Vale Godfrey Tanner

"We all have our Godfrey stories that I hope we will continue to share in the coming years. Godfrey was indeed a unique 'icon' of the university, who will always be remembered."

The University is mourning the passing of Emeritus Professor Godfrey Tanner on July 10. Godfrey, one of our best loved and respected academics, suffered a brain haemorrhage in his sleep. He was 74 years of age.

Godfrey, who lived and breathed the University and the city of Newcastle, immensely enjoyed his role as an 'eccentric' academic with strong traditional academic values. Born in Brisbane in 1927 and educated at Melbourne Grammar School, the University of Melbourne and Clare College, Cambridge, he lectured in classics at the University of Melbourne from 1952-55, before moving to a post as Senior Classical Master at the King's School Parramatta. He arrived in Newcastle in November 1959 as senior lecturer of classics at the 'new' Newcastle University College at Tighes Hill. In March 1963, he was appointed as Associate Professor of Classics, and in September 1964, to the Chair in Latin and Head of the Department of Classical Studies.

Godfrey fought vigorously for the independence of the University College and led a protest march to the town hall demanding university autonomy soon after his arrival in Newcastle. He often spoke of those early establishment days for the University – the lighting of the fire and drinking of wine on the (then) Shortland university site to celebrate the commencement of independence for the University of Newcastle on January 1, 1965.

Godfrey was a man with a brilliant mind, a head full of facts, dates and opinions, and a fair slice of devilry. He was also a champion of many causes at the University, especially student and sporting services, and held multiple positions including President of the Sports Union, Vice-President of the Australian Universities Sports Association, a foundation member of the Rowing Club (Godfrey donated funds to enable the purchase of the 'The Boat Shed' at Raymond Terrace), and President of the Australian Society of Classical Studies. He was a member of the University Council at the time of his death.

Godfrey's funeral, held at the Christ Church Cathedral on July 16, was a fitting memorial and celebration of his life and work in Newcastle. The congregation of more than 700 friends and colleagues participated in a service which Godfrey had previously organised. Spontaneous applause greeted his departure from the church grounds following the service, although with much regret and sadness, and many tears on the loss of an outstanding academic colleague and friend of the University.

Godfrey was a very generous man, particularly with people and worthy institutions in need. He established the Godfrey Tanner Scholarship Scheme for people who had the qualifications but not the means to enter university.

We all have our Godfrey stories that I hope we will continue to share in the coming years. Godfrey was indeed a unique 'icon' of the university, who will always be remembered. Who can forget the sight of him riding his bike on campus, wearing academic robes, t-shirts and shorts; or sharing a glass of red at the Tanner bar?

While we will no longer have Godfrey saying Latin grace at university dinners, we can all remember him as one who contributed so much to the life and character of this University. Thank you Godfrey for all that you have done for us.

Roger S Holmes
Vice-Chancellor and President

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30 August 2002
Tony Abbott speaks at CoFEE lecture

The Federal Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations Tony Abbott delivered a public lecture on the Government's employment policy at Callaghan last month as part of the University's Centre of Full Employment and Equity (CoFEE) Public Policy Lecture series.

The Minister, who has policy responsibilities for all issues relating to employment and workplace relations, addressed an audience of academics, students and members of the general public and defended his government's record on unemployment.

"Unemployment is a social cancer that feeds so many other unfortunate things in our society," Mr Abbott said. "I don't believe that the current levels of unemployment are acceptable and I don't believe that any government can rest on its laurels with unemployment rates of 6.5 percent. In the end, our objective has to be full employment."

Mr Abbott said the Howard Government has three strategies to bring unemployment down - the creation of a more buoyant economy in order to produce more jobs; support for a better educated and trained workforce; and a better designed welfare system.

"When we cut government spending in 1996, we did it because we thought spending restraint would bring interest rates down and that lower interest rates would stimulate the economy and we would have higher employment. If you look at the economic policies the government has put in place since 1996, you'd have to say we're doing something right. Any way you look at it, things are getting better. There are one million new jobs, higher rates of pay and fewer strikes."

CoFEE Director, Professor Bill Mitchell, is a vocal critic of the Coalition's employment record. Bill argues that present government policy, with its obsession with budget surpluses, prevents the economy from generating enough jobs and that full employment requires increased public sector job creation. He was heartened that Minister Abbott referred to full employment as the goal of every democratic politician, but remains concerned that the government's policies do not actually facilitate this.

"There is significant wastage in the Australian labour market," Bill said. "Even if we consider just the official unemployment rate, it is a huge waste of resources. When we include the hours lost due to unemployment, hidden unemployment and underemployment, the percentage of willing labour resources currently wasted is 11.9 percent."

Mr Abbott held discussions with the Vice-Chancellor Roger Holmes and the team from CoFEE during his visit. He expressed interest in the idea advocated by CoFEE that labour market policy would be more effective if the Work for the Dole scheme was replaced by a publicly funded job guarantee in areas of community development.

The Centre was pleased to have the opportunity of discussing employment policy with the Minister and intends to pursue further dialogue along these lines with the Government. The audience present at the lecture also enjoyed an animated interchange with the Minister.

A video recording of Tony Abbott's speech can be viewed on CoFEE's website at http://e1.newcastle.edu.au/coffee/
Researchers continue long-term collaboration

Pro Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty of Science and Information Technology Professor Bill Hogarth continued a research association spanning more than 20 years during a visit last month by his long time colleague Professor Yves Patlange. Bill met Yves, who is based at Cornell University but last year was the Leverhulme Fellow at the University of Edinburgh, at Griffith University in Queensland. Bill was a young lecturer fresh out of his PhD studies at Newcastle and Yves was Professor of Applicable Mathematics. The two worked together in the Faculty of Environmental Science at Griffith, created by Professor Calvin Rose.

"Our work is in environmental modelling – largely soil and water processes including erosion, water and solute movement, groundwater and surface flow," Bill explained. "We have published well in excess of 50 papers since we began working together in 1978."

Yves says the secret to their long-term research collaboration is their ability to get along with each other as well as their complementary skills. They formed a team with Calvin Rose, who although retired continues to carry out research.

"Calvin does experimental work, I do a lot of the numerical work, and Yves does the analytical work, although we do tend to overlap and bring our skills together" Bill explained. "Teamwork is really important to moving research along, particularly in the environmental area."

The project that the team is currently collaborating on is an investigation of the buffer strips on the side of channels and in fields to find ways of reducing soil erosion. The researchers are examining water flows and soil deposition to design the right sized retaining strip to prevent run-off, which pollutes rivers and channels.

The team have had a number of Australian Research Council grants for their research in the soil erosion field. Bill says he hopes to collaborate with the Newcastle environmental engineers, which he will explore with Yves on a proposed return visit to the University next year. Bill hopes to visit Cornell University in September to continue the research.

