Vice-Chancellor's Column

Welcome to the 2002 academic year, and a special welcome to new students and staff members of the University. I hope that you will find the University an enjoyable and friendly place to study and work, as well as being interesting, challenging and of great benefit to your career. Welcome also to continuing students and staff members following what I hope was an enjoyable break.

The summer of 2001/2002 has been a challenging one for NSW, particularly for people who have been adversely effected by the worst season of bush fires for some time. Sydney, the Blue Mountains and the southern national parks were badly burnt, and many people lost their homes. Fortunately, there was no loss of lives associated with these fires, and our brave firefighters, including many volunteers, did an outstanding job on behalf of us all. Even though there were a few small fires at the Callaghan campus of the University over the Christmas period, these were quickly extinguished and we can be very grateful that we were spared any damage. I greatly appreciate the efforts of our staff and the local fire brigade who provided protection at a time of danger for the University.

2002 is a very important year for this University. We are now in our 37th year of autonomous operation and have the most comprehensive range of academic programs outside of the capital cities. The recent University Admissions Round has confirmed our strong position in the State, with a record number of offers to HECS liable undergraduate students being made this year. First preference applications for the University increased by 12 percent, against a state average of four percent. We made 6271 main round offers for HECS liable undergraduate courses, 622 more than last year. It is clear that we have the status of being a University of 'first choice', which is a reflection of the quality of our programs and staff. We also enjoy an outstanding research record and consistently perform well in research and research training, being ranked 9th among 38 public universities in Australia.

I am proud of this record on behalf of all of our staff (past and present), students and alumni, who have contributed so much to the University since 2002...
1965, and previously during a period of development as a university. We are fortunate to have such strong support from our local communities in Newcastle and the Hunter, and on the Central Coast, where we have excellent partnerships with the Hunter Institute NSW TAFE and Central Coast Health.

We have a new academic and organisational structure for the University this year, following a major review in 2000, and an extensive period of consultation and preparation last year. The planned outcome is to enhance our standing as a strong research based international University, and to improve the way in which we manage our resources, deliver our teaching and research programs, and administer our activities.

Five Faculties (in place of 11) have been organised into Schools as the academic building blocks of the University. These include the following, each with a senior executive appointee as a Pro Vice-Chancellor: Business and Law, Professor Bernard Carey; Education and Arts, Professor Terry Lovat; Engineering and Built Environment, Professor Adrian Page; Health, Professor John Marley; and Science and Information Technology, Professor Bill Hogarth. I warmly welcome the Pro Vice-Chancellors and each of our new academic leaders, including Deputy Executive Deans, Assistant Deans, Heads and Deputy Heads of the 26 Schools of the University.

The Central Coast Campuses will be further developed during 2002, with guidance from the Central Coast Campuses Board, chaired by Ms Margaret McGowan, a former Gosford mayor and University Council member, the Central Coast Campuses Director and Deputy Director TAFE Central Coast, Dr Barry McKeon, and the Pro Vice-Chancellor with portfolio responsibility for the Central Coast, Professor Terry Lovat. Under the University's new structure, all Faculties will assume responsibility for the delivery of teaching, research and service programs and activities to the Central Coast community, in partnership with the Central Coast Campuses and/or major enterprises based on the Central Coast, such as Central Coast Health.

Three Central Divisions (in place of six) have also been established: University Services, led by Ms Linda O'Brien in her new role as Vice-President of the University; Research and International, led by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Ron MacDonald; and the Vice-Chancellor's Division, which includes an expanded role for the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Brian English, with responsibility for the English Language and Foundation Studies Centre, and the Director of the Division, Ms Sue Beach, as Head of the Legal Unit.

Other 'new' and important developments for 2002 include the expansion of our international activities. For example, GraduateSchool.com, which was launched last year as a major flagship for the delivery of coursework postgraduate courses online, has expanded its programs into Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong. In addition, the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment has established a partnership with the Productivity Standards Board of Singapore which will deliver mechatronic and chemical engineering programs into that country from 2002.

May I wish all of you, as students, staff and supporters of the University of Newcastle, an enjoyable, successful and healthy 2002.

Roger S Holmes
Vice-Chancellor and President

Chancellor reappointed

The University Council has reappointed Ric Charlton as Chancellor for a further four years from April 1.

This will be Ric's third term as Chancellor, a role that ensures that Council fulfils its responsibilities in accordance with the functions of the University – providing educational facilities, pursuing scholarship, research and teaching activities, contributing to the development of the community and conferring degrees and other awards.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Roger Holmes, says Ric's service to the University has been outstanding.

"We are fortunate to have someone of the qualities and standing of Ric to serve in this role," he said. "He is a Novocastrian by birth and upbringing. He strongly identifies with the area and is committed to the University and the region it serves."

Ric also brings a wealth of experience as a Chief Executive Officer and board member of major corporations and not-for-profit agencies, Roger said.

Born in Newcastle, Ric holds a Masters in Engineering Science from Sydney University. He joined Shell as a Trainee Petroleum Engineer in 1959, where he served a long and distinguished career both overseas and in Australia. He was appointed Chairman and CEO of Shell Australia Ltd in 1991 and retired in 1995. His appointments have included Chairman of the Royal Children's Hospital Research Institute, South East Water Ltd, and Adcorp Ltd; and Director of Coles Myer Ltd.
Marching up to the front door

The newly arrived Pro Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty of Business and Law, Professor Bernard Carey, sees his first priority at the University as quite clear-cut – to address the fact that his Faculty is in deficit.

“What my analysis of the Faculty so far has shown is that there are two major financial weaknesses on the revenue side. Firstly, the Faculty doesn’t do well through the distribution of funding model used by the University. We would welcome a bigger share of the government grant monies that come to the University on an annual basis and I will be working in a cooperative way to emphasise the justice of the Faculty’s case in this regard.

“Secondly, the Faculty is poor at attracting non-government revenue including postgraduate fees, international student fees and research income. Hence, it makes sense that those are the three areas that I will be looking at as ways to make the cake grow – postgraduate coursework programs, international earnings both onshore and offshore, and research, particularly research training.”

Bernard is well qualified to take on the task of improving the bottom line of his Faculty. He studied Arts/Law at the University of Sydney, beginning in 1971 and graduated with Honours in politics. He then worked as research leader on the Coombs Royal Commission investigating the public service in Canberra before returning to Sydney to begin his doctorate.

Bernard, and wife Hilary, who is Deputy Head of the School of Liberal Arts and lectures in History at the University, spent an idyllic time together at Oxford University in the UK completing their doctorates in the early 80s before returning to Sydney, where Bernard began work at Macquarie University.

