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May I wish all staff, students, convocation members and supporters of the University an enjoyable festive season and best wishes for 2003. This year has been an enjoyable, busy and challenging one that contained many highlights of major significance to the University, the Hunter, Central Coast and other regions of NSW that we serve, Australia and internationally.

2002 will be remembered by most of us as the year of the Bali 'bombings' and the tragic loss of Australian and Indonesian lives, and the lives of many others from around the world. Australians have always been frequent travelers and have enjoyed a reputation as fun loving and energetic tourists. As well as being prepared to travel to all parts of the globe for work, study, to visit family and friends, we are able to enjoy the history, cultures and experiences of other nations. The events of October 12 reminded us of the horrors of terrorism and the potential for us to be vulnerable to such attacks anywhere in the world, including here in Australia.

Ironically, 2002 will also be remembered as the year in which the University of Newcastle came 'of age' in its international education programs. Eleven percent of our enrolments are now international students studying in Australia, offshore in Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong and other countries, or through Graduateschool.com's online or distance programs. The students come from more than 70 countries worldwide and we can now claim to be a major player in international higher education.

I pay tribute to our leaders, staff and strong supporters of international higher education including the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Ron MacDonald; the Pro Vice-Chancellor with International Portfolio responsibility, Professor Bernard Carey; the Dean of the University of Newcastle Graduate School, Professor Scott Holmes, and his staff; Director of International Development Studies, Ms Tracey McCabe and her staff; Executive Director of Student Services, Ms Gail White, and her staff; Pro Vice-Chancellors and the staff of the Faculties; staff of the English Language and Foundation Studies Centre; as well as our partners and agents supporting international higher education and research training.

2002 will also be remembered as the year of the Crossroads Review of Higher Education, initiated by the Federal Minister for Education, Science and Training, Dr Brendan Nelson, who will bring forward recommendations to the Federal Cabinet in early December. I remain hopeful for a successful outcome for the higher education sector.

I congratulate 33 academic colleagues who were promoted this year in recognition of their excellent performance in teaching, research and service, especially Professors John Rostas, Executive Director of the Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI) and Geoffrey Evans of the School of Engineering, who were promoted to level E positions. Congratulations also to recipients of the Vice-Chancellor's Awards for General Staff Excellence: Mrs Eileen O'Donohue; Ms Diane Pacey; and Mr Bill McCarthy, the UNISS Office of the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment; the Interlibrary Services Team; and the Space Management Team; and the Promoter team for their Highly Commended Award. I also congratulate Eric Colhoun on his appointment as Emeritus Professor and Professor Graeme Goodwin, who was made a Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS).

Other matters of significance to the University during 2002 were:

- opening of Birabhan Higher Education Centre, Birabhan Cultural Festival and appointment of the first Indigenous member of University Council, Dr Bill Jonas;
- University's new structure with five Faculties and appointments of Pro Vice-Chancellors; 26 multidisciplinary Schools; three Divisions, including University Services, under Vice-President, Ms Linda O'Brien, Research and International, led by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), and the Vice-Chancellor's, reporting to Deputy Vice-Chancellor Brian English;
- honorary degrees to Dr John Hart; Dr June Heinrich; Dr Geoffrey Leonard; Professor Beverley Raphael; Dr David Williams; Dr Anne von Bertouch; Dr Ruth Dircks; and Exceptional Service Medal to Mr Brian Penfold;
- Hunter Medical Research Institute awards to Professor Peter Dunkley and Dr Geoffrey Isbester;
- farewell to Mrs Norma Cairns (Edwards Hall); Mr Brian Freedman (international development); Professors Tony Travaglione (graduate business), Steve Elliot (ebusiness), David Roberts (nutrition), Rob Cowdroy and Lindsay Johnston (architecture), A/Professors Abdulkadir Sajecv (software engineering), Mary Anne Williams (ebusiness), and Penny Little (learning and development);
- welcome to Ms Tracey McCabe (Director, International Development Services), Professors Bill Hogarth (Pro Vice-Chancellor, Science and IT), Paul Ryder (Head of the Business Schools and Dean of Business), Bernard Carey (Pro Vice-Chancellor, Business and Law), Michael Startup (Behavioural Sciences), Leonie Ashman (Senior Brawn Research Fellow), and Kathleen Fahy (Head, School of Nursing and Midwifery); Ms Kim Foster (Director Faculty Services, Education and Arts); and Ms Nicole Adler (Director Faculty Services, Science and IT);
University residential college Edwards Hall, known as Teds to its residents, set the pace in the NSW Cancer Council's 'Relay for Life' last month.

The 'Relay for Life' is an initiative to raise funds to provide information, support services and research into cancer. This year's event was held at the Forum Sports and Aquatic Centre and included activities such as a 24-hour team walk, a 'Survivors Walk' and a 'Candlelight Ceremony of Hope'.

Edwards Hall raised $2,700 this year, with many of its 375 residents offering donations or buying raffle tickets. The college also had two teams in the relay and other residents involved in collecting donations and selling raffle tickets.

Deputy-Head of College Damon Tindall said that the residents had been more than willing to help out wherever possible with the 'Relay for Life'.

"Many of the residents have family members and friends who have been affected by this terrible disease," he said. "There has been a fantastic response from all of the residents toward the numerous fund raising activities held within the college in recent weeks."

Resident Michelle Hall promised to shave her head if the college managed to raise $2,500. Our photograph captures a representative of NUSport about to collect on her pledge.

"When we surpassed the mark she delivered upon her promise, much to everyone's amusement," Damon said.

M.J Finnegan's Irish Pub and the Great Northern Hotel offered substantial assistance to the Edwards Hall fundraising effort.

Alumni Medals to Dr John Berryman, CEO of Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children; Professor Mohamed Khadra, Pro Vice-Chancellor, University of Canberra (Sydney Chapter); Hon Virginia Chadwick, CEO Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority; and Professor Bill Caelli, Founder and Director of ERECOM Pty Ltd (Brashine Chapter);

memorial service for Emeritus Professor Godfrey Tanner at Christ Church Cathedral;


50th anniversaries for engineering and music;

expenditure of an additional $1.3 million on library resources, to bring annual expenditure to $4.9 million, and launch of Video Conferencing Centre at Auchmuty Library;

AUQA Audit during September; and

launch of major partnership with Productivity Standards Board (PSB) in Singapore by Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment.

May I thank you for your contributions to the University during 2002, and wish you and your family best wishes for the Christmas/New Year period, and for a healthy and successful 2003.

Roger S Holmes
Vice-Chancellor and President
International students to drive future growth

The number of international students studying at Australian universities is set to rise dramatically over the next decade, Vice-Chancellor Roger Holmes told a meeting of the Hunter Region Organisation of Councils (HROOC) last month.

"Recent projections demonstrate major growth in demand for higher education, with an increase from currently 1.2 million international students to 7.2 million by 2025," he said. "The demand will be dominated by Asia (43 percent to more than 70 percent), and China and India together will amount to 51 percent of total world demand by 2025."

The same projections have shown dramatic growth in the demand for Australian higher education from international students, increasing from an intake of 102,000 in 2000 to 996,000 students by 2025. If this increase were to be accommodated, the average number of international students per university would increase from 2,500 to 23,000. Under this scenario, the number of international students would exceed the number of domestic students.

