An exhibition at the School of Fine Art Gallery demonstrates the fine line between reality and fantasy using an elephant skeleton with some unusual attachments.
February edition

Editorial enquiries and contributions should be directed to the Editor, Uninews, Marketing and Media Services, phone: (02) 4956 1869 or (02) 4956 2829, email: prkib@cc.newcastle.edu.au

Uninews accepts display advertisements at the following rates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/4 page</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 page</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full page</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This year, we will also be accepting a limited number of classified advertisements from individuals and businesses outside the University, which will be charged at $2 per line in the Etcetera section. Staff are still able to place classifieds free of charge. Design services for advertisements are available through Marketing and Media Services.

Enquiries regarding display advertisements and design services should be directed to Pam Patterson, phone: ext 5594, email: phwatson@cc.newcastle.edu.au

Classified advertisements and other contributions for Etcetera should be sent to Rose Roohan, phone: ext 6463, email: prrr@cc.newcastle.edu.au

1999 Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Edition</th>
<th>Copy deadline</th>
<th>Circulation date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>March 11</td>
<td>March 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>May 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>May 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>June 17</td>
<td>July 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>August 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>August 26</td>
<td>September 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>September 30</td>
<td>October 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>October 28</td>
<td>November 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>November 25</td>
<td>December 13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Publisher - Fran Flavel
Editor - Kim Britton
Writers - Kim Britton, Karla McCormack, David Herbert, Cae Pattison
Photography - John Freund, Chris Patterson, Wendy Sansom
Designer - Tim Burns

Vice-Chancellor’s Column

Welcome to a new academic year. A special welcome to new students and staff members who have recently joined the University. For students recently arrived from overseas, may I warmly welcome you to the University and to the Hunter/Central Coast. 1999 is going to be an exciting and busy year for us all.

The University currently enrolls more than 19,000 students, with an increasing number of postgraduate coursework and postgraduate research students, in addition to a large contingent of students studying enabling courses and a comprehensive range of undergraduate programs.

1999 brings a modified Faculty structure. Of major significance for our art and design performance based disciplines are the amalgamations of the Department of Design with Architecture, to form the new Faculty of Architecture, Building and Design; and that of the newly named School of Fine Art with the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. These new structures will provide better opportunities for cooperation, strategic planning and development of these disciplines within larger faculties of the university, whilst still retaining important academic linkages between fine art and design.

A new faculty has also been established on the Ourimbah campus, which is a joint venture with the Hunter Institute of Technology, and which operates as a joint higher education/TAFE campus, both physically and educationally. The Central Coast Community College adds a further dimension in adult and community education on this campus. The Faculty of the Central Coast was established on January 1 this year, for the purpose of providing a fully recognized and responsible academic organisational structure for the provision of higher education and research on the Ourimbah campus. Three schools have been established as academic organisational units within the new faculty: School of Humanities; School of Business; and School of Science and Technology. Professor Les Eastcott has been reappointed by the Council for a further term as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Central Coast Campus), and has academic, financial and management responsibilities for the campus across the higher education and TAFE sectors. The new faculty will have responsibility for courses which are specific to the Central Coast, as well as academic responsibility for the delivery and assessment of a wide range of other courses and subjects. The schools of the new faculty will also have responsibility for the delivery of subjects offered jointly with another department or faculty. The new structure will also provide opportunities for the Faculty of the Central Coast in bringing forward proposals for new degrees, including joint awards with NSW TAFE, and in taking direct responsibility for research programs and supervising research postgraduate students. I am sure that you all join me in wishing the new faculty every success for its future.

May I thank all members of the university community who have contributed to the establishment and further development of these new academic entities. In particular, may I commend Professor Wayne McKenna, who served as Dean of the Faculty of Art and Design during the 1998 transitional year, and Professor Les Eastcott, who continues to play a major leadership role for the university, in the academic development of the Central Coast Campus.

I wish you all every success for the 1999 academic year.
Beyond the duty statement

Elaine Swift, secretary in the School of Fine Art, feels fortunate to be able to work at a job she loves, but to be rewarded for that work with one of the six inaugural Vice-Chancellor's Awards for General Staff Excellence makes it all worthwhile.

"It's great to be able to do what I love in life and to receive an award for it makes it even better," Elaine said. "I was very thrilled to be one of the first people chosen and I really felt that I was very fortunate in receiving this award."

Elaine has worked almost continuously at the university for the past 30 years. She began work in the student administration section on July 4, 1969 and has worked in many areas of the university, including four years in education and 16 years in the chemistry department.

"I had a two year break to look after my mother, who was ill, around 1986. When I wasn't able to care for her any longer and she had to go into a nursing home, I applied to come back to the university because I really missed the students."

After a stint in the Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Elaine came to the Department of Fine Art, where she has been for the past eight years. It was for her outstanding work in this department that her supervisors nominated her for the award. As well as going far beyond the call of duty to make the lives of students and staff a little easier, Elaine has been helping the former Assistant Dean of the Faculty of Art and Design, Miranda Lawry, organise exhibitions in the faculty gallery (now called the School of Fine Art Gallery).

"The gallery opened in 1994 and I do all the work around exhibitions including organising exhibitors and supervising the gallery assistants who do the setting up. There is a huge mailing list for openings and quite a lot of organisation goes into them," Elaine said.

The nomination also paid tribute to Elaine's efforts during the period of review and change management in the Faculty of Art and Design. Following the review, the Department of Design has become part of the newly formed Faculty of Architecture, Building and Design and the Department of Fine Art has become the School of Fine Art and is now part of the Faculty of Arts and Social Science. "When staff were to be told that they could be made redundant, I tried to be around and to put them at their ease and help where I could," Elaine said.

Elaine believes the awards for general staff are a good idea. "There are a lot of people in the university who do a lot of work beyond their duty statement and it's a good way to recognise their efforts."

Other staff members to receive awards were Paula Jarvie (Professional Officer, School of Biomedical Sciences), Giovanni Di Gravio (Archives Clerk), George Florek (Dispatch Clerk, International Office), Peter Thomas (Senior Technical Officer, Architecture). They each received a $1,500 prize and will be awarded a certificate at graduation ceremonies in May. Chris Cuthbert and Helen Doheny from the Student Services section of the Central Coast Campus won a team award and Richard Bale, Jenny Kirkby and Rod Lewis were all highly commended.

Information on the awards and how to nominate someone can be found on the university's web site at http://www.newcastle.edu.au/services/our/hrm/policy/gen_excel/vc_award_pol.html
Bringing grapes to the Hunter

Hunter people will be able to study viticulture locally for the first time thanks to the introduction this year of two new courses developed through the TAFE/University articulation group. The newly introduced Diploma of Viticulture offered at the Kurri Kurri campus of Hunter Institute of Technology (HIT) will provide students with credit points equivalent to half of the new Bachelor of Science (Viticulture) degree at the university.

Dr Graeme McIntyre, from the Department of Geography and Environmental Science, who was part of the articulation group, said Hunter people previously had to go to South Australia to study viticulture or more recently to Charles Sturt University. "Winemaking in the Hunter is different to that practised elsewhere for a number or reasons," Graeme explained. "We have a humid summer, for instance, as opposed to the dry Mediterranean climate of South Australia. That introduces climate-based problems such as mildew or bunch rot. We also have a warm climate, which means that viticulture skills - such as cold fermentation - that we need are different."

The development of the viticulture course heralds the first of a range of possible cooperative arrangements between the two institutions. Speaking at the December launch of the courses, Vice-Chancellor Roger Holmes said that the likely next step will be a Diploma course in winemaking at Kurri that would articulate into a chemistry-based degree course at the university.

Graeme is holding further discussions with the Director of the Kurri TAFE campus, Tom Lantry, about other possibilities for collaboration and Tocal Agricultural College is seeking articulation agreements for courses they offer in agriculture and landcare.

Graeme, who retires from the university next month, gained his matriculation through TAFE and feels personal satisfaction at the prospect of closer collaborative agreements. He will help get the diploma course off the ground by working as a part-time lecturer at Kurri this year.

"I wanted to be able to provide a smoother path for another kid who desperately wants to go to university," he said. "I believe that Hunter people will become better winemakers if they do their training here."

Newcastle chosen for China student immigration trial

The university's strong links with the People's Republic of China have won it the opportunity to take part in a federal government program aimed at improving access to Australian university study for Chinese students.

Newcastle will take part in a PQI (pre-qualified institution) trial being initiated by the Department of Immigration and Multi-cultural Affairs (DIMA) this year.

Pro Vice-Chancellor (External Relations), Jenny Graham, said the pilot program aims to facilitate growth in the student visa market in certain non-gazetted countries including China, India, Pakistan and Vietnam.

