There's more to returning to University than getting back to the books. In this edition, Uninews takes a pictorial look at the variety of activities and programs that mark the beginning of semester for new students - from meeting people to flying kites and paddling canoes.
March edition

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Vice-Chancellor’s Column

On 21 December 1998, the Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs, Dr David Kemp, announced that the Federal Government will introduce legislation for voluntary student unionism ‘to guarantee freedom of association on Australia’s university campuses’. This legislation was introduced on 11 March into the Lower House of the Federal Parliament, from which one would assume, it will go to the Senate.

All Australian universities, university student associations and other representative bodies have spoken out strongly against this legislation. The arguments used by the Minister have focussed on three points:

- that compulsory membership of student associations is one remaining ‘bastion’ of compulsory unionism;
- the fees collected are used to support activities that only interest a minority of students;
- subsidies for student services give these services an unfair ‘competitive’ advantage over similar services on campus or elsewhere.

Universities and the AVeC have responded as follows:

- the analogy with trade unions is false, with a better comparator being the payment of council rates;
- students with a conscientious objection do not have to join the association, as long as they pay the same fee as other students;
- making public funds contingent on not requiring the payment of student services fees is a dangerous intrusion into university affairs;
- the quality of campus life will suffer as services deteriorate or as scarce university funds are diverted to support them.

At a recent AVeC meeting in Brisbane, held in association with the 10th anniversary of the establishment of QUT, an outline was given by the vice-chancellors of Western Australian universities of the impact of VSU on student associations, which was imposed by the Western Australian government two years ago. Student associations for two of these universities have been seriously affected, with the others ‘struggling’ to continue to provide student services at an adequate level.

Membership of student associations has been reduced to less than 20 percent of previous levels, which has seriously compromised student services available at these universities.

From my viewpoint, the message is clear and we should continue to point out the problems with this VSU legislation to our political representatives and to the broader community. I suggest that letters be forwarded to offices of Senate representatives outlining your own views of the legislation, with copies to your local member. Raising the inherent difficulties for Australian universities of this legislation may assist in the debate within Senate.
Scholarship Fund launched: "It's not about charity"

Former Democrats leader, shadow Labor minister and Newcastle graduate, Cheryl Kernot, is indebted to Emeritus Professor Godfrey Tanner for instilling in her a lifelong love of learning when he taught her the Classics during her time as a student. But she is also indebted to Godfrey for setting her, and others, an example of good citizenship through the establishment of the Godfrey Tanner Scholarship Fund.

"It's not about charity," Cheryl told an audience while launching the scholarship fund at the University last month, "it's not about those who would stand up and tell us we should be more philanthropic. "It's about being actively involved in assisting young people who will then have the opportunity to learn and to give something back in their turn."

The Godfrey Tanner Scholarship Fund will be used to assist financially disadvantaged students with their studies at the University. Funds for the scholarships will be sought through public subscription, with interest generated by the endowment sustaining the scholarships in perpetuity.

Godfrey Tanner's life has been an affirmation of citizenship in the way he has been prepared to give something back to the society that has provided him with certain advantages, Kernot said. There are many factors undermining citizenship today, including the ever widening inequity caused by more than a decade of economic rationalism, and it was a natural tendency of busy people to retreat into their own world and forget about those who don’t have as many economic choices, she said.

"Godfrey has shown us that the gift of our time and commitment has a symbolic value. While the recipients of these scholarships won't have the opportunity to be taught by Godfrey, they will have the example of his life vital that all people have access to a university education, regardless of circumstance," Godfrey said. "I am terribly conscious of the great need to assist young people at this time. I will be making an annual contribution to the scholarship program which bears my name, and which is intended to put a university education within the reach of many disadvantaged students."

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Roger Holmes, said Professor Tanner has been an integral, inspirational and indefatigable part of the university for 40 years. "During those years, he is the only one to have had a bar named after him (the Godfrey Tanner bar in the Shortland Union), and he is also the only one to have a wine collection and a scholarship named for him. "It is an honour to have him agree to letting us use his name in this way."