"Internationalising education presents many advantages to Australia from an economic and political perspective," Roger said. "It involves building a knowledge economy; the fulfilment of human and social potential; creation of a globally competitive labour force; a 'green' sustainable export industry; is expected to contribute more than $38 billion to the economy in 2025; further integrates Australia into the region; and provides mechanisms for global diplomacy."

Australian universities would find it difficult not to increase their involvement in international education with predictions of slow population growth over the next 20-25 years in Australia.

"International higher education will drive future growth," he said. "Effective engagement in international education also provides wide-ranging benefits for Australian students including maintained access to quality and excellence; increased choice with Australian higher education; increased access to world-leading specialisations; internationalisation of the curriculum; increased recognition of Australian qualifications around the world; increased global mobility; and improved employment prospects."

He said the University's plans to double its international student numbers by 2005 (currently at 2,200 international students or 11 percent of enrolments) would have important implications for Lower Hunter Councils and raise a number of issues.

Family Action Centre celebrates 10th birthday

Dr Scott was presented with the FAC's 2002 Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Australian Community. She is a social worker with 30 years experience and practices in the fields of residential care, adoption and foster care, child sexual assault, maternal mental health, and parent adolescent mediation. She has taught and researched in the field of child welfare at the School of Social Work at the University of Melbourne, where she is an Associate Professor.

FAC Director, Judi Geggie, said the panel discussion was a nice mix of theory and stories based on the speaker's experiences and practical hints for families in the future. Dorothy Scott proposed that producing resilient children in a changing society is not about the structure of families but what they do. Dr John Irvine put forward 11 golden rules for happy families. Ray Kelly gave the audience an understanding of what family life means from an Aboriginal cultural perspective, while John DeFrain spoke about the way that his family's identity and character were influenced by the lives of his pioneering ancestors, who came to America's Midwest in a covered wagon and lived for the first year in Nebraska in a hole in the ground with their animals.

Judi said it was great that so many notable guests and friends of the Family Action Centre were able to join staff and families to celebrate.

"The major focus of the Family Action Centre is improving the lives of families and working with communities. Our staff achieve this through programs, research, dissemination, lobbying, advocacy and consultation," Judi said. "We've already had great success with several key research activities including the Caravan Project, National Dissemination Program, Home-Start, Boys in School, Engaging Fathers, and Family and Community Strengths programs."

The anniversary celebration was held on October 15 in the Richardson Lecture Theatre.
People & Places

50 years of engineering education celebrated

Four hundred people packed into Club Nova Panthers in October to celebrate 50 years of engineering education in Newcastle.

The first lecturer in civil engineering, George Haggarty, joined Ernest Walpole, one of the first students to earn a testamur from Newcastle University College, when he converted his diploma to a degree in 1953, and Doug Chapman, who in 1955 became the first graduate of the full-time engineering degree.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Roger Holmes said that Engineering had stood out as one of the University's most successful faculties and is one of the most successful engineering schools in Australia. He attributed their success to strong leadership, excellent research performance, professionally relevant programs, successful alumni and productive links with industry.

"However, perhaps one of the most important attributes that Engineering has displayed has been the ability to respond proactively and positively to the changes that it has faced over the last 50 years," he said. "The nature of higher education in Australia has changed dramatically since 1952, and will no doubt continue to do so in the next 50 years. But throughout this period, Engineering at Newcastle has always led by example, maintained its reputation for excellence and quality, and even embraced new directions and initiatives."

Pro Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment Professor Adrian Page said Engineering had come a long way in 50 years, since it began at Tighes Hill in 1952 with five full-time undergraduate students. Adrian studied Civil Engineering at Tighes Hill, then a college of the University of NSW, graduating in 1965.

On 5th June 1970, NSW Premier Bob Askin officially opened the Engineering Complex at Callaghan. The Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment now employs some 104 academics and 78 professional officers, engineers, computer specialists, technical officers, craftsmen and office staff. The Faculty enjoys an outstanding international reputation for research, and is ranked within the top three of all engineering faculties in Australia, based on its research performance. It has established strong links with industry that continue to grow, with the number of partners involved in the UNISS undergraduate industry scholarships scheme now numbering more than 70.

"We now have more than 2000 students in the two engineering schools over our 12 disciplines, with operations at Callaghan, Ourimbah and now in Singapore," Adrian said. "Our graduates are spread all over the world and hold senior positions in academia, industry and government. We now have 5000 alumni and that of course continues to grow."

Adrian said the key to Engineering's success was the quality of academic and general staff and the quality of students and alumni.

Other guests at the anniversary celebrations included Jeff Gleeson (Newcastle Division President of the Institution of Engineers, Australia); Bob Harrison (President of the Institution of Surveyors NSW); Emeritus Professor Don George (former Vice-Chancellor); Professor Brian Anderson (Past President, Australian Academy of Science); Emeritus Professor Alan Roberts (Former Dean of Engineering); Professor Graham Goodwin (Former Dean of Engineering and current ARC Federation Fellow) and faculty staff.

Principal sponsors of the 50th anniversary celebrations were Leighton Contractors, Waratah Engineering Pty Ltd and C R Hutchison & Co Consulting Surveyors. The celebration dinner was held at Club Nova Panthers on October 18, with an Open Day and recovery BBQ was held at the Callaghan campus the following day.

One additional positive outcome of the event was that as a result of the contributions of Principal and table sponsors, an amount of $25,000 will be available for a range of future undergraduate scholarships in the Faculty.

Professor Adrian Page speaks at the 50th anniversary dinner

Memories: the recovery barbecue gave engineering graduates a chance to catch up in an informal setting.
Seeking to double enrolments

Head of the School of Applied Science at the University's Ourimbah campus, Professor Ron Wills, believes the School needs to double its student numbers to be economically viable.

The School, which includes Marine Science, Sustainable Resource Management, Food Technology, Herbal Therapies and Human Nutrition studies, needs more staff and resources in order to offer a greater diversity in its programs and to provide amore attractive postgraduate research program.

"We have come a long way in science at Ourimbah but I feel we are currently too small to be able to make a meaningful contribution," Ron said. "I'm concerned that there are no plans to grow the campus to the stage where the School can be self-sufficient."

Ron came to the Ourimbah campus in 1995 as Professor of Food Technology. He had been Director of the Academy of Grain Technology - a commercial technical division of the Australian Wheat Board that carried out research and provided other services for the agri-food industry - in Melbourne for four years before coming to the Central Coast. Previous to that, he spent 15 years at the University of NSW (UNSW), where he was Professor of Food Science and Director of the Food Industry Development Centre - one of the first of the Federal Government's key centres established in 1989.

Pursuing his studies in chemistry part-time at the UNSW while working as a laboratory assistant in food research for the CSIRO, Ron went on to do his PhD in plant physiology at Macquarie University. He became the first lecturer in Food Science in the Nutrition Department at the University of Otago in New Zealand, where he says it was an interesting experience working in an environment where all the students and staff were female.

Ron was attracted to the position at Ourimbah by the challenge of creating a group on a greenfield site. When he arrived, one office building and a teaching laboratory were the only permanent buildings on the site.

"It's not often you get to start a group with no previous history. There was no one to say 'you can't do that'. It was a challenge to see if I could make something of it. It was exciting."

