The biggest bite

Researchers have discovered that the marsupial lion Thylacoleo carnifex, which roamed Australia during the Ice Age, had the strongest bite force for its size of any large carnivorous mammal.

In a paper published (online) in the Proceedings of the Royal Society Series, Mr Colin McHenry from the University of Newcastle’s Faculty of Science and Information Technology, Dr Stephen Wroe, University of Sydney and Professor Jeffrey Thomson, University of Guelph, Ontario, investigated the bite force of living and extinct carnivores, from the Tasmanian Devil, lions and hyaenas to the sabre-toothed tiger and marsupial lion, in order to establish the relationship between bite force and relative prey size.

According to Mr McHenry, bite force is an important aspect of carnivore ecology and can assist in understanding the evolution of community structure and prey size of extinct species.

“Compared skull mechanics and jaw muscle size in nearly 50 species. This allowed us to calculate and compare bite force in existing and extinct species in relation to body mass and head size.”

“Among living species the Tasmanian Devil takes the honours, easily outstripping the bone-cracking spotted hyaena on a weight adjusted scale.”

“Maximum prey size is an important component of a predator’s ecology and since the jaws and teeth are the business end of a carnivore, we hypothesised that maximum prey size is set by the biomechanical limits of its skull. We found that bite force predicts the maximum size of prey relative to the predator’s own body size.”

Community Forum on Racism

“We cannot move beyond race if we don’t face up to it. So let’s talk about race.”

Over 600 people, willing to do just that, braved a very wet and windy day to attend the Community Forum on Racism hosted by the University of Newcastle at its Callaghan campus in May. The Forum was in direct response to several events over the past year which have focused out in the open rather than behind closed doors.

“Let’s be creative, brave, open and willing to change.”

Guest speaker Paula Abood, in urging the audience to discuss the issues of racism, applauded the fact that the Newcastle experience meant racism was out in the open rather than behind closed doors. “Central to this understanding is recognising that racism is not a singular unchanging entity that can be stamped out never to return. There are many racists.”

Ms Abood, a Sydney-based community cultural worker, human rights activist and writer, is a frequent contributor at national forums on racism.

Ms Abood challenged the audience throughout her address.

“How often are you reminded that you are white?”

Perhaps in answer to that question, members of a multicultural discussion panel explained the racism they each experience in their lives before the audience was asked to express their ideas and opinions.

It was very clear from comments from the floor that the Forum was expected to be the first in a series of community initiatives to counter racism and strengthen the concept of our regions as welcoming communities.

Future initiatives include the formation of a Community Diversity Reference Group and the development of a Diversity Strategy for the community. Details of progress on these options will be reported in subsequent editions of UniNews.

“...its calculated bite force was equivalent to that of an African lion nearly three times its size.”

Combined with its powerful jaws and large incisor teeth, the marsupial lion was the largest mammalian predator in Australia during the Pleistocene period and became extinct sometime within the last 45,000 years. The team is now working with the Newcastle Mater Hospital and mechanical engineers at the University of Newcastle to investigate the structural mechanics of the skull in carnivorous mammals such as the marsupial lion, using computational engineering techniques and mechanical simulations.
The release of the discussion papers on the future staffing levels of the University has stimulated a wide range of emotions and much debate over the last few weeks. The proposed staffing changes are driven by the serious financial problems faced by the University. The resolution of these problems requires action to be taken across the institution, and it is no reflection on any individual that a large number of jobs are to be discontinued.

I regret greatly the loss of each and every job identified but unfortunately, there is no alternative to achieving the required savings than to substantially reduce our staffing levels.

The Auditor-General’s annual survey of NSW’s public universities last month confirms what the University has been saying about its financial position for some time. The report also reveals that a number of other universities were under significant financial pressure in 2004. Five of the ten public universities in NSW recorded a deficit last year with the equal largest deficit being reported by the University of Western Sydney and ourselves. The outcomes for NSW as a whole was a decrease in the sector’s surplus from $168M in 2003 to $49M in 2004.

While the one-off change in payment arrangements by DEST has contributed significantly to this poor financial outcome, the NSW Auditor-General’s findings emphasise the need for all universities to operate efficiently and to diversify their sources of revenue.

It is no coincidence that the two universities with the worst financial performance in 2004 have the highest reliance on the Federal Government operating grant. Insufficient public funding of universities over the last decade including inadequate funding for teaching and research has meant that universities with a high reliance on core government funding face significant financial stress. In the new policy environment, all universities need to diversify their revenue sources and grow fee-paying income, external research grant funding and commercial revenue in order to continue to position financial sustainability and staff.

Universities like Western Sydney and Newcastle face particular challenges in the current funding environment. We serve large and rapidly growing populations with a high student need for higher education. Our communities have a significant proportion of people from lower socio-economic backgrounds. Fee-paying is a difficult option for this group. The range of programs we offer must be broad since alternative providers of higher education lie many kilometres away. And, at first glance, international students may see us as a less attractive destination than a university with a downtown capital city location.