The university was one of 22 that applied to be involved in the trial and was one of only seven selected for China.

"The universities chosen will be able to recruit up to 30 students according to more streamlined processes for entry," Jenny explained. "Basically the universities themselves will examine the bona fides of students applying to study with them and assess their motivation to study as well as their suitability financially and academically. We will also assess whether the student is likely to return to their country of origin."

The 1999 PQI Trial has been initiated by DIMA in response to appeals from universities, TAFE, ELICOS and private VET providers to expedite visa assessment for students applying from these non-gazetted countries.

In its submission to DIMA, Newcastle was able to demonstrate that it has had a substantial enrolment of students from China since 1994 and currently has 30 Chinese students enrolled. The submission also highlighted the university's substantial investment in PRC over the past two years, including exchange agreements and links with Chinese institutions; its ability to make adequate arrangements in China for the assessment process to take place; its strong support of international students; and its high overseas student retention levels.

"The university has shown it has a clear commitment to China as evidenced by the resources we have poured into establishing collaborative programs and links over a long period, and in the past 12 months in particular," Jenny said. "We have invested a lot of money in China in one form or another, especially in programs of the faculties of Science and Mathematics, Engineering and Medicine and Health Sciences, particularly the Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and more recently the Faculty of Law."

To assist with the assessment process, the university has entered into a partnership with the China Council for International Education and Development (CCIED), which has a direct link with the Ministry of Education. The Council's Managing Director is President of the national Senior Professors' Association.
Graduate school’s outspoken advocate

The university has established a Graduate School as the cornerstone of its efforts to increase its share of postgraduate students.

Director of the school, Professor Scott Holmes, said Newcastle is aiming to boost postgraduate enrolments from its current level of around six percent of the student population to the national average of ten percent.

"The market for postgraduate students has become increasingly competitive, both nationally and internationally," Scott said.

Some universities have responded by restructuring to share facilities, as demonstrated by the recent merger of the graduate business schools of the University of NSW and Sydney University. Similar mergers are proposed between graduate schools in Adelaide and Perth. Others, such as Deakin and the University of New England, have boosted their postgraduate student enrolments by investing in a full scale distance learning approach.

"The graduate school will allow us to achieve the sort of economies of scale and scope that the city university mergers provide. One of our major aims will be to develop flexible delivery methods for postgraduate courses across the university," Scott said.

The school will provide a university-wide focus for all postgraduate activity, a reference for graduate students and student issues and will act as a clearing house for management training and executive development programs. It will allow for rationalisation of a range of costs including development, delivery, marketing and advertising, student recruitment, administrative and relationship costs. While the faculties will still be responsible for the academic and administrative supervision of postgraduate courses, the graduate school will support and direct their activities.

"We need to be more responsive to opportunities," Scott said. "The graduate school will be entrepreneurial and will seek to coordinate the efforts of the faculties and divisions to avoid replication of costs and to ensure that when the message about the university and its courses goes out it is about the whole range of our offerings."

One major thrust of the school will be to ensure postgraduate courses were in line with the needs and aspirations of potential students.

"Focusing on meeting student needs isn’t just PR rhetoric, it’s a competitive fact," Scott said. "This is even more important in the field of postgraduate studies where you often try to convince working professionals, with all the demands on their time, to come and study."

To this end, the school will look at the possibility of providing distance courses for key postgraduate programs, using internet technology, and building professionally orientated cross-discipline degrees such as the Masters of Applied Management.

"This study program is based around introducing management issues in an organisational and strategic setting, so that practising professionals and managers can advance their knowledge in a setting which meets the needs of their personal situation and objectives. It provides an impetus to faculties to help them reach postgraduate markets and allows a unique cross-disciplinary approach where students can acquire essential management skills while updating their discipline specific skills."

The graduate school will be based in the Chancellery and as well as a Director will employ a Postgraduate Coursework Officer, an Executive Program Manager and two administrative support staff. It will initially operate until the end of 2002 and an annual review of its structure, operations and funding will be conducted.

"I see my role as being an outspoken advocate of what needs to be done in order to achieve the university’s targets in postgraduate enrolments," Scott said. "Newcastle is already a great university so imagine how much more vibrant it would be with the appropriate postgraduate coursework contingent."

Surfriderz Club Reunion

Saturday, March 6 - 6pm at the Beaches Hotel, Merewether. Celebrating 32 years since the club’s patron the late Brin Newton-John helped establish it as a university sporting club. Brin’s daughter Olivia has been invited to attend the reunion. Former members include Cheryl Kernot. Enjoy a three course meal, dinner and drinks for $40. For tickets call Rob Sirash - 4942 8101.
Excited by accountancy

The new Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Commerce, Professor Steve Easton, will be the first to admit that stock markets are uncertain and unpredictable and that the advice of financial planners and stockbrokers is often wrong. Research he has carried out into forecasting of foreign exchange rates, for instance, proved that the experts were wrong more than 50 percent of the time. But suggest that studying finance is a waste of time and you’d be better off choosing your investments with a blindfold and a pin, and Steve leaps to the defence of his discipline.

“Everyone should have the sort of skills in financial planning that are taught in an undergraduate degree like our newly introduced Bachelor of Finance.

“Superannuation payouts are a good example where those with financial skills acting in an optimal way will guarantee a comfortable retirement, whereas unwise decisions can have a disastrous impact on lifestyle.”

It is even more important that people in business have the core skills necessary to make fundamental decisions such as whether an investment will prove profitable or whether to finance a project by issuing shares or by borrowing from a bank.

“It is through the application of simple models that financial planners are able to provide straightforward facts and be of real value to society.”

Steve, who took up his position as Dean last month, came to Newcastle two years ago as Professor of Finance and Head of the Department of Accounting and Finance. He has an international reputation as a finance researcher and has previously held positions at Lancaster University in England as well as at Monash University and the University of Adelaide. He also has extensive consulting experience, having provided advice to leading private and public sector organisations.

While admitting that the study of finance is very mathematical and quantitative, Steve not only believes his discipline is necessary, he also finds it exciting and dynamic.

His eyes light up as he talks about the on-line database providing real-time share prices that the faculty recently acquired for the use of staff, honours students and ultimately, third year students. “We can see what the market is doing each moment,” he enthused. “Finance is one of the most changing and topical of university disciplines.”

And for those who find the study of financial markets fascinating, it’s an exceptional time with the Asian crisis unfolding and the creation of a single European currency promising plenty of excitement. The introduction of the Euro is particularly interesting to Steve, who says the use of a common currency will take the power to influence the economy out of the hands of governments, separating economic and political governance in participating countries.

While teaching and research in finance will continue to be a part of his life, Steve is looking forward to his role as Dean. “The faculty has a well-deserved reputation for both the relevance and strength of its courses. My priority is to ensure that the degrees offered incorporate current workplace practice and continue to be highly valued by both students and employers.”

As part of this process, the four degrees offered by the faculty will all be reviewed with input provided by students, practitioners and academics. The Bachelor of Finance, commencing this year, will cater to students interested in careers in the stock market, banking, insurance and financial management industries. A Master of Applied Finance will also be introduced this year.

“We need to increase the diversity and range of our offerings,” Steve said. “We will also seek to make our degrees more flexible by increasing opportunities for double degree combinations with other faculties and by providing a smoother path for students seeking accreditation by professional bodies.”

The faculty is currently developing a marketing plan for undergraduate and postgraduate student recruitment, that will identify where its students come from and the needs of key employers. They are in the process of developing flexible delivery options for postgraduate students and will also seek to boost enrolment of international fee-paying students from around ten percent of total student enrolment to 20 percent.

Another priority for Steve is strengthening links with the local business community. He is a fellow of the Australian Society of CPAs, serving on the Newcastle and Hunter Valley Branch Council. He is a Senior Associate of the Australian Institute of Banking and Finance. “In the past couple of years I have developed links with the accounting and financial community in the region and in the coming months I am interested in extending those links to the wider business community,” Steve said.
Taking it on the road

The university has been awarded a $220,000 ARC grant as part of a collaborative project to develop a mobile soil testing facility, which will help bring long term economic benefits to a number of Australian industries.

The total value of the award including a contribution from Robert Carr and Associates is $460,000. The Australian Research Council grant is to establish a truck-based testing facility which will allow scientists to test soil samples on-site.

Associate Professor Hai-Sui Yu and Professor Scott Sloan of the Department of Civil, Surveying and Environmental Engineering said the proposed new system had a number of advantages over traditional methods and the grant is a reward for the high international standing of the Geotechnical Research Group.

"Traditionally soil testing involves taking samples from a given area and shipping them back to laboratories, usually in cities far from the sample sites," Scott said. "This is obviously an expensive and time consuming exercise, and may lead to inaccurate results due to sample disturbance.

