<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fight to rediscover nation's soul – Human Rights/Social Justice Lecture</td>
<td>p4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education at the Crossroads – Vice-Chancellor's Column</td>
<td>p2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAFE/University links strengthened</td>
<td>p3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorary degrees awarded</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
"... it is apparent that the review is likely to generate a major response and support for the higher education sector from the Federal Government."

More than 350 submissions were forwarded to the Crossroads Review, including several from staff and students of the University. I am grateful for your efforts in making these submissions, as it is apparent that the review is likely to generate a major response and support for the higher education sector from the Federal Government. The Federal Cabinet, Dr Brendan Nelson, is committed to achieving substantial reform of the sector and is planning to take forward proposals to the Federal Cabinet later this year, which may be included as part of the 2002/2003 budget cycle.

The Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (AVCC) agreed to its final submission to Crossroads following a Plenary Session in Sydney in September. The University Funding Model proposed by the AVCC, may be summarised as follows:

- each university should be funded for a range of publicly funded student places, with the range set each year in response to student demand, participation rates and other relevant local factors, and receives a base grant for its core teaching, research and service activities;

- to meet existing demand, the number of funded places will increase through to 2007;

- to improve quality, the core grant increases each year, and is indexed by a factor equal to that applied to the school sector;

- there is a standard student contribution via HECS for Government funded places set at current rates and indexed. Universities are able to vary, up or down, the HECS rate for each program, but within limits set by Government;

- performance driven funding is provided for equity places and initiatives, involving substantial funding for designated under-represented groups;

- an effective mix of core research funds and competitive project and infrastructure research funds is made available. Core funding increases each year and is distributed based on an evaluation of each university's research performance and potential;

- distinct regional roles and obligations of universities are promoted through contestable funds specifically provided and targeted for these purposes;

- encouragement is provided through contestable funds for university specialisation, diversity and efficiencies through rationalising courses, removing unnecessary overlap, preserving important disciplines and forging partnerships;

- reformed student income support arrangements are implemented to ensure that students do not need to work long hours to support themselves, and have sufficient income to work effectively at their studies; and

- reformed and supportive government policies are introduced to help universities maximise revenue from philanthropy and activities such as international students, consultancy and commercialising intellectual property.

This is a comprehensive blueprint for reform of the higher education sector in Australia, which if implemented and funded, will enhance our standing and assist in the realisation of our potential as a successful and strong teaching, research, international and service based university. The key elements of the funding model relate to the proposed increase in core funding with an indexation factor, which is more realistic in terms of current cost pressures, the availability of contestable funding for targeted equity groups, the major reform proposed for student income arrangements, and the increase in available funded places to support growth of the sector.

I urge you to read the full submission on the website (www.avcc.edu.au) and to provide any feedback to my office. A submission is scheduled to go to Federal Cabinet in November and hopefully this will flow into the planning for the 2003 Federal budget in May.

I hope that we can look forward to better financial times ahead following the reform of the higher education sector.

Roger S Holmes
Vice-Chancellor and President
University strengthens TAFE links on north coast

The University and TAFE NSW – North Coast Institute are cooperating with the aim of better serving the vocational and higher education needs of communities on the mid-north coast of NSW.

The close relationship developing between the two organisations focuses on:

- promotion of each others’ programs and services;
- improved student access and pathways between the institutions, with an initial focus on the Port Macquarie and Great Lakes areas; and
- exploration of cooperative arrangements in programs for international students.

Representatives from the two institutions met last month at the Institute’s Port Macquarie campus to provide information on current developments.

The Vice-Chancellor Professor Roger Holmes says this new relationship emphasises the University’s commitment to regional education.

“In our strategic plan emphasises the work we are undertaking to improve participation in higher education, particularly in regional Australia. We work closely with other institutions within the TAFE system, and are pleased to be discussing ways that mid-north coast students can gain greater access to our broad range of academic programs.”

Institute Director Neil Black says that the cooperation between the two institutions is a positive educational development for the mid-north coast.

“The North Coast Institute provides a range of flexible delivery options to its students and already works closely with Southern Cross University. We are pleased to be able to extend these flexible, cooperative arrangements to the University of Newcastle because this means a broader range of vocational and higher education pathways for our communities.”

“We...are pleased to be discussing ways that mid-north coast students can gain greater access to our broad range of academic programs.”

The two institutions have agreed to develop further articulation arrangements for students going on to University from TAFE. Discussions are continuing in relation to possible joint programs and student and staff access to shared facilities, including learning support centres, in order to improve North Coast Institute/University student pathways.

Tangible benefits to students include reciprocal credit-transfer arrangements in areas such as Aboriginal studies, accounting, art and design, building and construction, community welfare, engineering, information technology, management, marketing, and website development.

North Coast Institute (NCI) Council member and Pro Vice-Chancellor of Southern Cross University (SCU) Professor Angela Delves welcomed the cooperation between the Institute and the University, saying it will complement the close working relationship that already exists between SCU and NCI.
Not a moment to lose

Australia's treatment of asylum seekers is a major departure from a proud human rights tradition, the Honourable Justice Marcus Einfeld AO QC told an audience at the University's second annual Human Rights/Social Justice Lecture last month.

Speaking to a capacity crowd in the Richardson Lecture Theatre, Justice Einfeld said Australia has been one of the leaders in implementing the humanitarian standards identified in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights after World War II.

"As a middle power with a respected human rights record, Australia has been looked to and listened to by the international community on human rights issues. This proud tradition of support for human rights and dignity casts upon us a great responsibility. As the largest developed democracy in our region, indeed the sixth oldest democracy in the world, Australia not only has an obligation to speak out and act against persecution running rampant in other countries; we have an obligation to prevent and remedy human rights abuses on our own soil."

He said Australians should examine our consciences and question our insidious treatment of asylum seekers and continuing neglect of our Indigenous peoples, children, women especially those in poor circumstances, people with disabilities and others.

"The things we are still doing to and not doing for our Aborigines should not be happening," he said. "The things done in the past should not have happened. Together they are human wrongs, not for blame in the crude sense, but for the deepest regret and for a commitment to put them right as a matter of the utmost urgency. If they represent what some have called a black armband view of history, I for one wear it as a mark of sorrow, and as a commitment to reconciliation. Rather a black armband than a white blindfold to shut out the truth."

Justice Einfeld said the title of his presentation, "The Great Australian Brain Robbery: The Hijacking of the Australian Conscience", represents the reality in relation to our treatment of asylum seekers. Australians, in a departure from historic behavior, are permitting 'a litany of guilty sins' to be committed not only against our own, but also those from other nations who need help.

"It is often said that a society's moral strength is measured by how humanely it deals with the most vulnerable individuals living within its domain. Yet here in Australia today, a lack of moral fortitude, compassion and understanding of divergent cultures and peoples has given rise to a quite frenzied almost hysterical reaction to our asylum seekers."