Nevertheless, the University must develop effective strategies in order to advance in this new policy environment.

Over the last few months many people have asked me how our University has got into its current severe financial difficulties and why the problem needs to be fixed quickly. A few statistics help provide the answer.

First, our income growth has been much weaker than other universities. Between 1997 and 2003, the income of Australia’s public universities grew on average, by about 50 per cent. At the University of Newcastle, income increased by only 30 per cent.

Second, we have been spending much more than we have earned each year. While our income has risen by about four per cent per annum over the last seven years, expenditure has risen by almost twice that rate (seven per cent per annum). Both salaries and non-salary spending have contributed to this situation.

The fact that our spending has been consistently outstripping our income is shown by the finding that 2005 will be the sixth year in a row that the University will record a deficit. And the size of the annual deficit has been growing since 2002. Up until now, the University has been able to fund these deficits by spending its cash reserves. Our reserves are now no longer able to support any spending in excess of income.

The net effect of all this is that the University has a serious underlying spending problem to fix and little room to move. We must act quickly to ensure that the loan the University must take out to tide us through our difficulties is affordable and does not unreasonably constrain the University’s future.

The staffing plans that have been brought forward for your consideration will return the University to the ‘black’ in 2007. Before anyone concludes that we can forgo a surplus and ease off the pace of staff reductions, it is important to remember that we need to replenish our cash reserves and provide a reasonable level of funds for capital works and equipment replacement. Each year the University should have been putting aside $30M or more for such expenditure but has consistently failed to do so.

We need to reverse this negative trend. The staffing changes proposed in the discussion papers are driven by these budget issues. The University is proceeding down this path because there is no alternative. Our funds will run out unless action on this scale is taken that is clear and sustainable.

The hard road we are taking is the surest path to the goals we all share: excellence in teaching and research; meaningful engagement with the communities and regions we serve; strong commitment to equity and diversity; respect for our students and staff; and integrity in all that we do.

I hope that many of you have taken the opportunity to contribute to the development of the Final Change Proposal document by providing comment on the discussion papers. I assure you that your input is important and is being considered carefully.

Nick Saunders
Vice-Chancellor and President

Two spears and a shield

Reconciliation Week this year was celebrated with two major events. The first, a presentation of Indigenous artefacts to the University by three generations of the Frost family, members of the Awabakal people, was held on 30 May.

Mick Frost Senior, son Shane Frost and grandson Joshua Frost presented two spears and a shield to Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nick Saunders. Those gathered benefited by Shane’s “amusing” explanation of how the artefacts were traditionally made and used. He explained, “Although these spears are traditionally used for hunting and fighting, we are presenting them to the University in the spirit of reconciliation...”

Awabakal family, Shane, Mick and Joshua Frost presented two spears and a shield to the University to mark Reconciliation Week

“Although these spears are traditionally used for hunting and fighting, we are presenting them to the University in the spirit of reconciliation...”

The second event was the annual Reconciliation Scholarship Dinner Dance, held at the Callaghan campus on 4 June.

Student, staff and community guests entertained the 150 guests at the Reconciliation Dinner Dance

Awabakal family at the Reconciliation Dinner Dance. (Back) Mick Frost, Shane Gordon, Ray Gordon, (Front) Pete Capper, Jane Frey, Jetta Hamilton (Chairperson of the Newcastle Aboriginal Support Group), Rex Morgan, (Front) Leitha Gifford and Nola Wepela

University Reviews and Impacting Change

Soft cover, 78 double-sided pages

Follow the links for more information:

www.newcastle.edu.au/reviews/
www.newcastle.edu.au/achange_mgmt/
www.newcastle.edu.au/reviews/

Relevant information is available to students from the student intranet at www.newcastle.edu.au/intranet/student/
Groundwater contamination research facility

A facility unique to Australia has been established at the University of Newcastle's Callaghan campus. The Ground Remediation Research Facility was officially opened at the beginning of June by Vice-Chancellor Professor Nick Saunders and the CEO of Hydro Aluminium Kurri Kurri, Trevor Coombes.

The facility was born out of a 1998 collaborative research project between Hydro Aluminium (formerly Capital Aluminium) and University of Newcastle researchers, Dr Brett Turner, Professor Scott Sloan and Professor Phillip Binning, to investigate potentially stable materials for the on-site remediation of fluoride and cyanide groundwater contamination.

Australia has, for the most part, relied on excavation and landfill for environmental remediation, contrasting with the international trend toward using on-site engineering treatment methods. The 1998 project found that fluoride and cyanide can be removed from contaminated groundwater by using a calcite reactive barrier. A follow-up project in 2003 aimed to research (at the pilot scale) the world's first on-site remediation technology for the remediation of fluoride and cyanide in contaminated groundwater.

To accommodate this, the Ground Remediation Research Facility was constructed at a total cost of around $700,000 as a key part of the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment's practical research on the environment. It will be used to train postgraduate students and postdoctoral researchers.

