June edition

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Photography: John Freund, Chris Paterson
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Cover - Art for sale - the School of Fine Art is offering a variety of artworks created by staff members for sale. An array of different works from ceramics to silk scarves will be displayed in a cabinet in the School of Fine Art Gallery. See page 11.

Vice-Chancellor’s Column

Reconciliation Week was celebrated at the university recently and a function was held in the Purdue Room on Tuesday May 30 to highlight our commitment to this important process.

The term ‘to reconcile’ is defined in the Macquarie dictionary in a number of ways including ‘to render no longer opposed’, ‘to bring to acquiescence’, ‘to win over to friendliness’, and ‘to bring into agreement or harmony’. None of these really capture the breadth and depth of feelings associated with the reconciliation process between our indigenous peoples and other Australians. Moreover, none adequately reflect the recent events undertaken in Sydney in the Opera House and the march across the Sydney Harbour Bridge, where very large numbers of Australians demonstrated their support for reconciliation.

Celebrating Reconciliation Week gave us the opportunity to:

- acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which the university now sits, the Awabakal people, specifically the Pambalong clan;
- recognise the mistakes and tragedies of the past which have left many Aboriginal people in a position of major disadvantage and with a sense of isolation;
- celebrate our program of assisting indigenous Australians in terms of equity and access to quality education, research enhancement and scholarly opportunity and in gaining relevant employment; and
- provide for a number of tangible and important symbols of our commitment.

We have made progress on all of these, although obviously this is only the start of a long process.

Some examples of our commitment include:

- Aboriginal access programs are an integral part of our strategic planning, and have been in place in some cases for many years;
- Wollotuka performs a major role in the provision of academic and support programs;
- we have developed and made available an undergraduate Aboriginal Studies program;
- targeted placements for indigenous people in the Bi Med course have been in place for many years, resulting in the university graduating more than 50 percent of Aboriginal doctors in this country;
- targeted placements have also been introduced in nursing, fine arts, education and social work undergraduate programs;
- we have recently established the YAPUG program for Aboriginal enabling program students;
- we are committed to Aboriginal employment and career planning and are close to reaching our target of employee numbers, which is a level comparable to the proportion of Aboriginal people in the community;
- Umulliko, one of the five nationally funded indigenous research centres, has been established within the university, and represents a major commitment to research, research training and scholarship for the benefit of Aboriginal people; and
- the new Aboriginal Studies building which will be built and completed by 2001.

The function on May 30 represented an important statement by the university about its support and participation in the reconciliation process. In addition, it provided me with an opportunity to announce our plans to purchase a major Aboriginal art work, which will be prominently displayed in the Great Hall. We will also prepare a Charter in consultation with the local Aboriginal communities, which will be an ongoing symbol and statement of our involvement with local Aboriginal communities.

This Charter will be launched at the opening of the new Indigenous Studies building in 2001, the Centenary of Federation. At the function, we also heard an excellent account of research undertaken by one of our staff members, Mr. John Maynard, who presented his findings into the Aboriginal history of the university site. This research was funded by a Reconciliation Grant provided last year by the university.

Finally, may I speak on a deeply personal note. As a citizen of this country and a fifth generation Australian whose ancestors first settled in the Hunter Valley in the 1830’s, I am indeed sorry.
Reconciliation – action speaks louder than words

The university will formalise its commitment to reconciliation through a Charter of Aboriginal Reconciliation with the local Aboriginal communities.

The Charter will be developed following wide consultation amongst both university staff and members of local Aboriginal communities, and will be formally launched at the opening of the university’s new Aboriginal Cultural Centre early next year.

“Members of the university and of the wider community want to acknowledge the past and to actively pursue a vision for the future,” explained Vice-Chancellor, Professor Roger Holmes. “We see reconciliation as the way to bring all our peoples together for that future. The Charter will provide both a process for achieving reconciliation and a statement of it in our local community.”

Details of the Charter were announced at a ceremony marking National Reconciliation Week on May 30. At the ceremony the Vice-Chancellor also announced details of the purchase of a major work by an Aboriginal artist, which will hang in the Great Hall.

John Maynard, a member of the Ummulliko Indigenous Research Centre with the Department of Aboriginal studies within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences presented the findings of his research into Aboriginal history of the university site.

“The research project was born 12 months ago at last year’s Reconciliation Week celebrations,” John said. “The university and the Department of Aboriginal Studies wanted to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the university land in some way.”

The land originally belonged to the Pambalong clan of the Awabakal people, whose eight clans occupied territory stretching from Wyong in the south to the Wattagan Mountains in the north. The Pambalong territory took in the land from Newcastle West along the southern bank of the Hunter River through Hexham, Tarco, Buttai to the foothills off Keela-Keela or Mount Sagarloaf, across to the northern tip of Lake Macquarie and back to Newcastle West.

“It was a rich piece of territory encompassing the good food sources of the Hunter River and the Shortland Wetlands,” John said.

His research, carried out at the Newcastle Regional Library, the Mitchell Library, the Auchmuty Library, and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies in Canberra, revealed that the Pambalong survived into the early 20th century, selling fish, skins and goods for tobacco.

John made a series of recommendations in his report including:
- the Pambalong association with the university site be acknowledged and recognised with prominent signposting and the possible establishment of a walking trail;
- that the report findings be published in some form;
- that knowledge of the Pambalong be made available to students;
- that the Haslam Collection, including tools, utensils and weapons, housed in the Auchmuty Archives be put on permanent, secure display in the new Indigenous Centre;
- that the university provide assistance in holding an annual cultural celebration, with the first to mark the opening of the Indigenous Centre, that will include events at Awabakal corroboree sites at Wickham, Nord’s Wharf, Belmont Lagoon and Wollson;
- that research into the possibility of offering a course in the Awabakal language be carried out; and
- that the university form a joint partnership with the local Aboriginal community and the Regional Museum to petition for the return of a possum skin rug, which was taken from the Hunter River during an expedition by Commander Wilkes in 1838-42 and is housed in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington.

Goethe Prize awarded

A student in the final year of a chemical engineering degree has won the prestigious Goethe Prize in German Studies, awarded annually by the Consulate-General of the Federal Republic of Germany to the most outstanding student in German at third year level.

Miriam Pepper, who has completed her arts degree majoring in German as part of a double degree with chemical engineering, picked up German in the second year of her studies because she missed it.

“I wanted to study arts for interest, not for any vocational reason,” Mirian said. “I had studied German in school and I missed it.”

The talented scholar excelled in her language studies, winning the Newton John Memorial Prize for first year German in 1997 and being included on the Dean’s Merit List from 1996 – 1999. She undertook an exchange to Austria last year to improve her German fluency.

“I made a lot of friends in Austria and got to know Europe,” Mirian said. “It opened my mind to the global possibilities for me.”

The Goethe Prize commemorates the German language writer, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832), who was active as a scientist and statesman as well as being a dominant literary voice.