With a reputation for his research and a willingness to collaborate with local food and horticultural industries, Ron soon attracted postgraduate students to Ourimbah. Within 18 months of arriving, the numbers of research higher degree students was around the same as undergraduate food technology enrolments.

"The University altered the priorities of their building program to bring forward new laboratories for research and a processing plant for food technology students," Ron said. "The University was responsive to what we wanted to do here and provided $2 million to get the research lab going."

Ron's main research area is in extending the post harvest life of horticultural crops. Working on an international collaboration examining the preservative properties of nitric oxide on fruit, vegetables and flowers, Ron and co-workers have taken out several patents and are working to commercialise the outcomes of the research. Canadian and Dutch companies are seeking to take up licenses to use the nitric oxide technologies being developed by Ron and his collaborators. He has initiated research into the active constituents of medicinal herbs such as echinacea, ginseng and valerian and established good collaboration with national industry groups. The School's research work on medicinal herbs led to the establishment of a Bachelor of Herbal Therapies program at Ourimbah.

"The research started and the teaching came from that," Ron said. "From our research, we have private training providers in the area become interested in what we were doing and that resulted in us taking over the Southern Cross Herbal School which has been based at Gosford for 25 years."

The Herbal School has been established as a division of TUNRA (the University of Newcastle Research Associates) and provides fee-paying training courses in medicinal herbs. The students can articulate to the degree program at the end of their course.

The other major research area of the School is in sustainable use of coasts and catchments.

"There is considerable interest in careers in environmental studies and marine biology," Ron said. "Many employment opportunities have a water-based interest. So we have brought together the two disciplines to create the sustainable use of coasts and catchments program."

Ron is seeking to have the Faculty of Science and IT's water-based courses taught at Ourimbah. He says proximity to Tuggerah Lakes and the Central Coast beaches and bays, support from the National Parks and Wildlife Service and from a community-based group, CCC Environmental Network, that shares facilities with the School; and the expertise of staff are good reasons to specialise.

"Now that we are all back in the same Faculty, I am trying to work with Callaghan to split the environmental expertise so that we cover all aspects and don't duplicate our efforts," he said. "The Central Coast has some real issues arising over water usage and catchment management, with Gosford and Wyong Councils interested in supporting scientific research in water-related areas."
Isolation opens door to the future

Isolation from the University's main campus at Callaghan has proved to be a positive factor for the School of Humanities at the Ourimbah campus, according to Head of School Professor Lyndall Ryan.

Due to a limited number of teaching staff for the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Social Science programs, the School has introduced an innovative cross-disciplinary structure that Lyndall says heralds the future.

"Because it was difficult for us to offer majors in a single discipline, we decided to encourage research and teaching teams," she explains. "The staff has had to work together to offer interdisciplinary majors that a number of staff contribute to, with many courses cutting across several majors."

The major streams for the Bachelor of Arts at Ourimbah are: Societies and Cultures; Literature and Performance; Creative Arts; Australia-Asia and Pacific Studies; Gender Studies and Government and Society. In the Bachelor of Social Sciences they are: Welfare Studies; Adolescent and Youth Studies; Gender Studies; and Government and Society. Three courses introduced this year - Literature and Performance, Gender Studies and Australia, Asia and Pacific Studies - are proving popular with students and combine the teaching specialities of several lecturers.

"This is the first year of the new structure and it is proving quite exciting," Lyndall said. "Inter-disciplinary studies are the way of the future - both in teaching and research - and because I have been teaching in inter-disciplinary courses for the past 20 years, I saw the chance at Ourimbah to push that further by restructuring the School's programs."

Lyndall came to Ourimbah as Foundation Professor of Australian Studies in 1998. She had been Professor of Women's Studies and for 12 years head of the Women's Studies program at Flinders University in South Australia, and before that had taught Australian Studies and Women's Studies - both inter-disciplinary programs - for 10 years at Griffith University. She became Head of the School of Humanities in March 1999. The School, which offers undergraduate and postgraduate degree programs in early childhood studies, teacher education, arts, social sciences, and fine art, was established in 1995 and its structure has remained unchanged since then.

"The fact that the School is multi-disciplinary is what attracted me to the job," she said. "In many ways the staff are self-selecting because you need to have a commitment to the campus to work here."

The School is a microcosm of the new Faculty of Education and Arts, Lyndall says, with the greatest cohort of students in teacher education programs. She says that her staffs' efforts to tailor courses that more closely match the needs of teacher education students sets them ahead of the Faculty as a whole. With staff in the education program teaching into the BA and plans to have BA and other staff teach more into teacher education from next year, the School hopes to create a seamless web between them.

Lyndall's own research has been in inter-disciplinary areas. She did her undergraduate studies at the University of Sydney, a Master's at ANU where she wrote a thesis on the Sydney Opera House and her PhD study into Aboriginal history at Macquarie University. She is currently teaching in Australian Studies, which combines history, politics, literature and social science perspectives.

She has published books on the Tasmanian Aborigines; a social and cultural history of the Australian Women's Weekly; and is working on an ongoing project - the Republican Moment - that examines the republican debate in Australia from around 1993 to 2008. She is supervising five full-time PhD candidates, with several of them due to submit over the next few months. Her current obsession, however, is a biography she is writing about her mother, feminist activist Edna Ryan, who died five years ago at the age of 92.

"My mother was prominent in the campaign for equal pay for women and was an outspoken feminist. I have been researching the biography for five years, sifting through mother's personal papers in the Mitchell and National Libraries (about 90 boxes in each) as well as another 40 boxes at home. Her story is really a history of women in Australia in the 20th century and although it's a wonderful project, I have to get rid of it before it swallows me up."

Lyndall plans to complete the work in the next 12 months. She has taken leave from the University to take on visiting fellowships at the ANU (as part of an international biographies symposium) and at the University of Technology Sydney's writing program.

"Our isolation from Callaghan has allowed us to do things a bit differently," she said. "Although many academics view the move to inter-disciplinary majors with horror, I see it as the way of the future."

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**Host Families Wanted**

The Language Centre requires families interested in cultural and language exchange to host visiting groups of international students for two to three week periods during January to February or July to August.

Host families receive a nominal fee to offset transport and meal costs.

**For more information please contact:**

An Chi Baxter, Study Tour Coordinator

The University of Newcastle Language Centre
Ph: 4921 5376
Fax: 4921 7068
Email: Anchi.Baxter@newcastle.edu.au
Entomological win with stylish insect

Lamese Larney has been named a winner in the Insect Illustration Competition conducted annually by the Australian Entomological Society.

Placed first in the black and white insect illustration section with her drawing of a dragonfly, Lamese also collected second place in the colour section. The win netted her $250 for the first place and $100 for the second and her work will be published in the society’s merchandise and also in magazines.

As Office and Publications Manager for the Central Coast Campus Union, Lamese leads a busy life but managed to fit in studies in Plant and Wildlife Illustration as part of the honours component in the University’s Bachelor of Visual Communications (Design). However, this is not her only achievement. She is now nearing two years in remission after receiving chemotherapy and radiotherapy for Hodgkin’s Lymphoma.

“I hadn’t really concentrated on my art since I finished my initial visual arts degree in 1993, but found myself coming back to it when I got sick,” Lamese says. “I fight with my art as it can be very solitary and I am used to having a lot of people around me, with my work and my large, boisterous family.”

