University hubs – coming to a location near you

There has been quite a hive of activity over at the new Hunter Hub at Callaghan.

Carpet is down and the furniture is being moved in, cabling is being installed and computers are on their way. With staff getting ready to move in, our first student Hub will be ready to open shortly.

The Hubs will be a ‘one-stop shop’ for students, combining support and administrative services, and offering a blend of online facilities, lounges, food outlets and service desks in a relaxed atmosphere. Four Hubs in total are planned, at the Shortland Union (Callaghan), City Precinct, Student Services Centre (Callaghan) and Ourimbah.
I was Acting Vice-Chancellor and President during most of September while Mike Saunders took a well-deserved break. It was wonderful to work closely with a range of colleagues over that time, and to get a deeper understanding of the commitment and talents of all of us involved with the University. There were many events and achievements over September, and I’d like to mention just a few to give a sense of how well we’re doing.

It was inspirational when Allison Burgess was named the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year, at the 2006 NSW Training Awards. Allison completed a traineeship at the University in 2004, studying Certificate III in Business at TAFE while working with the University.

In a major success nationally, Michael Ostwald and Tony Williams obtained a prestigious Discipline Based Initiative Grant from the Carrick Institute. This grant will support work on "Teaching and Instructional Issues and Opportunities for Architecture and Associated Disciplines".

At an important IRIA Learning and Teaching Forum in Adelaide, which involved staff from all the Innovative Research Universities, ten of our colleagues shared practices on learning and teaching issues. Our presentations were very well received, and included information on techniques to raise the profile of laboratory work in introductory physics courses, the success of the Graduate School of Business' academic integrity processes; the role of multimedia in delivering Bachelor of Nursing courses; and an experience-based learning model to prepare social work students for practice.

It was truly wonderful that our student team from Wollotuka won the National Indigenous Tertiary Education Student Games held at Griffith University. BJ Tapim, Toby Whainga, Marc Sutherland, Zac Elbourne, Sean White, Michael Newman, Sarah Bergan, Briony Borella, Megan Griffiths, Tammy Small, Ashley Craig, Florence Drummond and Renee Chambers competed against more than 100 other students from across the country to take out the number one spot.

More broadly, three independent university ranking systems recognized the standing of our University: The Shanghai Jiao Tong University Academic Ranking placed us at 337 in 2006, up from 362 in 2005 and 398 in 2004. The Times Higher Education Supplement placed us at 127 in a list of the world's top 250 universities and at 63 in its list of the world's top 100 Biomedicine Universities. The Newswest International "Top 100 Global Universities" placed us at 97.

These events and achievements are just a snapshot of the University's activities over September. Recognising and celebrating our colleagues and students is a key part of the culture of our University as we re-position for a future of improved quality and further growth. It is each of our contributions that make the University.

Kevin McCraken
Acting Vice-Chancellor and President

Congratulations to the Head of the School of Architecture and Built Environment, Professor Michael Ostwald, and Deputy Head of School and Assistant Dean, Associate Professor Tony Williams, who have won a Discipline Based Initiative Grant from the renowned Carrick Institute. Michael and Tony will use the grant to undertake a study into Teaching and Instructional Issues and Opportunities for Architecture and Associated Disciplines.

A helping hand for Port Macquarie students

Three students studying at the University of Newcastle's Port Macquarie campus have received scholarships totalling $13,500. Belynda Walker has received the Hastings Council Undergraduate Scholarship, while David Portelli and Julie McCoy have been awarded the Leidos Land Group's Sovereign IBIS Scholarship.

Belynda, 24, is in her first year of a Bachelor of Nursing degree program. She said the scholarship money of $3,500 per year for three years, would help her buy textbooks and other materials for her studies.

"With just one scholarship on offer from the Council, I feel privileged to have received it," she said.

David and Julie both agreed that a scholarship helps ease the burden for students.

"It means I can spend more time focusing on University work, as there's less pressure for me to earn money to pay for my expenses," said Julie.

The 19-year-old is the only female enrolled in Information Technology at Port Macquarie, which she said made her "more determined" to succeed in the industry.

For David, 21, who is completing a Bachelor of Engineering, his scholarship relieves the pressure associated with juggling study, running his own business and caring for his wife and two young children.

"I was very happy," he said. "Having a University campus at Port Macquarie has been a blessing.

"It has made a huge difference," he said. "It wasn't an easy degree but also wanted to stay in Port because my family is here.

"When the campus started here I was so pleased. It's just up the road from my house."

Marc Glanville joins Office of Graduate Studies

Marc Glanville - who many will know from his outstanding rugby league career - has recently joined the University's Office of Graduate Studies as a project officer.