"Proper testing of sites often involves large numbers of samples, so this makes off-site testing an even less desirable option and has lead to a strong demand for in-situ testing. While a number of overseas universities have mobile testing facilities there are none in Australian universities. The new facility will embrace state-of-the-art technologies, which have only recently been developed."

The advantages of the truck-based facility would be obvious and numerous.

"By being able to examine and test soil samples on site, it will save valuable time and money," Scott said. "This will assist industries like transportation, infrastructure, mining and also assist with environmental protection. The facility will also allow us, and our collaborative partners from the University of Sydney, to explore new research areas with potential long term economic benefits to Australia."

Enrolment hits targets

The university made more main round offers to students this year than in 1998 while maintaining high entrance scores across most courses, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Brian English said. In a year that saw a continuation in a trend for people to choose professional rather than general degrees, most courses achieved their enrolment targets for 1999.

"Other universities, particularly the metropolitans, had to really drop their UAI's (University Admission Index) in order to meet their enrolment targets for 1999."

"Still, we managed to attract more students to the university this year than last year while maintaining or increasing our UAI's in most courses."

There was a drop in enrolments in economics and commerce courses that reflected a sector-wide downturn for business studies. "While there doesn't seem to be such high demand around for business courses, this does come after a very high element of people wanting to study business in the past decade," Brian said.

Newcastle followed a trend for regional universities to do better in terms of attracting students than metropolitan. While Brian thought that the government changes to HECS and Austudy may have caused an economic effect that kept local students closer to home to study, he thinks Newcastle has other attractions.

"Just about everything is on offer here and you can study in reasonably sized classes with problem based and student centred learning. The larger metropolitan universities often have large class sizes and poor student retention rates."

Brian was particularly pleased at the continued improvement in the UAI's for education courses at the university. "Ten years ago you used to be able to get into a Bachelor of Education at a TER of around 50 but now UAI's for teaching courses range from 71 to 77. With the quality of students doing teaching degrees improving, there will be a flow through effect that will be of enormous benefit to our education system."

Newcastle made approximately 5,200 first round offers to students.
An area which has seen major development over the last 10 years will be rehabilitated to its former pristine state due to the efforts of students from the Central Coast Campus at Ourimbah.

The students, in their final year of the Bachelor of Science (Sustainable Resource Management), have established a Landcare group with the catchy and historically reminiscent name of Blue Gum Flats Landcare Inc. (See historical note below)

In a progression from their individual environmental interests, the group, which comprises students as well as lecturing staff and members of the community, has undertaken to rehabilitate Bangalow Creek which runs through the campus.

The group is currently gathering historical and environmental information on the site and surrounding area prior to the development of the Central Coast Campus.

The Ourimbah area is rich in history being one of the oldest settlements on the Central Coast. During the last century it was the centre of extensive timber logging and sawmilling activities and more recently a rich dairying and citrus growing area. Prior to European settlement, the area was a focus for Aboriginal cultural and social activities and it was they that named it 'Ourimbah' which means 'valley of tall timbers'.

President of the Blue Gum Flats Landcare Group, Sue Singleton, said the gathering of historical information about the area would help the group establish a sound management plan, which will incorporate local endemic species.

Sue said the campus site supports a remnant population of Melaleuca biconvexa which has recently been listed by the Scientific Committee of the National Parks and Wildlife Service as vulnerable to extinction. She said that one of the foremost aims of the Landcare group is to prevent the local extinction of this keystone species and protect it from further human impact.

“We have an obligation to preserve this unique species that occurs within our local area and nowhere else. The campus has one of the main populations of Melaleuca biconvexa in the Gosford/Wyong area and some of the trees are already showing signs of great stress,” Sue said.

She said the group also aimed to establish a long-term plan for weed management, propagation, rehabilitation and revegetation.

“We have already had the Bangalow Creek site inspected by the Wyong Shire Council Bushcare Officer and the Pest Management Officer from the National Parks and Wildlife Service. We are also in discussions with the NSW Scientific Committee of the National Parks and Wildlife Service Threatened Species Unit, the CSIRO and Sydney Royal Botanical Gardens regarding Melaleuca biconvexa,” she said.

“It’s an exciting project and an ongoing one. We hope that we can apply our knowledge and experience from the Sustainable Resource Management course to preserve an important element of the area. It’s a direct application of what we have studied,” she added.

Ourimbah

The earliest use of this Aboriginal place name is that used when the original boundaries were defined. Then the spelling used was “Oorimbah”. The name has been subsequently spelled Ourimbah.

Authorities give “Oorin” as meaning “belt of manhood” in which the stone axe was carried on hunting expeditions. “Oorinbah” is the bora ring or ceremonial ground in which the initiation ceremony of conferring the “belt of manhood” was carried out.

It has been stated that early teachers of the district taught the children a derivation, referring to it as “the valley of tall timbers”. Whatever the derivation, it is sufficient to say that Blue Gum Flat was the original name for the southern end of the village while Ourimbah referred to the northern end of the village.

The name of Ourimbah was universally adopted to describe the area in the late 1800's.
University immunised against millennium bug

There is a great deal of speculation about what will happen to our electronic world when clocks tick over to the Year 2000 (Y2K). While some believe that the so-called millennium bug has the potential to bring global systems to a standstill, industry and governments have known about the potential problems for more than 20 years and many multi-national corporations have spent millions on preparing for them.

The university has also been preparing and has taken major steps to remedy potential Y2K problems in its administrative computer systems. The finance and payroll system was not compliant and has been replaced by new systems. Other systems, including the student system (NUSS) is being reworked and undergoing testing to make sure it will continue to operate properly when the clock reaches midnight on December 31 this year.

A project team has been formed to develop strategies and resources to help staff to deal with Y2K issues that are likely to affect the operation of the university’s business or threaten safety. Project Manager, David Cater, doesn’t think there will be a significant safety threat to staff as January 1 is a Saturday as well as a public holiday. “We have to look at all the risks, including the possibility that we might lose power or gas supply and consider what might happen specifically on January 1, to make sure that existing contingency plans are adequate.”

While confident that the major systems will be Year 2000 “ready”, even if they are not compliant*, the project team has asked staff across the university’s campuses to complete an audit form in order to identify potential problems. Each faculty, division and cost centre has appointed a senior staff member to coordinate compliance activity and keep the project manager informed of progress towards making systems compliant.

The project team has gathered a range of resources which are available to staff including CDs, pamphlets, software, videos and media clippings. They are available from the Year 2000 Service Centre in the Auchmuty Library - ph: David on ext 5847 or Y2000@newcastle.edu.au*

* The university has adopted the requirements specified in a British Standards Institute document as its definition of Year 2000 compliance. It can be seen on the Internet at http://www.bsi.org.uk/dtsc/year2000/2000.html

Future of music is here

The future of music technology was showcased when music teachers from around NSW updated their skills at a three-day Music Technology Summer School at the Faculty and Conservatorium of Music.

“Judging by the response to this school there is an obvious need in the community for future education in music technology,” said Nathan Scott, music technology lecturer.

The Summer School was held in the Conservatorium’s Music Technology Laboratory from January 19 to 21.

Lectures and practical workshops covered such topics as MIDI, the Internet as a musical resource, multimedia and CD-ROM, audio engineering and how these elements relate to the classroom.

The school was conducted by lecturers Nathan Scott and Terry Latham along with representatives from the Department of Education and Training, leading music software manufacturers and the Roland Corporation Australia. It was made possible with the assistance of several sponsors including Latham’s Music, The MIDI People, Datasonics and Roland Corporation Australia.

In an effort to meet the growing demand for such programs, the Conservatorium will offer courses throughout the year, catering to the novice and the more experienced user. For further information contact Nathan Scott or Terry Latham at the Conservatorium on Ext 8922.
The University is in the final stages of implementing a new financial management information system to overcome the "millennium bug". Three staff members and a consultant have been working since August last year to get the new system, Finance One, ready to "go live" on July 1st.

Finance One, operating on an Oracle database platform, is considered to be the world leader in relational databases. It is not only Year 2000 compliant but provides a fully integrated financial management and accounting package. Designed for major corporations and large government organisations, the package currently operates in nine Australian universities and incorporates:

- General ledger
- Accounts payable
- Accounts receivable
- Purchasing and commitments
- Management and executive reporting
- Asset management
- Bank reconciliation
- Budgeting
- External systems interface
- Cash accounting
- Graphical report writer.

The system runs in either a classic version (DOS or terminal style) or a graphical user interface version (with a Windows look and feel) depending on your PC's configuration. It shows you common paths and offers you options, so even the least technical among us will be able to use it confidently with minimal training.