Dr Brett Turner explained the facility will allow research and development into new on-site remediation methods for both contaminated groundwater and contaminated soils, thereby building Australia's capacity in the area of engineered environmental remediation solutions.

"Locally, the new technology developed will substantially enhance the ground remediation environment of the region in a safe and economic manner. Internationally, the facility will consolidate Australia's position as world leader in remediation technology, thus facilitating international knowledge transfer and the potential for export."

The 1998 and 2003 projects won Australian Research Council (ARC) linkage grants.

Six University of Newcastle students of French have been presented with awards under a scholarship program which is the most generously funded in Australia, and amongst the most prestigious in the world.

The Hartley Bequest Program, founded in accordance with the will of Emeritus Professor Kelver Hartley, Foundation Professor of French at the University of Newcastle from 1945 to 1968, provides a number of awards which enable students of French to pursue a part of their studies in a French university.

The University of Newcastle uses the income from Professor Hartley's endowment (which currently stands at $4 million) to enable students of French to travel to France and pursue an approved program there with all expenses paid.

One of this year's Hartley award winners is Tyrone Crisp, who was awarded the University Medal in Mathematics at this year's April graduation ceremonies. Tyrone is no stranger to France, having won a Kelver Hartley Undergraduate Scholarship in 2003. He returned to Newcastle to complete his Honours Year in Mathematics, having achieved an unprecedented perfect score in his Advanced Diploma course at the University of Franche-Comté in France.

Tyrone will now undertake doctoral studies in Mathematics, having been awarded a French University Scholarship and the university's most prestigious international award.

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Researchers have found that a hormone therapy given to men with inoperable prostate cancer for a few months before radiotherapy can help stop the cancer returning after treatment.

The results from the 96.01* trial, which involved 896 volunteers with prostate cancer from all around Australia and New Zealand, were released at a meeting of cancer specialists, the Trans-Tasman Radiation Oncology Group (TROG).

Principal Investigator Professor Jim Denham from the University of Newcastle and the Mater Hospital Newcastle says the results are extremely exciting.

"Just three months of hormone therapy, before radiotherapy, was found to cut the chances of cancer returning in the prostate by about 45 percent," explained Professor Denham.

"This meant that the need for further hormone therapy to treat the recurring cancer was cut by about a quarter."

"Even more encouraging is the finding that six months of hormone therapy achieved even greater benefits."

Six months of hormone therapy was found to reduce the chances of cancer returning in the prostate even more than three months (in fact, by over half). More importantly however, it also cut the chances of cancer returning in other parts of the body substantially by a third.

Professor Denham said this finding is important because if cancer develops in other parts of the body, known as secondary cancer or metastases, for example in the bones, it usually proves to be fatal. In fact, so great was the reduction in cancer recurrence achieved by six months of hormone therapy in the trial that men with aggressive high risk cancer were found to live longer as a direct result.

A major new prostate cancer trial called the RADAR trial is now underway.

It is open to men throughout Australia who find that they have developed prostate cancer which is not considered operable. This trial is trying to find out whether further benefits can be achieved from a limited period of hormone therapy after radiotherapy as well as before. It also seeks to find out whether a new drug that strengthens the bones can reduce the chances of secondary bone cancer developing after treatment.

Like the 96.01 trial, the RADAR trial is supported by Australia's National Health and Medical Research Council. It is also supported in New Zealand by the Health Research Council, Pharmaceutical companies AstraZeneca Pty Ltd and Schering-Plough Pty Ltd supported the 96.01 trial and Abbott Pty Ltd and Novartis Pty Ltd are supporting the RADAR trial.

Men with high risk prostate cancer that is limited to the prostate, should ask their doctors whether they may benefit from participating in the RADAR trial.

"The 96.01 trial was so called because it started in 1996."
During the past 40 years, Newcastle has produced research outcomes of national and international significance. It is, of course, impossible to detail all within this space but, it is hoped, these pages demonstrate the breadth of research activity undertaken at the University of Newcastle.

### Space Physics
- The area of research was established by the foundation Professor of Physics, Cliff Elliot. It led to Newcastle becoming a node of a CRC in the area. Fadila, Australia's research microsatellite was launched in 2002 with Newcastle's magnetometer "NewMag", which measures the earth's magnetic field and its variations in space. Results include the discovery of electrical currents in the high latitudes where the auroral lights originate.
- The Research Centre for Gender and Health provides the infrastructure for the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health at the University of Newcastle, in collaboration with the University of Queensland. This is a longitudinal population based survey which examines the health of over 40,000 Australian women over a 20 year period. It is the largest project of its kind ever conducted in Australia and is gaining an international reputation for its multidisciplinary methodology.
- This is an area of mathematics in which the University has a high international profile. Professor Paul Rademacher was recently identified as one of Australia's most cited researchers. He is sponsored by the Institute for Scientific Information, publishers of the Science Citation Index, as one of the top 200 mathematicians in the world today.

