A Korean Connection
Chamber Choir on Tour

The University of Newcastle Chamber Choir has appeared before, perhaps, its largest audience ever on a tour in South Korea. During the tour the Choir appeared on two television programs, the first on the Airang TV “Heart to Heart” program, with a reputed audience of 37 million, and then on the CTS (Christian Television System), the largest Korean Gospel network. Both stations broadcast internationally.

Visits to five South Korean universities were the main attractions of the five-week itinerary which began in mid April – Seoul Jang Shin, Seoul Theological, Kyung Shin, Chung Shin, Chung Nam International, Ho Nam Prebyterian Theological, as well as Kimpo College and Sung II High School.

The Choir was welcomed at the first university by Professor Hong (Academic Dean) and the College Choir who were the host families for the first few days. The Chamber Choir performed in concert at the Heil Bolt Arts Centre as guests of Jang Shin University. The reception at Seoul Theological University was equally warm with President, Dr Joseph Jongjin Choi praising the talents of the students from Newcastle after a successful concert at the campus.

“Kimpo College provided an extremely enjoyable visit with several performances at the College and at Yoido Full Gospel Church which was a highlight of the Choir’s tour. The conductor, Philip Matthews explained, “The average Sunday attendance at Yoido Church services exceeds 600,000 people!”

The final week at Kwang Shin University in the city of Kwang Ju provided an opportunity for the Choir to see the southern part of South Korea and to perform at several churches and concert halls across the region. The enthusiastic receptions received at the Choir’s concerts and church services were quite amazing, according to Philip. “Audiences cheered loudly, demanding encores on many occasions with one performance in Gwangju earning four encores,” Philip said. “At Sung II High School, the Choir received a humbling experience with a reception from an audience of 1,500 students.”

Performing a diverse repertoire on the tour, the Chamber Choir focussed on Australian music by composers such as Stephen Leek, Sarah Hopkins, Matthew Olrovice, Paul Stanhope, Iain Grandage and David Drury.

“When we performed the gospel hits ‘Amazing Grace’ and ‘Joyful, Joyful’ with University lecturer Francine Bell leading the exuberant singing, the audiences responded overwhelmingly,” Philip stated. “Joseph Choi, who was instrumental in the organisation of the tour, introduced the choir to two beautiful Korean songs, ‘Arirang’ and ‘Psalm 23’ and both were very well received by the Korean audiences.” Talented pianists Jordan Wett and Peter Guy and violinist Kieren Richardson added great depth to the programs presented.

“Tours like this one to South Korea and the previous two tours to the United Kingdom provide opportunities for the University to establish important links with other institutions across the world,” explained Philip. “The tour was a great success with students and staff returning home with new experiences to share with fellow students and colleagues.”

Exchanging Artistic Views

Three graduates of the Bachelor of Fine Art at the University’s campus at Ourimbah are taking part in the 9th Annual Nine Dragon Head Art International Symposium in Korea.

The exchange will see Sandy James, Meredith Bryce-Copland and Maumert Cajic travel to Cheongju in Korea where as well as participating in the Symposium, they will contribute to a major outdoor art installation project and other smaller outdoor installations and sculptural works.

Each of the trio, naturally inspired by the exciting opportunity, has a different perspective on the exchange visit in artistic terms, but all are looking forward to enjoying a little part of a very different culture.

EO Inc has organised the exchange. EO Inc, derived from the Greek work ‘eis meaning into, has been established by Visual Arts graduates at the Ourimbah campus. It aims to encourage contemporary artists at the beginning of their careers and deliberately sets out to provide international exchange opportunities at the early stage, rather than when artists are established. Spokesperson for the group, Neil Berry-Cry Brown, said in his experience, contemporary artists always find a way to get together. This, Neil said, is the perfect demonstration of that.”

“It offers the chance to develop innovative practice and experimental work and also to provide a forum to question prevailing media and practices,” he said. “For our first three exchange artists, it is also of great value to be able to explore art for its own sake, not just a personal investigation, but a critique of the prevailing paradigms. And an artist should always look carefully at the culture in which the art is embedded.”

“EO Inc is not commercially driven,” Neil explained. “Rather it is a means for dialogue and exchange with people and ideas from other parts of the world.”

According to Neil, they are hopeful of receiving a marketing grant from the National Association for Visual Arts (NSW Ministry for the Arts) and a strong marketing strategy has already been developed.