Miriam plans to work as a chemical engineer in industry when she finishes her studies and hopes to contribute to the development of sustainable processes and policies on a large scale.
Graduation was a family affair for university staff members this year with a group of proud fathers posing with their graduating sons for this photograph. They are (left to right) Brailey Sims, Phil Seccombe, David Finlay and Howard Bridgeman with sons Aidan – BMath/BCompSc, Chris – BSc (Aviation), Simon – BEng(Mech) and Howard – BEng (Envi). Twenty three University Medals were presented to graduates as 3,290 students graduated during the May ceremonies held on May 5, 11 and 12. There were a number of “firsts” celebrated in these ceremonies including:

- the first Bachelor of Finance graduates
- the first graduates of Occupational Therapy
- the first Doctoral graduate from Nursing
- the first Doctoral graduate from the School of Fine Art
- the first graduates from the Bachelor of Aboriginal Studies; and
- the first former BHP workers to graduate – those who took advantage of the BHP Pathways program implemented when the company announced it would cease steelmaking in Newcastle.

Honorary doctorates were presented at the ceremonies to Archbishop Peter Carnley, Dr Helen Caldicott, Mr Brian Suters, and Mrs Valerie Bryant-Carroll. Dr Paul McGrath from the School of Biomedical Sciences won the Excellence in Teaching award. Dr McGrath has developed the Computer Assisted Learning Project for human biosciences subjects. Suzanne Dorahy, retired Executive Secretary to the Vice-Chancellor, received the Exceptional Service Medal at the May 11 ceremony.

**Anglican primate honoured**

The recently elected Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia, the Most Reverend Dr Peter Carnley, was presented with an honorary doctorate at the May graduation ceremonies.

Deeply committed to the cause of social justice, Archbishop Carnley was an advocate of the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa and a leader in the movement for the ordination of women. The first ten women admitted to the priesthood in Australia were ordained by Archbishop Carnley at St George’s Cathedral in Perth in March 1992.

The outspoken and influential archbishop was born in New Lambton and grew up in the small NSW town of Young. His parents were not initially Christians and Archbishop Carnley was introduced to the Methodist Sunday School by a neighbour. After encountering Anglicans at Sunday School parades, he observed that “the Anglicans... appeared to have a lot more going on” as he was attracted to the ceremonial robes, candles and the liturgy of the church. At the age of around 11, young Peter experienced “a religious experience” on a gravel path in Young, wondering how it would be if there were nothing. He was prompted to ask “Why should anything be?”.

Graduating from Young High School, Archbishop Carnley began working towards a legal career and spent a year with the Justice Department before deciding to undertake studies in theology at St John’s College, Morpeth. In 1961, he completed a licentiate in theology with first class honours from the Australian College of Theology. He studied history and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Melbourne and in 1966, went to Emmanuel College, Cambridge to begin researching theology. He completed a PhD at the University of Cambridge in 1970.

Regarded as a world leader in theological and doctrinal work, Archbishop Carnley has also made many practical contributions to the church, including setting up the Anglican Schools Commission in Perth.

In recent years, the Archbishop has supported Aboriginal reconciliation and in June last year established the Aboriginal Education and Cultural Foundation dedicated to enabling Aboriginal students, participating families and communities to engage in a meaningful and educational cultural exchange. He was made an office of the Order of Australia in 1998 for his contributions to theology, the nurturing of ecumenicalism between the churches and their faiths, and the cause of social justice.

Archbishop Carnley received his honorary Doctor of Letters at a graduation ceremony held on May 5.
Addiction attacks roots of Aboriginal spirituality

Addiction is a problem that attacks the roots of Aboriginal spirituality, according to Val Bryant-Carroll, founder of Australia’s first Aboriginal alcohol and drug rehabilitation centre, Benelong Haven, who was presented with an honorary degree at the May 12 graduation ceremony.

“Aboriginality is based on spirituality,” Val said in her address. “By spirituality we mean that first we connect to other people. When this is in place we can connect to the earth, then to our God.”

These spiritual connections were the basis of Aboriginal life and are maintained by giving and sharing, she said.

“But the addict is a taker, both materially and emotionally, from those around him. Thus, addiction is not just a health or court problem for us. It attacks the roots of our spirituality, the order of our society and very reason for existence.”

Val Bryant-Carroll was the first Indigenous woman to graduate from a non-traditional subject (architecture). She has acquired the derelict Kinchela Boys’ Home near Kempsey and established Benelong’s Haven there. In the wake of the Deaths in Custody Royal Commission, it has provided an alternative to jail for many young Aboriginal offenders with drug and alcohol problems and has developed a strong relationship with courts, judges and solicitors.

Val says addiction is a great political issue for Aborigines. “The problem is not in the parks, under the bridges and in the courts,” she said. “It is in our homes where the young couple with a drug problem is currently producing more spiritually disconnected children.”

“Success will only come when the Aboriginal addicts accept responsibility for their addiction and responsibility for their recovery,” Val concluded.

Indigenous achievement

The May graduation saw the first graduates from the Bachelor of Aboriginal Studies (pictured above) as well as the graduation of the first Indigenous woman to graduate from a non-traditional subject (architecture).

Tara Mallie, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Architecture), said she had been interested in design since early childhood.

“At first I thought I wanted to be an interior designer because I was always changing my room around, but it grew bigger and I got interested in the design of the whole house.”

Tara’s father is from Thursday Island in Torres Strait and as far as she knows she is the first person in her family to graduate with a tertiary qualification. She is quick to downplay her achievement, however, saying her European mother went to college and that she had received a lot of support along the way.

“I’m a pretty organised person so I didn’t find it hard to come to university,” she said.

Tara was born in Gosford and did her schooling there. She spent her first year in Newcastle living in the Durungaiing Aboriginal Hostel at Lambton and found Wollotuka, the university’s Aboriginal Education Centre a useful resource.

“They provide tutors if you need them and there is always someone there just to talk to,” she said.

While Tara plans to enrol in the Bachelor of Architecture at Newcastle, she is currently studying towards a Bachelor of Arts in order to broaden her education. “I think it will improve my architecture to do some human geography and sociology and find out a bit about how people live.” She will major in Aboriginal Studies.

Tara hopes to specialise in housing and thinks there is a call for Indigenous architects in that area.

“I’d like to think that what I have achieved is inspirational for other Indigenous women,” she said. “I think the only way things are going to get better is to get out there and help make the changes.”
Bob Richardson, Manager of the university's Supply and Payments Section, hates accounting – balance sheets leave him cold. Despite this, however, Bob is the longest serving staff member of the Finance and Property Division and in his 34th year at the university, its longest serving member of non-academic staff.

"I absolutely hate accounting, although that may seem like a strange thing to say as I'm a registered tax agent as well as a manager in the finance division," Bob said. "But both those jobs are enjoyable because they involve problem solving and interpretation of the law. When you do someone's tax, for instance, you are dealing with profit and loss but you're also taking a more analytical approach to determine what is income and what is a deductible expense that takes it out of the accounting field."

Bob grew up in a small farming hamlet called Burrell Creek between Gloucester and Wingham. He left Taree high school when he was 15.

"I wanted to be a diesel mechanic," Bob recalled, "but the pay was the same as the cost of boarding in Taree."

He was offered a job by the local bank manager and began a series of moves around the State for the next eight years.

"I met the girl I wanted to marry, who worked in the bank as well and we decided that living in a series of bank homes with no choice about where you lived wasn't what we wanted." Bob clearly remembers his first day as an Accounts Payable Clerk at the university – November 6, 1966. All the work was done manually back then with the first calculator available to Bob a mechanical adding machine with big heavy buttons. After a year in the accounts section, Bob moved to the purchasing area and began the job that has kept him interested and involved for more than 30 years.