While not advocating that everyone who wants to come should be allowed into Australia, Justice Einfeld called on the government to treat asylum seekers with due process, including allowing them the chance to apply for conditional release from detention pending the outcome of their applications. He criticised the imprisonment without a hearing of refugees alleged to have committed misdemeanors within the detention camps, saying only Australia's immigration laws allow such an 'untenable position'.

"But as I shall seek to show, the monster we have created is much, much worse than that. I have folders full of the most disgusting examples of mistreatment of detainees in these camps. I have photographs, signed statements, medical reports. They reveal cruelty and brutality of a kind Australians only ever read as happening overseas. They would disgust most right thinking human beings, as they do me."

Australia should allow asylum seekers to work, receive medical care, and seek education in Australia until their situation can be resolved satisfactorily and humanely.

"This is a fight for rediscovery of our nation's soul. We dare not fail. In my opinion, we have not a moment to lose."

"A truly humane nation treats all vulnerable people, whatever their ethnic, racial and cultural origins, with dignity, sensitivity and respect, and caters for their physical, emotional and welfare needs. We are simply not doing so at present to those seeking refugee asylum in our country who in all but a tiny number of cases, are human victims of terror, persecution, torture, starvation and worse."

He called on those present to reject the inhumanity and racism that have driven our policies on asylum seekers.

"In their place, let us decide with quiet but unflinching determination to treat those who ask for our help in exactly the same way as we would ask, and expect, for ourselves," he concluded. "This is a fight for rediscovery of our nation's soul. We dare not fail. In my opinion, we have not a moment to lose."

The Human Rights/Social Justice Lecture series was inaugurated last year to provide an opportunity for the community to reflect on issues of social justice and human rights that confront and challenge Australia. A transcript of Justice Einfeld's speech is available on the University's website.
The University has attracted almost $7 million in the latest round of Australian Research Council funding. The funding includes 22 prestigious and highly competitive Discovery Project Grants worth a total of $4.7 million over the period 2003 to 2007.

The Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment won 10 Discovery Grants, while a further seven have been awarded to the Faculty of Science and Information Technology, three to the Faculty of Education and Arts, and one each to the Faculties of Business and Law and Health.

Professor Ron MacDonald, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) says the ARC is recognising the University’s abilities as one of the leading research institutions in Australia.

"The University is pleased to see the continuing recognition of its research. It continues to work above the national average in the major national grant schemes.

"We are particularly pleased with the recognition of our work with industry," Ron said. "We are also very pleased to see the support of basic research across all disciplines."

In the area of collaborative research, the University received $1.9 million in funding for 11 Linkage Grants over the next two years. An additional $3 million in funding will be provided by the collaborative industry partners.

The University also received an Indigenous Research Development Scheme grant, incorporating the only Research Cadetship offered under this scheme.
Cognitive neuroscience research draws professor

Pat lectured in psychology at Macquarie for more than 20 years. In 1991, she began work on a collaborative research project with psychiatrists from the University of New South Wales into schizophrenia that sparked her interest in the disease. Six years ago, Pat went to University of Western Australia (UWA) to help establish the Centre for Clinical Research in Neuropsychiatry, based at Graylands Hospital in Perth.

“It was a joint appointment in psychology and psychiatry, which was a challenge but I don’t regret the decision. Both departments were excellent, with leading international researchers at work in them.”

Coinciding with the move to UWA was Pat’s move to using the new technology of functional magnetic resonance imaging and it was a lack of senior staff to help progress her work in this area that saw her decide to leave the west for Newcastle. The decision was made easier by the presence of her two sons (and more recently a grandson) in Sydney, as well as brothers and a sister living in the Hunter region.

She says that her role as Head of School has been challenging. While the combination of psychology and aviation may at first seem strange, Pat says the two disciplines have links including organisational psychology and human factors. She can see opportunities for possible future collaboration in the area of aviation psychology.

“Aviation is currently under-resourced. We have just undertaken an external review of the discipline and haven’t seen the results of that yet but there is a lot of goodwill towards the aviation course from its graduates, many of whom are Qantas pilots.”

Pat’s arrival in June corresponded with a substantial changeover in staff in the School, which has a relatively junior profile. She says the School’s research profile has been boosted recently by the appointment of a Professor of Clinical Psychology, three new lecturers and one senior lecturer. The changes have seen the School’s research divided between three main groups:

- Neuroscience, which has strong collaborative links with biomedical science and psychiatry;
- Clinical and health psychology; and
- Human experimental and applied dynamics, with an emphasis on the measurement of human behaviour and includes researchers in cognitive science, human factors, social psychology, and psychometrics.

The School has a number of distinct advantages, Pat says, including close links with psychiatry that has enabled clinical psychology students to train at the James Fletcher Hospital.

“This is unique amongst psychology schools in Australia and provides our students with clients they would find it hard to access elsewhere,” she said.

With courses accredited by the Australian Psychological Society, the School does very well in attracting students seeking a professional qualification in psychology. The restructured Bachelor of Psychology, which replaces the ‘bracket’ courses in Arts or Science, had its first intake of students this year and is proving very popular. The School also attracts international students, particularly from Scandinavia and Africa.

“My top priority for the next couple of years is to get research on track,” Pat said. “We’ve made huge leaps this year with a lot of publications and grants but we still need to build up research infrastructure. We are also in the process of restructuring professional postgraduate training programs and hope this will result in some excellent research and fee-paying coursework students. The two areas we’ll concentrate on initially are clinical psychology and health psychology.”
A sense of connection

One of the first priorities of Head of the School of Nursing and Midwifery Professor Kathleen Fahy, since arriving at the University in March, has been to improve the quality of clinical learning in the undergraduate nursing degree.

Kathleen, who came to the University from the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) in Toowoomba, said that clinical learning was flagged as a major issue in the recent National Review of Nursing Education.

"The problem is linked to the way that Nursing courses are funded," she said.

"Even though the course calls for 1000 hours of clinical practice, it was funded like an Arts course. I'm passionate about the need for nurses to have a good clinical education."

To combat the problem, Kathleen appointed Jane Conway as Director of Clinical Education in May, to work with nurses locally to come up with a better model for clinical education that would be cost neutral. Jane has been working with a committee that combines academic staff and clinicians to formulate a new model. Kathleen concedes that this will involve a major rewrite of the undergraduate nursing program but knows it is necessary.

Kathleen is used to championing difficult causes. As a midwife, she has been part of the struggle to see midwifery acknowledged as a discipline in its own right.

"It has taken a while for nursing schools and faculties in Australian to recognise midwifery," she said. "Nursing came into the universities in 1983 and it wasn't until 1996/97 that midwifery transferred. There has been great strides in the recognition of midwifery with New South Wales recommending a name change for its re-drafted Nursing Act to the Nursing and Midwifery Act."