“But I have found that if you love drawing and you don’t do it, then you feel empty. Even if I don’t earn my living from my art, I still love to do it.”

The process for an entomological drawing is complex. First you have to catch the subject – the dragonfly was caught in a net at the Callaghan campus – then humanely put it to sleep. Working quickly, the legs and antennae are placed in the position to best display them, then the initial sketching stage starts, to become familiar with the body structures.

“Details need to be correct – the shape of the body, wings and the veins – and exactly the same on both sides,” Lamese explained. “Identifying features have to be shown – and be anatomically accurate. My poor dragonfly was a bit the worse for wear by the time I had finished drawing her.”

She has already started on her project for next year, a research paper on the flora and fauna of the Ourimbah Campus, complete with illustrations.

“I am excited about the prospect,” she says. “And I’m very excited about my win. I guess you could say I am excited about my life.”

TUNRA arrives on the Coast

The University’s research arm, TUNRA, has established a presence on the Ourimbah Campus and is moving into new offices located on the ground floor of the Main Administration Building.

TUNRA’s Business Liaison Manager David Fleming said the move reflects the growth in business interests and new industries moving into the Central Coast region. He said it was also in anticipation of the productive relationships that can be forged between the University and business in the area.

“Being located at the Ourimbah Campus will allow more flexibility and a quicker response rate,” he said. “We intend to work in close cooperation with the Industry Links Team that represents the three education sectors on the Campus and also the Central Coast Economic Development Organisation to assist in the development of the region, consistent with the Central Coast Moving Forward Strategy.”
Maintaining our research reputation

Recently appointed Director of Research and Research Training Services (R&RTS) Lyn McNarthy believes she has big shoes to fill in following the former Research Branch Director Peter Farley, who retired this year.

"The Research Branch has a very good reputation both within the University and externally and much of that was due to Peter's leadership," Lyn, who helped Peter to set up the University's Research Office 12 years ago, said.

"I want to build on what Peter and I have established and maintain the cooperative basis that we have with researchers. I am also very fortunate to have a team of highly experienced and committed staff in the R&RTS."

Lyn, who was Deputy Director of the Research Branch before her appointment, says that the whole concept of research and research training within the University has shifted in the past decade. The recent changes to the way in which the Federal Government allocates block funding are particularly significant.

"Block funding has shifted to become performance based, which makes it even more important for us to target the support we provide in research and research training to improve the University's performance - both in attracting funding for research and in completion rates of our research higher degree students," Lyn said.

Following a self-review conducted in the Division this year, the R&RTS has moved to align staff to the Faculties.

"Previously, we tended to be task-oriented, with staff assigned to specific areas such as scholarships, Australian Research Council grants, etc. This year, we have been working on a whole-of-Faculty service on the research side and we plan to extend that model to research training in 2003," Lyn said. "Additional staff will be appointed to enable this to happen."

Lyn says she has had positive feedback for the Faculty based model from researchers and has been pleased with the level of support for research and research training from the University.

"The University has recently supported the creation of research development managers in each Faculty, as well as a Coordinator for supervisor training and development. We have recognised an area of need and have put in place measures to address it."

Lyn, who was born and raised in Taree, did her BA, majoring in English/Psychology, with Honours in English, at the University and then a Diploma of Education. After deciding that teaching wasn't for her, she moved to Sydney for a year but returned to Newcastle to take a position with the Newcastle College of Advanced Education in 1982. Lyn moved to the University in 1995, first to the Faculty of Medicine and then to the newly formed Research Office.

"I'm very proud to be part of such a research-intensive University and I want to help retain and grow our reputation," she said.

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The University of Newcastle is at the forefront of Indigenous education and research and will stay ahead well into the future, Vice-Chancellor Roger Holmes told an audience at the opening of the four-day Birabahn Cultural Festival last month.

"The University's training program for Indigenous doctors has been so successful that now around six out of every 10 Indigenous doctors in Australia have done their training here," he said. "With the Wollotuka School of Aboriginal Studies here at the Callaghan campus and the Gibalee Aboriginal Studies Centre at our Ourimbah campus, we have the most comprehensive range of Indigenous study programs in Australia, not just for Indigenous students but for all Australian and overseas students."

The Vice-Chancellor said the University Senate has recently voted to make Aboriginal studies part of every undergraduate degree at the University. "The University has made a commitment to Indigenous education that has no equal in Australia, In every benchmark established for Aboriginal studies in Australian institutions, the University is consistently above the set standard."

The Vice-Chancellor also officially opened the Birabahn Higher Education Centre, saying the building's design, style and strength reflect the strength of the University's commitment to Indigenous education. "The building is as unique as the culture of Australia's Indigenous communities," Professor Holmes said. "It will be a place where that uniqueness can be explored and understood by Indigenous and non-Indigenous students and passed on to other generations."

Aboriginal elder Uncle Ken gave a welcome to the country, and dance and drama performances highlighted the significance of Birabahn to the local Aboriginal community at the official handover of the building by the Vice-Chancellor. Head of the School of Aboriginal Studies Professor John Lester said the opening of Birabahn marks a significant consolidation of long-term efforts of the University to participate in effective Aboriginal studies and research, and to become a national and international leader in Indigenous education.

Clockwise from left: dancers in the junior and adult corroborees; Dr Bill Jones, Three generations; Vice-Chancellor Roger Holmes hands over the building to Djari Donovani and his sister Georgia; Tara Mackie, Luke Pearson, Sandra Ridgeway and Chicka Dixon.
Birabahn now has a mandate to quite clearly provide leadership in particular in culturally appropriate studies and research," he said, "and the fruits of our outstanding staff secure our future."

Jonas said that Birabahn's outstanding features clearly articulate the priority the university gives to Aboriginal studies and its commitment to the Aboriginal peoples of NSW and Australia. He said the importance of the cultural festival should not be underestimated.

While the numbers attending weren't up to expectations, people came from across NSW and even from New Zealand to share our Indigenous culture," he said. "We have laid the foundations for the growth of these sorts of activities for the University and for Birabahn." Dr Bill Jonas, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, and elder and activist Chicka Dixon were among several Indigenous speakers who addressed visitors to the Birabahn Cultural Festival.

Dr Jonas, who was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University last year in recognition of his role in the preservation and transmission of cultural values and ideals, was recently appointed as the first Indigenous member of the University Council. He discussed social justice issues facing Australian Indigenous people today and highlighted the importance of the University's role in providing quality research and leadership that will contribute to moving Aboriginal communities forward. He stressed the need for genuine partnership between Indigenous communities and institutions like the University.

Respected elder from Wallaga Lake, Chicka Dixon, spoke on his involvement in the Aboriginal political movement. Dixon was named Australian Aborigine of the Year in 1984 and over the years has worked tirelessly for prison reforms. He is a highly respected member of the Aboriginal community of NSW.

Made a Member of the Order of Australia in 1993, Dr Jonas was a student of the University, then senior lecturer in geography before becoming Director of Aboriginal Education in 1990. Both speakers took part in a lecture series that ran during the Cultural Festival. Dr Linda Tuhiwai Smith, Director of the International Research Institute for Maori and Indigenous Education at the University of Auckland spoke on 'Maori Issues'.

The festival included art, drama, film, storytelling, dance and writing workshops.