“I spent 12 years at the Macquarie Graduate School of Management (MGSM), including five years as Director. During that period it grew from having six members of academic staff when I began in 1985 to more than 40 by the time I left. We went from having two related programs – a Diploma (and Master) of Business Administration – to whole suites of programs, all of which were successful in the marketplace.”

More recently, Bernard worked as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development) at the University of Western Sydney with control of their international office, marketing office, business development area and the Sydney Graduate School of Management.

“I created the Sydney Graduate School of Management with the help of some talented people, which was an ideal way to do it. It’s just finished its first full year of business and is a roaring success. Apart from paying all of its staff and providing a high quality MBA, it turned in $1.5million profit in its first year on a high level of turnover.”

Bernard says that the issues for Newcastle are slightly different, as we don’t operate our main market in Sydney but says there is huge potential in the international market. He made his first trip to Singapore for the MGSM in 1989 and it now has an enormous international portfolio – including being the largest offshore provider of graduate education in Hong Kong – that returns millions of dollars a year to Macquarie.

“Whether the sort of strategies I’ve implemented in the past will work in Newcastle depends on the availability of markets for our products,” he said. “I will try to get the market research done to find the nature and size of potential markets. Our major driver will be bringing good quality education to students and our second will be to assist the University with additional income to achieve its mission.”

Bernard, who says he still needs to come to grips with his University-wide portfolio in the international area, believes that the mixture of disciplines in his Faculty will work well together. He is pleased with the calibre of his staff appointments to the key Faculty roles and is optimistic that the new structure, which has been arrived at through consultation, will enable him to achieve his goals. He is especially pleased to be able to reunite his family in Newcastle. Hilary has been commuting here for the past 11 years.

“Anything I will be looking to do that is designed to bring revenue from education would recognise Newcastle as one of the leading universities in the country and wouldn’t adopt a cap-in-hand approach that doesn’t recognise the quality of its degrees,” Bernard stressed.

“We should be proudly marching up to the front door of our paying markets and proclaiming ourselves as a top university brand that students should want!”
A consultative approach to science and IT

Pro Vice-Chancellor of the Faculty of Science and Information Technology (IT) Professor Bill Hogarth was attracted to Newcastle by the challenge of establishing a new Faculty and interest in his cross-University portfolios.

Bill says his work as Dean of the Faculty of Environmental Sciences at Griffith University in Queensland - a position he had held since 1993 - had begun to be routine.

"Being part of reorganising the Faculty and getting it to work so everyone is happy and comfortable is challenging. The Executive Dean function is one I've done before and I'm very interested in my cross-University roles - in teaching and learning, and IT."

Bill was also attracted by the devolution of services to the faculties that is taking place under the University's restructure, saying it was "back to the future" for him as Griffith had recently gone the other way and centralised all their processes.

"I saw a lot of problems with that approach and think that the Newcastle model, which places the emphasis on looking after students back in their academic areas, is much more effective," Bill said.

"Issues are better controlled from the academic environment and Faculty staff own any problems, not 'someone over there'."

Bill has gained a lot of understanding of the issues in the teaching and learning area during his 28 years in academia, including how to deliver quality programs to students and ensure that they understand what is required of them. He would like to see every school in the University with an external advisory board and better use of statistical information to improve student outcomes.

"In the IT area, I want to ensure that we understand what industry and employers want from graduates and make sure the programs have the basic skills they'll need," he said. "I will also be working with Linda O'Brien on an IT strategic plan for the University that the faculties will have ownership of, so that when we move to implement it, everyone knows what is being done and is part of it."

Although he did his undergraduate degree at the University of New South Wales College in Wollongong, Bill is no stranger to the University, having begun his PhD here in 1973. Back then, the young mathematician came here to work with the late Professor Mel Lieberstein, who was doing mathematical modelling of human physiology.

"I was very interested in the application of mathematics to solving real life problems and Professor Lieberstein was modelling blood flow problems in the cochlea, middle ear and kidney," Bill explains. 

"Unfortunately, he died after 10 months but I was able to choose another doctoral topic under the supervision of Sean McElwain at Newcastle, who was also working on applied and practical mathematical research, modelling atomic and diatomic chemical reactions."

Bill, who met his Newcastle-born wife Pauline at the University, took a teaching fellowship at Griffith in 1976 and apart from some years as Visiting Professor at the Universities of Waterloo in Canada, Adelaide in South Australia and Texas in the US, he remained there until this year. He was promoted to Professor in 1996, has in excess of 100 refereed publications and is a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (UK) as well as of the Australian Mathematical Society.

During his time as Dean at Griffith, Bill was involved in negotiations for seven Cooperative Research Centres and sat on the Boards of four of them. He hopes his new Faculty will become involved in a number of CRCs and intends to try and improve the research performance of the Faculty.

"The research record of the University is good already but can become better and I'm also hoping to improve the Faculty's postgraduate coursework outcomes."

Bill is familiar with cross-campus Faculty operations as the Faculty of Environmental Sciences at Griffith also involved cross campus activities. Similarly, he has been working in a cross-disciplinary environment since 1976 and is familiar with the compromises that are sometimes necessary to create an effective working environment between different disciplines.

"Communication is the key to getting the problems solved and the Faculty working properly," he said. "I have a consultative style and try to be open and make sure people understand what is going on."

Bill believes that Newcastle is one of the best universities in Australia in terms of performance which is one of the reasons he decided to accept his appointment. He feels, however, that the University needs to publicise its performance much more and make the community aware of it.
Extra $1.3 million for library resources

The University has made a major commitment to research, teaching and student facilities with the allocation of $4.9 million to library resources this year, an increase of $1.3 million on the 2001 figure.

The money will be spent primarily in the areas of science and the humanities, providing access to a number of major bibliographic and fulltext research databases, for example ScienceDirect and Web of Science.

Print and online book collections will also be redeveloped and updated, providing resources for academics, undergraduate and postgraduate students of all levels. Lynne Benton, Executive Director of Education Services and University Librarian, says the funding boost is a commitment to scholarly materials and recognises the role of the library in supporting and promoting the University’s research, teaching and community profile.

“The University of Newcastle library is the largest and most comprehensive in non-metropolitan New South Wales, collaborating with a number of regional and state partners,” Lynne said. “The increased funding will improve the ranking of the University, in terms of the percentage of the overall budget spent on scholarly materials.”