"Being in purchasing has allowed me to meet a lot of people around the city and to deal with a lot of university staff," he said. "The university has more than 10,000 suppliers and buys an incredibly wide range of goods and services, from stationery through to chemicals, radioactive materials and animals for research."

One of the greatest challenges for Bob has been acquiring the goods that people want in the most efficient way without leaving the university open to any suggestions of impropriety.

In an era when universities are increasingly expected to have transparent processes and with ICAC acting as a watchdog, Bob is constrained by the rules of fair tendering. His years of experience, however, have taught him a lot.

"I think you can run this place purely by looking at the procedures manual, forget it. You have got to have flexibility."

Perhaps his flexibility has helped Bob to build a successful business as a tax agent as well as surviving a move to the Hunter Institute of Higher Education (HIHE) five years prior to amalgamation with the university and weathering the more recent change management processes.

In 1980, he took a Bachelor of Commerce subject on taxation and began working as an agent. He ran a small newspaper advertisement that attracted 10 clients – he now has 400. Although it involves him working every night of the week during the peak period, Bob enjoys the contact with his clients.

"I've been going for 18 years now and I have clients who are the grandchildren of my original clients." Bob had been at the university for 19 years when he moved across to the College of Advanced Education (later HIHE).

"I used to say, tongue-in-cheek, that I only went over there to prepare them for amalgamation," Bob joked. He returned to the university following amalgamation in 1989.

It was as a manager that Bob confronted change management at the end of the 90s. He was responsible for implementing the Complete Office Supplies (COS) system that replaced the central store, representing the university's first step into e-commerce. He was also involved in implementing the credit card system that has replaced the old Urgent Purchase Orders. The university leads the field with its card system, which has been described by representatives of the National Australia Bank as the most technically sophisticated card management system they've ever seen.

"We are always looking for ways to do things electronically, without paper, that will improve efficiency," Bob said. "But I don't do these things on my own. I come up with the ideas but it is my staff who make them happen – people like Susan Farley and my Assistant Managers and their staff are important and make me look good."

Bob's section also receives and processes invoices from suppliers electronically via email. The purchasing processes have changed a lot during his years at the university and have moved towards a flexible model that allows cost centres to carry out their own tendering if they want to. With a couple of years before retirement, Bob is still challenged by his job.

"It's a very interesting job and I've always liked it. Even after 30 years, scarcely a day goes past when something surprising doesn't happen. There is something different every day."
Scholarship winners announced

Three students from the Department of Modern Languages have been awarded Kelver Hartley Scholarships for 2000. The Kelver Hartley Scholarships are the most prestigious travelling scholarships for French students offered by any university in the Commonwealth.

The students, Kylie Beveridge, Vannak Bollen and Kathleen Clarkson, will use their scholarships to study in France for six months in universities and other tertiary institutions, as well as enjoying a program of cultural visits and activities. The scholarships pay all travel costs, costs of enrolment, tuition and accommodation, as well as providing a generous living allowance.

The academic work done by the students in France is credited to their Newcastle degree. At the same time, the students obtain a Diploma in French Language from the French Ministry of Education.

The Director of the Hartley Bequest Program, Emeritus Professor Ken Dutton, said that the Kelver Hartley Scholarships had helped to put Newcastle on the international map in the field of French Studies.

"Our ultimate aim is to attract Australia's best French students to come and study in Newcastle. No other Australian university can offer its best undergraduate students the opportunity to undertake part of their degree course in a French university, free of charge."

The scholarships were made possible by a $2 million bequest from the late Professor Kelver Hartley, Foundation Professor of French, who died in 1988. They were presented to successful students by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Science, Professor John Ramsland, at a ceremony held on 25 May.

Exam Time?
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Long hours pouring over textbooks or sitting in front of a computer really puts extra strain on the eyes and on the muscles of the shoulders and neck. All the while every cell in your body is working hard to keep you going.

Our bodies are a bit like a fire, we start off with a pile of fuel which gives a great flame... something like the burning ambition to do well in your studies. But, slowly, reserves start to diminish and some stoking is needed to keep your mind on that assignment you've got. At this point, you've usually sent out for pizza and are having bottomless cups of coffee!

Any fire needs a source to keep it going, and in study it is no different. Unfortunately, we can forget to refuel our bodies because... "Well, because there's simply no time!"

Natural Nutrition Achievement Plus has been especially formulated to meet the requirements of the student body.
A perfect autumn day encouraged Central Coast people to go along in great numbers to the Central Coast Campus Community Open Day held on June 4 at the Campus at Ourimbah.

The day, which was held in conjunction with World Environment Day and also the Central Coast Schools Vocational Education Expo, was a huge success. Large crowds enjoyed the activities and demonstrations with contributions from across all the academic areas of the Campus, environmental and educational displays and some purely for fun and entertainment.

Public Relations Officer at the Campus, Cae Pattison, said she was delighted with the success of the day. Cae said that each year the Campus aims to provide a community 'day out' as well as a showcase for the Central Coast Campus. She said many people stayed for most of the day and took advantage of lectures, information sessions, displays and activities, taste testing and entertainment.

"We were thrilled this year that a lot of people visited the Campus who have never been here before," Cae said. "Judging by their comments, I'm sure they were surprised and impressed by the progressive and attractive Campus.

"The decision to link the Community Open Day with World Environment Day obviously struck a chord with Central Coast residents. Coast people are very interested in environmental initiatives and we plan to include that aspect in next year's event."

There were some novel activities this year, with a scientific dive by Marine Science students in the Campus Lake attracting a lot of attention and providing an insight into procedures used by marine scientists. A 'hypothetical' debate on cloning extinct species and the effect it would have on the environment, provoked thought as well as laughter. Scientists challenged with chemistry, physics, environmental and psychology displays, activities in the Information Technology Studies Centre were very popular, while the ever-popular activities program in the Fine Art Studies Centre included visitors trying their hand at drawing a live model.

"Even though the clowns, magicians and a jazz band entertained the visitors and there were lots of activities for children, there was a strong demand for course information," Cae said. "The Course Information Centre was really hopping with people seeking information about university, TAFE and Community College courses."

First prize in an open day competition, an accommodation package at the Holiday Inn Resort Terrigal, was won by Phil Prassina and vouchers to the Coop Bookshop were won by Sheena Tomsick, Wayne Scheffe and Maria Belker.

International food packaging agreement signed

Professor Ron Wills from the university's Central Coast Campus and Professor Yaakov Leshem from the University of Bar Ilan in Israel have developed a new way to extend the life of packaged fruit, vegetables and flowers.

TUNRA, the university's research company, has signed an agreement with Canadian company SunBlush Technologies Corporation, which will use the method in its production of food and flower packaging.

Professor Wills, Director of the Centre for Food Industry Research and Development at the Central Coast Campus, says the shelf life of packaged food can be extended by using Nitric Oxide (NO).

"Nitric Oxide is a natural compound produced by fruits, vegetables and flowers," explained Ron. "It is also the chemical in the body that is stimulated by use of the drug Viagra."

"Using NO in the packaging of flowers, fruits and vegetables retards the ripening and ageing process, therefore extending the shelf life of products."