### Reproductive Medicine
- The surface physics research has developed techniques to see individual atoms on surfaces and how they react with other atoms. This has extended the studies from the first micron of a solid to that of the first atomic layer where chemical reactions start. From this fundamental research new knowledge about materials growth is impacting energy usage through new catalysts and plastic solar cells.
- The translation and staging of Greek tragedies and comedies, undertaken by Associate Professor Michael Evans, to yield insights into the theatrical dynamics of the scripts and the ways in which they were designed for performance in the original productions. Spread over the years since 1981 and published in four volumes with a fifth on the way.
- Support at home for Early Language and Literacy (EELLS) project, based at the University of Qunimah campus, is a longitudinal study of the impact of a program designed to support young children's literacy by empowering parents in their role as their children's first literacy teachers.

### Mental Health/Neuroscience
- Development of a new technique to isolate nerve endings for analysis. This technique became the industry standard across the world and represented one of the earliest successes of the neuroscience group which has grown to become Hunter Neuroscience.
- Development of cognitive behaviour therapy depression.
- Discovery of a link between cannabis use and schizophrenia.

### Law and Policy
- Development of the Community Development-Job Guarantee, the Centre of Full Employment and Equity (CofFEE) and released in 2003, requiring the Federal Government to deliver minimum wage jobs for the most disadvantaged by creating a new order of public sector jobs that support community development and advance environmental protection and repair. International research centres are now working collaboratively on the research.
- Professor Ted Wright, Newcastle's Head of the School of Law, and Associate Professor Marcus Pilling of the University of Melbourne, have developed a draft code of conduct law based on a bold approach of stating the law in the form of only 27 short articles, stated at a high level of generality.

### Bioinformatics
- The Newcastle Bioinformatics Initiative is a relatively recent project of the University. It is a multidisciplinary cross-faculty group that links collaborative efforts of members of the Faculties of Health, Engineering and Built Environment, and Science and Information Technology. Researchers in the group deal with a Systems Biology approach to issues at the interface of Biology, Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry and Computer Science.
Spotlight on Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment

The University of Newcastle is consistently ranked as one of Australia’s top ten research intensive universities.

www.newcastle.edu.au/research

The faculty of Engineering and Built Environment is the result of the amalgamation of two earlier faculties, those of Engineering and Architecture. These were two of the University’s original faculties, which had taught in their respective disciplines as part of the Newcastle University College in the days before Autonomy was achieved in 1965.

The Faculty of Engineering, on its foundation in 1965, consisted of three divisions, those of Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering in 1967, the Department of Chemical Engineering, whose origins were transferable to the Newcastle Technical College in 1935, was transferred to Engineering from the Faculty of Applied Science.

In 1989 the Department of Computer Science, previously part of the faculty of Mathematics, was also transferred to Engineering, being amalgamated with the Department of Electrical Engineering to form a new Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

The Faculties of Engineering and Architecture, like the University’s other early divisions, were originally located at the old Technical College buildings at Tighes Hill. Engineering was able to move to the Shortland site in 1979.

Following the dissolution of the Faculty of Art and Design in 1999, the Department of Design was transferred to the Faculty of Architecture, which then changed its name to the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Design, a University structure, effective from the beginning of 2002, saw the two faculties amalgamated into the present Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment, and their Departments distributed among the new Faculty’s three Schools of Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and of Architecture and Built Environment.

The faculty has hosted a number of federally funded research centres and currently hosts the SRC for Multiphase Processes, the ARC Centre for Complex Systems and Control and is a member of five CRCs. It is also home to a number of internationally recognised research groups including two Federal fellowships and several ARC-funded fellowships. Its research is both fundamental and applied and includes close industry links in a number of areas including three industry supported chairs. The Faculty has had a considerable number of high profile research achievements and outcomes over the past 40 years.

The Jamieson Cell is one such example. The Jamieson Cell uses the flotation process to remove particles from suspensions. Bubbles are used to separate particles from liquid wastewater streams. The coal industry uses this technology to recover fine coal from waste streams which gives a clean coal product which is high valued in the export market. There are over 250 of these cells in operation around the world.

Professor Graeme Jamieson has recently been appointed as the University’s first Laureate Professor. He has also been responsible for over 200 publications and has been named Inventor on 54 patents, the most significant being the Jamieson Cell.

Control and Signal Processing

Control and signal processing is an internationally recognised strength of the Faculty, Professor Graham Goodwin is considered one of the world’s most influential engineering researchers in the world for his work on control engineering systems and signal processing. His research is applied in areas such as controlling motor vehicle emissions, autoguide accuracy for drones and tollgates in rolling mill processes. In 2003 Professor Goodwin was elected to the Swedish Royal Academy of Engineering Science, the institution that selects Nobel Prize Winners.

Geotechnical Research Group

This group has a worldwide reputation for their work in the field of computational geomechanics and australasia’s leading research group in this area. Their aim is to develop new methods and computer software that will result in cheaper and safer designs for civil infrastructure. The Group is headed by Professor Scott Sloan who, in 2004, was awarded a highly prestigious Federation Fellowship from the Federal Government.