The funding will be indexed annually, and it is anticipated that by 2004, the University will have moved from 24 to 10 out of the 39 Australian universities, in terms of its commitment to scholarly resources.

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Scientists test satellite equipment

Scientists at the University conducted preliminary tests in December on a magnetometer to be placed inside the first Australian-made satellite to be launched in over 30 years.

The FedSat satellite is a project of the Cooperative Research Centre for Satellite Systems (CReSS), a consortium of government agencies, private industry and universities, including the University of Newcastle.

FedSat is due to be launched from Japan between November 2002 and February 2003. The 58 kilogram satellite, which measures 50 x 50 x 50 cm, is currently being assembled at Auspace Ltd in Canberra. On board FedSat will be the NewMag magnetometer experiment, being developed by the University’s Space Physics Group, led by Professor Brian Fraser.

“NewMag will measure the Earth’s magnetic field continuously around the FedSat circular polar orbit at a height of 800 kilometres,” Brian said. “The equipment will monitor space storms in the magnetic field and provide important data for the development of models for space weather testing.”

The group tested the NewMag Engineering model, which arrived in December from the University of California, Los Angeles, in the United States, which has been developing NewMag in collaboration with the University.

“When we have finished testing and checking the model, we will send it to Canberra so it can be integrated in a bench test model of FedSat, known as FlatSat.”

University confirms top research status

The University has confirmed its place in the top ten research universities in Australia.

The latest research report shows Newcastle researchers gained over $25 million in research funding for the last year, including $7 million from the Australian Research Council (ARC) and over $4 million from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

Professor Ron Macdonald, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) said the ARC and NHMRC grants provide the funding for pure and applied research which in turn provides the base for research for private companies and public sector organisations.

“Private companies gave $3.99 million dollars for research work carried out at the University and research for the public sector reached $4.2 million,” Ron said. “A second benefit to the community is the training of new researchers, who are needed by industry.

“We have expanded our target for research training to six per cent of the student body by this year. There are currently 921 research higher degree candidates enrolled in the University and 145 research Masters or Doctoral degrees have been awarded in the past year.”

The former Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences attracted more than $9 million in research funding, Engineering gained $5.7 million, and Science and Mathematics $2.9 million. The University’s commercial arm, TUNRA contributed $3.6 million in income for research activities, an increase of more than 20 percent on the previous year.

“Research and the commercialisation that flows from it, is the basis for social and economic growth and the University places research and training as a top priority,” Ron said. “We are committed to enhancing research opportunities within the University and increasing research higher degree student numbers along with scholarship support.”
Paediatrician to lead Department of Rural Health

Dr Peter Jones has been appointed as Director of the University Department of Rural Health (UDRH) to be established in the Tamworth/New England area by the University.

The Commonwealth government will provide $6.75 million to the project over five years under the Regional Development Strategy, established to progress the development of a comprehensive health professional education network in rural and regional Australia.

Peter, who was born in Orange, is married to Therese and has four children. He holds a Bachelor of Medicine from the University of Sydney, and completed his internship in Canberra. He has worked in London, Sydney and Newcastle, at John Hunter Children’s Hospital and from 1995 at the University.

"The UDRH is very exciting because it will deliver some real additional health and higher education resources to rural Australia," he says. "It will provide an opportunity for all health professions to benefit from rural based training, education and research, and is a chance for us to look at ways of improving how we train these people."

Through the UDRH, final-year students in Medical Radiation Science, Dietetics and Occupational Therapy, as well as fourth year Medicine students, can add a rural focus to their programs by studying in rural communities linked to the UDRH for up to one year. The area served by the UDRH initiative covers up to a 100 km radius from the centre at Tamworth. It includes the towns of Armidale, Taree, Inverell and Moree, and extends as far north as the Queensland border.

Peter says the Pro Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty of Health at the University, Professor John Marley, was instrumental in setting up the University of Adelaide’s successful UDRH at Whyalla and has organised for him to visit the Department this month. The Whyalla UDRH has been successful in attracting government research funding since its establishment.

"The UDRH will be very different to rural clinical schools as it will be multi-disciplinary. It will have the dual benefits of placing the infrastructure in rural communities to provide more opportunities for health professionals in country towns, and of giving undergraduate and postgraduate students a taste of the country that may influence their decisions to practice in a rural area in future."

The UDRH program will also directly employ people in rural communities and generate employment for others. While there are still a lot of unknowns, the opportunity to experience the family benefits of country life and help the UDRH come to fruition was irresistible for Peter, who takes up the post this month. He will also seek to work as a paediatrician for the New England Area Health Service.

"Therese and I are very impressed with the schools and facilities available in Tamworth, where everything is only two or three minutes from home. Even before I have begun work, we’ve already been invited to a couple of barbeques and have found the people we’ve met very warm and inviting."

Mathematician honoured with award

Dr Warren Moors, who completed his doctoral studies in mathematics at Newcastle in 1992, has won the New Zealand Mathematical Society’s research award for 2001. Warren’s PhD supervisor A/Professor John Giles said the award was prestigious and recognised excellence in research.

"Warren won the award for his impressive interconnected work on the geometry and topology of Banach spaces, related questions of set-theoretic topology and especially non-smooth analysis and optimisation, where he has achieved a number of deep foundational insights," John said.

Warren completed his undergraduate and Masters degrees at the University of Auckland in NZ and is currently a Senior Lecturer at the University of Waikato.
Who was that woman?

Who was that woman? That is precisely the question that Professor Lyndall Ryan, Historian and Head of the School of Humanities at the Ourimbah Campus, asked in a recently published book entitled *Who Was That Woman? The Australian Women’s Weekly in the Postwar Years*.

Lyndall, with co-authors, Susan Sheridan, Barbara Baird and Kate Borrett, explored the effect and influence of the *Weekly* on its readers through the years after World War II and how it helped to shape the self-view of average Australians.

Lyndall’s contribution starts with the 1950’s and focuses on a variety of topics, some serious, some more lighthearted. She describes how our attitudes to love, courtship, marriage, sex and children were influenced by a commonly held view during the 50’s – one that was supported and promoted by the *Weekly* – that it was normal for women to seek romance, ultimately marry, have children, and be content to be solely wife, mother and homemaker. Women who worked outside the home, sought education, or who had unusual occupations were considered to be extraordinary.

She describes how post-war Australians were keen to acquire the latest consumer items to accompany their new homes - refrigerators, cars, ‘modern’ furniture as well as the products to keep them clean, how we pored over full-page advertisements for building materials and home plans, and a new emphasis on leisure time inspired the readers.