Does your heart (surgery) rule your head?

Newcastle researchers will study whether heart surgery affects the brain. The most common type of heart surgery in Australia is coronary artery bypass, where surgeons use veins from the leg or chest to bypass a blocked section of artery to improve the heart function and reduce the chances of a heart attack.

The surgery is a life saver for many people with heart disease. However, there can be side effects and one of these can be changes in the brain. The researchers are investigating non-invasive ways to test for changes in the brain after surgery, in an effort to enable surgeons to find the best ways to reduce the risk of these side effects. They want to do tests on bypass patients as well as people who haven’t had heart surgery and are generally healthy.

"We have seen subtle changes in performance in some of our bypass patients, but we need to compare these with a sample of healthy people," said Dr Mick Hunter, the project’s chief investigator. "Bypass surgery is of tremendous benefit to a large number of people and this project is designed to help find ways to make the surgery even safer."

The project will investigate how a group of healthy people perform a series of tasks, compared to a group of people who have had bypass surgery. The written and verbal tasks test memory, attention and vision, with participants required to attend two appointments at the university, three months apart.

"We are looking for people aged 45 to 80 years with no history of heart surgery, stroke or heart disease," Mick said.

Those interested in participating in the study should contact PhD student Alyna Turner on 4921 5076 or Dr Mick Hunter on 4921 5953 or email Mick.Hunter@newcastle.edu.au
Engineers in stability research breakthrough

A group of engineering researchers has developed a new method of analysing the stability of a broad range of infrastructure including buildings, bridges, embankments and retaining walls.

The work of the Geotechnical Research Group from the School of Engineering will enable practising engineers to analyse large complex problems in three dimensions on their desktop computer.

In order to build a geotechnical structure, engineers need to calculate how much movement will occur under working loads and the maximum load it is capable of sustaining. Chief Investigator on the Australian Research Council (ARC) funded project, Professor Scott Sloan, said the team's research will take this stability analysis out of the realms of specialists and allow practising engineers to use it.

"The project began in the late '80s and was initially funded by an ARC grant and subsequently by a mixture of ARC and industry grants," he said. "Engineers have previously used approximation methods, which were simple but could be highly inaccurate. The big advantage of these methods is they give two solutions - one that gives an upper bound on the failure load (the unconservative estimate) and another that gives a lower bound (the conservative estimate). This allows for a tight error band with the actual solution lying somewhere in the middle."

The new method was developed using advanced concepts from optimisation theory, finite element analysis and applied mathematics. The research team is now using industry funding to further develop the methods and to implement a user-friendly version of their software for commercial release.

"We are currently working on procedures that will automatically refine the mesh to reduce solution error," Scott said. "Someone who is not an expert in finite element analysis will thus be able to refine the mesh to get good solutions. As you can imagine, foundation stability is a major consideration in almost all forms of infrastructure design."

The group's research has attracted significant global interest, especially in Europe and the USA. Scott and one of his former PhD students, Richard Merifield, were awarded the 2000 Telford Medal by the Institution of Civil Engineers London for a paper on foundation stability which used an early version of the methods. This Medal is the highest award made by the Institution of Civil Engineers for a paper. Scott also delivered a keynote lecture on the work at an MIT Conference on Solid and Fluid Mechanics in Boston last year.

One researcher, Dr Andrei Lyamin, worked on the three-year ARC funded portion of the research project that ended in December last year. Another four researchers, funded by industry and the ARC, are currently applying the techniques to construct design charts for a wide range of practical problems.

Ethics in biotechnology

Research at the University is investigating the role of ethics and ethics education in biotechnology.

Third year Marketing and Biotechnology student Tamra Lysaght is studying differences in the perceptions of undergraduate biotechnology students and senior managers of biotechnology organisations towards formal ethics education.

"Advances in modern biotechnology have simulated considerable public, commercial and professional debate regarding the development and use of new technology, and this debate has primarily been concerned with the ethics of biotechnology rather than its science," says Tamra. "Debates about ethical issues pertaining to embryonic stem cell research, genetically modified organisms, reproductive cloning and genetic mapping are examples of the types of issues that have emerged as the technology has advanced."

There is some evidence that people within industry, and those who teach technology professionals, recognise that encouraging ethical behaviour may be important to the long-term development and sustainability of the biotechnology industry.

"But the incorporation of ethics education into undergraduate training is based upon largely untested assumptions," Tamra said. It is hoped the study results may help industry in its efforts to encourage ethical practice, and tertiary institutions in the construction of formal programs in ethics. The results may also shed some light on the perceptions of ethics in biotechnology.

The study is being supported by the Commonwealth government agency Biotechnology Australia.
An angled approach to unity

Head of the School of Engineering Professor John Fryer says that heading up a school is like landing a man on the moon.

"It all depends on your angle of approach," John joked. "I've chosen to circle around a few times before descending, rather than crash land."

The analogy is a good one for the Head of the University's largest school, which is made up of three highly successful and autonomous former Engineering Departments – Civil, Surveying and Environmental; Mechanical; and Chemical.

"Each of the three discipline groupings come with strong backgrounds and all have distinct characteristics," John said. "The task of bringing them together needs to be done very carefully to ensure we don't destroy any of the really good things they have built up over the years."

John is a powerful advocate for his School. He is quick to point to its above average success in attracting research funding to the University – around $6 million a year – as well as its high numbers of Master's and PhD by research students (97). The involvement of Mechanical Engineering in offering courses through Singapore's Productivity Standards Board means the School also exceeds University targets for enrolment of international students.

In fact, John claims that Newcastle's School of Engineering is number one in Australia in terms of research funds, refereed publications and consultancy dollars per head of academic staff. He also cites high student satisfaction rates in the School's courses, as reported in the annual graduate survey. He admits, however, that the School has an Achilles' heel – undergraduate enrolments.

"While our undergraduate programs have attracted reasonable enrolments this year, it's a sad fact that we have had some poor figures in recent years. It's a great shame that engineering, and science as well, are not popular with the general public at the moment, despite the fact that our School can demonstrate 100 percent employment rate of our graduates."

John says that some areas of the School, such as his own discipline of Surveying, have all their final year students employed before the end of the year, and often have many more job offers than graduates to fill them.

"The Faculty as a whole is trying a lot of things to reverse the declining number of undergraduate enrolments, including the very successful Science and Engineering Challenges, as well as the UNISS scholarship scheme, which has around 70 industry sponsors now."

John says the three former departments that make up the Engineering School grew in very diverse ways and have different approaches to the way they administer their laboratories, internal finances, student interface and activities. He says there are few obvious synergies in terms of research and teaching between some of the disciplines.