In 2004 Professor Robert Antonia was elected to the Australian Academy of Science in recognition of his work in the area of turbulence. Professor Antonia’s work focuses on understanding the complex physics of turbulence by subjecting various turbulent flows to different disturbances. Professor Antonia has also been awarded a Clariot Laurel for Engineering by the United States Engineers through the Engineers Australia and is listed as one of the world’s most influential engineering authors by the institution of Scientific Information.

Built Solids and Materials Handling

The Centre for Bulk Solids and Particulate Technologies (CBSPT) is a Key Centre established and supported under the Australian Research Council’s Research Centre Program. The Centre was formally established in 1995 and is a collaborative initiative between the University of Newcastle and the University of Wollongong. It unifies two strong streams of expertise in bulk solids handling and particulate technologies and has been established over a period of more than 30 years. The mission of the Centre is to pursue excellence in teaching, research and industrial development in bulk solids handling and particulate technologies. The Centre undertakes fundamental research with a view to providing a greater insight into various observed phenomena associated with the behaviour of bulk solids in handling and processing operations. The commercial arm of this Centre is also highly successful achieving over $1 million turnover in 2004.

Communications and System Identification

Headed by Doctors Brett Minness and Steven Walker, this group develops methods for computer processing of data to support applications in wireless communications, control systems design, and other signal processing problems. One key strength is in the area of system identification, where the group will bring the premier international symposium on this topic to Newcastle in 2006 – see http://sysid2006.org. A further strength is in the area of error control coding for wireless communications, for which the group has recently been awarded $1 million funding for joint work at Agre Systems Australia.

CRC Construction Innovation

The Cooperative Research Centre for Construction Innovation is a national research centre focused on the needs of the property, design, construction and facilities management sectors. It was formed in 2001 and is a consortium of University of Newcastle, University of Sydney, UOW and UQ, and nine other industry partners including government departments and design and construction companies. It is funded by the public and private sector and the academic institutions to the value of $14.2 million.
Fulbright Awards

Applications are now open for 2006 Fulbright Awards. Valued at up to $440,000, these awards are open to all disciplines and fields of study in the United States. The award must be started between 1 July 2006 and 30 June 2007.

Applications are invited in the following award categories:
1. Fulbright Postgraduate Awards: For study or research (18-24 months) in the USA in educational fields related to an Australian degree. Up to twelve Fulbright Postgraduate Awards are offered in all fields of study, including the following specific awards:
   - Vocational Education and Training Award
   - Australian-United States Alliance Studies Award
   - Business/Industry (Coral Sea) Award
2. Fulbright Postdoctoral Awards: Valued at up to $30,000, these awards support a 3-6 month research program for researchers who are actively engaged in postdoctoral research.
3. Fulbright Senior Scholar Awards: Valued at up to $50,000, these awards support a 3-6 month research program for academic-based researchers or scholars who intend to teach or undertake research.

Further information and application forms see www.fulbright.com.au Applications close 31 August 2005.

Why race matters

On 12 May 2005, the University of Newcastle hosted a community forum on racism. The weather was abysmal, but hundreds of people came. Hundreds of people from different backgrounds, life experience and viewpoints gathered. As a community we made a space in our lives to listen, to speak and to speak about race. This does not happen very often, perhaps not often enough. This is one reason why race matters, and why it continues to matter in our community.

On that day courageous people shared some of their stories. They engaged the audience with their reality. They trusted that fragile, transient community with their pain over race. They inspired us to question, to look beyond colour, accents, dress and other trappings towards the universal dimensions of human experience: love, family, friendship, relationship. What began as a negative transformed itself through human agency and human contact to a positive. This is another reason why race matters, and why it continues to matter in our community.

I vividly recall my first conscious act of racism. Indeed, it is indelibly etched in my conscience. I must have been about 9 or 10 years old. A child of British migrants, I attended a public primary school in the 1970s at which there were few non-English faces. One day a new student arrived. She was the most beautiful girl I had ever seen. Delicate of features and bone structure, she had luminous dark hair and eyes. Shy and coiffed was Karen from Sri Lanka. I so wanted to befriended this peaceful person. I observed her, came close to her, engaged her in conversation. I noted differences in her clothes, her appearance, her lunch, her retiring manner. These did not concern me overly. However, I was intrigued by what appeared to be her ‘smell’. I had no language to ask, no one to talk to about this ‘strange’ thing which I observed but had no way of analysing. From my adult perspective I can rationalise my subsequent action, but it weighs on me. I used this observation about Karen in a negative way in order to fit her within this dominant schoolyard group. I can still see myself grotesquely the view in the playground: “Karen smells.”

The hurt in her eyes still haunts me. I did not mean to hurt her, but I did. I did something very wrong which undermined her humanity at a fundamental level. At the age of 9 or 10, I had no space, no words, no language, no conceptual understanding to deal with Karen’s perceived difference from my perceived norm. Neither school nor home, as supportive as they were, prepared me for meeting Karen on equal terms. I did not know that race mattered, that I needed to learn how to work with my own reactions to difference and seek beyond them to our common humanity. Wherever she is now, I can only hope that Karen’s heart is big enough to forgive people like me. This is a powerful reason why race matters, and why it continues to matter in our community. If the purpose of communities is to live well together, we must take time and find space to listen and learn from one another.