“The advent of rock’n’roll was thought to precede a decline in moral standards, while advice columnists gave their views on everything from marriage, teenage dating, gardening, cookery and home decorating,” Lyndall said. “There was a complete ‘how-to’ package in every edition. The *Weekly*, not only influenced the views and outlook of its adult readers, but had an enormous impact on the children of the time, teenagers and younger.”

Lyndall says that she is inundated with stories from baby boomer women about the influence of the magazine in their lives every time she gives a presentation on the *Women’s Weekly* in the 1950’s.

“In the 1950’s the *Weekly* was the popular face of Australian femininity. For women of all ages, reading the *Weekly* in the 1950’s was like stepping into a glamorous new home filled with desirable and up-to-date products, familiar brands, interesting and romantic men, practical yet alluring women, and happy children. In this haven of modernity, women found the emotional tools to deal with the masculine world.”

Marketing and branding were also important elements of the *Weekly*. “Its instantly recognisable layout and format became embedded in the visual memories of the baby-boomer generation,” says Lyndall.

Well known brands such as Rinso, Brasso, Revlon, Berlei, Formica, Vegenite, Keen’s mustard, Arnott’s biscuits, Nyal pharmaceutical products and Curleypet, to name just a few, were advertised regularly. Exciting and ongoing comics, Mandrake the Magician and Teenie appeared in each edition along with an astrology page, coupons for paper dress patterns and sections devoted to recipes and gardening.

Lyndall then takes the reader through the 60’s and the 70’s when Australian society was going through rapid changes. She describes how women embraced the notion (and the opportunity) of education, of entering the workforce (for a variety of reasons) and how they juggled them with the requirements of home and family.

“The pages of the *Weekly* show the tensions generated when the ideology of ‘woman’s place is in the home’ came under pressure from married women’s re-entry into the paid workforce... Yet the link between women and work in the home would remain strong for years to come,” she says.

During this time, as in the 50’s, the acquisition of the family home was of primary importance and a huge number of pages were devoted to plans, design and improvements of homes, decorating and associated topics. Naturally, the home was considered to be the environment where healthy and happy children were nurtured, and the *Weekly* reflected this family emphasis in its articles and covers.

Lyndall’s book is packed with information, but more importantly glimpses of how Australia used to be and how we used to think. *Who Was That Woman? The Australian Women’s Weekly in the Postwar Years*, published by UNSW Press, is available for $39.95 from all good bookstores.
Creating new learning environments

Executive Director of Education Services in the University's Information Services group, Lynne Benton, is looking forward to tailoring the University's information services to better fit new modes of learning.

While Lynne, who comes to her position from the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS), acknowledges the need for a continuation of service in the information services and technology area, she also plans to introduce some innovations to her portfolio.

"Pending an IT review, which is due to be completed in a couple of months, we will continue to provide desktop services through service level agreements, as well as operating the software license and sales," Lynne said. "We will continue to provide technical support to generalist use of technology, working in partnership with devolved Faculty activities under Faculty IT managers. I feel the weight of the University's needs acutely and have put a number of transition management strategies in place to ensure service maintenance."

Combining teaching, learning and technology support with the library into an integrated group, positions Education Services well to support all the University's research, teaching and learning activities, Lynne says.

"Our portfolio is the only one totally concerned with the support of teaching, learning and research - we're absolutely out there working in the academic process. We will work very closely with the Faculties and are already undergoing the process of meeting with Pro Vice-Chancellors and key Faculty players."

Lynne was born in England and came to Australia with her parents when she was 18. Within six months of arriving in Melbourne, Lynne had accepted a position with the National Library in Canberra, where she met her husband. In 1981, the family moved to Valentine and Lynne began working as a librarian for Newcastle Technical College. Her experience stood her in good stead and in 1993, she was appointed Manager of the Information Resource Centre at the Bellingen Central Coast Campus.

"It was a joint appointment between TAFE and the University and the Campus was a really exciting place to work. I had the privilege of setting up the purpose built facility that operates as a converged environment with library and IT."

In 1998, Lynne took the position of Manager of Information Services and Systems at the University of Western Sydney's Hawkesbury campus, working closely with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Resources) on change management strategies for a range of areas including IT, library, print services, and auditing.

For the six months before her return to Newcastle this year, Lynne was working as Project Manager on a major refurbishment of the University Library at UTS. Although her husband and three adult daughters are still in Sydney, Lynne found the opportunity to participate in the restructure at Newcastle too tempting to resist.

Supervising around 150 people in the second largest group in University Services, Lynne says that Newcastle's library has a very good record of working with other institutions nationally and internationally to ensure best practice for clients. She acknowledges that the University faces some special challenges in terms of the diverse programs that it offers and the fact that it is geographically separated from Sydney but says much of that can be addressed with online technologies.

"We have a mission to deliver high quality information services and therefore, owe it to our clients to bring state-of-the-art services to Newcastle. I'm very eager to ensure that my staff and look at other service providers - there is no point reinventing the wheel - and stay across new initiatives."

Lynne plans to provide more exciting learning environments for young people and for mature aged students who require more flexible arrangements. This includes adopting 'learning commons' environments where students can meet to discuss, make noise, drink coffee and feel relaxed, while preserving some quiet study areas.
search has shown a return in loans and photocopying, which suggests that students are using resources online. It doesn’t mean that the physical environment of the library is less useful. It does mean that libraries need to stay in tune with the way that people use information today, including the use of e-books, television and new technologies.

There is quick to stress that her background as aarian will not inhibit her interest in the other areas of her portfolio but that the library is the core of any university.

Ivan Skaines, describes himself as a person who likes working with people to make improvements. He sees his role as facilitating and linking planning and improvement at all levels of the University - ranging from the University Strategic Planning Retreat on February 11 and 12 down to school and unit level.

“Our unit is a new area for the University and I envisage we will be working with staff on planning and improvement projects,” he said. “The process will be consultative. For example, our unit will facilitate solutions by working with people who are experienced and knowledgeable in their area - it is crucial that the people at the coal-face own their plans.”

Ivan says his unit will be closely involved in quality assurance and will be responsible for preparing the University's performance portfolio by early June for the forthcoming Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) audit in early September.

“I see the AUQA audit as an opportunity for the University, rather than a threat. It is an opportunity for us to look again at what we are doing in terms of our quality assurance systems and processes - to identify the things we do well and some that perhaps we don’t do so well and to put improvement plans in place.”