SunBlush Technologies Corporation is a world leader in modified atmosphere packaging, which is commonly used in supermarkets to sell ready-made salads and mixed vegetables. The company will apply the research in its development of packaging, and Ron says the agreement between SunBlush and the university initiates a long-term research and development relationship.

"We anticipate that SunBlush and the university will develop additional applications for NO, and we see SunBlush as a strategic partner for implementing the NO and potentially other technologies worldwide," he concluded.
Guarding our resources

Staff in the Archives and Special Collections section of the Auchmuty Library are emphatic that the temperature of their workplace remains a pleasant 20 degrees Celsius and that the humidity is set at 50 percent.

They retain this optimal environment not for their manuscripts for research use is the most important single responsibility he and other staff in the Archives and Special Collections have.

"When a record is heavily used it begins to fall apart," he said. "Much of the information we store is not duplicated anywhere else and if it were lost it could never be recovered. If a resource is beginning to deteriorate physically we digitise or microfilm it to allow users to access it without causing any additional damage."

The archives and manuscript collections contain a wealth of untapped, priceless material – over 1000 shelf metres and some individual collections present an extraordinary range and depth for research. The university's own archives include around 1800 theses representing the original research of Newcastle's scholars over the past 40 years.

"We collect all doctoral and research masters theses, as well as honours theses in regional history," Denis explained. "They are amongst the most significant records in the archives."

The permanent records have been received from around 420 university sources including the University Council and Senate, successive chancellors and vice-chancellors, administrative offices, faculties and academic departments, students and alumni, as well as benefactors. They encompass a range of formats including oral history tapes, plans and drawings, and photographs.

In addition to the university records, which go back as far as the initial university movement in 1942, the archives house a rich variety of regional history resources. The research collections include records from local hospitals, the Newcastle Trades Hall and several industrial unions, Aboriginal collections (including a unique array of weapons and tools from local Aboriginal communities), coal baron John Brown, manufacturing, pastoral and dairy industries, retailing, and economic development organisations. Another major research collection in the archives is the records of the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle and Christ Church Cathedral, as well as St John's College, Morpeth. The Anglican Archives comprises 120 shelf metres and is preserved with the assistance of a National Preservation Office grant due to its national significance.

The archives house the Library's collection of rare books, with more than 26,500 individual items, including the personal libraries of the first Vice-Chancellor, J.J. Auchmuty, and Kelver Hartley, Foundation Professor in French. The unique records of the Archives and Special Collections section are available to students and staff of the university as well as members of the community. Denis and his staff fielded over 9000 enquiries last year and are happy to help researchers to access the rich resources they safeguard.

To find out more about the archives, go to http://www.library.newcastle.edu.au/archives/archives.html or call Denis on ext 5820, Greg Heathcote on ext 5354, or John di Gravio on ext 5354.

Discovering science and engineering fun

The Central Coast's inaugural 'Science and Technology Challenge' was held at the Central Coast Youth Club during National Science Week in May.

The event, organised by the Faculties of Science and Mathematics and Engineering, saw 232 Year 10 students engage in a full day of educational activities. Organiser Bob Nelson said the Challenge was a series of fun events aimed at giving students an appreciation of science, technology and engineering.

"The emphasis was for students to have a positive experience with science and technology as well as generating some enthusiasm towards the study of these disciplines," Bob said.

School teams competed in different 'challenges' such as negotiating a hidden maze, constructing a catapult from dowel and rubber bands, cracking secret codes and designing and building a chair for a (3kg) doll. The activities required the application of practical skills, imagination, teamwork and organisational ability to solve real-world problems. The team with the most points won a trophy for their school.

Around 100 school students and their parents joined staff and students from the university for the evening judging session, with the winning school revealed to be Henry Kendall High School.

Strong practical support from local high schools, the Department of School Education, the Institution of Engineers and staff from the university's Ourimbah campus made the challenge a great success. It is hoped that it will become an annual event.
Retroversion, an exhibition currently running at the School of Fine Art Gallery, showcases works that look at art in relation to computer technology. Curated by Jennifer Waters, a recent graduate in art history and curatorship from the Australian National University, Retroversion includes the works of six artists from different backgrounds who work in a variety of media. They are linked by their utilisation of seemingly obsolete or labour intensive processes which assist the aesthetic and technical possibilities lent to the works by the all-pervading digital era.

Robert Duffield, who is doing his Master of Fine Art in photo media at Newcastle, is one of the six artists profiled in the exhibition. His images were produced with a large format...
Small scale art works produced by staff of the School of Fine Art will be offered for sale in an initiative begun last month. The works will be shown in a display case in the School of Fine Art Gallery, with the works of 12 artists currently showcased. The display will be changed every eight to 10 weeks to ensure that there are always new works to be seen.

“The ‘shop’ will help to promote the School and to show the diversity of talent the staff has,” Deputy Head of the School, Miranda Lawry said. “It will also allow visitors and international students to acquire a work that is a unique souvenir of their time here and is small enough to take away with them.”

Works including hand-painted silk scarves, limited edition artists’ books, editioned prints, photography, ceramic works, and bronze sculptures will be available. The artwork varies from postcards of contemporary art for as little as $2 to one-off cast bronze sculptures from around $2000. The shop is ideal for staff looking for an imaginative and unusual gift to give to visitors to their faculty or division.

The work can be viewed during gallery hours, 1-4pm on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday, or by appointment – phone ext 6578...
Baldest morning tea

Physical Planning and Estates Attendant Remigio D'Andrea braved the winter chill to have his head shaved in celebration of Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea fundraiser for cancer research on May 25. Remigio raised $257 of the $421 PPE total. The Hunter/ Chancellery Staff Association raised $309.65 at its morning tea functions held in the Hunter and Chancellery tea rooms and in the Faculty of Nursing.

Hair raising: Louise from the Cutting Crew shaves Remigio’s head while House Services Supervisor Neil Gaudry gets ready to apply the polish.

Retirement bears fruit

Honorary associate in the School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences Dr John Giles, who is finding his retirement extremely productive, has just published a new book.

John retired from the University six years ago and has since produced more than 20 research papers as well as collaborating with former PhD students and visiting scholars to work on mathematical research problems.

His book, Introduction to the Analysis of Normed Linear Spaces, is the 13th book in the Australian Mathematical Society Lecture Series, which is intended to “operate at the frontiers of mathematics itself and of its teaching”. Published by Cambridge Press, the series contains research monographs and textbooks suitable for graduate and undergraduate students.

John has produced three other texts, with all four books based on lecture notes and material compiled during his 35 years teaching at the university.

“I began with notes but as I taught I expanded on them and amended them, so preparing the books meant sifting over years of lecture notes”, he said. “It’s incredible how long it takes to get lecture material into book form”.

John’s book provides a basic course in functional analysis for senior undergraduate and beginning postgraduate students. It was released in April as part of a planned worldwide distribution by Cambridge.

Protecting yourself from macro viruses

Microsoft Windows and Macintosh users

Versions of Microsoft Word since 6.0 have included an option for Macro Virus Protection. This is normally enabled by default. This option will cause Word to display a warning when a document contains a macro and you can choose to execute the macro or disable macro execution.

In 99.9% of cases you should not enable macro execution. Macros in Word documents are usually for the person who creates the document. You do not need to enable them in order to read the document. If you enable macro execution then you face a high risk of infecting your computer with a virus.