Highlights included Kinections Art Exhibition; Birabahn Festival Dinner Dance; Junior and Senior Corroborees; Get Up and Dance drama performances; a Black Comedy Night; a Music Festival; and a Country and Western Music Show.
Therapy innovative treatment study will examine the effectiveness of three Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) approaches for treatment of depression. The question of how effective CBT is for people who suffer from depression as well as an alcohol and/or drug disorder is currently unclear. We hope that this study will provide some insight into the success of CBT for people with multiple issues.

Each treatment program has been developed in the Hunter and utilises the latest evidence-based approaches to treating depression and alcohol/other drug use.

“We are looking for people in the community who are currently experiencing depressive symptoms and who might also drink alcohol, smoke cannabis or use other drugs as a way of coping,” Frances said.

Participants in the treatment study will receive a comprehensive assessment and be given one of three treatments, followed by regular follow-up assessments over the course of the year. Each treatment program uses cognitive CBT techniques, with the first delivered over 10 weeks by a psychologist. The second treatment is one session of CBT delivered by a psychologist, and the third treatment program involves 10 weeks of CBT delivered using a computer program developed by the researchers.

“We are particularly excited about the computer-based CBT, given the increasing use of the Internet by the public to obtain important health information,” Frances said. “Computer therapy has the potential to make an enormous impact on people’s ability to access treatment for their problems, especially in rural and remote areas, and busy general practices.”

People selected to receive the computer-based CBT will still have contact with a psychologist throughout their treatment, however the emphasis will be on training them to use the computer program to learn the various cognitive and behavioural techniques they need.

Interested participants should contact the Centre for Mental Health Studies on 4924 6616. Participants will be reimbursed for expenses incurred during the assessments.

A team of psychologists at the University is examining the effectiveness of treatments for people suffering from depression and co-existing drug and alcohol problems.

Frances Kay-Lambkin from the research team at the Centre for Mental Health Studies, says the innovative treatment study will examine the effectiveness of three Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) treatments.

“CBT is a rapid, targeted treatment option that has the best documented success of the drug free approaches for treatment of depression. The question of how effective CBT is for people who suffer from depression as well as an alcohol and/or drug disorder is currently unclear. We hope that this study will provide some insight into the success of CBT for people with multiple issues.”

Each treatment program has been developed in the Hunter and utilises the latest evidence-based approaches to treating depression and alcohol/other drug use.

“We are looking for people in the community who are currently experiencing depressive symptoms and who might also drink alcohol, smoke cannabis or use other drugs as a way of coping,” Frances said.

Participants in the treatment study will receive a comprehensive assessment and be given one of three treatments, followed by regular follow-up assessments over the course of the year. Each treatment program uses cognitive CBT techniques, with the first delivered over 10 weeks by a psychologist. The second treatment is one session of CBT delivered by a psychologist, and the third treatment program involves 10 weeks of CBT delivered using a computer program developed by the researchers.

“We are particularly excited about the computer-based CBT, given the increasing use of the Internet by the public to obtain important health information,” Frances said. “Computer therapy has the potential to make an enormous impact on people’s ability to access treatment for their problems, especially in rural and remote areas, and busy general practices.”

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Interested participants should contact the Centre for Mental Health Studies on 4924 6616. Participants will be reimbursed for expenses incurred during the assessments.

Cosmetics company Avon last month donated $600,000 to life-saving breast cancer research programs coordinated nationally from Newcastle.

Vice President of Marketing for Avon, Mr Chris Stevens, presented the donation to the University’s Professor of Surgical Oncology and Group Coordinator of the Australian New Zealand Breast Cancer Trials Group (ANZ BCTG), John Forbes on Australia’s Breast Cancer Day, October 28.

The ANZ BCTG is Australia’s national organisation for breast cancer research. It conducts randomised clinical trials for the prevention and treatment of breast cancer, involving collaboration with over 67 institutions and more than 300 researchers throughout Australia and New Zealand, as well as 15 overseas countries. It has contributed to trials involving more than 9,000 women from Australia and more than 35,000 worldwide.

Professor Forbes said the money would be used to start research specifically targeting young women diagnosed with early breast cancer. It would also go towards research projects looking at the prevention of breast cancer.

“It’s very exciting,” he said. “There has been more progress and understanding in breast cancer research in the past 12 months than in the last 25 years.”

Avon raises money through selling pink ribbon products and special-edition Kiss Goodbye to Breast Cancer lipsticks. Mr Stevens says Avon’s sales representatives distributed millions of information leaflets on breast health.

Australia’s Breast Cancer Day, celebrated nationally since 1994, aims to increase awareness of breast cancer in the community. An Ecumenical Service was held on October 27 in Christ Church Cathedral to celebrate the lives of those lost to breast cancer and to look to the future.
Second round parents recognised in Windale project

A second year social work student is working on a project at Windale Public School aimed at addressing a growing social phenomenon in Australia - grandparents taking on the role of parents.

In one of a number of projects the University is planning under a multidisciplinary research project at Windale, Erin Blissett encouraged grandparents to get together at the School earlier this month and talk about their experiences as 'second round' parents.

"The day was held on November 15 as a result of interviews I conducted with grandparents of children at Windale Public School," Erin said. "It was held to recognise their efforts and listen to their experiences. We hope to hold an education day later to give them information about the services available to them but his initial day is to give them a chance to meet other grandparents in their own community and to relax."

Erin organised for guest speaker Jennifer Laprince, a social worker at the John Hunter Hospital, to relate her own positive experiences as a grandparent in a parent's role. She also developed a Caregiver's Resource Pack to distribute on the day that includes a relaxation CD and information on how grandparents can access respite.

The day was held at Alcazar, a School as Community Centre in the grounds of Windale School. The Centre is one of a number established under the NSW Government's 'Families First' strategy aimed at increasing the effectiveness of early childhood intervention and prevention services for families with children from birth to eight years. Alcazar Facilitator Wendy Lawrence said Erin's project was timely as there is no established infrastructure of support for grandparents raising children.

"Erin was marvellous," Wendy said. "She did a comprehensive summary of the literature on the subject and searched the press for Australian stories."

The interest in grandparents and the positive role they play in communities grew from a pilot study conducted by fourth year social work students at the University, called the Windale Wisdom Project. Head of the School of Social Sciences Professor Mel Gray and Dr Jill Gibbons, lecturer in social work, were hoping to obtain funding to progress this research further.

"Dominant attitudes about older people tend to project them mainly as having dependency needs and requiring a lot of care when they approach advanced age, to the detriment of economically active groups," Mel said. "Such statements show no understanding of the unpaid and unrecognised services that older people provide to the family and community."

The Wisdom Project would see researchers work through focus groups, exploring current attitudes and perceptions among teachers and, based on their findings, devising and implementing a support program aimed at challenging negative perceptions.

Windale has been identified as one of the most disadvantaged communities in the State. The Family Action Centre's HomeStart program, and its Men and Boys Program are both active at Alcazar. Other University projects suggested in collaboration with Alcazar include a community history, social enterprise development, and creative developments through music and art.

The proposed multi-disciplinary intervention project flows from a partnership between the University, the Department of Education and Training initially through Windale Primary School, and the broader Windale community. It proposes drawing together the resources of several schools across the University including Social Sciences, Fine Arts, and Early Childhood Education.