Ivan has a history with the University, having grown up in the Upper Hunter and completed his Bachelor of Arts, majoring in history and geography, here. He is currently working towards his Master of Educational Studies at the University. He has worked at the Hunter Valley Research Foundation, and between 1997 and 1999 in planning and evaluation at Hunter Institute of Technology TAPE at Tiches Hill.

In 2000, Ivan worked as a consultant at Singapore Polytechnic reviewing their performance measures and helping them to apply for a Singapore quality award. He has also worked in the corporate planning and performance section of the NSW Environment Protection Authority in Sydney.

“I like the fact that the University is at the start of a new era and think it’s a good time for me to join. Although there is still a lot of uncertainty, there is also a positive new environment,” Ivan said. “For example, the integration of equity and diversity planning, as well as other University-wide plans, will allow for a holistic approach to planning for both staff and students.”

Ivan sees a need for greater prioritisation of strategies that are tied to budgets. Flexibility in a changing environment is another essential element in good planning and Ivan will encourage people to build ongoing review and evaluation procedures into their plans.

“I’m genuinely happy to be here and very enthusiastic and energised by the possibilities of my position,” Ivan said. “One of our team’s major priorities will be providing assistance to others. As this is a two way process, we also welcome any suggestions on improving the University’s planning and improvement processes.”

The recently appointed Director of the Planning and Business Improvement Unit, Ivan Skaines, describes himself as a person who likes working with people to make improvements.
Focussing on family and community strengths

When US academic Dr Jody Kretzmann opened the 2nd annual Family Strengths Conference with a dynamic presentation on an assets-based approach to community development, he not only set the tone for the conference, he also touched on the philosophy underlying the University’s unique Family Action Centre (FAC).

Dr Kretzmann, who has worked in disadvantaged areas in the United States, particularly in the Washington area, says there are ways communities can become strong and develop their own solutions to their problems.

“There is a role for government, council and welfare bodies, but disadvantaged communities have the capacity within to build community strengths and maintain those strengths through the development of community leaders,” he said.

“Focussing only on the needs and problems of families creates dependency. We find that even the most disadvantaged communities have strengths than can be built on and businesses must also develop partnerships with their community to raise self esteem and build a safe, secure environment.”

Based at the Institute for Policy Research at the North Western University in the US, Dr Kretzmann met with the Premier’s Department, Family and Community Services in both NSW and in Canberra before the December conference at the University, to advise them of the success of his assets-based programs.

FAC Director Judi Geggie explains what underlies the strengths perspective: “If you continually ask about problems and deficits in a family or community, the problems can seem insurmountable but if you ask about their strengths, then you can build on those strengths and overcome the deficits.”

All 170 speakers at the Family Strengths Conference discussed issues using a strengths-based approach, Judi said. More than 400 delegates to the three-day conference heard the experiences of teachers, welfare workers, academics, police officers, business leaders and psychologists from seven different countries in workshops and addresses on the positive approach.

“The diversity of speakers offered a multi-disciplinary platform to exchange ideas, knowledge and views on the strengths perspective,” Judi said.

Another speaker – Dr Jeannine Falter, Vice President of Duncan Aviation, in the US – said that companies have increasing expectations from their workers and therefore must also play their part in a positive and supportive work environment.

Dr Falter says that developing family-like cultures in the workplace can provide tangible and intangible benefits to companies, as well as acting as a support to employees, which flows on to the community in a positive way.

The Conference, which ran from December 2 to 5 and was supported by the University’s Social Work Department, also included a workshop on violence in schools.

The FAC is an independent centre within the new Faculty of Health and is entirely externally funded. Building their work on a community service platform, the Centre is the only one of its kind in Australia.

“We see our role in three areas, with community service as the basis,” Judi says. “These are dissemination of information about our programs by developing resources, newsletters, conferences and seminars; advocacy and lobbying to try and influence policy in various ways; and research – often in areas where no previous research exists.”

FAC programs include HomeStart that places trained volunteers into the community to support the families of young children; the Caravan Project and the National Dissemination Program that champion the issues of permanent caravan residents; Engaging Fathers, a program that works to strengthen the bonds between fathers and sons to combat violence and behaviour problems of boys; and two new programs focussing on community leadership and drug problems.
25 year medals presented

Twenty one members of academic and general staff at the University received medals in December to commemorate 25 years of service to the University.

A medal scheme was introduced in 2000 to acknowledge long-service to the University. In its first year, 110 staff members received medals recognising 25 years or more service. Last year, there were 21 current members of staff who had, as at July 2001, served for 25 or more years.

One of these is John Waanders, the Laboratory Manager for the Department of Chemical Engineering. John started work at the University on May 17th 1976, as a Laboratory Assistant within the Department. He was also an undergraduate student in Chemical Engineering at the University.

"The position arose just after I had been retrenched from the textile manufacturer Courtaulds, where I was employed as an industrial chemist," says John. "After I finished my degree I went on to complete a Master of Engineering Science at the University, and in 1982, was appointed Laboratory Manager in Chemical Engineering."

John's position allowed him to be involved with the Institution of Engineers and he is currently on their National Chemical College Board. He was also Chairman of the Newcastle Chemical Engineering Group for four years.

"I’ve stayed at the Uni for so long because it is such a great working environment with great facilities on campus. The staff are friendly and courteous, my work changes and improves with new technologies, I get immense gratification seeing the success of our graduates and the Department is recognised as one of the strongest in the country."

The medal presentation took place on Friday 14th December 2001 in the Great Hall.

Newcastle research helps secure award

The revolutionary Jameson cell, invented by Professor Graeme Jameson, has helped the Redbank Power Station at Singleton win a national prize for environmental engineering excellence.

The power station, designed and built by ALSTOM Power, took the top prize at the Australian Engineering Excellence Awards 2001 held recently in Canberra by the Institution of Engineers, Australia. The project would not have been possible without the Jameson cell, which was developed initially for mineral processing.

Redbank is the first power station in the world where this technology has been used to upgrade coal tailings to a useable fuel. Benefits from the project include: a coal-fired power station with the lowest rate of greenhouse gas emissions in Australia; improved utilisation of mined coal; removal of unsightly tailing ponds; and jobs for the Hunter region.

Head of the School of Engineering Professor John Fryer says the use of the Jameson cell at Redbank is an example of the outstanding engineering research conducted at the University.

"This is one of the best engineering schools in Australia and the cutting edge research we do feeds into our undergraduate programs in all the disciplines including chemical engineering, from which the Jameson cell was developed."