Account number structure - general ledger

The new account number will be the same as the old appropriation number (11 digits) with three components. The first three digits will be the department number (existing department numbers have been retained)

DDD

The second component (four digits) will be an identifying code and when combined with the department number will be known as the Cost Centre (formerly the grant number)

DDD-GGGG

The third component of four digits, the detail code, will replace the old expense code and give the account number (previously known as the appropriation number)

DDD-GGGG-EEEE

Tables to help you convert your old appropriation number to a new account number will be provided on the web and you should try to learn yours before July 1st. Other university users have found the system extremely friendly and efficient. It provides excellent inquiry capabilities. Other benefits include:

- access to timely information to help in planning and decision making
- flexible and user friendly reports
- electronic access allows interface with other applications
- eliminates the need for duplication
- faster flow of documents through system
- significant reduction in hard copy documentation.

Following the July 1st launch, the system will be "bedded down" within Finance before a phased introduction to faculties and divisions, which is expected to be completed by the end of the year. You will be provided with "hands on" training and a finance systems support group will be available to provide ongoing support. Further information will be provided as Finance One's implementation proceeds.

OPEN DAY

A reminder to staff that information on events and contributions to the Callaghan campus open day this year needs to be provided to your Faculty or department Open Day representative before FRIDAY, JUNE 26. You should also advise any requirements for signage or equipment for Open Day by this date.

Enquiries to Tone Gibson on Ext 7390 or email: gibson@mail.newcastle.edu.au or to Wendy Taylor, Ext 8872.
Good nutrition gives athletes a sporting chance

Think of enhancing sports performance, and we tend to think of steroids. The drugs controversies of 1998 and the increasing pressure on athletes at all levels to seek to improve their performance beyond the limits of physical training have tainted the ultimate health benefits of sport and fitness.

But enhancing performance doesn't necessarily mean popping pills.

Coordinator of the university’s sports nutrition courses, Dr Warren Lee, said what a person eats while they train is as important as how they warm up, the number of laps they swim or the size of the weights they lift.

“The foods we eat can add the greatest benefits to maximising our sporting abilities. Foods that are rich in carbohydrates, iron and calcium, for example are very important to people who are in training,” Warren said.

The courses in sports nutrition are aimed at coaches, gym instructors, athletes and anyone involved with the fitness industry who can see that diet is as important to performance and overall fitness as the better known forms of training.

“They are people who see that they have just as much a responsibility to teach good diet in order to protect a person’s general health, as they do to teach proper lifting and movement to reduce the chances of physical strain. Practicing good nutrition isn’t just important for people who consider themselves serious athletes. Even the person who works out at the gym a couple of times a week, or jogs every day, needs to make sure they’re fuelling their bodies with the right foods,” Warren said.

Telecommunications for new millennium

The university has introduced a new undergraduate engineering degree to meet the growing demands of the information age. The Bachelor of Engineering degree in Telecommunications from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering will be available from the year 2000.

The degree is in response to strong employer demand, particularly to support the booming IT industries, for expertise in electronics, computer hardware, software, networking, communications and technology management.

The structure of the new course emphasises the learning of design abilities and ‘hands on’ problem solving abilities.

The introduction of the new course is part of a major review that has also led to electrical engineering and computer engineering degrees being redesigned. The results are some of the most up-to-date courses available that provide education at the cutting edge of available technology, all with an accent on design skills.

The new programs will be phased in gradually, so that students enrolling in 1999 will be able to transfer to the telecommunications program in their second year of study.

New degree

The popularity of the university’s new Bachelor of Science (Forensic)/Bachelor of Laws program, and the high cut-off mark for last year’s HSC students, proves there’s a good career in crime – if you’re wanting to be a criminal lawyer with a strong grounding in forensic science, that is!

The UAI of 94.65 means son the state’s best students will be enrolling in the program. Despite seeking little publicity for the combined degree, the university received hundreds of applications and offered 26 places in the main round of offers last month.

Program Coordinator, Geoff Lawrance from the Faculty of
It's a bird, it's a plane, it's...an elephant!

Elephants flying? Ridiculous, of course, to think of a giant pachyderm spreading its wings and taking to the sky. But if you’d attended the exhibition of works by PhD candidate, Trevor Weekes, at the School of Fine Art Gallery in the past few weeks, you might have believed it possible.

At the centre of Trevor’s exhibition, mounted as part of the assessment for his doctorate, was an actual elephant skeleton, complete with bones that would have given the enormous creature a 13 metre wing span. And just in case your mind wasn’t able to make a mental picture of how it would look, Trevor’s illustration on the wall behind it demonstrated the mythical beast.

“Elephants still intrigue humans,” Trevor said of his choice of subject. His fascination with them began when he was carrying out research in the Skeleton Gallery at the Australian Museum in Sydney. “I built up a reasonable collection of bones and skeletons but an elephant was at the top of my wish list to own, particularly a skull,” he said.

When the Skeleton Gallery was dismantled and the tail bones of their elephant skeleton were lost in the process, an item in the Sydney Morning Herald’s Column 8 began a chain of events that was to lead Trevor to fulfill his wish. The appeal for help in finding an elephant’s tailbone led to a phone call to the Museum from a vet in country NSW, who claimed to know where there were two elephants buried. While the Museum didn’t pursue the call, Trevor began to investigate and eventually learned the story of two circus elephants who had been fatally injured in a trucking accident north of Moree in the early 1980’s.

After a lot of negotiation with various local farmers, government authorities and backhoe operators, Trevor managed to acquire the skeletons and transport them to his Wollombi studio, where he painstakingly rebuilt the one that appears in his exhibition. He then reburied the skeleton, with its miraculous wings attached and kept both a photographic and video record of it being unearthed again. Et viola! One mythical flying elephant.

“The wing bones and the ‘hoax’ is an attempt to broaden the interest of the exhibition to the public,” Trevor explained. “I want the public to experience art. I don’t care whether they like it, as long as they come to see it and it holds their attention for more than 10 seconds.”

The unearthing of the winged elephant is also a commentary on conservation, making a point about the threat of extinction.

Trevor’s exhibition includes a vast array of sculptures in a range of mediums, all linked by the elephant theme, as well as six books of illustrations, stories and verse, and CDs with music and computer graphics. Although it closed at the Gallery on February 21, the exhibition will be on display at Sydney’s Tin Sheds gallery for three weeks and a new two dimensional show by Trevor based on (you guessed it) elephants will begin at the Rex Irwin Gallery in February 2000.

In a final ironic twist to the elephant’s tale (or is that tail?), the skeleton that Trevor rebuilt for his exhibition was missing its tail bones. “The story had come a complete circle after 13 years,” Trevor said. Perhaps the wings aren’t so strange after all!
Patients to benefit from surgical research

The integration of medical research into surgical practice could become more rapid following the introduction of a postgraduate program which encourages surgeons to take research from the laboratory to the operating room. The Master of Surgery, introduced at the university for the first time this year, will enable surgeons to interpret research and apply it practically, to the ultimate advantage of their patients.

"There are many examples of where research has led to more effective means of treating patients," explained Discipline Head of Surgical Science, Professor Allan Spigelman. "However, the transgression from the laboratory to the clinic is slow. By further encouraging surgeons to study research practices and interpret findings, we hope to speed up this process."

An example of where research has led to new surgical practices is in the field of breast cancer treatment. "In the 1980's the move away from major mutilating surgery was only undertaken slowly, despite good research evidence in favour of a more conservative approach," he said.

An increased emphasis on the importance of research has meant a more rapid uptake in the 1990's of a change in clinical practice in the treatment of colorectal cancer, with chemotherapy being used in some circumstances.

"This has paralleled the increased exposure to the importance of research and an understanding of research methods by surgeons, reflecting a change in undergraduate education and an increased emphasis on surgical postgraduate research, particularly by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons."

Camps foster a sense of community

A lecturer from the Department of Leisure & Tourism Studies who studied the influence American summer camps have on a person's sense of community and how it can be fostered, is set to do a similar study in Australia.

Kevin Lyons completed his Doctor of Education through the University of Georgia in the United States.

"I decided to study the influence the summer camps have on developing a sense of community among the campers and staff after working as a Camp Director. I wanted to know why summer camps could foster this strong community feeling when it didn't seem present in other aspects of society," Kevin said.

After holding in-depth interviews with camp directors, counselors and campers, Kevin determined that the routines and traditions established at summer camps contribute to a strong sense of community.

"Singing songs around camp fires, playing practical jokes, and the more serious side of camps like cooking and cleaning all reinforce a team or community environment. "Even if the staff and campers only follow such routines and have such close interaction with people at camp, they still develop a sense of community that they can apply to other areas of their life," he said.

