"The paper won the award — the winning paper required extensive collaboration between different universities, research organisations, and industry partners."

Achievements

The University of Newcastle, Macquarie University, CSIRO Energy Technology, and the Centre's coal and electricity generation participants.

Member of the Order of Australia

Congratulations to Dr Moira Gordon, from the Faculty of Business and Law, on her appointment as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for service to economic and social development in the Hunter region, particularly as a contributor to decision making processes of the boards of community organisations, and to tertiary education.

Award for taking Diabetes Training to India

"Professor Saunders has flagged that there will be significant job losses but no indication can be given as to how many of these job losses will be prior to the media conference."

"Also, it is important to note that there will be redundancies prior to the media conference."

"The University community was deeply moved, and people worldwide, by the December Tsunami which devastated parts of South East Asia. Student support staff made contact with places where possible in the weeks that followed with our international students from the affected areas, offering our support services."

Two University of Newcastle staff also assisted 'on site' in the weeks following. Jamie MacKee, Lecturer in Construction Management from the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment and his wife Menike, who is a Sri Lankan, were in Keshawa, a village approximately seven kilometres from the Sri Lankan coast when the tsunami struck.

"Jami became involved in the design and rehabilitation of a Maternity Clinic that was destroyed by the tsunami in the coastal city of Moratuwa, approximately 30 minutes north of Colombo. The clinic is attached to the Ministry of Health and serves about 20,000 people in a coastal suburb of the city. The clinic was located within 100 metres of the beach. He was also involved in the development and planning of some low-cost housing for victims as well as the possible development of a home centre for children who have lost their parents and have other relatives."

Jane Taylor, a Forensic Ondontologist, worked in Phuket’s Takua Pa district helping to identify thousands of bodies. As one of a small number of Australian Forensic Ondontologists, Jane was also involved in the identification process in the aftermath of the Bali bombing.

Our University community was deeply moved, and people worldwide, by the December Tsunami which devastated parts of South East Asia. Student support staff made contact with places where possible in the weeks that followed with our international students from the affected areas, offering our support services. Two University of Newcastle staff also assisted ‘on site’ in the weeks following.

Jamie MacKee, Lecturer in Construction Management from the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment and his wife Menike, who is a Sri Lankan, were in Keshawa, a village approximately seven kilometres from the Sri Lankan coast when the tsunami struck. Jamie became involved in the design and rehabilitation of a Maternity Clinic that was destroyed by the tsunami in the coastal city of Moratuwa, approximately 30 minutes north of Colombo. The clinic is attached to the Ministry of Health and serves about 20,000 people in a coastal suburb of the city. The clinic was located within 100 metres of the beach. He was also involved in the development and planning of some low-cost housing for victims as well as the possible development of a home centre for children who have lost their parents and have other relatives.

Jane Taylor, a Forensic Ondontologist, worked in Phuket’s Takua Pa district helping to identify thousands of bodies. As one of a small number of Australian Forensic Ondontologists, Jane was also involved in the identification process in the aftermath of the Bali bombing.

Pictured above: The English Language and Foundation Studies Centre, in recognition of its students from Thailand and Sri Lanka, hold a brief ceremony (affixed by Professor Seamus Fagan on 7 January to remember those affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami). As one of a small number of Australian Forensic Ondontologists, Jane was also involved in the identification process in the aftermath of the Bali bombing. Should money be collected for the Red Cross appeal?"
Staying Connected: the NGSB Alumni Perspective

It was quite apt that the successful launch of the Newcastle Graduate School of Business (NGSB) Alumni chapter took place at the Customs House hotel, since it is an historical icon representing Newcastle’s past and present, uniting the old and the new. With over 2,500 graduates from our postgraduate coursework masters programs throughout the last 25 years, an enviable network of graduates from the last three decades has been established.

The NGSB Alumni committee teamed up this year for the sole purpose of ‘Staying Connected’, because by staying connected we can look forward to a progressive Alumni that will keep your degree current through business and social networks, regular seminars, newsletters and guest speakers. Jann Zadnik was an NGSB Alumni and the first female partner at Sparke Helmore, was an insightful guest speaker at this sold out event. Jann provided numerous anecdotes about her life experiences and opportunities before and after obtaining her MBA.

We greatly appreciate the support of our recently appointed Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nick Saunders and a host of generous sponsors from the Hunter business community.

Gold sponsors: Sparkes Helmore Lawyers
Silver sponsors: Brands 2 Biz, Newcastle Airport, Richardson Recruitment, Newcastle Hunter Junior Chamber and Bradenising.

Other sponsors: One Steel, Molly Morgan Vineyards, NUPSA, The University of Newcastle.

The foundation dinner and NGSB Alumni Launch was a roaring success and personally I would like to thank all involved. We have a great deal of work ahead to form a NGSB Alumni that we can participate in, benefit from and be proud of.

If you would like to assist with the formation of or join the NGSB Alumni, please forward your contact details to Owen.Jackson@newcastle.edu.au or contact 4921 6471.

Owen Jackson
NGSB Alumni Committee