Long term commitment: Chancellor Ric Charlton (left) congratulates husband and wife Associate Professor Christina Offer and Conjoint Professor Robin Offer for attaining more than 50 years of service to the University between them
Austrian research rewarded

Fred Walla with the Austrian Cross Award (Reproduced courtesy of the Newsdesk Herald)

Associate Professor of German, Fred Walla, has been awarded the Austrian Cross of Honour for Sciences and the Arts, first class – the highest honour awarded for scholarship in that country.

Fred has spent much of his academic life researching the Viennese popular theatre of the 19th century, particularly the works of playwright Johan Nepomuk Nestroy. He has been part of a team of 13 scholars from around the world compiling the recently completed critical edition of Nestroy’s works. Fred wrote nine of the 45 volumes that make up this definitive work, which has been hailed as a major achievement of literary scholarship.

Johan Nestroy (1801-1862) was the greatest writer of comedy in the German language. After initially studying law at Vienna University, he became an opera singer and comic actor, before embarking on a career as a playwright that spanned 30 years. He wrote some 83 plays and performed his own satirical plays all over the German and Austrian Empires. Modern English works said to derive from his work include the musical Hello Dolly and Tom Stoppard’s On the Razzle.

“I was asked to participate in the critical edition because I’d pointed out inaccuracies in the 1920s edition of Nestroy’s plays,” Fred said. “It may sound tedious to be involved for so long studying a single author but I never tire of reading his work.”

The Austrian Cross of Honour was established in 1837 to recognise achievements in science and the arts. The award was presented to Fred on December 7, Nestroy’s birthday, in the Austrian Federal Chancellery by the Secretary of State for Arts and Media, Franz Monk.

Teaching doctors to care for the dying

The University is set to lead Australia in medical training with a special program to teach its student doctors how to care for dying patients and their families.

As part of their course, every medical student will visit a palliative care patient for about 10 weeks and learn how to face the issues of death and the physical and psychosocial needs of patients and their families. It is anticipated that students will learn how to develop a rapport with the dying patients that will help them to provide sensitive and knowledgeable care, while also learning to provide emotional self-care, a tool they will need throughout their professional lives.

A trial, completed at the end of last year and involving 17 volunteer students, has been so successful that the program is almost certain to be added to the third or fourth year medical curriculum next year. The trial was undertaken by Professor Peter Ravenscroft, Director of Palliative Care at the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, with Drs Sanjeev Churnilal and John Cavenagh.

“Until now our students have had a snapshot view of someone dying from cancer – really just a visit to a hospice at one point of their studies,” Peter said. “The aim of this project is to create an educational process whereby the student gains a long-term view of how people cope with terminal illness, while also being part of a two-way flow of information between themselves as carers and the patient and their family.”

Peter said the students involved in the trial found the experience worthwhile. Most had never met anyone with cancer and they appreciated hearing the patients’ stories about how they had come to grips with their illness.

“In addition they undertook specific studies about their palliative patient’s form of cancer,” he said. “I based the idea on the Faculty’s Mother and Baby program, under which a student is allocated a woman attending an ante-natal clinic and follows her and her family through the pregnancy and beyond. This care of new life was pioneered by the University and we will be leading the way once more in the care of the dying.”

...the student gains a long-term view of how people cope with terminal illness...
Coal research recognised with international award

Professor Terry Wall, Deputy CEO of the CRC for Coal in Sustainable Development and Professor of Chemical Engineering was presented with the prestigious Pitt award at the 18th International Pittsburgh Coal Conference held in Newcastle in December.

The award is for discoveries, research, process and device development and new methodologies relating to scientific and engineering achievements in the area of coal conversion over the past 25 years.

Terry has played a leading role in developing and applying new techniques to characterise coal and thereby predict coal performance in power stations and trouble-shoot problems in furnace operation. He has pioneered collaboration with Japanese and other technology development countries. Local consulting jobs involving industry engineers have assisted in the solution of operational problems and have often been related to the use of Australian coals in furnaces overseas.

Terry has led Australian academic research and training efforts on black coal utilisation for the past 25 years, including being the Foundation Director of the Institute of Coal Research in 1981. He has also developed and managed the academic strand of the United Nations Development Program's Coal Technology Course at the University since 1986. Subsequently he has had a major involvement with the power and coal industry and research colleagues in developing and managing the successful coal CRCs from 1995.

"It's an honour for Australian research, for the University and for myself personally, to receive this award," Terry said.

The presentation was made at an Award Luncheon at Newcastle City Hall on December 6.

Pioneering research receives international recognition

Victor Emeljanow, Professor of Drama at the University, together with his colleague, Jim Davis, at the University of New South Wales, have received international acclaim for their book Reflecting the Audience: London Theatregoing 1840-1880.

Published by the University of Iowa Press in 2001, it is a pioneering work which tries to define the theatre audiences of Victorian London. This is the first time that a study of Victorian theatre audiences has been attempted.

Joseph Donohue, Professor of English at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst describes the book as "one of the best, most interesting, and most useful studies of the Victorian theatre". Don Wilmeth, Asa Messer Professor of Theatre and English at Brown University, finds it "enlightening, stimulating, and a terrific example of good archival research". Jacky Bratton, Professor of Theatre Studies at Royal Holloway, University of London, says that the authors "establish a firm bedrock of factual information on which all future research in the area must be grounded"; and Peter Bailey, the author of Popular Culture and Performance in the Victorian City and Professor of Cultural History at the University of Manitoba, Canada, places the book "among the best of the new theatre history".

The book has been nominated for the George Freedley Award, offered by the Library Association of America, and the Annual Theatre History Prize of the Society for Theatre Research, London.
Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

As a foundation member of the University of Newcastle Convocation and one who watched it come into being, I appreciate receiving and perusing Uninews. Because I was involved in industry and education and living in Newcastle at the time I was very interested in your November issue item on page 18, "From small beginnings – 1951 to 2001".

Your photo of the front of the pre-World War II Newcastle "Tech" building brought back memories of part time study there when it housed the University College.

However I hope you will accept a comment on some of the expressions within the descriptive article by your archivist which I thought were a little unkind to the concerned people of Newcastle in 1951. They emerge from the description as somewhat stuffy and ludicrous in their "serge suits, heavy dresses and felt hats" and sitting "on wooden chairs" in a "huge bitumen" forecourt which is also strangely described as "bleak" in the "December sunshine". The reference (twice) to the "Union Jack" quarter of the Australian flag and the "short bald man" conducting a readily forgettable orchestra playing the national anthem of the day also seems to be a tilt at the apparent and now amusing political incorrectness of the ancients of 50 years ago.