“In turn next year, we will be hosting three Korean artists who will exhibit and talk about their work. It offers a fantastic opportunity for our undergraduates and adds a dimension to their knowledge and work. To have a greater exposure to international work and share different cultural perspectives is extremely valuable,” he said.

In 2005, we are planning an international symposium with artists from a number of countries as well as the exchange artists. This could mean that at least 14 international artists will visit the Ourimbah campus.

Neil Berry-Cry Brown is replacing Lyn Brunet at the Ourimbah campus while she is on leave. He is lecturing in Professional Practice.

your
VOiCE
Climate Survey

Background

In September 2003, the University conducted a Staff Climate Survey through The Voice Project based at Macquarie University. The survey gave all staff and conjoint appointees the opportunity to “voice” their opinions about the University. The high response rate (45% overall, 63% online, 76% of full-time fixed term staff) reflects staff commitment to the University and willingness to contribute, as well as faith in the University to consider staff views.

Overall, University staff responded very favourably to questions related to job satisfaction, organisational commitment and intention to stay. Results were similarly favourable in relation to three scales measuring change and innovation, customer satisfaction and work unit performance.

Staff Communication and Feedback

The survey is seen as an essential tool in assessing and improving the University’s work environment, planning process and management practices. As such survey outcomes were presented in November and December 2003 to interested academic and administrative staff, via three forums – two at Callaghan and one at Ourimbah. Survey results were posted on the University website immediately following the first staff presentation. On the day of posting, some 1,700 hits on the survey site were recorded, with a total of 3,073 hits by the end of December.

Each Faculty and two Divisions have subsequently presented the results from their respective areas through staff forums over the period December 2003 to March 2004 with the remaining Division to discuss results in an upcoming Planning Day.

Staff feedback on the survey results at the University staff forums, and via a facility established within the survey address on the University website.

Staff feedback fell into five areas of improvement as reported below.

• Understanding the University’s Strategic Direction, Vision and Values
  • Staff indicate they receive mixed messages about the University’s strategic direction.
  • Staff see very little correlation between the University’s stated mission/vision/values and the way staff perceive the University to function.

›› continued page 6
Focus on… Faculty of Health

■ Master of Pharmacy

Proving how popular and needed the University’s new Master of Pharmacy is, 74 applications were received for the 30 places available in its first year. The Faculty of Health took up the challenge, developing and delivering the Master of Pharmacy following calls from the health care sector indicating a clear need for more pharmacists, particularly in rural and regional Australia.

The program, offered on a trimester basis over two years, provides close involvement with conjoint staff who have links into private and hospital pharmacies.

“The calibre of applicants was high and bodes well for coming years.”

Foundation Chair in Pharmacy, Professor Shane Scott said. “It is also encouraging that almost all of the students admitted to the Master of Pharmacy are former University of Newcastle Bachelor of Biomedical Science and Biotechnology graduates.”

Professor John Marley, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty said, “In recognising that pharmacists are often at the front-line, dealing with advances in science and innovation, three of our major areas addressed in the 2004 Federal Budget was, for a second year in a row, one of the major areas addressed in the 2004 Federal Budget was, for a second year in a row, one of

■ Health celebrates anniversaries

The University of Newcastle’s Faculty of Health honoured the outstanding contributions of its leading health and medical teaching staff and celebrated significant milestones in the Faculty’s history at its annual staff presentation held on 11 May.

Professor John Marley, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty said, “The Faculty of Health is the hub of comprehensive health faculty of its kind in Australia. The Faculty comprises the School of Social Sciences, School of Practice and Population Health, Biomedical Sciences, and Nursing and Midwifery as well as a range of research centres.”

In 2004, the Faculty’s key milestones include 20 years of nursing, 15 years of occupational therapy, and 10 years of nutrition and dietetics.

“Throughout the Faculty’s 20 year history of nursing we have continuously improved health care delivery through close collaboration with local area health services. Through such partnerships there have been significant increases in the numbers of quality clinical places at John Hunter Hospital, Central Coast Area Health Service and Newcastle Base Hospital. Similarly, the UDRH has also expanded its role in the Department of Health.”

■ Rural Education Centre on track

A major infrastructure development for the Faculty of Health will be completed later this year with the opening of an Education Centre on the campus at Tamworth Base Hospital.

The University Department of Rural Health (UDRH) is now in its third year of operation and is the only rural health program in the state, staff and students in Tamworth, Armidale and Moree.