Macro viruses also exist for other Microsoft products but are not as prevalent. Excel spreadsheets would be most likely to contain macros. In this case, you should exercise caution when enabling the macro to run. Ensure that the spreadsheet is from a trusted source and that it is reasonable to expect macros in it. Sometimes a phone call will clarify this.

If you are sending out files containing macros then you should make the recipients aware of this and whether they need to be enabled in order for the correct function to be performed.

The following instructions show how to check that Macro Virus Protection is enabled:

In Word and Excel 95/97
Click on Tools
Select options... from the bottom of the drop down box
Click on the General tab
Ensure that Macro Virus Protection is ticked.

In Word and Excel 2000
Click on Tools
Select Macro
Click on the Security tab
Ensure that either Medium or High security level is selected.

In Word and Excel 98
Click on Tools
Select Preferences
Click on the General tab
Ensure that Macro Virus Protection is selected.

If you follow these simple instructions, you will protect yourself from the majority of macro viruses, even those that are so new that a method of detection has not been developed yet.

How to protect yourself from the “I Love You” and “New Love” viruses

This information is predominantly for Windows users, since Macintosh computers do not use Visual Basic Script but the warning about attachments is relevant to both systems.

These viruses are written in Visual Basic Script and are propagated by sending emails with attachments to unsuspecting people. VB Script is not normally sent as attachments.

They can be very easily identified, since the attachment has “vbs” on the end of the name. If you are using GroupWise and can’t see the extension, right-click the envelope and select Properties. The name of the file or subject of the email may be something fairly innocuous, such as LOVE-LETTER-FOR-YOU.TXT.vbs or ILOVEYOU.

Do not double-click on an attachment unless you know what it is. When you double-click on the attachment you are executing whatever is in the attachment. This is very dangerous.

For GroupWise users

Use the quickviewer to read your email. It makes it clear that you have attachments and lets you see the filename and extension. It also uses its own internal viewer for most document types instead of the full application, which means that macros and programs don’t get executed so you can’t get infected.

It is highly recommended that you keep this information and check on a regular basis that your Macro Virus Protection is still enabled.

Do not become complacent and think that your Virus Scanner will look after you. It can only detect known viruses and as there are dozens of new viruses being created every day, there is a good chance that some time you may come across a new one.

Be wary: remember, an ounce of prevention...

If you have any questions about any of the above, please contact: Grant Collin (IESD), ext 6421, fax 5833 grant.collin@newcastle.edu.au
**Wanted – caring families**

The University Language Centre is looking for families to host Japanese and Korean students who will visit Newcastle on study tours this year.

Several overseas groups, including students from Ube, Newcastle's sister city in Japan, will take part in two to three week study programs during July, August and September. The tours include English lessons in the morning (9am – 12pm) and afternoon cultural activities such as sports, visits to local attractions (eg. museums, cathedral, Blackbutt Reserve) and dolphin cruises at Port Stephens.

An important part of the study tour is the experience of living with an Australian family, which gives the students an opportunity to improve their English as well as learn something about our culture and lifestyle.

Study Tour Coordinator Jenny Cook says that it is not only the students who benefit from the experience but their host families as well.

> "Even though it is fairly hectic for busy families to take part in the host program, we have had nothing but positive feedback from those who have taken part," she said.

Mother of three Wendy Mullins, from the University Health Centre, billeted Japanese students on three occasions last year.

> "We felt a bit anxious about it at first," she said. "We are a very average family and you wonder if you'll be acceptable but it was a great experience."

Wendy said her children benefited greatly from meeting the touring students, especially the youngest, her 10-year-old son Ruaidri, who had studied some Japanese at school and was happy to play simple games with the visitors.

Working at the university, Wendy was able to transport the students without much difficulty but said that the support from other host families was terrific, with car pooling common.

> "They're a really nice group of people and represent a cross-section of ages and ethnic backgrounds, which was also interesting," Wendy said. "It was a very good experience for our family and it helps you to accept and appreciate your own family more to see that the Japanese students are just teenagers with families like ours."

While most of the students who come on study tours are high school or university students, some are older. Those scheduled to come this year range from 13 years to young adult. They are from Japan and Korea. While the Language Centre has a database of host families, there are 135 students visiting in the coming months and more volunteers are needed. A reimbursement fee is paid to families to offset the cost of transport and meals.

If you are interested in becoming a host family, contact Jenny Cook at the Language Centre on ext 7176 or 5376.

**Private sector link leads to employment**

The Hunter Imaging Group (HIG), the largest independently operated medical imaging facility in NSW, has sponsored the annual prizes for Medical Radiation Science graduates in both Diagnostic Radiography and Nuclear Medicine. This was the first year the prizes have been presented.

Tony Smith, head of Medical Radiation Science, says the awards consolidate the relationship between the HIG and the university.

> "One example of how we work together is that the HIG provides clinical education facilities for both Diagnostic Radiography and Nuclear Medicine students throughout the Hunter region," he said.

The inaugural HIG Prizes were awarded to Jessica Brent in Diagnostic Radiography and Lisa Halverson in Nuclear Medicine. Jessica is working with HIG in Newcastle while Lisa works at Royal North Shore Hospital.

**Cleaning up sewage treatment**

The treatment and use of wastewater is to be improved with a new sewage treatment plant being developed by engineers at the university.

Staff and students are developing a simple and safe way to treat wastewater with electricity, rather than chemicals, to clean the water in an environmentally friendly way.

The water would then be safe for other uses such as gardening or even flushing the toilet again.

Project Coordinator, Dr Behdad Moghtaderi from the Department of Chemical Engineering, says the technology will be of enormous benefit to people living in isolated parts of Australia.

> "Australia is a large, dry country, with a growing population and increasing water needs," said Behdad. "In times of water restrictions, this new treatment system will be invaluable."

Because of its size the unit will initially be able to serve one or two households, but there are plans to develop the project for council use and to service entire communities. Hunter Water is supporting the new treatment system and two Sydney-based companies, Tech-Treat Pty Ltd and Commercial Waste Treatment Pty Ltd jointly hold the rights to the new technology.

The prototype is up and running, with testing underway to refine the initial design.

The project is being entered in the National Engineering Innovation Competition, and the Faculty of Engineering has created two scholarships – in Chemical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering – to encourage student participation.
spotlight on the deans

Professor Les Eastcott
Dean, Faculty of Central Coast
Director, Central Coast Campus

Background
My father was a teacher and I began my schooling in a one-teacher school at Bungonia, near Goulburn. Later, I went to high school at the Central School in Bulahdelah. It certainly wasn’t a traditional background for an academic career and only three students other than me from Bulahdelah high school went on to further education. I did my last two years of high school at Maitland Boys High and then declined the offer of a scholarship to study medicine. I did my Bachelor of Arts and DipEd at the Newcastle University College at Tighes Hill, winning the prize for education.

I taught for a few years, completing a Master’s degree at the University of Sydney and then did my PhD at a college in Alberta, Canada, which was recognised as one of the best in the world for education. My PhD was on the administration of universities. I then applied for and got the first job to be advertised in a teachers college – lecturing in Educational Psychology at Wagga and became the youngest lecturer in a teachers college. I came to Newcastle College of Advanced Education as Deputy Principal in 1986. The Principal Doug Huxley asked me to reorganise the structure of the college and we did that, creating departments that better reflected the disciplines being taught. At the time of amalgamation in 1989, I had been acting as Principal for some time. We held a meeting, which all the staff attended and there was a unanimous vote to resist amalgamation. Despite this, I decided it would be better for the region if we joined.