I trust that the University of Newcastle archivist writing in the year 2051 may be a little more kind and respectful to the genuine and concerned community of five decades earlier.

In 1951 we had not fully recovered from the disruptions of a world war but at the same time were trying urgently to build for the future. The Newcastle people of that time who were supporting the emergence of the University that we have today, no doubt appear quaint in some respects to modern observers. But they were no less purposeful and concerned with values, and had available far less resources than we enjoy today.

The article otherwise captures well, relevant aspects of the occasion and the times, including the later arrival of Jim Auchmuty of fond memory.

John Reynolds

Dear Editor

It was with great pleasure that I read the November issue of Uninews and particularly the feature article on NuSport. It’s great to see sport, a large part of the university culture, being given such exposure and promoted to our alumni.

I was, however, disappointed to read that there was no mention of the Central Coast Campus sporting clubs in your “University Clubs” listing. The Central Coast Campus is a part of the University of Newcastle community, and our sporting clubs add to the welfare and vibrancy of campus life on the Central Coast.

Whilst your article was proudly focused on NuSport there was no clear indication that they were Callaghan based clubs in your article. Alternatively, Uninews may have listed sporting clubs based on the Central Coast Campus.

The Central Coast Campus Union has strived hard in the past few years to increase sporting opportunities for its members and the number of sporting clubs has increased from one to six in the past two years. These clubs are also gaining considerable success in local sporting competitions.

Participation in university games competitions has risen dramatically, resulting in some outstanding results for our campus and subscription to our gym and pool services has increased significantly.

Being an avid reader of your magazine I am on the whole disappointed with the amount of content allocated to the Central Coast Campus. I believe that a page to the Central Coast Campus is not adequate given the size and prominence of the campus. It is apparent that your writers do not actively source stories on the Central Coast as they do in Newcastle.

There are many interesting developments and articles that can be derived from this campus. As your magazine embarks on a new year and sources new articles, I hope that you will at least give some focus to the Central Coast Campus.

Michael Kmet
Sport & Recreation Officer
Central Coast Campus Union
National sport in a globalised world

The Australian soccer team of mostly European-based players lost to the Uruguayan team of mostly European-based players, failing to qualify for the 2002 World Cup. As a result it has been suggested that the whole coaching infrastructure of the Australian side should relocate to Europe to improve its chances in international competition.

Associate Professor David Rowe, Head of the Department of Leisure and Tourism Studies says that such scenarios arise because of the progressive globalisation of sport.

“There is great pride in national teams and sports people, yet they may have very little connection with their country of origin. Top golfers or tennis players may spend no more than a few days in Australia. The English soccer team is now coached by a Swede and the English League side Chelsea has more foreign than English players in it. British rugby league is dominated by Australians and Canadian ice hockey franchises are migrating south to the US,” David says.

His latest book Globalisation and Sport Playing the World was launched on December 15 at the Australian Sociological Association Conference at the University of Sydney.

Co-authored by New York University Academic Toby Miller, Geoffrey Lawrence from Central Queensland University and Jim Mackay from the University of Queensland, David says, “writing the book was an exercise in globalisation itself”.

“There are many curious forms of the sporting nation. The West Indies is a formidable force in cricket but there is no such country as the West Indies. The ‘home countries’ comprising the United Kingdom play both together and against each other and there are several All-Ireland sports despite the ‘troubles’. The globalisation and commercialisation of sport has accelerated and intensified this redrawing of the sporting nation,” David says.

Full employment possible

Economics lecturer, Professor Bill Mitchell, argues in a new book that governments have abandoned full employment and used the unemployed as buffer stock in the fight against inflation.

The book Unemployment: The tip of the iceberg is co-edited by Ellen Carlson and puts the blame for persistently high unemployment levels squarely on government policy.

Bill says the costs of this economic and social waste dwarf the estimates of so called microeconomic inefficiencies that deregulation aims to rectify.

“To return to full employment, the government must abandon its irresponsible pursuit of budget surpluses and instead use its power as the issuer of the currency to ensure that net government spending maintains sufficient demand in the economy,” he said.

Unemployment: The tip of the iceberg looks at demographic perspectives, changing work arrangements, wage polarisation and international comparisons. The authors say unemployment is not a natural market outcome and outline a Job Guarantee policy as a viable and effective long-term approach to maintaining full employment with inflation control.

The book was launched at the end of last year at the University Club by the University’s Centre of Full Employment and Equity.
Assuring quality in Australian universities

The University is to be audited by Australian University Quality Agency (AUQA) in September. The first in a series of forums to assist staff in preparing for the audit was held last week at Callaghan. Others will be held at Central Coast Campus, the City Precinct and the John Hunter Hospital, with information available at “Quality at the University of Newcastle” website http://www.newcastle.edu.au/quality/ and AUQA website http://www.auqa.edu.au/. Enquiries Tony Williams at tony.williams@newcastle.edu.au. The following is an edited version of a release from AUQA explaining how the audits will differ from the previous Committee for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (CQAHE) audits in the 1990s.

Following the Dawkins' restructuring in the early 90s, questions began to be raised about the quality of higher education. The government set up CQAHE to allocate funds on the basis of quality. The CQAHE decided to carry out audits, to rank institutions, and to make a sliding scale of allocations. The scope of the audits in 1993, 1994 and 1995 was teaching, research and community service.

Each institution was audited, with the audits having a number of beneficial effects, including increasing the attention paid to teaching quality and staff development. Nevertheless, many people have negative memories of the external monitoring and fear that AUQA will be more of the same. AUQA's intention is to be different in the following ways.

1. AUQA's intent is to enable institutions and agencies to demonstrate accountability through improvement, rather than vice-versa.

2. Consistent with approaching accountability through actual improvements, AUQA will not simply conduct outcomes assessments, but will set outcomes within the context of a total effectiveness audit.

3. Consistent with the term 'quality audit', AUQA defines 'quality' as 'fitness for purpose'. Since different auditees differ in purpose, AUQA will not set arbitrary absolute criteria, but does expect each institution to be able to describe and justify the way it sets standards, for example by reference to external benchmarks, and to have mechanisms for achieving these standards and monitoring their achievement.

4. For the auditee, the task is to carry out an analytic self-evaluation. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that the reporting of a weakness is not itself a weakness, especially if it is coupled with evidence of consideration of ways of removing or overcoming the weakness.

5. Institutions and agencies will have at least nine months notice of audit, giving time for a planned self-review. AUQA emphasises self-review because it recognises the autonomy of the auditee. It also enhances differentiation between institutions, avoiding homogenization. Self-review has the potential to reveal essential details and bring home to the organisation its strengths and weaknesses. It is up to each institution whether it conducts a special purpose self-review, or whether it simply reports to AUQA on a continuing integrated process.