He said staff training programs could be designed to maximise this benefit. "By having the staff get involved in these activities, they develop a community-like bond, which they then pass onto the campers" he explained.

This year Kevin will extend his research to the Australian experience to see if there are any similarities. "Camps in Australia are usually less structured, shorter, and held several times a year, while in America they are more organised, usually in one eight-week block. I want to see if the shorter camps offer the same opportunities to develop a sense of community," he said.

Initially Kevin's study will focus on camps in the Hunter region, and he is presently looking for camps to become involved.
Accept that drugs are here to stay

Dr Amanda Baker from the Discipline of Psychiatry, who is an expert in drug and alcohol issues, says people must first accept that substance abuse is and will continue to be a part of society before any real solution to minimising the impact of hard drugs can be reached.

"Drug abuse will never be eliminated," Amanda said. "As sad as this may seem, it's a reality we must accept before we can talk about harm minimisation strategies."

During her lectures in postgraduate drug and alcohol courses, which are designed for people who work with clients with alcohol or other drug problems, Amanda teaches people to first accept that society will never be drug-free. "It's only when they come to that realisation that they can move onto tackling the issue through programs which minimise the harm addicts inflict on themselves."

More energy - and money - must also be spent ensuring the people who deal directly with drug abusers are properly trained.

"The whole area of drug and alcohol studies is developing rapidly, and workers need to know the latest research and the latest methods for minimising the impact of abuse. If these people are able to do their job effectively, then the impact of substance abuse - both legal and illegal - will be reduced," she said.

Dr Baker has welcomed the news that Newcastle Council is joining other cities across Australia and overseas in assessing its role in the issue of drug abuse. A key to the success of future strategies and programs, however, will be seeking input from users during the initial consultation.

"We have to understand why people use illegal drugs, and not merely assume we know. Users may feel that just as society dictates to them what are acceptable and unacceptable drugs, society is dictating the most effective ways of helping them fight their addictions or reduce the harm their habit poses," she said.

Government “confused” about student unions

Federal Education Minister, Dr David Kemp’s moves to introduce voluntary student unionism suggested he was confused about the role of university and student unions, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Brian English said.

Dr Kemp announced the government’s plans to end compulsory membership of student associations just before Christmas, saying that voluntary unionism would give students the freedom to choose how they spent their money.

"It is a misunderstanding of student unionism to treat it as analogous to industrial unionism, which this government has attacked," Brian said. "The Australian Vice-Chancellors’ Committee issued a statement last year in support of student organisations and the compulsory collection of fees to pay for student services and the university backs that statement."

The services provided by student unions and covered by compulsory fees at Newcastle included the food outlets, entertainment, bookshops, stationery shop and post office, computer access, hairdresser and student counselling provided by the University Union, as well as activities and services provided by the Sports Union and the Newcastle University Students’ Association (NUSA). Student associations also provide an executive voice for students in the governance of the university.

"These services cost around 56 million a year to provide and if they are not paid for by the mechanism of compulsory fees, which works very well, then the funds will have to come from somewhere," Brian said. "It’s important to bear in mind that the students aren’t receiving something for nothing - their union fees are paying for those services to be here."

NUSA President, Michael Kachel, said that Dr Kemp’s real intention in seeking voluntary unionism was to silence the political voice of students.

"Student control of student organisations is an integral part of the culture and intellectual fabric of universities," he said. "This proposal would not only attack us politically but would threaten our ability to provide essential services to our members. We are completely reliant on the universal membership fee.

"Student organisations have traditionally been at the forefront of intellectual, cultural and political debate in our society, however, it seems we are to be the next victims of Dr Kemp’s ideological mania."
Delaying preterm labour

International clinical trials to delay preterm labour and increase a premature baby’s chances of survival have been supported by a $200,971 National Health & Medical Research Council grant to researchers from the university and John Hunter Hospital.

The research team is headed by Associate Professor Warwick Giles of Reproductive Medicine, who is also Director of Maternal and Foetal Medicine at the John Hunter.

“The randomised controlled trial, over three years, will determine the effectiveness of the drug glyceryl trinitrate in slowing down or stopping labour. The drug, a nitric oxide donating agent, dilates blood vessels, and earlier uncontrolled trials have suggested it relaxes the uterus and helps stop the labour from progressing,” Warwick said.

Two hundred and forty women who have been admitted to hospital with threatened preterm labour will be recruited and half will receive the drug through a skin patch. The same treatment is used to treat people with angina.

“This is a multi-centre study, and involves the Mater Mothers’ Hospital in Brisbane, KK Hospital and National University Hospital in Singapore, and Prince of Wales Hospital in Hong Kong in conjunction with Chinese University of Hong Kong,” Warwick said.

A pilot study was conducted at John Hunter Hospital and published in the American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology. This and earlier trials have shown the drug has no known effects on the foetuses. The patches will be used on women who are between 24 and 35 weeks into their pregnancies, who have regular painful contractions and test positive to the presence of foetal fibronectin, which means they are more likely to go into premature labour.

“It is hoped the nitric oxide will delay labour for at least 24 hours - long enough to allow a steroid injection, which will mature the baby’s lungs, to take effect.”

“The patches have the advantage of being widely available, inexpensive and with a short half-life, meaning if complications arise the drug’s effect is gone in as little as eight minutes after the patch is removed.”

The trial is part of the wider research into preterm labour by the university and the hospital and encompasses the findings of Professor Roger Smith and Professor William Walters who discovered that the hormone CRH plays a significant role in the early onset of labour, and that nitric oxide can reduce the production of CRH.

A SMART idea

An innovative program designed to bring science and technology to the community, especially school children and their teachers, is being launched by the Faculty of Science and Mathematics.

The SMART (Science, Maths and Real Technology) program focuses on the Hunter region and is made up of four integrated components.

• SMART Show provides an entertaining and informative presentation to a large audience.
• SMART Classroom is an informal learning experience where school children can closely interact with the visiting teacher in their own classroom.
• SMART Resources are education resource rooms at the university providing experience and education for the community and especially for in-service training of teachers.
• SMART Web presents dedicated, interactive web pages on the university website that the community can use to ask questions, obtain background material and details about SMART and science and technology at the university.

In 1998 there were more than 16 SMART shows and six SMART classroom sessions, both of which were free of charge. Financial support was provided by the Faculty of Science and Mathematics and TUNRA. SMART raises awareness of science and technology, particularly in the K-6 years for school children. It also provides training to school teachers and to the university science students who prepare and present most of the SMART program.

The faculty is seeking sponsors for the SMART program. Contact Terry Burns in the Department of Physics, ph: ext 5434, email: smart@newcastle.edu.au
The following poem was written by Jim Buchanan, a volunteer at the university’s language centre. He wrote it when he and his wife, Gwenda, were having difficulty saying goodbye to their student friend, Becky, when she returned home to Thailand.

**ELICOS* 

On the local Uni campus there’s a place called ELICOS 
An intensive English centre; Seamus Fagan is the boss. 
Lots of students of all ages, some old and some quite young, 
come here, from countries near and far, with different mother tongue.

My wife and I go over there, weekdays from twelve to one, 
for conversational English, face-to-face just one-on-one. 
While class learning is essential and their teachers are just great, 
they’ve a need to meet real Aussies, like myself and my best mate.

Our language isn’t easy; bits of this and bits of that, 
and the spelling’s kind of crazy, just like letters from a hat. 
They asked me just to tell them, now I didn’t have a clue, 
why we have three ways of spelling just a simple word like “to”.

With reading, listening, speaking, they have so much to do, 
without the need to understand “wrist” starts with “w”. 
And it’s not just all the schooling, for we have our funny ways. 
To fit into our culture, it’s like struggling through a maze.

For some to come to Aussie is like landing on the moon - 
You try and eat a barbecued steak, with chopsticks and a spoon. 
Some see our beaut young Aussie girls, sans veil or even hat, 
as ‘bold’ and ‘brazen’ I’ve been told, and even worse than that.

There’s a doctor out from China and a soldier from Iran, 
and a wonderful bunch of nurses from Korea and Taiwan. 
There’s some from Indonesia and a teacher from Hong Kong, 
and another one from Russia, who just happ’d to come along.

Now these are special people. Finished schooling back at home. 
They’ve left their folks behind them and are very much alone. 
In spite of all their learning, (perhaps more than you or me), 
they’re back struggling, just with talking, like a little child of three.

You asked me, “Why we bother?” and it put me on the spot. 
We must have taught them something, for I know we’ve learnt a lot. 
I could get all up and pompous, saying - “We were being kind”, 
but a nicer bunch of people you’d be struggling to find.