Kathleen trained as a nurse at the Royal Newcastle Hospital and then as a midwife at the Women's Hospital in Crown Street, Sydney. She spent 20 years living and working in Sydney. She was a midwifery educator at St Margaret's in Sydney before moving into higher education at the Catholic College in North Sydney. Kathleen moved to Toowoomba in 1989 to take up the position of foundation Head of Department of Nursing. She subsequently did her PhD on teenage motherhood as a practice-oriented project.

Kathleen designed and coordinated the midwifery program at the USQ which was a fully online program involving partnered arrangements with a number of regional and rural hospitals. The program team was awarded the USQ's award for Excellence in the Design and Delivery of Teaching Materials in 2000.

Kathleen is a strong advocate of natural birth supported by a midwife. She says that 85 percent of pregnancies are healthy and should have normal outcomes but currently in Western countries only around 25 percent of women have natural births without medical intervention.

"Medical interventions include induction, epidural block, artificial augmentation of labour with external electronic foetal monitoring, forceps, vacuum and caesarean deliveries," she said. "There seems to be a perception in our society that pain should be avoided at all costs but not many women know that there are side-effects to every intervention."

She says there is strong research evidence that having an epidural block (an injection that paralyses the mother from the waist down) doubles the incidence of medical intervention in childbirth. Normal birthing has been proved to produce much lower rates of post-natal depression and distress.

"A woman who manages to have a natural birth feels stronger and better about herself," she said.

Kathleen is keen to work with the Hunter and Central Coast Area Health Services to support a new model of maternal health provision that would see a continuity of midwifery care for patients. Women would have one midwife assigned to them from before the birth of their child, up to six weeks post natal.

"Currently, from the time a woman sees her GP, she deals with a range of different people throughout her pregnancy and birth. The proposed new model of community midwifery would avoid that fragmentation and assign a midwife who is interested in getting to know you and your family, including visiting you in your own home."

Kathleen sees her position as providing leadership in midwifery and is set to appoint a senior lecturer to coordinate midwifery courses at the University. She is also designing a program of research that focuses on the midwife's role in maintaining healthy pregnancies to full term, in collaboration with Professor Roger Smith and his team at the University's Centre for Mothers and Babies.

"Research on animals shows that maternal stress is related to premature birth. One of the biggest predictors of premature birth in humans is low socio-economic status. It may be that women living in stressful social circumstances could be helped by a midwife, who could work with vulnerable communities to seek ways to use social networks to reduce stress."

Kathleen says that the Faculty of Health provides a supportive network for her School. There's a good balance, with a sense of connection to the Faculty's aspirations, as well as a lot of autonomy.

"I am delighted at the opportunity to work collaboratively with other disciplines, particularly medicine, and have found my reception at the University to be very respectful," she said.

"Nursing and midwifery can achieve a lot more in a shorter time if we work in multi-disciplinary research teams. We have a lot to contribute in terms of qualitative clinically-oriented research."
Artworks offer understanding and healing

The images of Master of Fine Art student Ibtihal Samarayi are shockingly compelling. It’s like driving past a car accident — you tell yourself not to look, but cannot help being drawn by it.

The works of Ibtihal, who is the first Masters student in Fine Art at the Ourimbah Campus, have won her first prize in a section of the Gosford Art Prize, a highly sought-after and lucrative prize awarded annually.

Ibtihal, presented with first prize in the photographic section by the Mayor of Gosford Robert Bell recently, is very excited to have her work recognised and to have the opportunity to promote her message of racial tolerance and world peace. She submitted two images to the Prize, both of which mix photographic and painted imagery, a technique that enforces their powerful message.

The first, Letter from a Child, is based on the treatment of children in detention centres in Australia. Ibtihal has used a barren, desert-like backdrop to symbolise the sterile and psychologically uninhabitable nature of existence within these confines.

The second, From the other Side, expresses the tragedy of war from the point of view of an Iraqi child. In this work, the faded image of the child, his leg held in a chain, peers out from his hiding place. He does not understand the meanings of the destruction around him or of the various political interpretations placed upon it, only that his home is being destroyed and everything dear and familiar to him seems to be threatened by the juggernaut of war. In this work, flames, an often-repeated motif, represent the flames of destruction, which have swallowed up the child’s right to a normal childhood.

Ibtihal says at another level the image represents her own reaction to the wars in her native land of Iraq that seemed to dominate her childhood.

“I was the trapped child caught up in the tragic results of almost unceasing warfare in my own country. Like many children in my situation I was deeply troubled and confused about the reasons why this calamity should have come upon me. Feelings of irrational guilt followed me through my childhood and caused endless nightmares and restless nights,” says Ibtihal. She often thought “What have I done wrong to deserve this punishment?”

Determined to use her art as a healing medium, Ibtihal is completing her Masters degree after graduating from the Bachelor of Fine Art at Ourimbah. She previously completed a Diploma in Fine art at Hornsby TAFE.

“Art is about healing,” Ibtihal says. “Mine is about other people as well as myself. It is about trying to have understanding and tolerance of other people and their experiences and to somehow be of benefit to them. My art is useless if it doesn’t help anyone, particularly to help people understand the suffering and also the aspirations of refugees.

“My work speaks about courage, the courage of ordinary people, refugees who are suffering every day. They cannot express themselves and we must remember and know that they are real people, with dreams and fears and families just like the rest of us.

“It’s about humanity. If you don’t have that, then you have nothing,” she says.

Two other Fine Art students from the Ourimbah Campus were successful in the Gosford Art Prize. Mauya Caje won the Painting Section (a story about Mauya will follow in next month’s edition of Uninews) and Janine Cotto was highly commended. More than 20 students entered works in the prestigious prize.

‘Choose Your Career’ Day

The ‘Choose Your Career’ Day held at the Ourimbah Campus of the Central Coast Campuses on Sunday, 15th September, has been hailed as a big success.

The day, which was primarily focussed on providing information about courses, application and enrolment procedures and associated education matters, also included a Careers Expo for current students as well as visitors.

Government, employment and business organisations participated in the day and representatives were kept busy with a steady stream of enquiries.

Director of Student Services and Community Relations Jenni Gow, said she was delighted with the interest shown from the Central Coast community.

“Our day has become a milestone in the region’s calendar and we take pride in providing this level of service to prospective students,” she said. “Student Advisers and representatives from the three academic partners of the Central Coast Campuses, the University of Newcastle, TAFE NSW – Hunter Institute and the Central Coast Community College, put in a hectic day and were thrilled with the level of enquiries.”

The day included a short lecture series, a demonstration program and plenty of entertainment. Music provided by students from the Central Coast Conservatorium of Music and Salsa dancing exhibitions were big drawcards.
Top Hunter researchers recognised with awards

Newcastle researchers working on mental health, cancer, cardiovascular health, asthma, ageing and reproduction were recognised with grants and prizes last month at the Hunter Medical Research Institute's (HMRI) annual awards night.

HMRI Patron Paul Harragan and Executive Director Professor John Rastas presented grants in front of more than 350 business people and researchers.