Katherine Lindsay
School of Law

Spirtuality focus for nursing seminar

In the Griffith Duncan Theatre on Friday 13 May 2005 an appreciative audience of some 480 to 500 students, staff and community members participated in an extraordinary seminar hosted by Professor Kathleen Fahy and Liz Rozajek, respectively Head and Deputy Head of the School of Nursing and Midwifery. Entitled "Spirituality and Patient Care: Drawing on a Deeper Wellness?" this seminar was organised with the assistance of Bev Paterson and Gregg Heathcote of the University’s Office of Community Engagement to facilitate exploration of some of the spiritual dimensions of holistic health care in our multicultural society and to stimulate broad insights into the associated implications for practising nurses and midwives.

With these necessarily modest aims in mind, relevant focus questions were asked of an assembled seminar panel presenting an applicable spectrum of approaches to draw. Participating panellists: Tom Jones (Islam chaplain), Gregg Heathcote (Buddhist chaplain), Bruce Perry (Anglican chaplain), Bev Paterson (Pentecostal chaplain), Ven Gupta (local Hindu community representative), Dr David Brodmann (academic staff and Skeptic Society member), and Dr Zachariah Matthews (Muslim scholar joining us from Sydney at the helpful invitation of the University of Newcastle Islamic Society) responded impressively with a rapid succession of succinctly informative answers, both to the focus questions themselves and to questions from the audience.

(*NB Aboriginal and Jewish panellists were also invited but were unfortunately unable to participate.)

The 105 minutes of the seminar amounted to an intensive and emotive educational experience. Complementary multimedia learning materials now in preparation will aid the consolidation and further dissemination of the valuable lessons which it offered. To the edification of all "Spirituality and Patient Care: Drawing on a Deeper Wellness?" did indeed draw upon a very healthy diversity and it served to strongly underline the message of the Community Forum on Racism, which by happy coincidence was held in the same venue just the day before.

Gregg Heathcote
Buddhist chaplain

Queen’s Birthday Honours

Four post and presby staff of the University of Newcastle have been recognised in the 2005 Queen’s Birthday Honours: Honorary Professor James Grice, Professor Charles W. (Bud) Serpick, Amanda White, Robert Cherry and William Matthews. Professors James and Bud Serpick both received their PhDs at Newcastle, and Amanda White and Robert Cherry both received their BScs at Newcastle. William Matthews received his PhD at Sydney and worked at Newcastle in Forest Science.

Queen’s Birthday Honours

Unions NSW
Cancer researchers win $1.9m in grants

Five researchers from the University of Newcastle have received grants totalling $1,916,330 from the Cancer Institute NSW.

Professor John Forbes’ research team is working as part of the Australian New Zealand Breast Cancer Trials Group (ANZBCTG) which has the overall aim to reduce the morbidity and mortality of breast cancer by identifying effective prevention and treatment strategies through national and international clinical trials. Grant received: $861,109 over two years.

Dr Peter O’Brien and his team at the Trans-Tasman Radiation Oncology Group (TROG) will use the grant to improve clinical trial participation throughout NSW with the aim of developing improvements in cancer treatment as a result of the trials. Grant received: $615,767 over two years.

Professor Peter Horsley and his team at the Oncology and Immunology Unit have been carrying out research on human melanoma, in particular the resistance of melanoma to treatment. The grant will be used to improve trial participation and to improve clinical trial participation in Australia. Grant received: $117,800 for one year.

Associate Professor Adal Giri and her team from the Cancer Council NSW Centre for Health Research and Psycho-oncology have been researching the psychosocial impact of cancer therapy on people. More than 20 percent of patients experience significant levels of anxiety and up to 35 percent experience significant levels of depression during treatment. The grant will be used to help identify these symptoms early and provide effective intervention as part of routine care in cancer centres. Grant received: $229,400 for one year.

The University of Newcastle/TAFE NSW Hunter Institute Pathways Scholarship was presented at the Hunter Institute Awards ceremony held on 4 May 2005 at Newcastle City Hall. The inaugural award, the Pathways Scholarship, is awarded to a student or students who have successfully completed a course at Hunter Institute and have continued their studies at the University of Newcastle.

Two students, Katrina Coffey and Stephen George, were presented with the scholarship, worth $2,500 each, by Associate Professor Bradley Sims, Deputy President of Academic Senate at the ceremony.