"Although Windale has been identified as a low socio-economic community and despite the social problems prevalent in this community, people are flourishing and a percentage of children have gone on to further education," Mel Gray said. "That is why this project will employ an approach that recognises the strengths of the community and seeks to build on them."

Early research at ForeFront

Early career academic (ECA) staff from the Faculty of Science and Information Technology got together to compare their research projects last month in the third annual ForeFront forum.

An ECA is an academic within the first five years of their appointment to the University, either with a PhD already or within five years of completing one. ForeFront provides the 29 ECAs in the Faculty of Science and IT with an opportunity to present their research to their peers and to more established academics within the Faculty and to look at potential areas for collaboration.

ECAs from each School gave a 15-minute overview of their research, followed by a question session. Pro Vice-Chancellor (Science and IT) Professor Bill Hogarth this year organised for the Faculty's established research groups to prepare poster presentations incorporating a broad view of their research goals, skills and personnel.

ForeFront convenor Shaun Roman said the seminar is really useful for early researchers as it helps them overcome feelings of isolation and to see how their research fits into what others in the Faculty are doing. Topics covered at ForeFront ranged widely and included research into the Outlaw Motorcycle Club's insignia; sperm-egg reproduction; functional magnetic resonance imaging; and heart tugging tales of green tea, food and the Central Coast population.
The conference provided an avenue to investigate the possibilities of introducing queer studies into Australian universities, as at present no university in Australia offers such a program,” Shane said. “Our group is devoted to the principle of equity in education and is aware of the institutional and social discriminatory practices that impact on gays and lesbians, transsexuals and trans-gendered people, bisexuals and intersexuals.”

The keynote speech was delivered by the author of Queer Theory, Dr Annamarie Jagose, from the University of Melbourne. Professor Dennis Altman of La Trobe University delivered a public lecture entitled ‘30 Years of Gay Liberation’, in which he discussed how globalisation and the technological revolution have opened up more possibilities for gay and lesbian people.

The keynote speech was delivered by the author of Queer Theory, Dr Annamarie Jagose, from the University of Melbourne. Professor Dennis Altman of La Trobe University delivered a public lecture entitled ‘30 Years of Gay Liberation’, in which he discussed how globalisation and the technological revolution have opened up more possibilities for gay and lesbian people.

An International Queer Sports and Leisure Association was established as a result of the conference. Coinciding with the conference, Newcastle artist Scott Carey presented an exhibition ‘Other Constructions’ at the Conservatorium of Music.

“The conference showed that there is a great wealth of new knowledge to mine in this field of studies,” Shane said. “We are optimistic for the future of our research group at the University.”

MBA students win regional title

Students from the Newcastle Graduate School of Business (NGSB) have won the Australian-New Zealand Boston Consulting Group (BCG) Business Strategy Competition.

Director of the NGSB and Dean of Business, Professor Paul Ryder, congratulated the team on their extra curricular efforts, which have been encouraged and supported by teaching staff and fellow students at the NGSB. The MBA focuses on the development of a strategic orientation in all graduates. Professor Ryder said the NGSB will expand its involvement in high level, international student competitions with the appointment of new senior staff in strategic management and entrepreneurship next year.

Newcastle won the postgraduate division for the first time ahead of six other regional finalists including University of Auckland, Melbourne Business School and the Australian Graduate School of Management. The team’s coach, Suzanne Ryan, said the win proves that smaller schools like NGSB have both the quality of students and commitment of staff essential for a nationally competitive graduate school of business.

“The competition requires the teams to go into a three hour lock-up where they analyse a case study and prepare a presentation on their solution. They are then quizzed on their presentation by the judging panel,” said Suzanne. “It is a highly pressurised situation requiring lateral thinking, precision teamwork, broad analytical skills, the ability to present their solution and think on their feet under tough questioning.”

The team comprised four students who have recently completed or are completing their MBA studies. They included Cameron Ricketts – a geologist currently working with the Insolvency Administrators, Star, Dean-Wilcocks, Croshie in Newcastle; Thomas Relf - a manufacturing cost accountant with Hunter Valley veterinary pharmaceuticals firm, Jurox Pty Ltd; Ren Sun - a dentist in Charlestown; and Bruce Whitley - a chemical engineer and small business entrepreneur.
Dubbo students take in sumo robot show

When third year electrical engineering student Todd Furney had a drink with his former teacher and family friend Les Sund on a recent visit back home to Dubbo, he had no idea it would set in motion an excursion to the University by 22 students from his old school.

Todd told Les about his involvement in a Sumo Robot Competition as part of his studies and his enthusiasm kindled Les’ interest. Les teaches mathematics at Dubbo College – the senior school campus of the multi-campus Dubbo High School – and decided that the competition would be a perfect practical demonstration for Year 10 students doing a computing module called Monitoring and Control. He mentioned it to Head Teacher in computing Denise Zanker and the two of them planned this month’s visit with maths and computing students from Years 10 to 12.

The students toured the electrical engineering facilities at the University before watching the robot competition. Todd and his third year classmates, in teams of four, were required to create electronic robots that ‘fight’ other robots and push their opponents out of the ring. The high school students got on the bus at Dubbo at 4am for the Newcastle visit and were planning a tour of other engineering facilities and a trip to the beach before going home.

“Todd didn’t do a computing course at high school but he has gone into electrical engineering and is doing well,” Denise said. “We wanted to show the students who are studying computing what they are capable of and to try and encourage them to think beyond high school to where they might be in five years time.”

Les said the University had been wonderful for Todd and had opened up opportunities to him that would not have been available in Dubbo. Todd is a UNISS scholar and does industry placements with EDI Rail in Cardiff. Next year, he will do a 12-month placement with EDI, which designs and builds electric trains and is working on Sydney’s ‘millenium’ trains. His interest in electrical engineering began as an eight year old when he worked in an auto electrical shop. He then moved on to a television and video repair shop when he was 12. He hopes to work in robotics and automation, probably in Newcastle.

“We’ve got some really bright kids with us today,” Les said, “including a couple that have their own websites up and running and some that are studying university level subjects already. This trip gave them a chance to look at Newcastle and the University and see that the city is easy to get around in and that the campus is really beautiful.”

Unusual student wins Austrian prize

A chemical engineering student who studied a German elective because he thought it would be interesting has won the 2001 Austrian Embassy Prize for an essay in Austrian studies.

Hugh Maccallum found his language studies so engrossing, that after graduating with Honours in Chemical Engineering he continued his studies taking Honours also in German. During his German course Hugh spent a semester abroad in 2001, studying German at Trier University. He now works as a Business Analyst for Pasminco in Lake Macquarie.

Convenor of German, A/Professor Fred Walla said the Austrian Embassy Prize came about as a result of a visit to the University by Dr Otmar Koler, the Austrian Ambassador to Australia. Professor John Ramsland, Dean of the former Faculty of Arts and Social Science, invited the Ambassador to Newcastle and, given the strong interest in Austrian studies at the University, he agreed at a reception in his honour to establish the prize in Austrian studies.

“Hugh is a special student who decided to keep on with his German studies,” Fred commented, “Studies of foreign cultures and languages broaden the mind.”

While he has no specific plans to use his language skills, Hugh enjoyed travelling and living in Europe during his semester abroad and plans to return there to live at some stage.

“I’m interested in languages in general,” he said. “I’m learning French at the moment.”