"Research funded this year is of a very high standard," John said. "I commend all researchers who were successful in this highly competitive grant round."

The $10,000 Sparke Helmore/Prime Television Corporate Triathlon Award for Research Excellence was won by Professor Peter Dunkley from the University's School of Biomedical Sciences. The award recognises Peter's sustained research into understanding how the brain works at a molecular and cellular level. The aim of Peter's research is to enable the development of new drugs that can more effectively treat illnesses such as depression, anxiety and schizophrenia, and the poisonous effects of lead.

Dr Geoff Isbister, a toxicologist from the Mater Hospital, was named the PULSE Young Medical Researcher of the Year. Although only 34 years old, Geoff has become one of Australia's leading authorities on the best way to treat poisonous bites and stings. With degrees in both science and medicine, he has helped to bridge the gap between researchers and clinicians and has almost single-handedly changed the way in which envenomations are reported and treated in Australia.

The University's Professor Jill Cockburn won HMRI's Award of Outstanding Achievement in Cancer Research, which is sponsored by the Cancer Council. Jill's research has made a practical impact on the psychological wellbeing of people with cancer, the information they receive about their illness and how they are treated. Her work in mammographic screening has underpinned some of the development of recruitment strategies and the provision of better information for women. Her communication skills training has been adopted for training oncologists, radiologists and surgeons in breaking bad news and discussing treatment options with patients.

Dr Lisa Lincz, from the Mater Hospital's Haematology Department, won the PULSE Education Prize to upgrade computing equipment in the research laboratory she established at the hospital to study cancer cell biology.

Research projects funded include:

- an investigation of the molecular basis for drug resistance in childhood cancers;
- how Omega 3 fatty acids reduce blood pressure;
- the role of the immune system in asthma; and
- exploring links between cannabis use and schizophrenia.

The $10,000 PULSE Young Investigator grant was won by Dr Timothy Budd to support his exploration of the association between sound and schizophrenia, while the Gallerie Fine Jewellery Prostate Cancer grant of $20,000 will be used for the development of a protocol to test the effectiveness of two drug therapies in the control of prostate cancer.

"Over $5.2 million has been raised since the establishment of HMRI four years ago," John said. "The businesses and people of the Hunter have made a substantial contribution towards this impressive tally and I am pleased to say that they will be the first to reap the benefits of this outstanding research."

Former NSW Governor Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair endowed Mrs Jennie Thomas with the title of HMRI Life Governor in recognition of her substantial donation to HMRI in support of cardiovascular research. The Newcastle Permanent Building Society announced $100,000 in further funding to support HMRI's clinical trial into vegetable compounds to protect against bowel and prostate cancer.

Salary Packaging

Build and protect your wealth through the university's Staff Salary Packaging arrangement.

Contact Eric Burns, Authorised Representative of Associated Planners, on (02) 4942 1455.
Honorary degrees celebrate achievements

The University awarded two honorary degrees at last month's graduation ceremonies to Newcastle gallery owner Anne von Bertouch and prominent science educator Ruth Dircks. Following are excerpts from their citations.

Ruth Dircks completed a Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree at Leeds University, where she met Alexander who was undertaking postgraduate work. She came to Australia to marry him. While raising four children, Ruth completed a Diploma in Education externally from the University of New England and then spent a large part of her life teaching in independent, Catholic and public schools in Sydney. She moved to Dungog 25 years ago when her husband decided to take early retirement.

Ruth's contribution to the teaching and curriculum development of science in secondary schools is remarkable. She has been a Science Curriculum Consultant for the NSW Department of Education, and a Project Director for the Australian Academy of Science, a member of the NSW Board of Senior School Studies Science Council, a member of Syllabus Committees for all science disciplines except earth sciences, and a speaker on syllabus revision at science education symposia at state and national levels.

Ruth's achievements in science education have been widely recognised. She has been awarded life membership of the New South Wales and the Australian Science Teachers' Associations, the Australian Science Teachers' Association Distinguished Service Award, the Dr Alice Whitley Award for Science Education and, in 1990, a Medal of the Order of Australia for service to science education. In August this year, Ruth was awarded the inaugural Prime Minister's Prize for Excellence in Science Teaching in Secondary Schools. The prize honours teachers who have made an outstanding contribution to science education in Australia, and recognises that excellent science teachers are essential to Australia's scientific and technological future, and therefore the nation's prosperity. Ruth donated the $35,000 prize money to the Australian Science Teachers' Association to help boost the training and development of new science teachers.

Ruth believes that 'to be good educators, teachers should be encouraging kids to find out for themselves and provide the stimulus for the children to ask the questions'. In her case, this philosophy has been demonstrated through the consistent high level of achievement from her students, including a first in New South Wales Higher School Certificate Biology. Ruth was visiting Dungog High School one day in 1997, when she was approached about her availability as a teacher and was asked to work for a couple of days. She has been there ever since as a casual relief teacher and expects that as long as the school wants her, she'll stay.
Anne von Bertouch was educated at Sydney Girls’ High School, Hobart Technical College, Armidale Teachers’ College and the University of Sydney. She began her career as an infants teacher, then taught Physical Education at Riverside High School, followed by 10 years’ teaching at Fahan Private School in Hobart.

In the 1950s, Anne and her husband, who was also a teacher, decided to drop out and live an alternative lifestyle on the shores of the Myall Lakes. Their isolation meant that they had to be self-sufficient. Their dream was to create an artists’ colony where people could spend time writing books, painting or drawing in idyllic surroundings. Anne’s first book, *February Dark*, is about their experiences on the Myall Lakes. Eventually the land they lived on was re-claimed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service so they decided to open a commercial art gallery in Newcastle. It was the first of its kind outside a capital city. Anne has been the owner and director of von Bertouch Galleries in Laman Street for 39 years.

Anne’s remarkable contribution to the Newcastle community has been widely acknowledged. In recognition of her contribution to the culture of Newcastle, she was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in 1979. She is a member of the Newcastle Region Art Gallery Foundation, the Australian Society of Authors, the Australian Commercial Art Galleries Association, the Art Gallery Society of New South Wales, the Art Gallery Society of Australia and the Art Gallery Society of Newcastle. She was patron of the Northern Parks and Playgrounds, is a member of the National Trust of Australia, Cape Horners Association, the Newcastle Botanic Gardens and was a member of the Hunter Valley Theatre Company Board. In 1997 Anne was made a Freeman of the City of Newcastle.

While working at her gallery, Anne has found the time to write five books. After the 1989 earthquake, she ran an exhibition to raise funds for victims of the earthquake. She has always been an environmental activist, a great supporter of the Newcastle Regional Art Gallery and a nurturing supporter of all theatrical and musical groups in Newcastle.

A family affair

It was a family affair to celebrate when Amy Richards graduated with her Bachelor of Science (Psychology) with first class honours last month.