The $3.5 million project is a state of the art facility featuring:

• audio visual technology and video conferencing facilities as standard features of the 193 seat lecture theatre and the seminar/tutorial rooms;
• a clinical skill laboratory fitted out with over $150,000 worth of simulation equipment;
• a library that has been automated with the EJ View (Pico) Teacher Education Library.

“This will allow both the staff of New South Wales TAFE and the students based in Tamworth full access to the University of Newcastle library services; and

• office space for 20 full time staff.

The Education Centre will form the hub of communication linking Tamworth to the Callaghan campus and the peripheral offices of the UDRH in Armidale and Moree. The UDRH provides an important platform for the University’s official views and/or position.

Copy deadlines for the remainder of the year are:

June/July edition - 30 June
August edition - 30 July
September edition - 19 August
October edition - 2 September
November/December edition - 4 November

For UniNews enquiries please telephone (02) 4921 5610 or email: uninews@newcastle.edu.au

Printed by NCP Printing.
Region's Gifted Gain Head Start in HE

The MOU outlines how the educational partners will work together to facilitate the development, planning and operational aspects of the program, commencing in Semester 2, 2004 with a course in the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment. Trials of the program using additional courses from the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment and courses from the Faculties of Science and Information Technology and Business and Law are expected to start in 2005.

The program will be based at Merewether High School. The University of Newcastle will teach, assess and accredit students’ performance in agreed courses, while NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) will accredit students access to specialised University facilities,” Vice-Chancellor, Professor Roger Holmes said.

“The program will highlight the level of academic excellence offered by the University of Newcastle by encouraging the region’s best and brightest students to undertake tertiary studies early.”

The MOU is signed. Standing: Ms Di Garis, Regional Vocational Education Consultant, Training’s Regional Director Hunter/Central Coast region; Dr Simon Smart, Deputy Principal, Merewether High School; Ms Cecile Smart, Deputy Principal, Merewether High School; Standing: Mr Robyn McKerihan, Regional Director, Hunter and Central Coast Region, DET; and Professor Roger Holmes, Vice-Chancellor of the University.

International Students Go Green

Almost 50 international students from the University’s Language Centre recently took a walk on the wild side at the Tilliony Habitat State Reserve as part of National Volunteers’ Week. For some, it was the first time they had ventured into the Australian bush.

‘Conservation Volunteers Australia Day’ is the initiative of the University of Newcastle and Conservation Volunteers Australia, giving international students the opportunity to learn more about Australian flora and fauna. Conservation Volunteers Australia is the nation’s leading, non-profit, practical conservation organisation with more than 2,000 projects taking place across the country each year.

“...For many of the students, this was their first opportunity to meet the local wildlife, coming face to face with the resident koalas, kangaroos, wallabies and native birds,” explained Marion Allan, the University of Newcastle’s Student Care Program Coordinator. “The ‘Conservation Volunteers Australia Day’ also aims to encourage the international students to become involved in the community and broaden their experience of being in Australia.”

According to Ariel Ford, Conservation Volunteers Australia’s Community Involvement Officer, the Tilliony Habitat State Reserve provided the students with the perfect introduction to Australian flora and fauna whilst emphasising the importance of conservation.

“Part of Conservation Volunteers Australia’s mission is educating and am, facilitating the involvement of the community. Our partnership with the University of Newcastle highlights the value of the community working together to improve the environment.”

An added bonus of the day was the students’ great day out when they were able to witness koalas in their natural habitat, something that most international students are keen to do while they are in Australia. Other activities included gaining hands-on experience planting native trees in the Tilliony Nursery, and a lesson in the art of hortenranging throwing.
Almost 4,000 students were eligible to graduate over five days of ceremonies.

Forty-two University Medals were awarded to students who had achieved outstanding results in their studies.

Here is just a small selection of images catching the excitement of graduates following the official ceremonies.

“I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the community, and as long as I live I can … Life is no ‘brief candle’ to me. It is a sort of splendid torch that I have got hold of for a short moment, and I want to make burn.”

George Bernard Shaw
I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the community, and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can … Life is no "brief candle" to me. It is a sort of splendid torch that I have got hold of for a short moment, and I want to make burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.

George Bernard Shaw

Approximately 500 people gathered in the Great Hall, Callaghan campus, on 13 May to welcome Professor Trevor Waring to the role of Chancellor at the official Installation Ceremony.