"We are working on identifying areas in which the disciplines can cooperate in rationalising teaching and investigating other areas such as workshops and laboratories – but it's a matter of gaining trust."

This year is John's 28th at the University. He came here in October 1974 to take up a position as lecturer in Surveying, after completing his undergraduate degree and PhD in Surveying at the University of NSW. He worked for four years as a researcher for the National Mapping Department in Canberra before coming to Newcastle, during which he was seconded to the Research School for Physical Sciences at the Australian National University for two years.

John was attracted to surveying because it married his interest in mathematics with his love of the outdoors. A keen sportsman, John played 201 games of (lower) grade cricket for the University and has played for the past 23 years for the University team in the Newcastle and District Tennis Competition. He was on the Sports Union executive for 12 years, including six years as President.

John teaches in the first year (jointly) and the final year of the Bachelor of Surveying program, as well as taking classes in Forensic Science. He works as a consultant on photogrammetry and forensic matters and has a keen amateur interest in archaeology. He is currently helping research archaeologists from the University of Sydney at a dig in western NSW. He is Chief Investigator for an Australian Research Council Discovery grant project that examines combining sets of data that provide information about land surface shape.

"Data can come from various sources such as aerial photographs, laser scans or traditional surveying and the problem arises in combining diverse data sources from the same area, when they have different accuracies and provisions."

The research will have practical applications in producing maps for flood prone areas, for instance, where it is necessary to combine very precise detailed measurements in small parts like drainage lines with broad scale height and distance data for the whole catchment area. John has been involved in a program to map Newcastle's flood plains.

John says he gets on "extremely well" with the other Heads of School in the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment. While it has taken a while, John says his School now has good communications, with regular – often weekly – meetings between discipline leaders. Although he would like to see the three areas co-locate, John says the range of activities they carry out as well as the physical limitations of the existing engineering buildings makes that impossible in the short term.

"The three discipline groupings that make up the School could all arguably have been viable schools in their own right, so fostering their strengths and creating unity between them remains an interesting challenge."
A modernising agenda

The University’s restructure has given the Faculty of Health the opportunity to lead the nation in the training of health professionals attuned to consumer needs, according to Deputy Executive Dean and Dean of Nursing Professor Margaret McMillan.

As the expectations of an informed and ageing population rise and technology continues to advance, health professionals will increasingly need to work in partnership, Margaret said.

“I believe we now have one of the most comprehensive health faculties in Australia. We are looking to support our local area health services in the Hunter and on the Central Coast to come up with new models of care and then develop appropriate health training and research to fit the new paradigms.”

Margaret says the Faculty wants to model behaviour that mirrors what they believe ought to happen in the real world. To this end, they are seeking new ways to collaborate between disciplines and encouraging a team mentality.

“An example is the way we rotate our Faculty meetings to different sites and have deliberately located our Teaching and Learning Unit closer to Nursing and Allied Health and not in the Medical Biosciences Building,” Margaret said. “We want to profile a new age health professional, who demonstrates collaboration, a capacity for teamwork and a capacity for good communications across the professions.”

The Faculty will begin by looking at opportunities for cross professional learning in the Bachelor of Medicine. The recent launch of video conferencing facilities by the Faculty, in partnership with the University Department of Rural Health (UDRH) and the University Services Division, will facilitate this sort of initiative.

“We know now that we can send students to remote sites and cause them to work with a range of other health professionals, while at the same time providing them with appropriate stimulus materials,” Margaret said. “The UDRH is just one example of the sort of outreach we're wanting to achieve.”

Another example is the Central Coast Clinical Unit, which will see medical, nursing and allied health students studying side-by-side. The students will be given problems to solve that involve working in an integrated way with other health professionals – a problem-based learning approach that encourages students to develop their own roles as well as the capacity to work in a team.

“We also want to lift research profiles of the Faculty and we want that to be multi-professional as well,” Margaret said. “We want to see teams of people coming together in response to a research problem.”

“We want to profile a new age health professional, who demonstrates collaboration, a capacity for teamwork and a capacity for good communications across the professions.”

Collaboration across disciplines is already happening in the mental health area at the University and a new initiative in aged care will seek to establish a multi-disciplinary Centre for Healthy Ageing in the Hunter. Currently, the region has several groups including the Hunter Institute for Ageing, the Geriatric Education in Medicine (GEM) Unit at the John Hunter Hospital, and the Baptist Community Services initiatives. The proposed Centre would bring together a range of different groups under its umbrella, creating a critical mass of researchers across health disciplines to improve their chances of attracting grant funding.

Margaret says that the former Faculty of Nursing had prepared people well for the new Faculty of Health, building its professional profile.

“I think we built our discipline to be in a fairly strong position and existing staff succeeded in extending their qualifications. We were in a state of readiness to move with the national agenda for a multi-professional focus. So we moved forward believing we have something to contribute and with a positive attitude. We are working in partnership rather than at cross purposes.”

Margaret has no illusions about the magnitude of the task facing the Faculty in embracing what she describes as a whole different set of thoughts and values that will lead them to become a truly integrated team. She recognises that it requires the reorganisation of systems, evidence-based management, and maintenance of a climate in which everyone in the Faculty can grow and believe they have something to offer.

“I think we’re in a space where there is a sense of purpose and a ‘can-do’ mentality, as well as a lot of goodwill, not only within the Faculty but across the schools and the health sector. I sense that we are talking seriously with the health services and with our industry partners and that they are willing to work with us.”

The Faculty's newly formulated strategic plan, which is about to be released, incorporates the input of all the major health organisational units of the University and its partners. It supports a modernising agenda that takes into account national developments in both the health and higher education sectors.

“The Schools are crucial organisational units and it's important to highlight their individual characters,” Margaret said. “But it is how we interact as a Faculty that is critical. That's where I'm investing my energy, to contribute to maintaining an environment in which we believe we can achieve our goals.”
University plays part in diabetes research

The results of a collaborative study evaluating diabetes management were announced last month at the Health Outcomes Conference held in Canberra.

The Central Coast Diabetes Program (CCDP) is a model for regional diabetes service delivery and amongst the largest diabetes management programs in Australia. Academic and research staff from the University’s School of eBusiness and Management at the Ourimbah campus collaborated with Central Coast Health and the Central Coast Division of General Practice on the study.

Results to date indicate that participants in the CCDP show improved health outcomes as a result of 'best-practice' diabetes care.

Speaking on behalf of the research team, Dr Peter Lewis of Central Coast Health said the study had been running for over a year and that almost 600 Central Coast people with diabetes and 44 general practitioners had participated.

Dr Lewis said the evaluation measured the application of the NSW Health Department’s ‘Principles of Care and Guidelines for the Clinical Management of Diabetes Mellitus’ in both the diabetes program and routine care.