Daughter of University staff member Leone Richards, Amy was the third generation of her family to graduate from the University. Posing for the camera are Amy, her father Robert, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Engineering) in 1980, and grandmother May, who completed her Bachelor of Arts in 1986.

Leone, who works in Human Resource Services, says Amy’s sister Emma has also completed a Bachelor of Science and a Diploma of Education at Newcastle. Amy, who won a University Medal for her outstanding academic performance, plans to undertake a PhD in neuro-psychology.
War and terror

Participants at the University's recent 'Conflict and Culture: War and Terror in the Modern Age' conference heard that there is a history of terror much closer to home than many of us realise.

John Connor, research student at the Australian Defence Force Academy and author of "The Australian Frontier Wars 1788 - 1838", has examined the actions of the Hunter Valley Mounted Police and presented his findings at the conference.

"People tend to think of political intimidation and terrorism in terms of recent events," John said. "But it's an old tactic that was employed by the British throughout the Empire, including the Australian colonies." The Mounted Police force was raised in 1825 from soldiers of the British regiments guarding the penal colony. Conflicts between Aborigines and settlers in the Bathurst district the year before had demonstrated the need for a unit of mounted policemen that could respond quickly and effectively to hostile Aborigines. The Hunter Valley detachment was sent into action after two white settlers were killed near Denman in October 1825. It was a military campaign, which John describes as a form of "state-sponsored terror" that resulted in two years of brutal frontier warfare and claimed the lives of countless Aborigines.

"Numerous Wonnarua Aborigines were arrested by police for suspected involvement in attacks on white farms and executed in cold blood, while many innocent people were killed indiscriminately by the troopers."

According to the newspapers of the day, the object was to "strike these Aborigines with terror" and the brutality was justified on the grounds that terror would quickly break Aboriginal resistance.

Conference organiser Dr Roger Markwick says the conference, held at Newcastle City Hall at the beginning of October, explored the cultural and social conditions that have made the modern era perhaps among the most violent in human history.

"Over 20 speakers from across Australia and two from overseas presented papers on war and terror, which is a timely issue following so closely on the first anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States," Roger said.

Keynote speaker, Brigadier Adrian D'Hage, who served 37 years in the Australian military, argued that the Bush administration's war against terror is fatally flawed. He said the United States is only interested in achieving peace on its own terms, which often involved putting US interests first.

"It often involves putting in place a United States sponsored western solution to a local problem and often it has involved agencies like the CIA committing atrocities that when viewed from the other side of the fence are the equal, if not greater than the terror of September 11."

He said that American scientists have catalogued nearly 200 military incursions since 1945, in which the United States has been the aggressor. The hypocrisy of the US and the arrogance of recent statements by George W Bush breed resentment in many parts of the world, Adrian said. Rather than signing up for war in Iraq that would cost tens of thousands of lives, Australia should be urging solutions that look beyond the last resort.

"We should be urging the US to have a closer look at things from the other side of the fence and to be more even handed," he said.

Other speakers at the multi-disciplinary conference included Dr John Docker, from the Australian National University; and Dr Jenny Hocking, from Monash University.

Australians want to be global

Former Newcastle PhD student Dr Matthew Rofe presented his research findings at an international conference in Glasgow last month.

Matthew's thesis examined how specific inner city spaces were being redeveloped and commodified. The research, which was conducted in Newcastle (including The Hill), Newcastle East, Cooks Hill and Glebe in Sydney, showed that increasingly property developers and real estate agents were selling a gentrification-derived lifestyle within cities.

"Gentrification is the process of transforming areas that were originally working class and poorer neighbourhoods into middle class suburbs," Matthew explained. "The gentrification process means that both the physical environment and perceived nature of the city is improving."

With globalisation often portrayed as heralding a single culture and community worldwide, Matthew says his research questions the logic of such a claim.

While Newcastle study participants felt they belonged to a global community, they also felt they would need to move to Sydney in order to improve their global integration. The Glebe participants believed more global cities than Sydney existed, such as London and New York.

Matthew presented his findings at a conference in Glasgow last month.
Report gives Australian companies mixed review

A report prepared by two University academics has given only nine Australian companies a top rating for their corporate governance structures.

The 2002 Horwath Corporate Governance report was commissioned by Sydney-based chartered accounting firm Horwath NSW and conducted by Michael Seamer and A/Professor Jim Psaros of the University's Newcastle Business School.

The Report assesses the corporate governance structures of Australia's top 250 publicly listed companies by examining the independence of each company's board and other key oversight committees and awarding them a star rating out of five.

The report highlights a significant variability in the quality of governance structures across Australian companies. Although most companies claim high standards of corporate governance in their annual reports, only nine were awarded the highest rating.

Just over 70 percent of the companies surveyed were found to have at least adequate governance structures, with five percent considered to be significantly deficient against best Australian and international standards. The report stresses the need for more clarity in defining the status of directors and urges the ASX to introduce a new classification of Independent Non-Executive Director to clarify which directors have financial and other links to the company they serve.

Co-author Michael Seamer says independence is critical to ensuring that a company's board fulfills its objective oversight role and holds management accountable to shareholders.

"At best the current classification of executive/non executive is unhelpful, at worst it is misleading. Non-executive is used by some companies to imply independent, but our research uncovered many instances of non-executive directors who were paid advisers, major shareholders or who had other material financial links to the company," he said. "Under current arrangements this is not a breach of ASX rules but it does have the potential to confuse shareholders. Investors have the right to know if directors make decisions based solely on shareholder interest or if there is any chance they could be influenced by other interests."

Jenni Neary, Managing Director of Horwath NSW, says the report makes a significant contribution to the debate about governance.

"This report highlights the capabilities of Newcastle University Business School and will really put it on the national business map," she said.

While there has been concern in the business community about the state of governance in Australia since the collapse of HAH, OneTel and Ansett, there has been an absence of hard evidence that has made it difficult to sort fact from fiction when judging standards of openness, honesty and transparency in business.

"As far as I am aware no objective research has been carried out to this standard and depth before," Jenni said, "and I believe the annual publishing of governance performance tables will play an invaluable role in raising standards in this country."

As a member of the University's alumni, Jenni is proud to support the report and looks forward to Horwath NSW continuing its association with the Business School.

"I believe the Business School is demonstrating its ability and relevance to the business world and developing a reputation for excellence," she said.

The report can be downloaded from www.horwath.com.au

2002 Acquisitive Art Prize

The winners of this year's Student Acquisitive Art Prize were announced last month at Watt Space Gallery.

The annual prize, which began in 1991, was judged by successful artists Sieglinde Battley and David M. Thomas. Prizes of $500 were offered in four categories with an additional $500 for the overall winner. The winners were:

- Painting: Jane Gilchrist 'The Poultry and Pigeon Pavilion' Melanie Pegg 'Family Study I'
- Photography/Electronic Art: Faye Neilson 'Pillow Group'
- 3D/Installation/Performance: Jetaime Best 'WE Are All Affected'
- Works on Paper/Printmaking: Michelle Hungerford 'the flood'

Faye Neilson's 'Pillow Group' (pictured) was chosen as the acquisition winner and has become part of the University of Newcastle Union Limited Art Collection. The work consists of pillows made from photo-transfers of fabric onto fabric and then pinned to the gallery wall in a grid formation.