Professor Waring took over the role on 1 May 2004, having been appointed to the position for a term of four years. A member of the University Council since 1984, Professor Waring had been Deputy Chancellor since 1997.
Hartley Scholarship Winners Announced

The winners of the Hartley Undergraduate Scholarships for 2004 have been selected by the Kelver Hartley Awards Committee. Those who were selected are:

- Euniceus Professor Ken Dutton and Dr Marie Ramsand (left), lecturer in French, with Scholarship winners Michelle King, Michelle McKenzie and OFT March.

Those who knew Kit Dampney, Associate Professor in School of Design, Communication and IT, would tell you himself. As Gunther said, you never found out as we could, to be open, and to take responsibility for the result in the end. As Gunther said, you never found out what Kit thought, second hand – Kit would tell you himself.

On learning he had cancer and believing he had two years to live, Kit enthusiastically threw himself into completing work on Linkage grants and programmes. On learning he had cancer and believing he had two years to live, Kit enthusiastically threw himself into completing work on Linkage grants and programmes. On learning he had cancer and believing he had two years to live, Kit enthusiastically threw himself into completing work on Linkage grants and programmes.

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Achievements

Graduates and Lecturer win Media Awards

Communication and Deputy Head of the School of Design, Communication and Information Technology, Paul Scott (far right in photo) and Communication Program graduates Anthony Scully and Alexandra Smith were recognised by the Australian Journalists Association for their contributions to journalism when they received PRD01 awards at the beginning of May. The awards recognise "reigns" instead of "reins" was an error in proofing.

It’s all in the headline.

Editor's Note

"reigns" instead of "reins" was an error in proofing.
What’s Happening
@ The University of Newcastle

Conferences
July 5 – 9
"Vision", 12th Biennial National Conference of the Australian Historical Association
Newcastle City Hall
Contact School of Liberal Arts, University of Newcastle on telephone 4921 5175 or email ahz2004@newcastle.edu.au

July 8 – 9
Computing Arts 2004
Noah’s on the Beach
Contact Centre for Literary and Linguistic Computing on telephone 4921 5175 or email hugh.craig@newcastle.edu.au

Workshops
July 7
Computing Arts 2004
Contact Centre for Literary and Linguistic Computing on telephone 4921 5175 or email hugh.craig@newcastle.edu.au

Arts and Drama
June 2 – 20
Watt Space
Loading Dock
Kieran Parsons, Lisa Dorothy, Lllawella Lewis
Siren photomedia

Long Room
Anna Kliin Schawang Blumen und Phallische Pflanzen Installation, drawing

Locker Room
Manika Osmotically Black dogs and white nights 20
Pit
Alan Lucas
Towards a new metaphysical metaphor

Hoist
Lara Mason Queenesse 3D
Art steps outside the gallery 2-6 June outside
Watt Space curated by Anna Kliin

June 8 – 13 (7.30pm)
Museum by Tina Howie 1010 production
Newcastle Regional Art Gallery, Tuesday – Saturday
Directed by Carl Caufield

July 20 – 24 (7.30pm)
Spring Awakening by Frank Wedekind
Drama Theatre, Tuesday – Saturday
Director – Michelle Gordon
Supervisor – Michael Iwans

Music
June 3 (1pm)
Lunchtime Concert – Brass Festival
An end of the semester concert presented by Brass Students from the Conservatorium. Solo and Ensemble music directed by John Kellaway.
Adult $7, Conc $6, Child $5

June 6 (3pm)
Concerts – Quad Symphony Orchestra
Conductor, David Bannery
Piano Soloist, Gian-Franci RicciFeaturing the following works:
Espona, Chabrier
Piano Concerto No.20 in d minor K.466, Mozart
Chaconne, J S Bach, arranged F Busoni
Symphony No.2, Sibelius

June 10 (1pm)
Violin-Piano Recital
 Petra Dina, Violin: Heidi Jones, Piano
Featuring the Sonatas Opus 30 No.1, Beethoven and programme in G major Op. 66, Brahms.
Peta is a graduate of the University and is now teaching at the Conservatorium and performing with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. Heidi Jones from Sydney is a graduate of The Royal Academy of Music London where she studied accompaniment.