Katrina Coffey from Hurstville, a country town in the North Island of New Zealand, moved to Newcastle in 1999 with her husband for employment opportunities. Katrina worked as a Home Care Assistant with Alzheimer and dementia patients in New Zealand and wanted to upgrade her qualifications. Katrina excelled in the Diploma of Community Services at Hunter Institute and decided that she wanted to achieve a higher qualification and learn more. Katrina commenced in the second year of the University of Newcastle’s Bachelor of Social Work. As her TAFE qualifications gave her one year of credit towards her degree, Katrina wants to work as a Social Worker, either in the area of drugs and alcohol, or domestic violence. Katrina’s long term plan is to return to New Zealand and work in Indigenous Health.

Stephen George’s career as a service adviser to a manufacturer of mining equipment in the Pilbara Region of Western Australia was cut short after a motorcycle accident. Stephen moved to his parents’ house in Maitland and realised he would have to reconsider his career. His previous employment had been in the business sector and Stephen wanted to enhance his past experience by gaining formal qualifications, so he undertook the Diploma of Business at Hunter Institute. Stephen excelled in his TAFE course and decided he wanted to gain further qualifications. Stephen commenced a Bachelor of Business at the University of Newcastle. His TAFE course enabled him to articulate into University and gain the equivalent to one year of study in credit. Stephen is majoring in Industrial Relations and Management and hopes to secure a career in the public or private sector.

Both Katrina and Stephen spoke highly of their TAFE teachers’ professionalism, encouragement and support.

Degrees and subjects reviewed

The University of Newcastle Academic Senate has been working through a subject and degree review to maintain the high level of academic quality, enhance efficiencies and create more flexibility for students.

President of Academic Senate, Professor Linda Connor, says while the scale and scope of the current revision is comparatively large, it is something all universities do on an ongoing basis to ensure that what is being offered is up to date and of the greatest value to students.

"Subjects found to have very low enrolments for several years have been reviewed and in many cases removed," Professor Connor explained.

The project is being conducted in collaboration with the Centre for Aboriginal Medical Research, the Centre for Aboriginal Medical Research in Townsville and the Aboriginal Medical Service in Newcastle and in conjunction with the University of Newcastle’s Centre for Educational Development.

The Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Teaching Excellence 2004 were recently announced.

Congratulations to Dr Jill Gibbons from the Faculty of Education and Arts who was announced the recipient of the award for University Teacher of the Year.

Other teaching awards announced were as follows:

- **Faculty Awards**
  - Faculty of Education and Arts: Recipient: Dr Jill Gibbons
  - Faculty of Science and Information Technology: Recipient: Dr Geoff McParlane

- **New Career Academic**
  - Recipient: Dr Geoff McParlane

- **Highly commended**
  - Faculty of Education and Arts: Ms Kathryn Groshut
  - Faculty of Science and Information Technology: Prof John Forbes
  - Faculty of Business and Law: Ms Kathy McPhail
  - Faculty of Health: Dr Lynne Drysdale

- **Outstanding Service**
  - Recipient: Dr Brian Gough

- **Dean’s Award**
  - Recipient: Prof Brian Gough

- **Commendations**
  - Faculty of Business and Law: Dr David Mooney
  - Faculty of Education and Arts: Ms Kathy McPhail
  - Faculty of Health: Dr Lynne Drysdale
  - Faculty of Information Technology: Dr Peter O’Brien

**University of Newcastle**
What’s Happening
@ The University of Newcastle

Celebrations

September 24
The University of Newcastle 40th Anniversary Dinner
This is the premier event for the 40th celebrations. Please contact Mark.Riordan@newcastle.edu.au

Sports

August 12
The University of Newcastle Sports Awards
Join us for a fantastic night to recognise the sporting stars at the University! The University of Newcastle Sports Awards will be held at The Forum Sports and Aquatic Centre. Guest speaker will be Olympic Kayaker, Clint Robinson.
For more information contact NUSport on 02-4923 7001 or email nusport@newcastle.edu.au

Lunchtime Readings

Readings will be held in the Friends’ Reading Room in University Archives, Auchmuty Library, Callaghan Campus from 12 – 1 pm.
July 11
Queer Readings from the Rare Books
To coincide with the anniversary of Godfrey Turner’s death (10 July)

July 25
Readings for the Sensualists
A celebration of the Literary Night, rare book smelling, wines and French literature to celebrate with the 350th anniversary of the death of the greatest nose in history, Cynara D’Urberville (28 July 1655).

Drama

August 23 – 27, August 30 – September 3
Subterranean Blues
Written and directed by Carl Cuvelier, Civic Playhouse, Newcastle at 7.30pm

September 19 – 24
Wolf Lullaby
By Hilary Red
Directed by Maree Freer
Academic Advisor Michael Evans
Diame Studios, Callaghan campus at 7.30pm

Art

Wet Space
Cnr King and Auburn Streets, Newcastle
Wed – Sun, 12 noon – 5pm
June 8 – 26
On the Corner of First and Third – Janie Dickinson
Garage Sale – Shelly Evans
Windows – Erin Garner
Vignography – Curated by Sumara Ladd-Hudson
The – Tanya Bargon
Transcendence – Mebbe Linton
July 16 – August 1
Wish you were here... (the postcard show)
2005 Wet Space Open Show
Curated by Darryl Bowes, Samara Ladd-Hudson, Annie Milagri, Luke Thurgood

Music

Please note: All concerts listed here are held at the University of Newcastle Conservatorium, Callaghan and Cummins Streets, Newcastle unless otherwise stated. For bookings please call 4923 8831.