John Ramsland, in what was his last official duty as Dean of Arts and Social Science, presented Hugh with a book and certificate on behalf of the Austrian ambassador, who could not be present. John retires from the University on December 8 after a long and distinguished career. He will continue to carry out research and supervise postgraduate students.
Green's senator outlines policy

Environmental sustainability and full employment are compatible, newly elected Australian Greens Senator for NSW Kerry Nettle told an audience at the University last month.

Delivering the fourth in the University’s Centre of Full Employment and Equity’s (CoffEE) series of Public Policy Lectures for 2002, Senator Nettle said that a holistic policy agenda is needed that covers not only employment policy but also privatisation, regional policy and incomes policy. Such an approach means more than just environmental sustainability.

"We also need to ensure social and economic sustainability," she said. "Only if a society provides sufficient meaningful and socially productive work will it be able to ensure social cohesion and the values of tolerance and inclusion that we aspire to."

She was critical of the current approach to unemployment, involving 'blaming the victim' and noted that experience over the past two decades demonstrates the failure of the market to provide full employment. She argued that more deregulation and privatisation will not address the issue.

Senator Nettle outlined the case for active intervention by government in the processes of investment and job creation. She noted the important role that government could play as an employer of last resort and praised the Centre for its work in developing policies in this area.

"The failure of the market to provide jobs for all who want them should be obvious," she said. "The responsibility of government to address this failure is equally obvious."

Her talk raised the importance of sustainable employment strategies for Australia’s regions, including a guarantee of key services in regional communities, the implementation of an industry policy that creates sustainable jobs and ensuring that regions have a diversified economic base. The issue of income inequality was also raised.

"We believe the backbone of ensuring income equality is ensuring wage equality. That is why the Greens support restoring the powers of Australian Industrial Relations Commissions and encouraging the role of unions - the real safeguarder of pay for low wage workers."

Professor Bill Mitchell, Director of the Centre, welcomed Kerry’s talk, noting that it provided much to think about in the current policy framework. A video and the text of Senator Nettle’s presentation are available through the Public Policy resources page on the CoffEE website http://el.newcastle.edu.au/coffee/. The Public Policy Lectures, supported by the School of Policy, will be held regularly throughout 2003 and information will be made available through the CoffEE website.

CoffEE will host the 9th National Conference on Unemployment from December 4-6. The Conference will be held in conjunction with CoffEE’s annual Path to Full Employment Conference. The conference will present papers around five themes: macroeconomic policy and full employment; environmental sustainability and full employment; regional development — issues and strategies to increase employment; job sharing, hours of work, overwork and underemployment; and policy responses to unemployment.

Full details, including registration, are available through the Conference homepage http://el.newcastle.edu.au/coffee/conferences/2002/index.cfm

National art prize to Tamworth student

Honours student Michelle Hungerford has won the National Tertiary Art Prize in the 2D category.

The prize is awarded for outstanding artworks by university and TAFE students nationwide. Fifty artworks went to the judging from 20 tertiary institutions. The three categories in the competition are 2D (works on paper, printmaking, painting), 3D (photomedia, electronic art) and 3D installation.

Michelle also won the Works on Paper/Printmaking category in the University’s Annual Acquisitive Art Prize with the large drawing in charcoal and pastel that won the National Tertiary Art Prize, which was judged by artist David Boyd.

"It is fantastic when hard work pays off," she said, "but I think the most rewarding thing is that people are now connecting with the work I am doing.”

Michelle entered the competition on the spur of the moment with no expectation of winning. The path to artistic success has been a long one for the mother of four, who was a nurse until she began her family 15 years ago. She decided to pursue her long-held interest in art and completed an Advanced Diploma in Fine Art at TAFE. The University granted her credit for the first two years of a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree through an articulation arrangement with TAFE.

Michelle was able to stay in Tamworth during her studies, travelling to Callaghan once a month under a flexible delivery program. She graduated last year and has just completed her Honours year.

"The past two years have been wonderful for me and for my art," she said. "I hope to pursue a career as an artist and will look around for a gallery to take me on."

Michelle’s work is on display as part of the Echo Exhibition of honours students in the University’s Fine Art Gallery from November 13 and also at Suters Gallery in Newcastle until December.
Multicultural Day fosters tolerance

International students from the University have helped to make Jesmond Public School’s annual multicultural day in September one to remember.

Ruth Gresham from the University’s International Student Support unit said students from a variety of backgrounds attended the day in the interests of fostering community acceptance and understanding of diverse cultures.

Japanese students in traditional dress demonstrated origami, students from Indonesia, China and the Philippines danced, sang and spoke about their cultures and Aboriginal student Mick Davison played the didgeridoo. Some of the students have children attending the school.

Principal Peter Barney said that 23 percent of the student population at Jesmond Primary are from multi-cultural backgrounds with most of them the children of international students.

“When I first came to the school in 1999, there was very little involvement by these parents in school life,” Peter said. “We invited them to come and talk to us about their expectations for their children’s schooling and told them what they could expect. Now, the parents come along to sports days and other events and are talking to other parents in the playground.”

The school conducts Muslim scripture classes and has a set of Unklung – a musical instrument played in Indonesia – that was donated by a parent.

Ruth said the students were happy to pass on some aspects of their culture at the Multicultural Day and that the University would continue to cooperate with the school in their efforts to unite the many different cultures that make up the Jesmond community. She thanked June Ferguson from International Student Support for coordinating the program.

SMART shopping

The Faculty of Science and Information Technology’s SMART program teamed up with management from Garden City shopping centre Kotara, to provide something a little unusual during the October school holidays. The SMART program’s Laura Tanswell and Matthew Fitzgerald presented two fun-filled and inspiring science shows to fascinated holiday shoppers.

“The Unexpected Science show is a fascinating collection of scientific tricks, puzzles and demonstrations,” Matt explained. “The demonstrations include disappearing water, spinning chairs, super tennis balls, holey potatoes, and straw whistles. And only science can explain the unexpected results!”

The acclaimed SMART Outback Science show has just finished touring the Hunter. It used multimedia and simple demonstrations to tell the story of Australian outback science, technology and people. It is estimated that over 1100 people saw the Garden City shows over the first five days of the school holidays. In fact, from its inception in 1998 until the end of 2002, SMART will have presented 786 shows to over 51,000 people – that’s equivalent to about 10 percent of the Hunter and Lake Macquarie population.

The SMART program doesn’t just provide thought-provoking entertainment for holiday shoppers, it is also in strong demand by local schools as a educational science resource. The undergraduate science and education student presenters benefit too. They are provided with training and first-hand experience in science communication. It’s a win-win-win situation for the SMART students, the university and the community.

Two people who returned feedback sheets on the October shows were randomly selected to receive a thank you prize from Garden City and SMART. The winners were Hannah Titchmarsh from New Lambton and Kylie Nyland from Raymond Terrace.