“We specifically targeted diabetes mellitus (Type 2), or mature-onset diabetes, which often goes undiagnosed and is much more common in older people. We compared patients with Type 2 diabetes enrolled in the CCDP for at least two years with patients who received routine care over the same period,” said Dr Lewis. “Patients participating in the diabetes program were consistently found to have higher compliance with NSW Health’s Guidelines than patients in routine care. This was true across all seven guidelines: blood sugar and lipid testing, Body Mass Index and blood pressure checks, and screening for eye, foot and kidney diseases.”

Preliminary results indicate that participants of the Diabetes Program show improved health outcomes, including lower rates of lipid abnormalities and improved blood glucose control. While acknowledging that there are many other factors that influence blood glucose control and adding that not all the data had yet been analysed, Dr Lewis said that so far, “things look good for the Diabetes Program.”

“Improved blood glucose control has been shown to reduce risks of complications such as heart attacks, strokes and eye, foot and kidney diseases which are associated with adult onset diabetes.”

Dr Lewis said that many of the general practitioners involved in the study felt the Diabetes Program had benefited them and their patients. GPs in regional areas were managing huge patient loads with fewer resources than those available in metropolitan areas. He said the combination of regular recall, GPs and specialist diabetes educators working together improves the processes of care and health outcomes for the patients.

Many patients enrolled in the Diabetes Program were also very positive about their diabetes care. Dr Lewis hopes there will also be positive spin-offs for the health system.

“We expect to see structured care improving overall diabetes care. This means better health for people, fewer health crisis situations, and less demand on hospitals and associated health support services.”

The researchers have applied for additional funding to continue their study and evaluate the results of the Diabetes Program long term. They also want to look at Enhanced Primary Care Planning, the latest addition to the Diabetes Program.

“We are hoping that it will go forward with further funding so that we can continue to educate people about this growing health problem,” Dr Lewis said.

‘Wrongful life’ judgements discussed at conference

A barrister who argued for one of the three claimants in the historic ‘wrongful life/wrongful suffering’ test cases heard in the NSW Supreme Court this year, discussed the judgment against the plaintiffs at a conference held in Newcastle in June.

Visiting Professor Philip Bates from the University’s School of Law presented an overview of the issues determined in the three claims, which were rejected by Justice Timothy Studdert.

IVF baby Keeden Waller inherited the clotting disorder AT3 from her father and Professor Bates appeared as counsel for the Waller family. He presented his thoughts at the 7th annual conference of the Australian Institute of Health Law and Ethics, on bioethics and law, held at the University’s David Macklin Building.

“The issues are broader than medical negligence,” he said. “They include social issues, medical paradoxes, and philosophical issues. Our community’s social values in protecting the sanctity and promoting the quality of life provide a compassionate ethical framework to be addressed in humanitarian terms.”
Going bush for study

Twenty-five Australian and overseas students spent 19 days last month in a unique learning environment—the Australian outback. The students were enrolled in the Outback Diversity course, an innovative program offered by the University to introduce students to the geographical environment of the outback.

The course is unique because the classroom is the environment and students learn how vegetation is managed, how rural areas are responding to changing service provision and how to describe the diversity that makes the Australian outback a heritage icon.

They sleep in shearer and bunk-type accommodation while exploring the biodiversity of the country, the culture of the people and ways they co-exist.

"Most Australian students don't know what it's like to be in the real outback," says Dr Stuart Pearson, lecturer in biodiversity. "For overseas students, the program is an opportunity to get a first-hand understanding of a unique landscape."

During 13 days on the road, students measure the diversity of human and natural environments ranging from beaches, through mountain rainforests to dry lakebeds in the arid zone. They develop and research their own project, present a seminar at a remote site, attend workshops and lectures, speak to experts, keep a log of their experiences and write up their project at the end of the program.

American exchange student Michelle Morgan had only been in Australia for two days when she embarked on the Outback Diversity course.

"The course turned out to be a wonderful choice," she said. "I got to experience Australia with Australians, which is quite rare, and even though all the kids on tour came from completely different backgrounds, I found out we are all so alike. I've never got so much out of a course in my life."

The program begins in Port Stephens and then follows a transect west through Lightning Ridge and up to Hungerford in South West Queensland, a place described in the poems of Henry Lawson.

Dr Kate Hartig, a human geographer who teaches with Stuart, says the course has no prerequisites and is open to students from any discipline who are interested in acquiring new skills.

"We have had medical and education students on the course," Kate said. "Stuart and I have very different skills and another advantage of the field work is that we have both learned each other's skills and techniques."

Education student Alison Walker, who went on the trip, hadn't studied geography since Year 8 in high school. She is interested in teaching in rural areas and had a friend who went on the first Outback Diversity course last year.

"It wasn't as difficult as I thought it would be. We went to schools in Lightning Ridge and Bourke, as well as a one-teacher school with 19 students in Weilmingale. It really confirmed my desire to work in a remote school and the Principal at Bourke offered me the chance to do my prac there."

Alison, whose project for the course was on the challenges facing educators in rural areas, has enrolled in a geography course this semester after finding the environmental science and geography students on the tour really helpful and the lecturers supportive.

The Outback Diversity tour was special this year, as 2002 has been designated the Year of the Outback. Course details are available on the web at: http://www.newcastle.edu.au/discipline/geography/outbackdiversity/
The following is an excerpt of the eulogy delivered by Dr Bernie Carrin at the funeral of his friend and Classics colleague, Emeritus Professor Godfrey Tanner.

The world and we have lost a very special person — a rare individual.

He was a gentleman, a scholar, a teacher, an orator, a citizen of the world, a patron of the arts, of culture and sport, theologian and philosopher. The public man — the man in the brown suit, the academic gown, the colours Blazer, the Union Jacket — the right coat, the right tie for the right occasion, be it a meeting of University Council or the Anglican Synod, be it dinner at the Newcastle Club, the Athenaeum, the British Schools at Rome and Athens, or at St John’s College Cambridge.

And there is the private man, the simple man, the man of great humility, the generous man who quietly gave much to many, who enjoyed the company of his friends in their homes and in his home. The man who enjoyed the peace and quiet of his own thoughts, music in the background and the intimacy of books. He was a very sensitive man, easily hurt and yet a very forgiving man — a man for whom the teachings of Christ were a way of life. This is the man of tattered and well worn clothes, old T-shirts and cardigans, funny baseball hats and knapsacks with broken straps, crumpled old shorts and sandals. The man who served tea, Arrowroot biscuits, ‘gunpowder’ coffee and sherry left over from a sixth sherry party.