Bruce Tyrrell, chief executive officer of Tyrrell's Wines, speaking at the scholarship launch, which also launched the wine collections, said his company is attracted like a magnet to trying to help young people. "We hope that the sale of the wines will help provide ongoing funds for the scholarship," he said. "I commend them to you and remind you that the more you drink, the more students you are helping."

The Godfrey Tanner Scholarship Fund was launched in the University's Great Hall on February 19.
A memorial to reconciliation

Senior Lecturer in Fine Art, Vlase Nikoleski, has created three bronze plaques incorporated as part of an installation that symbolise the spirit of what is believed to be the nation's first unified Indigenous/non-Indigenous memorial - the Hunter Region Bicentenary Memorial.

The Memorial has three aspects - Yallarwah Place, Yallarwah Bicentenary Walk and Yallarwah Circle of Reflection. Yallarwah is an Aboriginal word meaning resting place.

Yallarwah Place, in the grounds of the John Hunter Hospital, provides what is believed to be the first accommodation centre for the families of Aboriginal patients in Australia and will serve the Aboriginal communities of the Hunter and northern NSW.

The Bicentenary Walk is a track in bushland adjacent to Yallarwah Place that meanders through the trees to a circular clearing, the Circle of Reflection, where six large stones have been placed in a circle. On a seventh stone in the centre is the first of the three bronze plaques created by Vlase, which is in the shape of a book. The right-hand page reads: In memory of the Aboriginal people, European settlers and convicts who lived and died in our shared Hunter History 1797 - 1997, while the left-hand page has a quotation from the Reverend Lancelot Threlkeld (1825-6) explaining the significance of the stone circle to the Awabakal.

The other plaques - one placed at the head of the Bicentenary Walk and the other on Yallarwah Place - depict the hand prints of Novocastrian Tales authors, as well as Gough Whitlam and the NSW Minister for Health and Aboriginal Affairs, Dr Andrew Refshauge, who opened the building.

"Hands have been used as images and forms by artists through different periods and cultures as signatures and as a means of expression", Vlase said.

"Aboriginal culture utilised stencilled hands in order to mark a presence - to say that individuals have been there and are part of the place. Hands are very expressive and no two hands are the same.

"By putting the hands together in a certain way, I have made a complete image that generates energy and houses the writing that Paul (Walsh) wanted to incorporate, so that they are protecting as well as harnessing the collaborative spirit of the place."

The Hunter Region Bicentenary Memorial was opened by Dr Refshauge and Aboriginal elders on February 19.
Graduates honoured with awards

Convocation award winners for this year have both contributed to the national cause of Aboriginal reconciliation.

Winner of the prestigious Convocation Medal for Professional Excellence, Dr Bill Jonas, AM, will bring a new understanding of Indigenous culture to the nation in his role as Foundation Director of the National Museum of Australia, due to open in Canberra in 2001.

The University’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Brian English, said Dr Jonas has made a significant and longstanding contribution to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education.

“He is a distinguished leader in the preservation and transmission of cultural values and ideals,” he said.

As well as being a former student and teacher at the University, Dr Jonas is a former Principal of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Chair of the ACT Heritage Council, Commissioner of the Australian Heritage Commission, member of the ARC Indigenous Grants Committee, a former Royal Commissioner into Nuclear Tests in Australia and holds many other current and past offices and commissions.

The winner of the Newton-John Award for innovation and creativity is author and poet Paul Walsh, who last year edited and co-wrote the highly acclaimed *Novocastrian Tales.*

Paul, and his wife and partner Susan Harvey, spent three years producing the book, donating all funds raised through the sale of three editions to the construction of Yallarwah Place, an Aboriginal accommodation facility at the John Hunter Hospital.

Yallarwah Place is believed to embody the first unified indigenous/non indigenous memorial in Australia.

*Novocastrian Tales* spans the history of Newcastle and the Hunter from before white settlement to the future. The project, which saw 44 authors including Gough Whitlam, Marion Halligan, Les Murray, Nick Enright, John Doyle, Mikey Robins, Yahoo Serious and Aboriginal authors Uncle Bob Smith, Ray Kelly and Donna Meehan contribute free of charge to the book, was awarded an Australian Reconciliation Award in 1997 and was also nominated for the Premier’s Public Sector Award.