Following amalgamation, I was appointed Pro Vice-Chancellor (Development), which gave me responsibility for EEO, international students and development of the Central Coast Campus. In 1992, I was sent down to take responsibility for the Central Coast Campus.

My whole career seems to have been a trouble-shooting one. I could think of nothing worse than doing a stable job for the rest of my life. The routine work that goes with governance isn’t my cup of tea.

Strengths
Becoming the Faculty of the Central Coast has given us the same reporting and quality assurance measures as the other university faculties. I have spent time developing a devolved model of management and on the university side, I’m well served by three very good heads of school. The faculty structure helps us to ensure we do things within the university’s guidelines. The Central Coast Campus is more than just a faculty, however. It is an education precinct that incorporates university, TAFE and community college. While our tertiary student intake has grown in the past 10 years from 40 to around 1800, we actually deal with more than 10,000 students a year at the Campus.

The strength of the precinct model is that it stops the creation of artificial barriers that limit educational opportunities, which is very important in an area like the Central Coast that has the lowest participation rate in post-secondary education in New South Wales.

We run a strong awareness-raising program, with a lecturer buddy system operating in the schools and an Assistant Dean responsible for Community Relations. Without trying to compete with Newcastle, we put out a huge number of media releases and I have a monthly column in the local papers. Our recent open day was very successful.

Challenges
We face the same sort of challenge here that Newcastle confronted – a community where no one in the family has a tertiary qualification, where the schools are struggling to convince students to think about university as an option. By building joint facilities at the Central Coast we are able to demonstrate huge cost savings – around $540 million in the buildings alone – and that is significant to the provision of education opportunities to a region of 300,000 people that is growing at a rate of 3.8 percent a year.

Sharing with TAFE and the college, however, is about more than just cost savings. Our staff are beginning to think differently about the whole education process and we are seeing the TAFE staff beginning to do that as well. We are starting to develop degree courses that embed TAFE courses, such as the Bachelor of Applied Information Technology, which allows students to do TAFE information technology modules up to the equivalent of 80 credit points and to choose any of our university majors in addition to IT.

Discretion and commitment rewarded

Former Personal Secretary and Executive Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor
Suzanne Dorahy was honoured with the Exceptional Service Medal at the May 11 graduation ceremony.

Suzanne began her career at the university in 1968 as a stenographer in the Department of Electrical Engineering. The following year she transferred to the Department of Classics, where she spent the majority of her 32 years service to the university. Her long association with the Professor of Classics, Godfrey Tanner, was to provide the basis for her later success in the higher levels of university administration.

In 1989, Suzanne was appointed Executive Secretary to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Mick Carter, an office that called for tact, diplomacy and confidentiality in the handling of sensitive issues. Her skill and discretion in this role won her respect from all quarters.

From 1993 until her retirement in April this year, Suzanne has been executive secretary to the Vice-Chancellor. She is respected by all those who worked with her for her professionalism, integrity and humility. The Exceptional Service Medal recognises “exceptional and sustained contributions” to the university by a staff member, former staff member or a member of the community.

Chancellor Ric Charlton congratulates Suzanne on her award
It increases the flexibility of the students and we think it can be done in a number of other vocational areas as well.

Work

My model of devolution of responsibility to staff is not something that has happened before. The Campus has reached a level of maturity that allows it, but it is a difficult thing for me. This year I have deliberately avoided questioning the committees set up to organise graduation ceremonies and the open day because I knew I had to trust them to do it. My fingernails were chewed to the knuckles as the events approached. It's hard sometimes to remember that other staff here have just as much incentive to succeed as I do.

The Central Coast Campus is probably the region's third largest employer now, behind the area health service and the local superintendency of education and I believe that gives us a responsibility to be involved in regional development. I am the Chair of the Central Coast Regional Development Corporation, which plays a major role in generating jobs through job creation, business and industry relocation and general marketing of the region. I am the Chair of the Gosford and Wyong Water Authority and of the Lakes Anglican Grammar School. I am also chair of Flowers 2000, an international conference and trade expo aiming to bring together producer groups and associations linked to flower growing in Australia. The other area that is really taking off at the Campus is research, with food technology, business and early childhood all contributing, and I am on the board of the Central Coast Research Foundation.

Leisure

I'm a keen water skier, which is great for the family because there's something for everyone, even if you only want to ride in the boat. My family tends to cluster at Christmas time where we live at Lake Macquarie. Unfortunately I don't get to do as much estuary fishing as I used to but I like to when I find the time. I also play tennis in a competition every Thursday night, which is about the point in the week where I'm ready for a break away from work. I'm pretty much the patriarch of my tennis club, which gives me the chance to mix with people from many different age groups and backgrounds. I think you can risk losing sight of what the community is thinking and talking about if you don't do things outside your profession.

Future

The job of Director of the Central Coast Campus will be advertised at the end of my limited term and I will throw my hat into the ring for that. I am really pleased that the Campus reflects a philosophy that gives it some distinctiveness. We get a lot of visitors from other universities who want to get a feel for what we are doing and how we do it. I've learned over the years that there's a star out there that guides you and brings you opportunities. If that star happens to flash brightly again I might follow it.

Students represent Indonesian diversity

A group from the Indonesian Students Association performed a medley of eight traditional songs in eight different Indonesian languages at the May 12 graduation ceremony. The 16 undergraduate and postgraduate students, wearing the traditional costume of their various islands and regions, sang to the accompaniment of guitars and a tambori drum.

Vanny Tiwow, who is doing her Master's degree in organic chemistry at the university, said the students had practised every week for two months for the graduation performance.

"I was asked by the University Secretary, Gem Cheong, if we wanted to perform at graduation," Vanny said. "I spoke to my friends in the Students' Association and we decided to include different languages and songs to represent our country."

The traditional costumes worn by the students were provided by the Indonesian embassy in Sydney.
Recycled timber in Wetlands pavilion

Wood from the old wool stores at Wickham and timbers from several demolished or remodelled buildings on the Callaghan campus have been used to build a pavilion at the wetlands.

The Friends Wetlands Pavilion enables students, staff and visitors to shelter from the weather when studying or appreciating the public wetlands, located on the northern part of the campus beyond the engineering buildings. It can also be accessed via the Don Morris Walk.

The pavilion was designed by staff from the Physical, Planning and Estates division, under the supervision of award-winning architect Philip Pollard.

"Nearly all the materials have been recycled in one way or another, with the intention of making the building 'blend' with the wetlands environment," Philip said.

The Friends of the University donated $30,000 of the $40,000 it cost to build the pavilion. An earlier project partially funded by the group - the Don Morris Walk - is located nearby.

President of the Friends of the University Vic Levi said the organisation was delighted with the pavilion project. The Friends have now raised nearly $500,000 for the university through its book fairs, held at the Great Hall every two years.

Philip Pollard said the cost of constructing the pavilion would have been significantly higher had the university not been able to use recycled timber.