Godfrey Tanner came to Newcastle in 1959 aged 32. From the University of Melbourne and Cambridge he brought excellent academic credentials. From the King’s School Parramatta he brought a love of teaching and the role of the Hunter community. The Athenaeum, the British Schools at Rome and Athens or at St John’s College Cambridge.

He brought a bicycle! And he brought a suitcase, an old fashioned suitcase, preparing his thoughts for Godfrey’s ‘Gripe’ on 2NURFM. His alumni work completed the cycle of his work to the University. 2NUR took him to the world.

In 1980 the Godfrey Tanner Scholarship Fund was established with a generous endowment from him and his friend Peter Hendry. It was a scholarship to assist students who had been disadvantaged in one way or another. The scholars who have received this award are, however, the first “official” Tanner scholars. Godfrey had supported many others through the years but this was not public knowledge.

Let me draw your attention to a passage from R.M. Foster who in his book “Pharos and Philoctetes” gives a description of the modern Greek poet Cavafy, who was Godfrey’s favourite modern poet. You will note an uncanny similarity between Cavafy and Godfrey Tanner:

“A French gentleman in a straw hat, standing absolutely motionless at a slight angle to the universe. His arms extended, positively ‘Oh, Cavafy!’ Yes it is Mr Cavafy, and he is going from his flat to the office or from his office to the flat. If the former, he vanishes when seen, with a slight gesture of despair. If the latter, he may be prevailed upon to begin a sentence — an immense complicated yet simple sentence, full of parentheses that never get mixed and of reservations that really defy a sentence: a sentence that moves with logic to its forseen end, yet to an end that is always the more vivid and thrilling than one foresaw. Sometimes the sentence is finished in the street, sometimes the traffic murders it, sometimes it lasts into the flat. It deals with the tricky behaviour of the Emperor Alexius Comnenus in 1096 or with olives, their possibilities and price, or with the fortunes of friends, or with George Elliot or the diabetes of the interior of Asia Minor. It is delivered with equal ease in Greek, English or French and despite its intellectual richness and human outlook, despite the natural clarity of its judgements, one feels that it too stands at a slight angle to the universe.”

I came across this passage in a book Godfrey had lent me only two weeks ago. Ironically I was reading this passage when Godfrey had begun his departure from the world. As I read these words ‘at a slight angle to the universe’, I thought at last I have found the most appropriate description of Ronald Godfrey Tanner.

For me — his greatest strengths were:

• He loved teaching and he knew his subject;
• He saw no distinction between teaching and research and believed that they were linked and that the prospect of a research institute as separate from the University was a complete contradiction;
• He was dedicated to the all-round University experience — the Kalas Kal Agathes Ideal;
• He believed that as a citizen and member of the community he had an obligation to belong and to share in the responsibilities that came with the rights of the community;
• His learning and his scholarship underpinned his daily life, his values, his perspective, his relationships and his goals in life. He did not accept that definition of the word ‘academic’ which implied either ‘practical’ or ‘irrelevant’;
• Above all he believed in people; he valued friendship, fellowship and community. These were vitally linked with learning. His greatest strength was that although he knew so much, and had a distinguished record in scholarship, he could make each of us believe we were on his level. He had the ability to inspire faith in ourselves and our ability to learn;
• He was the traditionalist, the conservative, the establishment man who seemed to be forever challenging convention, cast and hypocrisy.
Award winning architect visits

Renowned Australian architect Glenn Murcutt, who has won the prestigious 2002 Pritzker Architecture Prize, delivered a public lecture at the University last month.

Murcutt gave a lecture on his work and his perceptions of the contemporary condition of architecture in Australia. The lecture was his first since receiving the Pritzker Prize in Rome earlier this year. The award is an international acknowledgement of Glenn's contributions as an architect and teacher. It adds to his 25 awards received in Australia, including the Royal Australian Institute of Architects' coveted Gold Medal.

The lecture was part of the two-week residential master class organised by the University's School of Architecture and Built Environment, says Conjoint Professor Lindsay Johnston.

Videoconference Centre to remove distance

The technology was displayed at the launch through an online hour-long link between the Callaghan campus, the UDRH in Tamworth and the University's Ourimbah campus.

Executive Director of Education Services Lynne Benton says the videoconferencing facility is a valuable resource for the University.

"The Centre, located in the Auchmuty Library, represents the University's commitment to provide and enhance flexible distance education programs," she said. "The UDRH has funded the equipment for the Videoconference Centre at the Callaghan campus and at Tamworth through the New England Area Health Service, to support the Rural Health Initiative."

This now means that Tamworth based students will be able to participate in lectures based in Newcastle while experiencing the challenge of medicine and health service delivery in regional and rural Australia.

"Videoconferencing will no doubt allow for the development of a world class teaching and learning environment," Lynne said. "It is the way of the future and we expect that more and more courses will utilise the equipment."

Ms Jo Gwyyn demonstrated how the UDRH and the University will use videoconferencing to support the Occupational Therapy program. Classes for Tamworth based medicine and occupational therapy students begin this semester.
International award for science communicators

Associate Professor John O'Connor, Bob Nelson and Terry Burns were presented with an award last month from the UK Institute of Physics (IOP) in London, recognising their work in promoting physics to the public.

The award is the IOP's Public Awareness of Physics Award for 2002, for the creation of the Science, Maths and Real Technology (SMART) program, their work in coordinating the Australian Science SMART Communicators (Hunter Chapter) and the Science and Engineering Challenge.

The Award is made to individuals or groups who have demonstrated inspiration, innovation and enthusiasm in promoting physics to the public. It has previously been given to the University of Edinburgh and the BBC in Scotland, Nanyang Polytechnic in Singapore, the University of East London in England and Cardiff University in Wales.

The University's SMART program, now in its fifth year, is acknowledging the Year Of The Outback. The program began in 1998 with 25 shows and a total audience of 2,300. Last year 300 shows were performed to more than 19,000 people.

The Science and Engineering Challenge has this year secured a $20,000 grant to operate during National Science Week. The hands-on experiments and development exercises demonstrate scientific principles and approaches to students, who need to combine knowledge and creativity to find the best solution to a series of activities.

Associate Professor John O'Connor is Head of the School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, Terry Burns is a postgraduate student with the School and Bob Nelson is Executive Director of the University of Newcastle Technical Director of, ERACOM Pty Ltd for manufacturing security products, especially in the financial area.

University honours Queensland achievers

The University recognised the achievements of two of its graduates by presenting them with Alumni Awards (Queensland) in July.

The Honourable Virginia Chadwick is currently Chair and Chief Executive of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the principal adviser to the Commonwealth Government on the care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Prior to her current position, Ms Chadwick was a member of the New South Wales Legislative Council, from 1978 until her retirement from Parliament in 1999. During her years in Parliament, Ms Chadwick remained a resident of Newcastle. She was a founding member of the Women's Electoral Lobby in Newcastle and from 1988 until 1990, she served on the University Council, resigning when she was appointed Minister for Education.