We’ve come to love these strangers, just like children of our own 
and the hardest bit is parting, when they turn to go back home. 
When I try to say, “God bless you”, I can feel a tear begin, 
when back comes “Sayonara, Au revoir or Zai jian (zi-ye-ge’en)”.

*An acronym for English Language Intensive Course for Overseas Students.
More than 90 of the state’s top high school students visited the Faculty of Engineering in January as part of the Honeywell Engineering Summer School. The students, who were chosen from schools all over New South Wales to tour the state’s engineering faculties, were given the task of building a chair designed to carry a specific weight.

In line with Newcastle’s problem based learning approach, the exercise aimed to introduce the students to some of the fundamentals of engineering and to show the relationship between planning and actual construction.

Indigenous students new path to career in health

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people have a new path to gaining a university education in medicine and allied health sciences through the implementation of a health professions enabling course.

Yapug – the Awabakal word for path or broadway – was developed by the Discipline of Aboriginal Health Studies in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Richard Gibson from Aboriginal Health Studies said there is a strong need for a program which gives people exposure to a range of health professions, to enable them to make an informed decision about what they would like to study.

Once they have completed the course – one year full-time or two years part-time – students can apply for entry into an undergraduate degree. The university offers twelve undergraduate degrees in the area of medicine and allied health professions, incorporating the faculties of Medicine and Health Sciences, Nursing, Science and Mathematics and Arts and Social Science.

Through the Yapug program, students will be exposed to each of these areas to enable them to make an informed decision about which career most interests them.

The program will also cover basic health science subjects like physiology and anatomy, using the problem-based learning method for which the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences has earned an international reputation. General study skills would also be part of the course.

Vice Chancellor, Professor Roger Holmes, said the university has an excellent reputation for its commitment to culturally appropriate education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

“We already have a strong record of training Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors, and we will see four more students graduate this year, making a total of 18 from Newcastle, which is more than half the number of Indigenous medical graduates nationally. It is important that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are actively involved in all areas of the health professions, and the university is keen to ensure this is possible through Yapug,” Professor Holmes said.

The course will be run by the Enabling Programs Unit and will offer an alternative path to university study in medicine and health sciences for people who haven’t completed their HSC or are returning to study after a long break.
CF is simply a challenge

For most of us, the thought of undertaking a PhD in chemical engineering is daunting enough but Victoria Whitney from the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Black Coal Utilisation carries the added burden of coping with cystic fibrosis (CF). An inherited genetic condition that affects one in every 2000 Australian children, CF involves normal mucus passages changing to a thick sticky substance which clogs air passages and lungs and causes digestive complications.

Twenty five year old Victoria, who was diagnosed with the disease when she was 18 months old and wasn't expected to live beyond six, has to do three hours of strenuous physio-therapy each day and usually spends some time each year in hospital on intravenous drugs. Despite this torturous regime, she sees her struggle with CF as a challenge.

"Mum and Dad instilled a really positive attitude in me, refusing to pack me in cotton wool and encouraging me to dream," Victoria says. "I always wanted to come to uni." After working for BHP Research while studying, she completed her Bachelor of Engineering (Chemical) at Newcastle in 1996 and began her PhD studies with the CRC.

The development of stronger antibiotics over the past 20 years has extended the expected life spans of CF sufferers, with the median fatality age having increased to 30. While children still continue to die, treatment is improving all the time. Living with the condition and the treatment necessary to extend life, however, has raised other problems for people with CF.

"The doctors are predicting that by the Year 2000 there will be as many adults with cystic fibrosis as children. This raises an aspect that previously hasn't been considered and that is the emotional side. A high proportion of the adults I know with CF suffer from depression and lethargy and sometimes wonder if it's all worth it," Victoria said. "I'm lucky to have a supportive family and a good relationship."

There are still times when Victoria feels the strain. Like last year, for instance, when she ended up in hospital with pneumonia just three weeks before her wedding to fellow CRC researcher, Carl. But the same sort of determination that saw her begin swimming training at the age of eight and eventually qualify for state and country championships, keeps Victoria pursuing her goals. She is within 18 months of completing her PhD studies into black coal characterisation and is hoping to begin a part-time lecturing position in the Department of Chemical Engineering this year.

She also works to raise awareness about CF and acts as a formidable role model to children with the condition and their parents. "I do believe there will be a cure to CF. It is at the forefront of genetic engineering research in America and elsewhere."

"CF is a challenge to your personality, your body and your mind. Some of us rise to the challenge, some of us have to fight much harder: If we all keep up the fight, then one day soon, CF will just be a distant memory."

Helping the Asia Pacific region cope with change

Newcastle researchers have joined with colleagues from the University of Wollongong to assist the Asia Pacific region cope with globalisation and other socially transforming issues.

The Centre for Asia Pacific Social Transformation Studies (CAPTRANS) has received an annual grant of $335,000 from the Australian Research Council. The funding is for three years, with an option for another three years following a review.

The Centre focuses on social change, human resource and labour relations issues. Associate Director and coordinator of the Centre's Human Resource Development program, Associate Professor Charles Stahl of the Faculty of Economics and Commerce, said the centre would try to redress an imbalance in much of the assistance currently offered to the Asia Pacific.

"Much of the assistance coming from Australia concerns 'hard economics', like investment, industry and trade," he said. "CAPTRANS will add a new dimension, analysing social change and the responses to change by various groups. It will aim to provide an improved theoretical and empirical understanding of social change and assist public policy."

"The Centre has four programs to help achieve these aims; Migration and Multicultural Studies; Labour Relations Regulation and Organisation; Human Resource Development; and Managing the Production and Diffusion of Knowledge."

The Centre will adopt a multi-disciplinary approach in keeping with the broad sweep of its aims.

"Understanding social change involves an understanding of the history, culture, and social structures of the countries involved. CAPTRANS has expertise in all these fields and reflects that diversity in its programs."

Further information: Associate Professor Charles Stahl ext 5033.
The Steel River Project

Archives, Rare Books and Special Collections (ARBSC) has been closely involved with the residents of Mayfield and BHP in the development of the Steel River Project. The Project was originally conceived as a partnership between industry and community that would "create a world-leading eco-industrial park, generating employment for over 2000 people, which is aesthetically pleasing, functionally efficient and environmentally sustainable for residents, workers and business operators." A major endorsement of the vision of the project came with the announcement on 14th January that an operation of CSIRO would be established on the site, dedicated to investigating new forms of energy generation.

The Steel River Strategic Impact Assessment Study was prepared between 1996 and 1997, by a committee of Mayfield residents. Giorni di Gravio of ARBSC (and also a member of the committee) worked very closely with the archaeologists and historians investigating the heritage of the site. Extensive research into the first white occupant of this land, John Laurio Platt, was of great assistance to the project. Platt began to occupy his grant in 1823 and located his house and mill on the south east hill of the current site (overlooking Industrial Drive). The committee promoted the need to encourage clean industries, emphasising community support for sound environmental practice and site remediation. It also recommended closer links between the project and the university. The outstanding work of this committee was recognised by the Royal Australian Planning Institute’s Award for Excellence in Planning.

Infrastructure Developments

As usual the Christmas break was a busy period for IESD staff. The extended break allowed us to install and upgrade major items of equipment with minimum disruption. Listed below are some of the projects undertaken (most of which were funded through the IT Infrastructure Development Plan):

- the Baden theatre and lecture theatres HB13 and HB15 (Hunter Building) were equipped with a comprehensive range of multimedia presentation facilities. Some equipment in other theatres has been refurbished;
- cabling was replaced in computing labs CT108, CT109 and CT219 to increase performance and reliability;
- a dedicated student email server has been implemented - all students will be automatically given an account;
- redundant VAX system (Jaburu) was removed from the McMullin computer room to make space for new systems;
- a replacement voicemail system has been installed and is being commissioned;
- the campus network was extended to the Animal House;
- an emergency student account creation facility has been developed so that the participation of students in their courses will be less affected by enrolment problems;
- a University Admissions Centre workstation was installed at the Central Coast Campus.

The following larger projects are to be undertaken during 1999:

- extension of campus network to Special Education, buildings attached to Fine Arts and the Hunter Gymnasium (soon to be the home of Student Administration);
- Internet traffic accounting facilities to allow the university to implement Internet access policies and so manage the explosive growth in costs;
- replacement of ageing network routers with high-speed switches;
- implement a dedicated staff email server, providing firstname.lastname addresses;
- establishment of new PC lab in University House in the Newcastle CBD precinct.