"It's another example of our philosophy of choosing environmentally-sustainable options for our new buildings and making good use of resources," Philip said.

At a ceremony to open the pavilion held last month, Philip told those who attended about the Pambalong Aboriginal clan, who had occupied the land long before white settlement and the fact that the wetlands were a prolific source of food. "It was an orchard soon after European settlement, although Indigenous people were living on the site as late as the 1960's," Philip said.

The building is constructed from bridge timbers (probably the old Carrington Bridge), some timbers from the Wickham wool stores, hardwood from the roof of the original architecture building, Victorian ash from the Hunter Gym and western red cedar from the temporary buildings designed by Eric Parker which were near mathematics for many years.

Philip thanked all those involved, including Lance Hennessy for his vision in championing the idea of the wetlands and securing several substantial grants from the National Estate program for the drag line; Don Morris for literally cutting the route for the walk through the lantana on his weekends off; the Friends for their tremendous support of the Don Morris Walk (signage, interpretive information, some of the landscape works) and of course as major financial contributors to the Pavilion. His thanks also went to PPE staff for their efforts and to the builder TV Webber.

Breaking ground

The award winning team of Peter Stutchbury, Rick Lepastrier and Sue Harper are well advanced with the design and documentation of the new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Centre. Using the most advanced environmental design modeling the building will be an important addition to the Callaghan campus.

Located near the Design Building on the southern flanks of No 4 Oval the centre will bring together the Department of Aboriginal Studies, the Wollounga and Unniliko Centres, and the Discipline of Aboriginal Health Studies. It is anticipated that the centre will be ready for the start of teaching 2001.
CC Computer System

The Information and Education Services Division (IESD) is starting a project to decommission the computer system known as CC (also known as BROGLA). It is intended that CC will be shutdown at the end of July 2000.

CC was the primary computing resource for teaching and research on campus from the mid 1980s until approx. 1996. It runs the Open VMS/VAX operating system and supports a wide range of computer applications such as language compilers, statistical packages and general purpose utilities including email. The machine is still running with a small number of active users and many email users.

There are a number of pressing reasons why it is necessary to shutdown CC, most importantly, the system has become increasingly unreliable and the hardware is now obsolete technology (CC is less powerful than a new desktop PC system). Currently it costs $7000 per month to maintain the system. Another consideration is that the system takes up most of the space in the McMullin computer room – space which is needed for new hardware for projects such as the new student system NUSTAR.

If you are a registered, active user on CC, IESD will be contacting you directly in the next few weeks and will assist you in migrating and converting your programs and data to another suitable system. If you are a 9-track magnetic tape user, we will contact you to discuss alternate ways of storing your data (eg. CD-ROM).

If you use CC for your email (ie. you have an email address like ccabc@cc.newcastle.edu.au), IESD will advise you prior to the move but you will not need to “do anything” – your messages and email address will be moved for you. All of this is to be accomplished by the end of July.

We are aware that this is a very short time frame in which to achieve the project outcome and are committed to ensuring the changeover will cause the minimum disruption to our clients. A website has been created to keep you informed of project details and progress at http://www.newcastle.edu.au/services/iesd/infrastructure/projects/cc.

If you wish to discuss your personal requirements with us, please contact one of the project team members:
- Ann Walters ext 5387
- Ann.Walters@newcastle.edu.au
- Loo Jansen ext 5842
- Loo.Jansen@newcastle.edu.au
- Tony Nicholson ext 5395
- Tony.Nicholson@newcastle.edu.au
- Brendan Gregg ext 7489
- Brendan.Gregg@newcastle.edu.au

The Pender Collection

After a long period of preparation and negotiation, the Pender Collection has arrived at the Archives, Rare Books and Special Collections Unit in the Auchmuty Library. This collection of drawings, prepared by successive generations of architects in the Pender family of Maitland, is one of the most important collections of architectural drawings in Australia. The collection is undergoing specialist fumigation and is currently unavailable for use. Those wishing to read more about the collection, however, and to view some of its magnificent drawings may visit this website: http://www.library.newcastle.edu.au/archives/pender/pender.html

Greta Spall Prize

On 29th May, the 1999 Greta Spall Prize was awarded to Amanda Cox who is studying for a Bachelor of Biomedical Science degree within the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. Each year this prize is awarded to the top Year 1 student within the Bachelor of Biotechnology and Bachelor of Biomedical Science courses. It was originally set up after the untimely death of Greta Spall. Greta, a librarian in the Biomedical Library, had taught undergraduate students in these two new courses through the subject BIOL103. After her sudden death on 15th August 1997, her family and colleagues donated money to set up the prize in memory of Greta. Since then Greta’s family have contributed more money so that the award will continue for another two years.

Greta Spall Prize awardee Amanda Cox with Helen Lloyd, Anne Robinson and A/Professor Loris Chahl
For sale by tender 03/00

The following items are available for sale by tender.

- Item 1: Large, free standing, lockable, glass fronted display cabinet. 3050mm (10ft) long x 2044mm (7ft) high x 770mm (2'6") deep (Marked A located outside HA49)
- Item 2: Large, free standing, lockable, glass fronted display cabinet. 3050mm (10ft) long x 2044mm (7ft) high x 770mm (2'6") deep (Marked B located outside HA49)
- Item 3: Sony CRT Data Projector, Model No. VPHG70QM, Serial No. 2000267, Asset No. 123203-00
- Item 4: Sony CRT Data Projector, Model No. VPHG70QM, Serial No. 2000342, Asset No. 122503-00
- Item 5: Sony CRT Data Projector, Model No. VPH1272QM, Serial No. 5001499, Asset No. 121204-00
- Item 6: Sony CRT Data Projector, Model No. BPH1001QM, Serial No. 5002814, Asset No. 114912-00

For further information please contact Lorraine Alley ext 5202. The goods are sold in "as is" condition and the university reserves the right to reject any or all tenders.

Tenders close on Wednesday, 19th July at 3:30pm and should be forwarded to the Finance Officer - Assets, Financial Accounting, The University of Newcastle.

Travel reimbursement

The university's policy in relation to reimbursement of staff travel expenses within Australia will change from July 1. The current policy is to provide a daily allowance to staff from which they must meet their accommodation, meal and incidental expenses.

From July 1, the university will pay GST on expenses incurred including travel but is entitled to recover that GST from the Taxation Office. When a staff member incurs a travel cost paid from a travel allowance, they will have to pay GST and neither they nor the university will be able to recover it.

To ensure that you don't incur additional travel costs related to the GST, daily allowances for travel within Australia will not be provided from July 1. The university will instead provide reimbursement to staff of actual costs incurred. Costs are to be substantiated by documentary evidence of expenditure in the form of tax invoices received from hotels, restaurants, etc. Tax invoices are essential to enable the university to recover GST paid on these expenses. If a tax invoice isn't issued for expenditure under $50, eg a cup of coffee, taxi fare, etc, you should obtain a receipt or provide a declaration of the expenditure details (GST can be recovered on items under $50 without a tax invoice but some evidence of expenditure is required).

Maximum staff reimbursements must approximate the daily travel allowances that are currently paid, increased by 10 percent to cover GST. The university is trialling a travel credit card system and if it is successful, credit cards will be issued to staff who travel at least two or three times a year, negating the need for them to submit travel claims. Until this system is implemented, cash advances will remain available for travel in excess of 72 hours. The university will accept accommodation charges through travel agents, alleviating the need for cash advances on most occasions. For further information contact Bob Richardson on ext 5339.