During his sporting career, Marc racked up 204 games, of which 188 were first grade. His sporting talent took him to the United Kingdom to play for the Leeds Rhinos and earned him lifetime membership of the Newcastle Knights. Since retiring from professional football in 1999, Marc has been the Business Development Manager for local firm Turnbull Hill Lawyers. Marc, a University of Newcastle graduate, said it was great to be back working with the Office of Graduate Studies to help it continue to build its support for academics and students.

The University of Newcastle has been in the media spotlight over the past few weeks with a number of national stories and a number of local stories. Hitting the headlines across the country were Professor Kevin Howes' research into certain commonly used anti-inflammatory drugs and the increased risk of heart attack or stroke for patients who already have heart disease; Faculty of Arts and Humanities Professor Stewart Franks' predictions of another El Ninio; the University's new Palaeo Research Centre; and.AutoSizeMode news on the Newcastle Herald and the Information Days across our three campuses received extensive coverage including live radio cross from the events.

The University Relations team provided a range of support for these stories including organising a press conference, drafting, and issuing media material, media training and providing interviews.

To get your story out there, contact the Media and Public Relations team. We have a number of avenues to let the media know more about large and small stories happening across the University. For more information on media at the University go to our media website at www.newcastle.edu.au/media/
Raising the research stakes

The University of Newcastle has embarked on a new era in research announcing 10 Priority Research Centres.

With an anticipated value of more than $20 million over three years, the Priority Research Centres will strategically focus energies on areas of existing and potential research strength, in health, science and IT, and energy and the environment.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Barry Glover said the establishment of Priority Research Centres would help to maintain the University's position in the top 10 research higher education institutions in Australia.

"The Priority Research Centres also enable the University to continue supporting other important research activities, emerging areas and niche opportunities.

"Innovative research is underway across the arts, humanities and social sciences disciplines. Further major initiatives will be announced soon focusing on new research concentrations in education and the arts, business and law."

"A number of staff have already been selected including the Team Forrest Institute for the Environment."
the 2006 Information Days a huge success.

Thanks to everyone involved in making

Information Days
The Oboe — an enduring passion

The Oboe has been an enduring passion for Linda Walsh for most of her life. Oboe lecturer at the University's Conservatorium of Music for the past ten years, Linda not only continues to enjoy a fulfilling musical career, but has passed on her knowledge to highly successful graduates.

She has been a language teacher, a music teacher at Sydney Conservatorium of Music, played in the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and the Australian Chamber Orchestra, and has studied and performed in Switzerland as a result of a scholarship from the Swiss Government.

Standing out from the crowd

More than 1200 staff and students have responded to an online survey about the University's image and reputation in the first 24 hours of it being emailed out.

The survey response has been matched by equally strong interest in the brand identity which has enjoyed much success at Newcastle University, including its interest in the project that has been continued by others in workshops, interviews and presentations given across the University since the project began in early June.

"There's a strong expression of need from all areas of the University to have a much more vibrant and engaging style and personality that aligns with the fresh look of direction and energy emerging through the strategic planning process," she said.

Staff and students from all other stakeholder groups have also spoken very well of the project, which is "useful and helpful in standing out from our peers and competitors.

"We will have a strong voice to reflect that's important and appropriate for all our stakeholders.

"Our brand architecture will reflect the needs of our students and partners in a coherent whole.

"We will have a language for our brand and a way of talking that's memorable and helps to stand out from our peers and competitors.

"We will have a number of key projects under way or complete which show what it means to be on brand.

"We will lay guidelines to make our brand over time.

For more information visit our brand and communications website.

Contact Andrea Hammond

Director — Marketing and Public Relations

Phone: 9460 2170
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Recognising sporting excellence

Three time Paralympian Christie Dawes in the University of Newcastle's Sports Person of the Year (SPOTY) for 2005.

26-year-old Christie is in her final year of a Bachelor of Early Childhood/Bachelor of Teaching degree at the University. Her achievements include representing Australia at the 2004 Commonwealth Games and being selected as a member of the Australian Paralympic squad for the Beijing 2008 Paralympics.

University Blues, for excellence in sport; in 2005, have been awarded to Adam Melmeth for Basketball and Jonathan Holmes for Ultimate Frisbee.

Christopher Colman (Rugby), Andrew Percival (soccer) and Graham Ether (rugby union) have all received University Colours, for outstanding contribution to the organisation and administration of a NUSport club in 2005.

Great service and great value for your whitehites

Tribute to Olivia Sharp and Adam Gibson

Two members of the University have died in separate accidents.

Olivia Sharp, who was in her final semester of a Bachelor of Arts program, died in a tragic train accident.

Former student, Adam Gibson, who graduated from a Bachelor of Business in 2002 and Bachelor of Economics in 2005, was killed in a car crash in Newcastle.

The University's houseful community goes to Olivia's and Adam's families and friends.