Ms Chadwick was the first women to hold this position in NSW, as well as the first woman to be elected President of the Legislative Council.

Professor William Caelli has made an outstanding contribution to the information technology industry in Queensland. He founded, and was Technical Director of, ERACOM Pty Ltd for 20 years. The Gold Coast company specialises in PR products, especially in People & Places.
Award-winning student off to Germany

Outstanding language student Alanna Seccombe has won two prestigious awards as a result of her German studies.

Alanna, an Arts student, was presented with the 2001 Goethe Prize in German Studies by German Vice-Consul Ms Ines Reising last month. She also won a DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) scholarship to study in Germany for six months.

In a presentation ceremony for the Goethe Prize held at the University in July, Consul Reising congratulated Alanna on her scholarship. "The Goethe Prize is awarded by the German government for outstanding performance in German studies," she said. "I'm pleased to see that although Australians speak a widely accepted international language - English - there are still some who continue to be interested in learning and speaking German."

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Ron MacDonald welcomed the students and stressed the relationship of the University with German scientists and scholars. Ron had been a researcher at the Max-Planck Institut in Munich earlier in his career.

Associate Professor of German, Fred Walla, said that Alanna was a virtual beginner when she started her tertiary studies in German.

"Her achievements are remarkable," he said. "Of the high quality students chosen to study Advanced German, none were as persistent and dedicated as Alanna, who scored 90 percent in Advanced German studies at the University last semester. This year, only 14 students in all of Australia were awarded DAAD scholarships, so they are highly competitive."

Fred also praised Alanna for her extra-curricular activities, which include fundraising for a number of charities including the 40-Hour Famine and Amnesty International. She is an executive member of the University's Archery Club and Vegetarian Club and has been student representative for Modern Languages twice. She has also undertaken French and Chinese studies at the University.

"I have a passion for German," Alanna said. "My lecturers have been incredibly supportive and inspired me to further my studies and learn more about the German people and their culture. I will be studying in Trier in the west of Germany because the University has an exchange agreement with Newcastle and I have some friends there. Trier is the oldest German city, and has important Roman ruins. It was also the birth place of Karl Marx."

Alanna, whose parents Margaret and Phil both work at the University, hopes to stay on in Germany at the end of the six months covered by her scholarship to take part in the Goethe program, teaching English in German high schools. Ultimately, she would like to work in the foreign service or as a translator for a German company.

Quality progress at the University: visits by AUQA

Two members of the AUQA Audit Team - Professor Stephen Parker (Chair), Dean of Law, Monash University and Mr Martin Carroll, AUQA staff member - recently visited the University to prepare for the audit panel’s arrival in September.

The visitors met with members of the University executive to discuss the program and review the logistics for the Audit Visit. AUQA will now finalise the exact groupings of stakeholders to be included in the program so the University can complete arrangements. A detailed program will be produced about two weeks before the four-day Audit Visit, which begins on September 3.

The remaining AUQA Audit Panel members are Emeritus Professor Peter Drake (Consultant), Professor Nirwan Idrus (President, IMPI Graduate School of Business, Indonesia), Professor Ruth Grant (PVC, University of South Australia) and invited observer Dr Vin Massaro (Chief Executive, Royal Australian College of Surgeons).

The Audit Visit allows the panel to test the statements in the University’s Performance Portfolio 2002, which was submitted to AUQA in June. The panel will seek insight into the University’s operation through investigation and personal interaction. It will judge the evidence it has been given on areas including the thoroughness of program planning, the support of students, the morale of staff, the attitude of students, the intellectual atmosphere and the commitment to quality.

The panel will reach its conclusions through interviews carried out during the visit and reflections on them. The program is designed to permit the panel to carry out any necessary investigations and is sufficiently flexible to allow for further information to be provided or additional interviews to be arranged, if required.

Initially, two members of the Audit Panel will visit the Ourimbah campus on September 3 to talk with staff, students and industry partners. The full panel will meet that afternoon for discussion. Any differences that arise between panel members will be resolved in private meetings before the end of the visit. The panel usually operates as a group, but may split up to allow for brief visits by individual panel members to a specific part of the campus, for instance, in parallel with ongoing interview sessions.

The panel would generally meet people once only. AUQA may ask the University to select a group from a wider population, for instance undergraduate students or community representatives. People appearing
**Major science conference in Newcastle**

The University hosted the 7th International Conference on the Structure of Surfaces, held in Newcastle last month.

More than 20 staff and students from the University were among 180 from around the world in the city for the five-day event, which injected around half a million dollars into the local economy.

Associate Professor John O'Connor led the city's bid to host the conference.

"We were up against stiff competition from Nagoya in Japan, but it was the standing of the conference organising team, the rare opportunity to interact with scientists and students from Australia, and the appeal of Newcastle that won the bid for us," he said.

The International Conference on the Structure of Surfaces is a leading international meeting in the field and addresses cutting-edge advances in what happens on surfaces at the atomic level. It helps scientists gain fundamental knowledge about the way materials work to be applied to such areas of high-technology as catalysis, advanced electronics, smart coatings, quantum computing, nanotechnology and photonics.

John says the organising team was supported by the Department of State and Regional Development, as it sees opportunities for Australia and the Hunter to benefit from high-technology initiatives.

"To further this goal, representatives from County Energy attended sessions related to the University's development of 'plastic solar collectors'. This development and the establishment of the CSIRO Division of Energy are very positive signs for creating a nucleus of innovation in the Hunter."

The University has a strong record in its contribution to Surface Science. Beginning in 1990, with the appointment of Ron MacDonald (now the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research) as Professor of Physics, the Surface and Interface research groups at the University have received over $10 million in research grants, published over 320 papers in refereed publications and more than 220 conference papers, and trained more than 55 research students.

The Surface Structure Prize was awarded at the Conference to a team of three - Franco Jona (State University of New York), Paul M. Marcus and Donald W. Jepsen (IBM Research Center), for their pioneering contributions to the development of quantitative low-energy electron diffraction (LEED) for the determination of the atomic structure of crystal surfaces. The Surface Structure Prize is a prestigious award only made once every three years.

A/Professor John O'Connor (centre front) with researchers from the Surface and Interface groups

In a final private meeting, the panel gathers up the conclusions it has reached. It is important to reach consensus, so the Audit Report reflects the opinion of the whole panel. Assisted by the Chair, the AUQA staff member records the major points for inclusion in the Audit Report. Strengths and instances of good practice are highlighted, while recommended areas for improvement are addressed constructively. The precise wording is developed later through several drafts of the Audit Report. The panel also agrees on a brief oral report that indicates the flavour of its observations and conclusions.