Newcastle Chapter of Convocation

The launch of the Newcastle Chapter of Convocation will take place on

Date: Friday 21 July 2000
Venue: Newcastle Region Art Gallery
Laman Street, Newcastle
Time: 6.00pm

For further information please contact: Dr Bernie Curran or Reah Kay, Development Unit on ext 6459, fax 8730.

Golf Club offers student discounts

Steelwoks Golf Club is offering a 50 percent discount on membership to students of the university. Students will pay $250 per year for full membership and $200 for associate membership or students can pay half these rates for one semester's membership. As members, students play social golf for $1 per round and are entitled to obtain a handicap and play in competitions. Non member student discounts are also offered on golf at $10 for 18 holes. For further information call the clubhouse on 4955 8169.

Energy Star office equipment

The university has signed a five year Memorandum of Understanding with the NSW Sustainable Energy Development Authority (SEDA) covering a range of initiatives aimed at reducing energy consumption, including an Energy Smart Business program. The program involves the Energy Star office equipment program, which is a partnership with the office equipment industry to promote energy efficient personal computers, monitors, printers, photocopiers and facsimile machines. Energy Star is recognized as the predominant set of energy efficiency specifications for office equipment world wide.

In Australia, Energy Star is well supported by the major office equipment manufacturers. The use of energy efficient office equipment will reduce energy use, save money and contribute to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Accordingly all purchases of new computers, monitors, photocopiers and facsimile machines should meet the Energy Star specifications, ie to be Energy Star compliant. Orders should also specify that the Energy Star features are to be enabled, provided that performance needs are met.

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Health, Safety and Development

Participation the key to success
We should all take an interest in improving health and safety at the university – it helps to protect us and the people we work with.

The university is a complex and diverse organisation and not everyone’s health and safety issues are the same. For example, the type of hazards people may be exposed to in Medicine and Health Sciences are quite different to those found in Fine Art. The first step in reducing the risk of these hazards is their identification and this is where “local” knowledge is an important resource. The best people to identify hazards are often the people working in the area.

In May this year the Vice-Chancellor distributed a policy – Establishment and Maintenance of Safe and Healthy Workplaces – to all faculties and divisions. This policy asks for the introduction of divisional/faculty safety coordinators or committees to help plan and implement health and safety programs for their area. This is a fantastic opportunity for the faculties and divisions to resolve OH&S issues that are a priority for them.

Whilst faculties and divisions will already have some idea about high-risk activities that need to be considered a priority issue, the committees/coordinators should help to ensure they have all been considered by participating in a risk identification, assessment and control process. Although this is important as an initial step, it is also something that should be ongoing, particularly when new work is planned.

Information and education is significant in controlling the risks that many hazards present. Once priorities are set by the faculty/division, these groups should be in a position to help generate a customised safety training needs analysis.

From a dean’s/head of division’s point of view, the groups would provide a forum for consultation about OH&S issues in the faculty/division. These issues might be ones raised by staff or students, or could be related to the implementation of existing or new OH&S policies of the university. Through such a forum, the faculty/division can evaluate their progress on these issues, and provide feedback to senior management.

It is clear that the committees/ coordinators will be acting as communication and consultation points for health and safety issues within faculties and divisions. There will be times when more than one group will be trying to deal with a particular issue. In these cases, it will be important to make sure that they do not tackle things in isolation.

Communication with other OH&S resources within the university, such as the OH&S Committee and its Sub-Committees; Health, Safety and Development; and PPE will also be important. In addition interaction between faculties/divisions over similar concerns will be invaluable.

This new policy focuses on encouraging participation to improve the health and safety of everyone at the university. On a day-to-day basis, its success will ultimately be determined by how many people leave the university in the same state of health as they arrive.

We are looking forward to highlighting the progress and successes of the faculty/divisional safety committees and coordinators in this column in upcoming issues.

To maintain a healthy lifestyle, don’t forget the University Sports Union can help. Visit their website at: www.newcastle.edu.au/assoc/su/

what’s on

June 15–July 2
Watt Space Gallery – Peter Joass ‘Rhythms’ (Loading Dock); Ken O’Regan ‘The New Temple’ (Long Room); Watt Fire Hose ‘Miniature Works by Students and Staff of the University of Newcastle’ curated by Irene Poole (Hoist Gallery); Jane Farrah ‘lost and found’ (Pit Gallery); Nikki Marsh ‘Shadows’ (Locker Room). Open Wednesday to Sunday, 12 noon to 6pm.

July 3
Data analysis software workshop QSR NUD*IST and NVivo are software packages aimed at helping researchers manage and analyze qualitative data. NUD*IST is the world’s most widely used qualitative data analysis program. NVivo is a new-generation development from QSR NUD*IST. Both programs help qualitative researchers keep track of, manage and link ideas along with the data from which the ideas grow. Detail available on the web at www.qsr.com.au. Workshop from 4-5pm in HB15, free to all staff and students.

July 3-8
Australasian Drama Studies Association Conference (ADSA 2000) – the Department of Drama is holding a conference at the David Madison Building. For further information see ADSA 2000 Conference page or phone Karen Radnidge on ext 3001.

July 6-7
The Faculty of Education is offering Vacation School for Year 7-10 Gifted and Talented students. Workshops will be held on philosophy, science, computing, journalism, fine art, printmaking and dance. Brochures and enrolment forms are available from all schools in the Hunter Region or by calling Faculty of Education on ext 6837.

July 4-5
2 Day Workshop – The Family Action Centre presents workshops by Jack Guillebeaux, a gifted trainer and presenter who works on all aspects of cultural and organisational growth and change. Both these workshops are open to staff and the general public.

what’s hot

www.go.to/aclu and www.angeelfire.com/folk/aclu
The Australian Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) investigates government actions, police conduct, freedom of speech, censorship, and gives advice on citizens rights. These sites provide legal advice and policy statements on civil rights.
A third-year fine art student who spent six months on an exchange to Bretton Hall art school in northern England had a stone owl he carved accepted for display in the renowned Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

Jim McGinty had never sculpted stone before undertaking a project to produce a reproduction for the owl figure, which had been stolen from the top of a 315 year old well in the park.

"I was talking to the porters at the college when I first got there and they told me about the owl," Jim said. "They asked me if I'd be interested in having a go at carving a replica and then got me a piece of stone from a disused quarry on the college site.

After overcoming his unfamiliarity with carving stone and his shortage of suitable tools, Jim completed the owl and showed it to the Principal of Bretton Hall, who approved its installation in the sculpture park.

"I was overwhelmed when it went up," he said. "The work I had done with the sculpture park and the way I had been treated by the people I met was like getting a handshake from everyone."

Jim said that leaving the owl behind was like leaving a part of himself in the park that he loved. "I really want to go back."

The School of Fine Art has an exchange agreement with Bretton Hall that allows Jim to receive credit towards his degree for the course he did while there. During his time there, Jim lived in Wakefield, near Leeds and took the opportunity to visit numerous galleries both in the north and in London. He also did voluntary work with the Wakefield Youth Service, spending three nights a week creating art with young people.

"I tried really hard to represent the university in the best way that I could."