6. AUQA is not an accreditation agency, giving a yes/no decision. Its emphasis is formative, not summative.

7. There will be no ranking. The output of an AUQA audit will be a narrative report, and it will be oriented towards the institution's own objectives rather than a pre-determined template.

8. The governance of AUQA is distinguished from its operations, which are carried out by full time professional staff, providing continuity and consistency.

9. Because it has a continuing presence, AUQA will provide a number of services to institutions, designed to assist in quality improvement, in addition to the audits themselves. These will include workshops and publications, and a 'good practice data base' accessible through AUQA's website.

10. AUQA will seek good practices and successes in the self-review reports, as well as looking for areas for improvement. AUQA will feature commendations as strongly as recommendations.

11. An external audit cycle of less than four years can lead organisations to feel that they are in constant audit mode and too short a cycle does not give enough time to implement the actions identified as necessary. AUQA audits are five-yearly, however AUQA intends to ask for a brief report (about two years after an audit) of the actions taken as a result of the audit.

12. Each state and territory has an agency responsible for determining whether to accredit courses in non-self-accrediting institutions of higher education. AUQA is responsible for auditing the accreditation agencies as well as the universities and other self-accrediting institutions.

13. Each audit panel will be focused on a particular audit, and the audit visit to an institution will be three (or possibly four or five) days.

14. AUQA will pay explicit attention to the overseas academic activities of institutions, and some overseas visits will be made by audit panels.

AUQA has no reward money to distribute. Its main sanction is the public nature of the audit reports, together with (in a case of major shortcomings, left unaddressed for an unacceptable period of time) the possibility of some impact on funding. This would not be AUQA's decision, however, and is seen as a highly unlikely occurrence. Rather than reward money or sanction, AUQA's emphasis is assistance in improvement.

Dr David Woodhouse, Executive Director, AUQA
From hiding in a cave to studying in Newcastle

Can you imagine living in a cave, sleeping on a bed of leaves, eating from what the surrounding jungle provided and waiting each day for militia forces to find your hiding spot? Or walking several kilometres through jungle tracks each day to act as a midwife?

This has been part of the life of Dulce Da Cuhna, now studying in the Faculty of Health. Dulce is now 22. She was born in the enclave of Oecusse, a town of 20,000 people in the Indonesian province of West Timor. She trained as a nurse and specialised in midwifery, then spent two years working in a remote village.

"Every day I would deliver three to five babies and each time I would have to walk to the women's houses. Their relatives would come to call me any time, day or night. Very few people practice family planning and so the babies just kept coming. I must have delivered hundreds of children including several sets of twins," said Dulce.

As the independence referendum for East Timor drew near the Indonesian militia forces began to attack Oecusse, burning the buildings. Almost everything was destroyed and Dulce and her family fled into the hills. Her father was one of those most sought by the Indonesians because he was a representative of the independence movement.

"We lived in caves in the hills and got our food from the various plants in the jungle. We would have to move from cave to cave to keep ahead of the militia looking for us. After two months a young boy made it out of the hills and across the border to reach the Interfet forces in East Timor. A week later we saw an Interfet boat arrive and they told us it was safe to go back to the town. The hospital where I worked was all but destroyed but we managed to set up one room and put a roof over it to serve as a clinic."

Life then changed for Dulce. They got equipment and medicine they had never had under Indonesian control. Dulce found she could apply for a scholarship through AusAID and applied to study medicine at the University. She will begin her studies after completing the UniPath admission program and when she completes her degree she will go back to East Timor to work for the Department of Health under the AusAID scheme.

Mailroom matters

As a consequence of the University's restructuring processes, changes are now occurring with the collection and delivery of mail on campus and the CBD precinct. These changes are being introduced on a gradual basis and should be fully operational by the end of February 2002.

Academic Mail

At present, the majority of mail delivery and collection points are where discipline offices are located. With the disappearance of these disciplines' titles, mail has begun being delivered to either faculty or school offices. In fact quite a large volume of mail is already being addressed this way, and our Mailroom staff have no choice but to deliver it to the office of the faculty or the school. In time we expect the titles of disciplines to disappear completely from envelopes, so now is the time to begin addressing your internal mail to individuals care of their faculty or school, and to encourage external senders to do the same.

Administration Mail

At this stage there are no plans to change the delivery and collection points for administration mail, since these points are generally remaining unchanged.

Further Information

Manager, Campus Services David Heggart and Mail Services Supervisor Michael Rye have been visiting and talking with Faculty Service Directors and/or their support staff about these new arrangements. Any inquiries regarding these new mail arrangements should be directed to the Faculty Service Directors or their support staff in the first instance. Alternatively contact the Mailroom on ext 5203.

David Heggart, Manager, Campus Services

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David Heggart, Manager, Campus Services
Newcastle PhD student Martin Kelly represented Australia at the Korean Open Judo championships held in December.

Twenty eight-year-old Martin, currently ranked number one in Australia in the under 100 kg competition, was disappointed with his 7th placing in the championships, held in Korea on December 13 and 14.

"I was hoping for a placing in the top five but was unlucky in the draw, coming up against the overall winner in the first round," he said.

Martin plans to complete his PhD in Chemistry this year and trains at The Forum Sports and Aquatic Centre. The University and the Sports Union assisted Martin financially for the Korean event, in which he had to compete to cement his place in Australia's judo team for the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester, England.

"The University is keen to support sports which are seen as outside of the mainstream," said Trevor John, President of the Sports Union, "We are proud of our elite athletes. Runner Heath Francis won three gold and one silver medal at the 2000 Paralympics in Sydney and Michael Lancey is the Australian Open windsurfing champion. Martin is yet another successful athlete and we wish him well in his pursuits."

Martin has been studying judo for 18 years. He first made the Australian team in 1992, when he was picked in the Under 20 side for the Junior World Titles in Argentina. Since 1997, Martin has been a member of the Australian A judo team and won four titles in 2001, including the Australian Open.

"The Korean competition was followed by a three-day training camp, which was probably harder than the comp," said Martin, who trains up to 30 hours a week in preparation for major competitions. "I hope to represent Australia at the Commonwealth Games this year. I just missed out on the Sydney Olympics due to an injury, but would like to still be competing in 2004 when the Olympics are held in Athens. Financial support such as that provided by the University is essential for me to compete and I hope my success may attract more sponsors."