June 17 (1pm)
The University of Newcastle Chamber Orchestras
Elegiac Melodies 1 and 2 – Grieg.
Serenade for Strings Op.20 – Elgar.
Dances of Transylvania 1, 2, 3 – Bartok
Adult $7, Conc $6, Child $5

June 19 (7.30pm)
Winter Winds
Concert Band, Conductor – Michael Bell
Crotchets and Quavers, Conductor – Julia Nayi
Special Guests – Ekleusana Primary School Band
A program of light wind music presented by the Intermediate and Junior Ensembles.
Adult $1.50, Conc $8, Family (2 Adults + 2 Children) $25

June 22 (7.30pm)
The Hunter Strings
The String Ensembles in concert.
Program details will be announced at a later date.
Adult $12, Conc $8, Family (2 Adults + 2 Children) $25

June 27 (7.30pm)
Newcastle University Choir – Heavenly Hits
Guest Conductor, Peter Ellis
Soloists: Penelopy Spencer, Soprano; Peter Guy, Organ
A programme of works by American and English composers which may well be described as "heavenly".
Music by Bernstein – The Chichester Psalms; Parry; “Ultra Gad”; Tavener “Song for Athene” and others will leave you wanting more.
Young guest conductor Peter Ellis will make his first appearance with the Choir.
Adult $25, Conc $20

After 18 months of consultation, planning, and plenty of blood, sweat and tears, the Auchiimty Information Common (AIC) opened its doors to the masses in November last year. Its extraordinary transformation from a standard reading room to a dynamic and colourful Information Common has been met with overwhelming praise and popularity.

Since its opening the AIC has been rolling out one innovation after another. Roving staff wander through the Common during core hours to assist users with basic IT needs and maintenance of equipment. 24 hour operating hours began in February and coffee, stationery and confectionery vending machines have been installed (and very heavily utilised!).

In a survey recently conducted by the Library, students have expressed their delight with the Information Common: “The Information Common is a huge success – yet still not big enough!”; “Auchiimty Info Commons are great!”; “Loving the new coffee friendly Auchiimty Info Common”!

The new coffee-friendly environment has recently received a boost with the opening of the Spotless-run Bytes Café. Following a very competitive tender process Spotless Services Australia were invited to manage the Information Common café space. Not only are Library staff ecstatic (coffee on tap) but students are delighted with the new facility.

Whereas historically coffee and PCs have not been allowed within close of

each other, students now snack away on sandwiches, muffins, biscuits, chips or rolls – their coffee andит’s all good while they research and type assignments in the AIC.

Doris Behrens-Dooley is the manager of Bytes Café and says that despite the odd equipment teething problems, the café has taken off extremely well with a “thumbs up” feedback from students.

For those who are keen to give it a go, the Café sells a range of gourmet wraps, foccacias, quiches and salads and services most dietary needs. As for those with a sweet tooth, the Café provides an ever-changing range of cakes, cookies, brownies, slices, muffins and confectionery. Gluten-free foods are available as well – just ask at the counter.

Doris and the team welcome feedback and suggestions, good, bad or ugly!

Note: While Bytes Café aims to please everyone it is unable to supply change for any of the vending or print/copy machines in the Library – despite the continuing requests!

BYTES Café in Auchmuty Library

Katie Smith
Planning and Development Education Services

Web Words

You may not be aware but for many months a group of staff from all faculties and the service portfolio groups have been working feverishly behind the scenes to open up implementation of the public and staff websites’ Content Management System (CMS).

In 2003, the IT Portfolio Committee recommended the University adopt a Content and Information Management solution to ensure that the University’s website contained consistent, current and accurate information. Funding under the Strategic Initiatives Fund was sought and granted.

In simple terms, the new CMS will use the University’s own TeamSite which will, amongst other benefits, improve the quality of the University’s websites in terms of currency, completeness, discoverability, usability and accessibility.

“After many years considerable effort and energy has been expended by numerous staff in developing, maintaining and redeveloping the University website,” explained Executive Director Infrastructure Services, Trevor Gorden.

“Rather than continue along the path of renovation, we decided the time had come for a total rebuild.

The end result will be a far more user-friendly and satisfying experience for all those who use our website, both internally and externally.”

The roll-out of the program began in mid March with the Faculty of Science and IT chosen by senior management as the first to be involved with the roll-out. The reasons for this decision include the faculty’s own review of its present website and the fact that it will be a vast improvement on the existing site in terms of manageability, quality control, search, navigation and professional appearance.

Throughout the project’s implementation, the Uni teams are working with Interwoven, the makers of TeamSite, and Dimension Data, who supply and support TeamSite. Dimension Data has worked in tandem with other major organisations in the redevelopment of their websites, including the University of Western Sydney, Deakin University, TAFE Queensland and the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority.

Future editions of UniNews will include updates regarding the implementation of the Content Management System. A link to an information site will appear on the University’s main home page soon, which will also provide ongoing updates of progress.