Previous winners of the art prize include Camille Kersley, Izabela Pluta, Naomi Sands, Cressida Goddard, Darrin Morgan and Brendon Coulton.
From African mission surgeon to a PhD

PhD graduate Dr Patricia Brennan developed her interest in women's and religious issues as a missionary surgeon in Africa.

Patricia, who is a forensic physician and Medical Director of the Sexual Assault Unit at Liverpool Hospital, received her doctorate in anthropology at last month's graduation ceremony. She was a television presenter with the ABC in the late 80's, also working as a freelance journalist writing for The Bulletin and the Sydney Morning Herald.

Patricia says she chose the University as the place to do her doctoral studies because of its innovative and creative approach to medicine.

"Newcastle's medical program gets to the grassroots of the profession. It is unconventional, and its attention to social issues produces more grounded doctors," she said.

"To undertake academic study you need a supervisor and School that encourages you to be creative. Newcastle allows creativity, while other universities are more constricive. It would have been impossible to get my PhD while working full-time as a doctor without that kind of leeway."

In her thesis titled 'Women: Sick, Sickened or Sickening?' Patricia sought to discover why twice as many women go to doctors compared with men, which is the case even after excluding obstetric and gynaecological reasons. After analysing data for gender differences, she found that women and girls present as sicker than men and boys and are more likely to be seen as sick by the medical profession.

"The PhD in anthropology has helped me in my current role as Medical Director of a sexual assault unit to look at the way traditional religious, medical and legal structures perpetuate the abuse of children and women. My particular interest is the discrimination experienced by abused women and children," she said.

Patricia was made a Member of the Order of Australia for services to women as founder of the Movement for the Ordination of Women. She was also named Bicentennial Woman of the Year.

The future of Newcastle's past

The future of Newcastle's heritage and history was discussed at a University sponsored forum last month.

Forum Organiser, Dr Erik Eklund from the School of Liberal Arts, says the forum showed that Newcastle has a major role in the debates surrounding heritage and development.

"When it comes to heritage and history, Newcastle is rich. The city contains industrial, convict, architectural and indigenous heritage as well as a wealth of social and labour history," he said.

"We feel that we could be doing more to protect, interpret and appreciate the city's heritage sites. There has been remarkable development in and around the city in the last few years, but we need to ask to what extent is this development beginning to compromise the historic fabric of the area?"

Recent examples propelling the debate include the building boom in the inner city and the fate of the former BHP steelworks site.

"These issues are central to our city's future and the forum was used to discuss strategies to protect Newcastle's history and heritage," Erik said. "The forum unanimously agreed to put forward some positive ideas to Newcastle City Council and the University."

The ideas included seeking University/Council cooperation to produce a new history of Newcastle for the bicentennial of white settlement in 2004, and calls for the Council to appoint a city historian.

Guest speakers at the forum included Dr Nancy Cushing, from the School of Humanities, and Doug Lithgow, President of the Newcastle Parks and Playground Movement.

'The Future of Our Past: Newcastle's History and Heritage' forum was part of statewide celebrations for History Week which ran from September 14-21.
Soprano offers opera for entertainment

Newcastle audiences will have the opportunity to enjoy the talents of accomplished soprano and Master of Creative Arts student Annabella Redman when she gives her second free recital at the Conservatorium next month.

Annabella returned to her home in Bolwarra this year after 13 years touring the world as a performer and teacher. She will be joined by harpsichordist Rosalind Halton, soprano Jennifer Barnes, baritone Craig Everingham and tenor James Bonnefin for the November 10 concert, *A Feast of Opera from the 18th and 19th Century*. The singer has been performing since the age of 11, but says it all started much earlier.

“When I lived in Indonesia for a year with my Aunt and Uncle, one of the forms of correspondence home was tapes of my singing,” says Annabella.

While studying at the Canberra School of Music, Annabella appeared with the Canberra Opera and other theatrical societies in roles such as Musetta in *La Boheme* and Aline in *The Sorcerer*. After graduating with Distinction in Performance in 1988, she won a scholarship and moved to Austria to study at the Conservatory of Vienna, where she completed an Opera Diploma with Distinction and an Honours year.

It was one of numerous scholarships and prizes awarded to her — others include an Australian Arts Council International Study Grant and a Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Trust for Young Australians. While overseas, Annabella performed in opera, operetta and musical productions across Europe, Asia, the United States and the United Arab Emirates.

As well as performing, over the past few years Annabella has worked as a voice lecturer at Vienna’s School of Performing Arts, given Master classes at Dublin’s Royal Irish Academy of Music and worked as the head of the vocal department at the Adriatic Summer Festival in Bonefro, Italy.

Annabella’s studies follow the development of musical theatre in western music. Next month’s concert forms part of those studies and follows on from her June recital, which contained songs sung in theatres during the 17th and 18th centuries. The November concert will feature works from the period 1740 to 1830 and Annabella will try to make them as authentic as possible, incorporating technical advice given to singers during the period the songs were written as well as using harpsichord and forte piano.

“I believe that vocal music needs to remain attached to elements of drama and entertainment in order to survive,” she said. “The attitude that classical opera singing is somehow better than musical theatre is wrong. Musical theatre has evolved from opera, which was the popular entertainment in previous centuries and actually requires additional musical techniques to sing well.

“Musical theatre is young, fresh and energetic. I’ve divided the program for my recital into various music theatre genres and hope that people will laugh and be entertained. The bar will be open so people can gather after the performance as I think that musical recitals should also be social events.”

Annabella’s concert will be held at the Conservatorium Concert Hall on Sunday 10th November at 6.30pm.

Vietnam Airlines executives gear up at Graduate School

Executives from Vietnam Airlines visited Newcastle recently to take an intensive study course at the Newcastle Graduate School of Business (NGSB).

The 20 executives, mostly chief accountants from various departments within Vietnam Airlines, were here to undertake workshops on subjects such as Air Transportation Management, Market Economics, Cost of Capital and Techniques for Evaluation in the airline industry, and Budgeting and Performance Reporting.

“This sort of intensive training program is important to organisations such as Vietnam Airlines,” said Director of the NGSB Phillip Morgan. “They need to know they are getting the best training in the shortest time. It is an example of the standing the Newcastle Graduate School of Business has in the international community that companies such as Vietnam Airlines use our services.”

The group attended two sessions a day for the two weeks of their stay in Australia. Their time was split between Newcastle and Sydney from September 23 to October 4. The airline executives spent the first week at the NGSB and the second at the Sydney Portside Centre. They also managed to fit in a day tour of Canberra during their stay.
Welsh exchange brings music to the Conservatorium

Six students from the Welsh College of Music visited the Conservatorium during their summer vacation as part of an ongoing relationship between the two institutions.