A meeting of the panel with the Vice-Chancellor signals the conclusion of the Audit Visit. The Chair presents the oral report, which should have a tone and content consistent with the full written report. The University may ask for clarification of details, but the meeting should not become a debate.

On rare occasions, questions raised at this exit meeting may reveal a serious gap in the panel's investigation. In this case, the panel may reconvene to consider some issue and further clarification may be needed before a written report is produced.

In mid-October 2002 the draft Audit Report will be made available to the University and the final report will be made public in early December.

For information about the AUQA audit process please visit our website at www.newcastle.edu.au/quality/ or contact Ivan Skaines on 4921 5109 or email Ivan.Skaines@newcastle.edu.au
Gift provides a healthier future

Mrs Jennie Thomas has donated funds to establish a perpetual postgraduate scholarship in cardiac research and provide state-of-the-art instrumentation to assist in the research.

The donation to Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI) has been given in celebration of the life she enjoyed with her late husband, Mr Philip Emlyn Thomas. To be known as "The Emlyn and Jennie Thomas Postgraduate Medical Research Scholarship", the scholarship will give PhD students from the University the opportunity to further their education and training in cardiac research.

"This scholarship is an extremely generous gift," Chairman of HMRI's Hunter Heart-Lung Research Guild Dr James Edwards said. "It is testimony to the strength and selflessness of an incredible couple who have made a real difference to the wellbeing of many people. The scholarship will be a lasting legacy that will continue to provide real benefits to Newcastle and the Hunter by supporting young researchers as they establish their careers in medical research."

When making the donation last month, Mrs Thomas said it gave her "great pleasure to assist students as they embark on the exciting but exacting task of pushing the boundaries of cardiac research here at John Hunter Hospital."

The scholarship celebrates the lives of both Philip Emlyn Thomas and Jennie Thomas, Philip, known to family and friends as "Em", began his life's work in the scientific field of spectroscopy while studying at the University of Newcastle. Jennie, who also trained in Newcastle, dedicated her life to migrant and refugee education and teacher education.

Minna steps out in new skin

The School of Design and Communication has been working on a small dinosaur in a corner of their studios for the past few months, gradually making her look as she would have about 110 million years ago.

Wildlife artists Herbert Heinrich and Anne Llewellyn were given a grant by Macquarie University to complete an unfinished project, but found the dinosaur they were given wasn't what they wanted the finished product to be. So they detailed a new beast in clay model and then cast Minna.

The replica appears in front of an exhibition titled "Minni paravertebrus, Molnar 1980, the skeleton", which was opened last month.

The dinosaur is Australia's only known Ankylosaur, an armored herbivore about the size of a small cow. It was named after the place where the first bones were found in the 1960s near Minmi Crossing in Southern Queensland.

"Macquarie University handed the task on to us because of our skills in modelling and painting in this style," said Herbert. "We had to decide what these dinosaurs would have looked like, the skin colour, the claw shapes and so on. Minna is made of soft thermosetting urethane for its tactile qualities. The suit and internal casting are made from water based resin reinforced with fiberglass mat. Minna will find her permanent home in the foyer of the science building at Macquarie University."

Rowing for pain research

Twenty eight boats took to the Hunter River last month for a 40-kilometre row to raise money for research into chronic pain and fatigue conditions.

The Carrington to Berry Park Rowing Marathon is a cooperative venture between the Newcastle University Boat Club, Endeavour Rowing Club and Newcastle Rowing Club, and is sponsored by the Honeysuckle Development Corporation, Musashi, and Rankin and Nathan Solicitors.

All money raised go to the Gideon Lang Research Foundation, recently established to raise funds to enable research into the causes of the chronic pain and fatigue which affect more than 30 percent of the world's population at some stage in their lives.

The boats, which took 119 rowers at one minute intervals from a point near the Cowper Street bridge from 7am on July 14, created a colourful spectacle on the Hunter. The rowers paid tribute to the late Professor Godfrey Tanner, who was the 'father' of rowing at the University. Donations for medical research can be made to 4921 5630.
Visiting artist adds spice

The University’s fibre/textile workshop was a hive of activity during the semester break as staff and students from the School of Fine Art helped visiting Brazilian artist Ernesto Neto create a unique artwork.

Ernesto, in Australia to exhibit in the Contemporary Projects Space at the Art Gallery of NSW, was artist-in-residence at the University last month. He collaborated with academic staff and students to create a huge fabric room installation for the State gallery exhibition.

Based in Rio de Janeiro, the 38-year old Neto has had numerous exhibitions including solo shows at the Kunsthalle Basel, ICA in London, and represented Brazil in the Biennale di Venezia last year. He works with fabrics that stretch across gallery spaces resembling architectural forms or bodily membranes.

“I wanted to make sculpture to show the existence of gravity,” Ernesto explains. “I’ve been thinking about this work for three months. It will have spices in it – turmeric, cloves, cumin and pepper – around 200 kilograms.”

Ernesto learned to sew by himself, gathering some techniques from his grandmother but learning most by trial and error.

“I’m still learning after 20 years of work. Sometimes it’s good to do things the wrong way – to just try and solve a problem using techniques that aren’t commonly used, because then you can create something that’s more surprising.”

Ernesto worked with Professor Anne Graham and senior lecturer in ceramics Pam Sinnott on a research project exploring the significance of spices, foods and implements in defining notions of cultural identity during his residency. They collaborated on a large scale work that will be exhibited in the University Gallery next March.

The Artist in Residency program is funded through the University’s Research Office and the School of Fine Art. The School also provided opportunities for students from other disciplines – design, architecture and industrial design – to interact with Ernesto during his visit.

Empowering links between art and sport

It isn’t often that art and sport are linked but Watt Space Galleries ran an exhibition last month, Empowering body and mind, that did just that.

Timed to coincide with the Eastern University Games, which took place in Newcastle in July, the open show invited the University’s art students to create works that explored the link between art and sport.

Gallery Director Anne McLaughlin said the result was an electric exhibition of works that explored the theme of sport in a wide variety of ways.

“Artists, just like athletes, empower their body and their mind to create an artwork. The 48 students who contributed to the exhibition responded to the challenge using different mediums including photomedia, painting, sculpture and photography.”

Watt Space offered prizes in five categories and even the judges were drawn from both the sporting and artistic arenas. Artist Michael Cusack joined sports administrator Dianne Pascoe and Step Aerobics Champion Kristy de Lore to judge the competition. The winners were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Painting</td>
<td>Joshua Smith, Untitled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photomedia</td>
<td>Martin Trew, Untitled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Works on paper</td>
<td>Valentina Trananovski, Censor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sculpture</td>
<td>Kim Blunt, First Cut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miniature</td>
<td>Derek Gilby, Untitled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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University President Vic Levi said the garden would now create a sheltered tropical zone for student enjoyment and relaxation.