The SMART program has developed an excellent reputation for delivering appealing, high quality, relevant and affordable Science and Technology activities. SMART was a finalist in the 2001 Eureka awards for the Promotion of Science. This year the impact of the SMART program was recognised by an Institute of Physics Public Awareness of Physics Award to the founders of the program.
University wins gold at University Games

The following teams and individuals returned to Newcastle with gold medals:

- Men's Soccer
- Women's Touch
- Women's Water Polo
- Women's Rugby Union
- Krystle Hitchcock - 3m Springboard Diving
- Line Kvammi - Tae Kwon Do

The University's team placed 6th overall, finishing with 11 medals. The University of Sydney won the overall point score. The University and NUSport are looking forward to hosting next year's Australian University Games. The event is expected to attract nearly 6,000 competitors who will inject an estimated $10 million into the Newcastle community during their visit.

Victorious: the University's Touch team (above) and the Water Polo team celebrate their wins at the Australian University Games

Newcastle students brought home a swag of gold medals from the 2002 Australian University Games, held in Adelaide at the end of September.

The 220-strong University team joined approximately 5,000 athletes from 42 university campuses across Australia in five days of friendly competition between some of the nation's best athletes.

Soccer team on golden run by John Davidson

The University's men's soccer team continued its long-running domination of inter-varsity competition when it won the final at the 2002 Australian University Games (AUG) against Adelaide University 4-0 last month.

The soccer team has a record of achievement that most teams only dream about. They have reached the final of the AUG seven times in the past eight years, winning four times. At the Eastern University Games they claimed gold in 1995 and 1997. Last year they came from behind to defeat ANU 3-1 in the AUG final. In July they were crowned Eastern University Games champions again, after smashing the University of NSW 5-0 in Newcastle.

Heading into this year's AUG, the team's preparation included matches against top ranked National Soccer League club Newcastle United, United's under-17 side and the Newcastle United youth team.

According to coach Roy Capitao, a local high school PE teacher and a former player for the University, much of the team's success can be attributed to keeping the players together.

"Our camaraderie and gamesmanship has really pulled us through games at times," he said. "There is definitely a fantastic bond between the players."

Another reason for their success is the talent the University has been able to draw upon. Top players include NBN State league and former and current NSL youth league players such as Evis Heath, Kurt O'Brien, Peter Haynes, Lee Davaleer, Chris Gazzard and James Kemp; and Audun Groen and Ivar Slastad, both veterans of Norway's top soccer divisions.

The team did well to be crowned AUG champions for the fifth time after a tough tournament. Despite a shaky start, they recorded six clean sheets and scored 17 goals while conceding just three. Four team members were chosen for the Australian Universities tournament side — James Kemp, Evis Heath, Kurt O'Brien and goalkeeper Luke Troyer. The team was nominated for the NSW and Australian university sports team of the year awards. A virtually unchanged team will defend their title on home ground next year as the Australian University Games is held in Newcastle.

John Davidson is a journalism student.
Awards

Professor Graeme Jameson has been awarded the prestigious Chemeca Medal for his revolutionary research in chemical engineering.

The inventor of the Jameson Cell received the award from the 30th Annual Australasian Chemical Engineering Conference CHEMA 2002 for his research. The cell, invented in laboratories at the University in 1986, uses the flotation process to remove particles from suspensions. It is only now beginning to reach its full potential. Initially developed to recover valuable minerals from processing wastewater streams, the technology is now being used by the coal industry to recover fine coal from waste streams.

Graeme is Director of the University’s Centre for Multiphase Processes, a major centre for research and research training in the science and technology of fine particles and bubbles.

Conjoint Professor Lindsay Johnston has been awarded the 2002 Royal Australian Institute of Architects Education Prize.

Lindsay, former Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Design, won the award for his long and distinguished academic career, during which he has been ‘widely influential and highly respected across a broad spectrum of educational and professional activities’.

The Jury Citation for the prize says that Lindsay is an integral part of a dedicated team of academics at the University that created one of Australia’s most highly regarded and innovative architecture programs.

Coordinator of the University’s Diversity in Engineering and Built Environment project Gunilla Burrowes has won the Australasian Association of Engineering Education award for cultural change in engineering education.

Gunilla’s nominators said she had overcome barriers to change in the engineering workforce, as a graduate engineer and then through her positions of advocacy in education institutions. Her career has demonstrated her commitment to encouraging the acceptance of diversity in the engineering profession. Her research has concentrated on issues of inclusive educational practices in the engineering classroom.

Gunilla has been a mentor and role model for women in undergraduate engineering courses. She is an active member of Faculty and University committees and represents the University in a range of forums. Her recently completed Master of Philosophy on gender dynamics in the engineering classroom has begun to inform practices with inclusive curriculum in engineering classrooms.

Crash Course Dummies wins for Newcastle student

Student film-maker Patrick Nichols has won equal first prize in the New South Wales, PLAY NOW / ACT NOW, ‘Safe Celebration’ Film Festival. Patrick shared the $15,000 first prize, with a film making team from the University of NSW, for his film ‘Crash Course Dummies’, which delivers a message about alcohol abuse.

“The Cambridge Hotel in Hunter Street Newcastle allowed us to use their building as the setting for the eight minute film,” Patrick said. “I combined an earlier mood piece assignment with the idea of the story being seen through an intoxicated persons eyes.”

The film shows peoples’ reactions to the drunk person and ends in a drink driving incident, delivering a clear message about the consequences of overdoing it. Patrick received help in the project from lecturers Jamie Lewis and Rachel Bentley and technical officer Andrew Evans. Fellow student Anthony Gore put the music track together for Crash Course Dummies.

Entries were received from 11 universities across the state and eight finalists were screened at the Festival in October. The film festival is an initiative of NSW Health aimed at getting university students to create their own messages about health issues. PLAY NOW / ACT NOW is part of the NSW Government Youth Alcohol Plan 2001-2005.
Fourth year industrial design students hit the road in a Ford Transit van last month with D-Tour, an exhibition of their final year projects.

The students set up their projects inside the van, displaying a contemporary retro-style cruiser bicycle; an interactive CD on laptop; individual portfolios; business cards; concept sketches and computer renderings. Models made by students such as an electric planer, electric can opener, medical pulse monitor, toaster and a hedge trimmer were also displayed. In fact, the exhibition itself was designed and made by a four-member team of students.

Lecturer Jon Pryer says the travelling exhibition allowed the students to visit companies they were interested in working for to promote their skills.

"There are a reasonable number of jobs in industrial design for graduates but the tour targets the best jobs in the most desirable consultancies in a pro-active way."

One of the student organisers of D-Tour, Roxana Bina, said the tour also gave students an opportunity to see how design companies operated and to find out what aspect of their profession might most appeal to them.

Roxana, from Sydney's northern beaches, was attracted to the University by the reputation of the industrial design course.

"I wanted to try something new. I'd heard the degree had a good reputation and when I came to Newcastle for O-day, I was really impressed with the facilities and got a lot of support from the lecturers who were there."

Roxana took advantage of the University's Semester Abroad program, travelling to the US twice, including a 12-month stint at Virginia Tech during her final year.

"It was a great experience and I was able to combine my studies with a trip across the United States."

Roxana plans to pursue an internship in the US next year but will seek work in Australia first, preferably in the design of point of purchase displays.

The D-Tour exhibition was supported by Hire Intelligence, Bunnings Warehouse, Hobson Signs, Budget Car Rental and Mr Ply and Wood, with each company providing assistance through discounted or free materials.

D-Tour is an optional project for fourth year students. This is the first year the display has been set up in a van to allow it to be driven to different locations. Students took the exhibition to Sydney from October 15-18 and then on to Melbourne.

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