July 21
Lunchtime Concert – Tuba Recital
1.00pm
Tuba – Blenden, Juan, Piano – Arun I’Waam

Consort for Band
1.00pm
Handel – Messiah

Concert
1.00pm

The Conservatorium. A journey through all styles of piano music, loaned by Kawai Australia and Feiley’s Pianos Newcastle.

August 18
Lunchtime Concert – Student Showcase
1.00pm
A concert presented by the students of the Conservatorium.

Adult – $7.00, Conc. – $6.00, Child – $5.00

August 20
The University of Newcastle Wind Orchestra
1.00pm
Conductor – Lee Cook

Firebird – Stravinsky

Sonic Gymnastics – Darryl Bowes

Adult – $7.00, Conc. – $6.00, Child – $5.00

August 25
Lunchtime Concert 1.00pm
Benedette Lannen – Soprano
Chris Duncan – Scottish Fiddler

A concert presented to the memory of Anthony Bennett, foundation lecturer in early music.

Milan Allan – Soprano, Ana Samardzic – Soprano, Rosalind Hollett – Handel, Magnificat – Pergolesi

Adult – $7.00, Conc. – $6.00, Child – $5.00

August 4
Lunchtime Concert – Pieces My Students Taught Me
1.00pm
Ron Pruszyn – Trombone, Jon O’Heen – Piano

Pieces Ron Pruszyn has taught to his students during his teaching career, including the music of Guilmant, Stravinsky, Tommy Dorsey, Jolson,及 the music of some student composers.

Adult – $7.00, Conc. – $6.00, Child – $5.00

August 11
Lunchtime Concert – Violin Recital
1.00pm
Elizabeth Holmes – Head of Strings, proceedings of this concert of fine violin music.

Adult – $7.00, Conc. – $6.00, Child – $5.00

August 12
Musica Viva
8.00pm

Diana Dobney – Oboe, Benedette Balkis – Piano

The music of Schubert, Poulenc, Berio, Ravel, Villa-Lobos.

A musical partnership that is simply inspirational.

Enquiries: 1800 068 482

August 14
Music in the Gallery – Newcastle Region Art Gallery
2.00pm

The Music of the Modern Masters

Featuring the staff and students of the Conservatorium. A journey through all styles of piano music, loaned by Kawai Australia and Feiley’s Pianos Newcastle.

Free Admission

August 18
A Tuba Quartet with Conservatorium students. Two works from two different composers.

Adult – $7.00, Conc. – $6.00, Child – $5.00

August 20
The University of Newcastle Wind Orchestra
1.00pm
Conductor – Lee Cook

Firebird – Stravinsky

Sonic Gymnastics – Darryl Bowes

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Sheila Heydon – Piano

Free Tickets available at the door or email nusport@newcastle.edu.au

For further information, please contact either Ann Allen (4963 3572) or David Barker (4968 1627).
The concert opening program is a receiver of annual subscription of $25 ($20 Conc.) or $35 ($25 Conc) for each evening.

June 30
David Barker, The Scarletts
Father and son were major influences on their peers and those who would follow. 10.30am Room 416, First Floor, The Conservatorium

Cost: $4.00

July 12
David Rose, Gluck – Classic Opera
Children’s kids Guided tours charged separately for ever.

7.00pm Room 143, First Floor, University House

July 28
George Lithgow, The Music, the life of Gustav Mahler
Mahler and his music was reviewed by audien ces in sound recordings.

10.30am Room 416, First Floor, The Conservatorium

Cost: $4.00

August 9
Bill Jones, All That Jazz
Davistand just from the 19th century till today – a musical journey.

7.00pm Room 143, First Floor, University House

August 25
Jeff Vincent, The Symphony
Best audio and video records – a great world of sound has dominated the past two centuries.

10.30am Room 416, First Floor, The Conservatorium

September 13
Consortium students perform
Our annual fundraiser for our student scholarship program competition for

1.00pm; the Cost: $4.00

September 29
Joan Webster, The Seasons in Music
Music lovers’ club revealed the changing scene.

1.00pm; the Cost: $4.00

Music Lovers’ Club

For further information, please contact either Ann Allen (4963 3572) or David Barker (4968 1627).
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HMRi Research Volunteer Register

The Hunter Medical Research Institute is seeking volunteers to join its Research Volunteer Register.

Volunteering for health and medical research can take many forms – from answering a series of brief questions in a telephone interview; donating blood samples for genetic research to providing images of the brain at work using MRI and scanning technology.

For more details or an information pack, please contact HMRi Research Volunteer Register Coordinator, Debbie Quin on 4985 5333.

Jane Dickinson

Jane Dickinson

On the Corner of First and Third
June 8 – 26 Wait Space

Engaging Communities

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