The visit was born from an observation made by Head of the Conservatorium Professor Robert Constable, while he was watching an orchestral concert in St David's Hall in Wales.

"I remarked to the College Director on the strength of the orchestra's string section and we talked about the reason they attract so much talent, which is that they have a large pool to draw from, with players coming from all over Britain," Robert explained. "Here in Newcastle we have to grow our own string players and there is a limited population to draw from."

Robert says that borrowing six players from the Welsh College gave Newcastle students the opportunity to play in an expanded string section.

"It is great for the string players but it's also wonderful for the wind and brass players to experience playing with a full string section," he said. "Then there is the obvious advantages to students in the cultural connection that is a by-product of our international association with the College. There is also a very strong business and cultural relationship between Wales and New South Wales and events such as this visit have the blessing of the Premier."

The students who visited the Conservatorium were chosen from a large number of applicants keen to spend their summer vacation in Australia. During their 10-week stay they had individual lessons with Conservatorium staff, played orchestral and chamber music, and interacted with Newcastle students. Five of the students are violinists and one plays the cello.

Welsh Bachelor of Music student Jon Cowell, said his time in Newcastle had been fantastic and the people he met had been very friendly.

"Cardiff is about the same size as Newcastle and around the same distance from London as Newcastle is from Sydney, so there are some similarities," Jon said. "But we don't have beaches in Cardiff and we don't have a concert hall like the Conservatorium's either."

The students, who are all at different stages in their courses at the College, including two who are undertaking postgraduate studies, all made friends while in Newcastle. They hope that the agreement between the College and the University will lead to them being able to host a return visit for their Newcastle friends in Cardiff.

"This was a pilot project for us," Professor Constable said. "From our point of view it worked spectacularly well.

Barriers to business innovation examined

The business world has long recognised that innovation is essential to its future prosperity but there are often barriers to adopting new thinking. Newcastle Graduate Business School (NGBS), in conjunction with the nascent Centre for Business Innovation and Research Development, will attempt to break down some of those barriers with the second annual Doing Business Across Borders (DBAB) conference next month.

Deputy Director of the NGBS Dr Robert Rugimbana says the conference aims to bridge the gap between researchers and practitioners to encourage them to work together on innovative business solutions.

"The conference will give them an opportunity to interact. Ownership of knowledge has become a major issue as universities are increasingly challenged to shed their ivory tower image. We want staff from different areas of the University to get together with business people to see how their strengths can help to solve issues in industry and in regional, national and international communities."

Robert hopes that the conference will encourage partnerships between the business world and the University, which will be solidified within the proposed Centre for Business Innovation and Research Development. There will be concurrent sessions in academic and business research and student projects.

"We include the work of students to provide them with a forum to meet and discuss their work and obtain input from business people, in the hope that this will create opportunities for them."

Robert says that the conference expects to host a number of world renowned keynote speakers and participants from around the world.

For information on the Doing Business Across Borders Conference, which will be held in Newcastle on 27-28 November, visit the website at www.newcastle.edu.au/journal/dbab
Transcript of a Paralympian

Paralympic swimmer Alicia Jenkins says her University transcript virtually maps her international swimming career.

Alicia, who received her Graduate Diploma in Secondary Education (Science) with merit last month, took time off her studies while training for Paralympic Games at Atlanta in 1996 and Sydney in 2000.

“When I was training, I would do around 10 two-hour sessions a week at the Forum pool, swimming about five kilometres a session,” she said. “I was also training hard in the gym.”

While it may have extended the time it took her to finish her studies, the training paid off, with Alicia swimming personal best times at both Atlanta and Sydney in her events (50mtr butterfly, 100mtr breaststroke and 200mtr individual medley). Thirty-year-old Alicia, who retired from top-level competition following the Sydney Paralympics, took it up as a challenge when she was 21.

“I don’t see my height as being a disability,” she said. “It’s a bit inconvenient sometimes but it’s not a disability.”

Alicia says her positive attitude came from her parents, who didn’t modify the family home when she was a child or make any excuses for her.

“Mum’s philosophy was that I had to learn to live in the big world,” she said.

Alicia initially wanted to go into medical research when she began her science studies after completing high school at St Francis Xavier College in Hamilton. It was her experiences meeting teenagers in the region’s schools as a Paralympian that swayed her to take up teaching. She teaches science and mathematics at St Paul’s High School, Booragul.

“I really loved going to the schools through my swimming and I got great feedback from the teenagers,” says Alicia. “My Year 8 class says they’re planning to enter me in the Guinness Book of Records as the smallest teacher ever.”

In addition to teaching classes from Year 7 to Year 10 this year, Alicia has talked to the students about prejudice and people’s differences. She has also tried to help individual students with differences.

She hopes to secure a full time position at St Paul’s next year and to become even more involved in the school’s activities.

Mother and son win Education Week awards

Newcastle mother and son primary teaching graduates, Kath and Cameron Williams, have both won Education Week awards for implementing technology in their schools.

Proud mother Kath, who is Assistant Principal of Redhead Primary School, says it’s taken her 33 years to win an Education Department award, while Cameron has won one in his first year of teaching.

“We both won for implementing technology. Mine was for working with gifted and talented students and for refining the school’s computer policy. It also recognised my efforts in getting staff to take on working with computers and developing the school’s web page, which Cameron originally set up.”

Cameron, who graduated with his Bachelor of Teaching (Primary)/Bachelor of Arts in May, was recognised for setting up a computer teaching lab at Narrabri Primary School. Principal Craig Jollow said he had given Cameron free rein to establish a computer room.

“He only arrived this year but he brought with him a lot of knowledge and experience in technology,” Craig said. “He used his expertise to deliver technology lessons to all classes K-6, as well as providing training and development in computers for the staff. He has been terrific.”

Cameron came to University when he was 21, after studying Early Childhood Studies at TAFE and working in pre-schools. It was a stint in an after school care centre that awakened his interest in primary school aged children. He was selected as a targeted graduate by the Education Department, which saw him able to accept his appointment to Narrabri Primary before graduation.

Kath says the whole family have studied at Newcastle, with oldest son Rob graduating with a computer science degree and youngest son Evan winning a Dean’s Medal for his Honours work in drama. Evan is currently enrolled in postgraduate studies at the University. As well as studying at the Newcastle Teacher’s College in the late ’60s, Kath has done postgraduate studies in health science at the University.
The lucky country – but only for some

We tend to think of Australia as a fortunate country and most of us enjoy a comfortable lifestyle. But the reality is that one in every seven Australians live on or below the poverty line, one third of them dependent children.

There are many causes of poverty. Unemployment is the biggest contributor followed by the spiralling cost of housing. There is now also a group of 'working poor', where having a job doesn't shield against low income or the uncertainty of casual or temporary work. But we can help.