Mark Piper
Program Manager, IT Infrastructure

New Dial-in Kit for Students

As a joint venture between the University Union and IESD a new dial-in kit for students has been produced. This builds on last year’s success when the initial dial-in kit was developed and 4,000 CD’s were collected by students from the Union. The kit is aimed at taking the confusion and guesswork out of getting connected to the university’s network from home. It is a dual media CD that contains software for both PC and Macintosh computers.

This year the CD will be available from Cybergycle or Contact with proof of enrolment and payment of the General Service Fee. The Union will be holding modern clinics for those students who are having problems getting connected. Bookings are essential for these clinics and can be made through the Cybergycle office.

Bruce Hodge
Network Specialist,
IT Infrastructure
ETCETERA

FOR SALE

1990 Mitsubishi Magna
Automatic S/Wagon (the last of the TPs) (original owner with logbooks). Very good condition (142,000 kms); excellent value for money: $7,995, phone: 4948 7037, Joe Winsen.

Diahatsu Charade red TS
1990, 65,000 Kms, manual with 11 months rego, excellent condition. Please ring Anne on ex 6444 for information.

Jacobean 3 piece lounge suite, carved timber, tapestry cushions, good condition, $1,800. Cocktail bar with 2 swivel cane stools, assorted nik naks, $350- David Heggart, ext 6662.

WANTED

Desperately seeking housecleaner 4 hours a week. Call Vicki Petersen, preferably on home phone 4961 3195 (6.30 - 9.30pm) or ext 6535

TO LET

Lake Macquarie - Executive 3 bedroom residence on waterfront -magnificent views. 3 bathrooms, double garage. Short walk to bus stop or 5 minutes by car to Toronto. Short or long term stay negotiable. Phone John on ext 6603.

Cooks Hill - available April 1 - June 24, 2000. Huge Victorian terrace available while owners on sabbatical. 3 storeys, 4-5 large bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, cottage garden, short walk to beaches, restaurants. Rent negotiable. Contact ext 2352 or 4929 3254 (pm)

STAFF NOTICES

External mail costs

Commencing 4 January 1999 external mail costs will be calculated for user-departments, as a prelude for charging them from 1 January 2000. In order for this to occur, it is essential that all envelopes (including overseas) feature the sending department's name in a prominent location. In the top left-hand corner on the front of each envelope and each bundle of envelopes indicates the cost centre number for the department to be charged.

While actual external mail costs will be accumulated for user departments in 1999, these expenditures will not be debited against departments this year. The expenditure data collected for 1999 will be issued to determine the distribution of the central funds allocation for postage expenditure to departments for 2000. From this time there will be no central fund allocation for postage. In some areas the mailroom staff have been using an exchange satchel service for large volume users on a trial basis. It is intended that those departments with large volumes of external mail not yet using the service will be transferred across shortly. Departments with small volume external mail are asked to bundle it with a rubber band and place it in an out tray for collection with a note securely affixed indicating the cost centre to be charged.

Mail officers have been instructed not to collect outgoing mail that is not correctly identified with a cost centre number, as there will be no provision for processing such mail in the new system. It is important that all mail costs be captured during 1999 to facilitate distribution of the central mail funds allocation to cost centres for 2000.

Health safety and welfare at work - buildings and grounds safety

The Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Act 1983 provides that an employer must ensure the health, safety and welfare of employees at work. This responsibility also extends to non employees at a place of work. Employees at work also have a responsibility to take care of others in their workplace and to cooperate with their employer to ensure safety in the workplace.

A large part in ensuring safety in the workplace relates to what happens in the buildings and grounds of the campus. New and refurbished buildings are designed and fitted out to comply with health and safety legislation while providing spaces that are functional for their intended uses. Regardless of how well designed buildings are, maintenance of health and safety very much depends upon building users using spaces as they were intended to be used and working to ensure that the requirements of the OHS Act are being complied with, ie ensuring care is taken of themselves and others in their workplace, and cooperating with others to ensure that the university's obligations are met. Maintenance of a healthy and safe workplace is not a one-off activity. It requires the constant effort of all staff in all work places throughout the University. Staff are required by legislation to ensure this, but are also encouraged to be actively involved in having matters addressed where physical elements in a workplace may be potentially hazardous.

To help staff monitor buildings and grounds safety, a checklist has been developed to identify potentially hazardous items. Copies are available from the Office of the Director, Estates & Services, phone ext 6563. Staff are invited to raise any concerns with their supervisor, or directly with the Manager, Organisational Health and Safety, located in the Human Resource Management Branch, The Chancellery. In most cases these situations can probably be attended to by a maintenance requisition to Physical Planning & Estates Branch (eg to replace a broken power point, repair torn carpet, replace a missing fire extinguisher) or by action within the Section (eg remove stored items of furniture from corridors). In other cases it may be necessary to document a situation for further consideration by the Director, Estates & Services or the Senior Architect/Planner. A sub committee of the OHS Committee, the Buildings & Grounds Safety Audit Committee, exists to monitor safety on campus. Its membership comprises:

Don Foster (Chair) - ext 6563
Kathy Allan - ext 5330
Mark Wyborn - ext 6503
John O'Donohue - ext 6509

A representative of the Fair Work Practice Unit is also a member of the Committee, ext 6547. This Committee meets regularly to review safety matters and issues can be referred directly to any member. It reports regularly to the OHS Committee. It is expected that staff with management responsibilities will physically review all spaces allocated for the purposes of their area at least annually. Staff are encouraged to take an active interest in ensuring safety in buildings and grounds.

Electrical power boards

Most people are aware that stacking of double adaptors is an undesirable and potentially hazardous practice. Multiple outlet plug boards improve mechanical integrity but can still be subject to electrical abuse. They are convenient when a number of small devices of low power consumption need to be operated simultaneously. It is easy for users to overlook the limitations - the main causes of trouble being heating appliances. No heating appliances of any kind are to be connected to a power board. This includes electric kettles, radiators, microwave ovens, coffee urns or fan heaters. In general, motor driven appliances should not be connected to power boards.

Power boards available through Complete Office Supplies comply with Australian standards and should be regarded as the minimum standard. No other base-level power boards are to be purchased for university purposes. Note: powering several components of a personal computer system from a single board does not run a risk of overload.

Heads of department are asked to ensure that staff are aware of this matter and to actively ensure by physical inspection that power boards are not being used inappropriately. Improper use can cause fire which may have devastating consequences for university and personal property, research and teaching programs. For clarification contact John O'Donohue, Electrical Engineering Officer, extension 6509.
Good news for 2NUR

Radio 2NUR's nationally broadcast news service not only provides an excellent training ground for the university’s communications students but is beginning to attract the attention of international students and has recently won a national award. The news service, offered in association with 2MCE of Bathurst, won the Tony Staley Award at the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia (CBAA) awards held in Adelaide in December.

Station manager, Grahame Steel, said the service is something the community radio sector needs, particularly at a time when other radio news services are closing down. "We go out to 65 stations across the country, from Darwin in the north to Geeveston in Tasmania’s Huon Valley in the south," he said.

The 2NUR newsroom was established in 1996 to provide a local news service and to give students in broadcast journalism at the university a professional working environment in which to train. Students derive credit from their experience at 2NUR and overseas students have also come to train in the newsroom. "We have played host to Norwegian students who were looking for somewhere to learn professional broadcasting - their local broadcasting authority told them to come to Newcastle," Grahame said. "We are currently broadcasting over the Internet using real audio technology and are getting thousands of hits from all over the world from people listening to our programs."

2NUR employs a news editor, two journalists and a cadet journalist (chosen from Newcastle broadcast journalist students each year) in their newsroom. They cover all the morning news with 2MCE from Charles Sturt University covering the afternoon. Their main sources for news are AAP and the BBC (2NUR has an agreement allowing them to use BBC actuality) and Grahame will travel to the United States next month seeking agreement with their national public radio group to use American actuality.

Ruth Whittington, who is 85 and presents a 2NUR program focusing on issues confronting older people, won an honourable mention in the Best Regular Spoken Word Program category at the CBAA awards.