"The Roof Garden is a unique extension to the library, providing a place to read, study, relax and socialise that is in harmony with the richness of the University's bushland environment," he said. "The Friends actively support the Auchmuty Library. Two of our members, Pat and Ted Flowers, were part of the library for many years so we were able to see how refurbishing the roof garden would benefit students and staff."

The original roof garden was created in 1969, one year after the Auchmuty Library opened. It became a very popular spot, but the effects of weather and time meant that the garden began to disintegrate. It became run down and was wind swept in the winter and extremely hot in summer. The refurbishment work was conceived with the input of library staff and students who use the area and all work was designed by University staff.

"The new pergola provides covered access between the north and south areas of the Auchmuty Library and the plants have been selected for shade tolerance as well as atmospheric appeal," Vic explained. "The Friends use funds raised by the biennial book fair to work on projects to enhance the University and to provide additional comforts for staff and students."

Previous projects which the Friends have helped fund include interpretive signage for the Don Morris Walk, the Wetlands Pavilion on Scobie Heath, the Beeston Tapestry in the Great Hall and projects at International House.

Science student Alexander Sabella is the sole Australian student to be awarded the Lucent Global Science Scholars Program Scholarship in 2002.

Alex, currently in the second year of a five-year combined Bachelor of Engineering (Telecommunications) and Bachelor of Science (Photonics) degree, has received the award in recognition of his academic excellence and scientific achievement.

"This is a great honour for Alex and for the University," says Dr John Holdsworth, Lecturer in Photonics. "Only 60 students from across 17 countries, including the United States, Japan, Germany, India, Singapore, England and Australia, are awarded the scholarship."

All Lucent Global Science Scholars are awarded $5000 (US) and receive an invitation to participate in a global summit and an internship at Lucent Technologies in their home country. Alex left last month for the six-day Summit held at Lucent Technologies headquarters in Murray Hill, New Jersey.

"The summit provides the opportunity to work with international students on projects under the guidance of Lucent facilitators," Alex said. "The industry is changing so quickly. This scholarship will complement my studies at the University, providing me with invaluable experience."

This is the second scholarship this year that the 20-year-old from Hamilton has received. Alex was awarded a Photonics Summer Scholarship from the University's School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences.

"That scholarship allowed me to help to design, create, document and evaluate laboratory experiments for the new second year Modern Optics course. I'm hoping to pursue a career in photonics research. There are amazing possibilities as photonics can be applied to a range of areas including energy generation, medical technology and communications and information processing."

IDP Education Australia manages the Lucent Global Science Scholars Program in Australia. The Lucent Technologies Foundation established the Global Science Scholars Program to encourage the world's youth to pursue careers in technology.
Rural students taste medical career

Thirty five high school students from rural and regional NSW with their eyes on careers in health took part in a workshop at the University in July as part of Rural High Schools Health Career Week.

The students, from as far afield as Broken Hill, the Far North Coast, Riverina and Moree, are from Years 10 and 11 and have decided on a career in either medicine or a health science, or have been chosen as having the ability to enter into a health degree program.

The two-day workshop at Newcastle combined with four days at the University of Sydney and the University of New South Wales. The workshop exposes students to city and university life and aims to increase their confidence and knowledge of the medicine programs offered, and positively influence their interest in studying medicine or health sciences.

The students toured the University's residential accommodation and the Callaghan campus, as well as some of the sights of Newcastle City and beaches. They also toured John Hunter Hospital, attended short lectures on the University's problem based learning approach, had lunch with fourth year medical students and visited Ronald Macdonald House and the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service.

Newcastle hosts AMSA Convention

The University's medical school hosted the Australian Medical Students' Association (AMSA) Convention last month, marking the first time the event has been held in a regional centre in its 43-year history.

AMSA is the peak representative body for the 8500 domestic and international students studying medicine throughout Australia. The week-long convention, held in July each year, attracts 500 medical students from the 11 medical schools in Australia and two in New Zealand.

AMSA Committee member and Newcastle medical student Kamal Ali said the theme for this year's Convention was "International Medicine".

"We saw this event as our opportunity to highlight the qualities that make the Hunter region unique," Kamal said. "It also gave us the chance to attract future medical professionals and health funding to the region."

Kamal with fellow AMSA representative Ben Walker organised an opening evening for the students at Maitland Gaol. The students converted the historic gaol into a medieval castle in keeping with their chosen theme for the evening, "Warriors and Wenches".

Apology

The artist pictured in the photograph (right), which was published on page 19 of the July issue of Uninews, is internationally acclaimed US textile artist Jane Dunnewold and not Newcastle fine art student Marie-Therese Wisniowski. Uninews apologises to Jane and Marie-Therese for the mistaken identity.
More than 3,200 University students converged on Newcastle last month for the 2002 Arrive Alive Eastern University Games.

The students brought with them an expected $1.5million economic boost for the local economy, a figure that is expected to triple when NUSport hosts the 2003 Australian University Games in Newcastle.

The University made the most of the hometown advantage, sweeping the medal pool with eight gold, four silver and three bronze medals to lead the Games overall point score. Newcastle convincingly defeated 27 other universities from across NSW and the ACT to win the Overall Champion University trophy. The Spirit of the Games trophy was also awarded to the University for its participation, sportsmanship and goodwill.

The University's men's basketball team defeated the University of Sydney by 91-70 in the final to win gold and World Junior Championship representatives Sharon O'Brien and Steven Butcher led our archery team to victory, winning six out of 12 possible events. The women's tennis team was led to a gold medal by Jenny-Anne Fetch, as she continued her four-year winning streak. The University's defending national champion men's soccer team overcame some tough pool games to blitz their opponents five goals to nil in the final and a new line up for the women's touch side proved successful as they won their first ever gold medal at an Eastern University Games. Other sides to pick up gold medals included men's rugby, men's baseball and women's badminton.

The University's performance was enhanced by the participation of the largest ever contingent of athletes from the Ourimbah Campus, with a squad of 80 representing the Central Coast in a range of sports.

Newcastle's medal count:

GOLD Medals
- Archery
- Badminton - Women's
- Baseball
- Basketball - Men's
- Rugby - Men's
- Soccer - Men's
- Tennis - Women's
- Touch - Women's

SILVER Medals
- Rugby - Women's
- Squash - Men's
- Touch - Men's
- Volleyball - Women's

BRONZE Medals
- Squash - Women
- Softball - Women's
- Hockey - Men's

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