The Smith Family is an independent Australian social enterprise dedicated to helping families prevent current misfortune from developing into lifelong disadvantage. Back in 1989, the Smith Family asked disadvantaged Australian families how they could best be assisted. They said: “please help me to ensure my children get a good education so they don’t end up in the position I’m now in”. As a result, the Learning for Life (LfL) program was born.

Learning for Life provides financial scholarship and educational support for children and young Australians to gain the most from their education through full participation. Without the money for books, stationery and basic equipment, excursions, uniforms, theatre, music, sport and other extras many disadvantaged students—through no fault of their own—do not have the same access to educational opportunity. There is significant research to link low income with lack of education. It’s a tough cycle to break. The scholarship provides financial support of between $204 and $504 per year depending on school level, or $2000 per year for eligible tertiary students.

Ali, a tertiary student on the LfL program said: “Four years ago, when I was told that someone who didn’t know me wanted to provide me with financial support to enable me to continue my education and make sure I was able to undertake the subjects I wanted to – I have to say I was more then a little surprised – I was completely flabbergasted”.

One hundred percent of sponsors’ donations go to the eligible young person. The backbone of Learning for Life is the qualified Education Support Worker who provides encouragement, motivation, information, advice, advocacy and support for education and transition to work. This Smith Family employee also liaises closely with schools and other agencies to support the family.

“A welcome surprise to me when I was first awarded a place in the Learning for Life program was the amount of emotional support it also offered,” Ali said. “Being the first in my family and the only person from my year in high school to go to uni, I found this support invaluable.”

At tertiary level, students are also linked to volunteer mentors trained to provide support for study, introduction into the business community and work experience. For every young person we can support on the program there will be future generations that benefit. Please consider giving someone less fortunate than yourself a chance to make the most of their education.

Payroll deductions are one of the most cost-efficient ways for The Smith Family to raise much needed support for the Learning for Life program. They are also easy and convenient for you. Donations are tax deductible, with one receipt issued at the end of the year. You can choose to make regular fortnightly or monthly payments or just elect a single donation. To authorise deductions simply go to www.smithfamily.com.au and send the signed authorisation form to your payroll officer or ask your payroll department for the form.

Press Council meets journalists of tomorrow

Program Coordinator of Communication Studies, Paul Scott, said the Press Council provided staff and students with an opportunity to question council members on findings and gain a better understanding of the operations of the decision-making processes at the Council.

“Students and staff benefit from these seminars because they focus on everyday issues and provide a framework for participants to determine different perspectives on complex issues that are rarely black and white.

“The interests of journalists, media organisations, government and the public often compete, sometimes intersect, but never experience total agreement. The Tampa issue was a recent example where the Press Council received numerous complaints from may different interests groups on different aspects of the media portrayal and representation.

“The approach taken by the Council to the seminars sits well with pedagogical approaches taken in the communication program – problems are identified and appropriate courses of action are discussed through group interaction.”

As of 2003, all Communication students will undertake a new course, Media, Law, Ethics, which will be taught by staff from the Schools of Law and Liberal Arts. Three Press Council representatives, John Radavan (Editorial Manager, AAP), John Morgan (Editorial Member) and Sharon Hill (Editorial Staff Manager, News Limited) gave an overview of the Council’s role before presenting the case studies.
Language skills used in documentary

Linguistics lecturer Anita Berghout used her expertise in Aboriginal languages on an unusual project recently - translating for a documentary film on the life of Aboriginal actor David Gulpilil.

In the early '90s, Anita did her doctoral thesis on one of a number of Yolngu languages spoken primarily by the Djinang Aboriginal people of north east Arnhem Land. This led to her being invited to work on a project two years ago, editing and reworking a dictionary and learner's guide for Djinang speakers.

"I worked in a community on the Blythe River, 40 kilometres from Ramingining, where people speak their Djinang language exclusively in their homelands," Anita explained. "The Indigenous teacher in their local government school, however, is restricted to teaching the children in English. There was a concern amongst the people that the language would die."

The project, funded through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), saw six linguists working on areas of the language that were at risk to create resources that would engender a sense of pride in the language and help to preserve it.

Anita met David Gulpilil, a well-known Aboriginal actor whose recent credits include Rabbit Proof Fence and The Trackers, while visiting Ramingining during the 1980s. She was asked to translate the language spoken by David and his friends in scenes from the documentary, which focuses on the contrasting lives the actor leads - a traditional lifestyle in his home community and his high-flying life as a movie star.

"The Director Tom Zubriski sent me several tapes with language material on it, including footage where David is hunting magpie geese and talking with people from his community," Anita said. "The footage gives a really good picture of what life is like up there and how David lives."

The film, 'Gulpilil - One Red Blood', is scheduled to air on ABC-TV later this year. It charts Gulpilil's transformation from a strictly tribal man who spoke no English, to a movie star. The film traces how Gulpilil's acting work declined during the 80's and how he was overlooked for over a decade before returning to the spotlight with his latest roles in 'Rabbit Proof Fence' and 'The Tracker'. Anita translated the language for subtitles for the film.

Alumni conference celebrates Sydney sesquicentenary

The annual conference of the AUAC (Australian Universities Alumni Council) will be held next month at the University of Sydney, to coincide with the sesquicentenary celebrations of Australia's oldest university.

Speakers will include Renata Kaldor, Deputy Chancellor of Sydney University, Dr Bernie Curran, Director of the University Foundation, the Hon. John Hatzistergos, MLC and AUAC President Robert Lutton.

AUAC is the peak alumni representative body in Australia. It provides representation of graduate issues on campus and in state, national and international forums. AUAC lobbies to see the high standard of tertiary education in Australia maintained and enhanced.

The University of Sydney celebrates its 150th anniversary this year. The celebrations will acknowledge the University's achievements and focus on current and future challenges.

The AUAC conference, on November 14-16, will present a vision for the future of Australian universities, provide a forum for discussion on a range of issues, and provide development opportunities for alumni professionals and volunteers. For information on the conference or to download a program, go to www.auac.org
Indigenous female PhD graduate

The first Indigenous female to graduate with a PhD from the University, Brooke Collins-Gearing, received her doctorate in English at last month's graduation ceremony.

Brooke’s thesis, “When the Hairy Man meets Blinky Bill: the representation of Indigenerality in Australian children's literature”, traced children's books written in Australia over the past 100 years to investigate the way Indigenous people were portrayed.

Brooke was born and educated in Moree in north-western NSW before coming to the University to do a combined Arts/Education degree. She did an Honours year following on from her Bachelor of Arts and then a PhD in English.

Brooke said that Walunika Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Centre and Umulliko Indigenous Higher Education Research Centre were crucial to her decision to continue with her studies.

"The support I got from University staff, in particular John Lester from Umulliko and Nancy Wright in the English department, who were my co-supervisors, was wonderful," she said. "I couldn’t have done it without them."

Brooke hopes to use her study in her current role teaching Indigenous studies at the University.