What’s On

February
- Monday 22 - Semester 1 commences
- Wednesday 24 - March 7 - Surfest
  - Newcastle Beach
- Sunday 28 - Sparke Helmore Corporate Triathlon - Horseshoe Beach, Foreshore

March
- Tuesday 2 - 8.00pm - Week 1 (2nd to 6th March) of Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night
  - Drama Theatre, Callaghan Campus. Director: Mark Gauntlett. Tickets: Admission $12,
    - Concession $8. Bookings: Ms Joanne Nikolas,
    - Departmental Secretary,
    - Department of Drama, ph: (02) 4921 5001.
- Week 2 (9th to 13th March).
- Friday 26 - Convocation Annual Dinner

1999 Conferences
- 7 - 10 April
  - Fifth International Multidisciplinary Qualitative Health Research Conference.
    - Contact: Conference Secretariat, ph: 4974 2998, fax: 4929 5948, email: nvcb@hunterlink.net.au
- 27 - 29 June
  - 1999 NSW Teacher Education Council Annual Conference hosted by the Faculty of Education. Contact: Sandra Sirasch, ph: ext 6443, fax: ext 6987, email: edes@cc.newcastle.edu.au
- 20-22 September
  - Clinical Skills’ in Men’s Health - Healing men in practice. Sponsored by the Men and Boys Program of the Family Action Centre in conjunction with the Faculty of Nursing.
    - Contacts: Richard Fletcher, ph: ext 6401, fax: ext 6934, email: fmrf@cc.newcastle.edu.au

1999 Callaghan Visit days
- Wednesday, June 30 - Careers Market
- Friday, July 2 - Schools Visit Day
- Saturday, July 3

1999 Heritage Awards
- Entries are invited in the 1999 Energy Australia National Trust Heritage Awards, closing on March 1. If you have completed a project in 1998 that relates to conserving Australia’s heritage, you could win an award in categories including tourism, electronic media, print media, education - by the type of organisation or under the sponsor’s Special Award, which is open to undergraduates of all Australian tertiary institutions. For details call (02) 9258 0123 or visit the National Trust’s website at http://www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au
In conjunction with Tyrrell's Wines, the University is offering premium wines that have been especially labelled. Proceeds from each sale will be rebated to the University of Newcastle, Australia Godfrey Tanner Scholarships Fund.

"Tyrrell's Wines is proud to be associated with this wine offer, which provides scholarships for students who, through hardship, require support to enable them to fulfill their potential through study at the University of Newcastle", said Bruce Tyrrell, Chief Executive Officer of Tyrrell's.

Murray Tyrrell, AM has chosen a Shiraz and a Chardonnay for this special offer, which also includes premium wines offered for the Godfrey Tanner Classic Selection. Tasting notes are provided below and you are invited to complete the order form overleaf and return it with payment by mail or fax, to Tyrrell's Wines.

**Godfrey Tanner Classic Selection Chardonnay**

Ambrosia Dei... So thought Godfrey Tanner of this wine with its light golden wine colour and slight green hue. The nose is distintively Chardonnay showing rich yet elegant soft fruit with subtle vanillan toast oak character. The palate is full bodied, showing rich ripe melon and peach characteristics from the Chardonnay fruit followed by a fresh acid finish. Subtle oak and soft alcohol flavours lend depth to this wine. The grapes were machine and hand harvested. Once cold settled, juice was transferred to stainless steel for fermentation. Approximately 20% of the blend was matured in small French oak barrels for four months.

The full flavour and clean crisp acid of the Chardonnay combine well with warm salad or scallops and potato with rocket salad. This wine is ideal for immediate drinking, however short term cellaring will add complexity to the wine.

Alcohol is 12.5%, pH 3.31, acid level 7.95g/L Approximately 7.4 standard drinks

**Godfrey Tanner Classic Selection Shiraz**

Sanguis Bestiae... The dense purple/brick red colour of this Shiraz reminded Godfrey Tanner of the 'blood of the beast'. The nose of this Shiraz has spicy, plum like fruit, together with chocolate and earthy varietal characters. The palate has richness and sweetness of fruit with a distinctively traditional savoury flavour which is complemented by very subtle oak maturation.

Fermentation in hand plunged open vats was followed by maturation in one, two and three year old French and American oak barriques and large old oak casks for 8 to 15 months prior to bottling in August 1997. This wine is ideal current drinking or rewarding bottle age until 2001.

Alcohol is 13.2%, pH 3.42, acid level 7.00g/L Approximately 7.7 standard drinks

**Winemaker's Selection Shiraz**

Murray Tyrrell, AM selected this wine for the University of Newcastle scholarship fund. The wine boasts a mid purple/red colour. The nose has lifted, spicy, plum-like fruit character, which is followed by a medium bodied, soft and flasty palate. Enhanced by some subtle oak maturation. The finish features a gentle, subtle tannin grip.

Made from 100% Shiraz, the fruit was sourced from our own and contracted vineyards in South Australia. Fermented in hand plunged open vats and matured in large old oak casks for eight to fifteen months prior to bottling in June 1999. The wine is an immediate drinking varietal, suitable for a multitude of occasions and food styles.

Alcohol is 12.0%, pH 3.44, acid level 8.30g/L Approximately 7.1 standard drinks

**Winemaker's Selection Chardonnay**

Murray Tyrrell, AM selected this wine for the University of Newcastle scholarship fund. The wine is pale gold in colour. It shows rich fruit aromas on the nose, with a hint of vanillan oak. Good fruit weight on the palate combines with a touch of residual sugar to give a rich mouth feel, which is balanced by clean, fresh citrus flavours on the finish. The oak maturation adds a component of complexity and contributes to the overall impression of the wine. Chardonnay grapes harvested at optimal ripeness were crashed and pressed, and the resulting juice cold settled prior to fermentation. The wine spent a period of time maturing on its lees and in contact with French oak, before being filtered and bottled.

Try this Chardonnay with the subtle flavours of a seafood risotto, or a light meat dish or salad.

Alcohol is 13.7%, pH 3.45, acid level 7.45g/L Approximately 8.0 standard drinks
## ORDER FORM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The University of Newcastle, Australia Tyrrell's Winemaker's Selection Chardonnay</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$115 per case including freight anywhere in Australia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The University of Newcastle, Australia Tyrrell's Winemaker's Selection Shiraz</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$115 per case including freight anywhere in Australia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed dozen including six bottles each of Tyrrell's Winemaker's Selection Shiraz and</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winemaker's Selection Chardonnay @ $115 per case including freight anywhere in Australia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambrosia Dei Godfrey Tanner Classic Selection Chardonnay</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150 per case including freight anywhere in Australia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanguis Bestiae Godfrey Tanner Classic Selection Shiraz</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150 per case including freight anywhere in Australia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed dozen including six bottles each of Godfrey Tanner</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classic Selection Shiraz and Chardonnay @ $150 per case including freight anywhere in Australia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DELIVER TO NAME: ____________________________________________________________

ADDRESS: ___________________________________________________________________

SPECIAL DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS: _______________________________________________

CONTACT DAY TELEPHONE NUMBER: _______________________________________________

NAME OF PERSON ORDERING IF DIFFERENT TO ABOVE: ________________________________

CONTACT DAY TELEPHONE NUMBER: _______________________________________________

Cheque enclosed for $ __________________ (made payable to Tyrrell's)

or Please charge to:

- [ ] Mastercard   - [ ] Visa   - [ ] American Express   - [ ] Diners   - [ ] Bankcard

Card No: ___________________________ Expiry Date: __/__/____

Signature of cardholder: ___________________________ Date: __/__/____

Send Cheque with Order to:

Tyrrell's Vineyards Pty Ltd Broke Road, Pokolbin NSW 2320
Tel: 02 4993 7000 or FAX: 02 4998 7723

In conjunction with the Hunter Valley Wine Society
MARKETING & MEDIA SERVICES

Marketing & Media Services is the strategic service centre for University marketing, including
• planning marketing campaigns,
• producing all materials such as brochures, booklets, posters, videos, websites, CDs, displays and any other materials used to promote the University and its faculties, centres and institutes
• all University advertising, including production of advertisements for print, television and radio media
• market research
• all media liaison for the University, its faculties, centres and institutes
• supervision of the University's corporate identity.

In addition, M&MS produces UNINEWS as well as core documents such as handbooks, annual reports, research reports and highlights, and M&MS manages the University's advertising agencies.

The University of Newcastle Communications Plan 1998-2000 requires that all the types of work shown above should be conducted through M&MS in the first instance, however that doesn’t mean we’re uncompetitive. In 1998 M&MS saved faculties and the University in excess of $174,000 in printed materials costs alone! On average, depending upon the project, M&MS can provide higher quality services and outputs for between 20% and 40% below market cost!

Marketing & Media Services has a great deal of experience in
• Marketing Planning and implementation
• Market Research
• Advertising - production, placement and account management
• Journalism and media management
• Copywriting
• Design services
• Publishing
• Materials production and production management in all media
• Public relations
• Editorial services
• Direct marketing
• List management
• Agency management

Contacts:
Dr Fran Flavel, Director M&MS ext. 6730 email: mflavel@email
Mr Michael Coughlan, Deputy Director M&MS ext 6458 email: prmc@cc
Ms Di Taylor, Advertising Coordinator, ext.8641 email: prdm@cc
Ms Pam Howatson, University Scheduler, ext. 5594 email: phowatso@email