Paul, whose published works include two volumes of poetry, *An Elephant’s Lament* and *The Flock,* and a novel, *The Burning Bush,* which was an entrant in the Miles Franklin Award, the Age Book of the Year and the Order of Australia Association Book Prize, has just completed his second novel, *Dream.*

The awards are presented to graduates of the University annually by Convocation, the graduate body of the University. Former Medal recipients include auroral physicist Robert Eather, politician Alan Morris and mechanical engineer Ken Moss. The medal recognises graduates who have made a substantial contribution to their profession.

The Newton-John Award is named after Professor Brin Newton-John, a former Deputy Vice-Chancellor and recognises innovation or creativity in any field with an emphasis on originality, or lasting value, or aesthetic value, or benefit to the community. Paul Broad, Managing Director of Energy Australia, was last year’s winner.

The awards were presented at the Annual Convocation Dinner on Friday, March 26. For information on nominating someone for a Convocation Award, contact Sue James on ext 6459.
The new head of the University's School of Fine Arts, Anne Graham, is looking forward to taking art out of the school and into the university and the broader community. A sculptor who is well known for her installations and performances in public spaces, Anne wants to use art in the grounds of the university as well as in Newcastle's environment.

"I have never been interested in making a work that was exclusive or that makes divisions," she said. "I'm interested in the response to work. Placing it in the community begins conversations about it and it's those conversations that I'm very interested in."

Her work has certainly excited comment from a broad range of people in the past. She exhibits nationally and internationally and was represented last year in a Melbourne exhibition for the International Artists Museum that featured artists from over 25 different countries. Her work, The Hide, for the Construction in Process exhibition, involved inhabiting an empty architectural space under the Dynon Bridge next to the Maribyrnong River in Footscray, where she created a temporary shelter.

"The project was about taking the spaces that are discarded by architects and regenerating them for use by the community," Anne explained. "By creating work in public, you get audiences and involvement from people who would never come into a gallery."

Anne lived in her created environment for several days, cooking for and interacting with passers-by and neighbours - an activity that is common to her public installations.

Formerly coordinator of postgraduate studies in contemporary art at the University of Western Sydney, Anne is excited about running the School of Fine Arts, which is now part of the Faculty of Arts and Social Science. "I think I've come at a really good moment for the School. We are just beginning a new course, which will be much more interdisciplinary than before and include sculpture, photography and performance."

She is impressed with the level of community involvement of the School's staff, applauding projects like Illuminating Newcastle which has seen artist Alan Cheowne collaborate with architects and city planners to light up the city's monuments, and the sculptures produced recently by Vlase Nikoleski for the Hunter Region Bicentenary Memorial (see p4). "The staff are working with other disciplines at the University already and I'm keen to do more of that, particularly in the health and architecture areas. We are also getting students studying arts subjects from Communications, Education and Psychology," she said.

Anne is also keen to work with Miranda Lawry, Chairperson of the School of Fine Arts Gallery, to increase the involvement of the Gallery in the cultural and public life of the University community and plans to hold seminars for Masters students there as well as encouraging launches and social events in the space.

While she came to Newcastle because she thought the job would be challenging and was impressed by the institution, Anne is pleasantly surprised by the campus and the city. "Newcastle is fantastic. I live on The Hill and so I see the city from the front of the house and the ocean from the back." She is also interested in the way Newcastle is changing and the increasing level of cultural activity and plans to involve herself in performance art in the city.

Born in Derbyshire, England, Anne will also chair the School's research committee. She says that students at Newcastle are able to make choices about the way they wish to work, with the School retaining workshops that allow them to work in traditional ways as well as supporting them if they want to take a very contemporary approach.

Anne, who is currently working on her PhD in public art from RMIT, took up her appointment in February.
Bargaining in "cooperative spirit"

Recent strikes of general and academic staff at the Universities of Sydney and New South Wales mark the conduct of their 1999 enterprise bargaining negotiations. Dissatisfied with the universities' salary offers and conditions, staff have united to flex their industrial muscle.

The enterprise bargaining negotiations for this year at Newcastle are slightly behind the larger city campuses, with our current agreement having expired on March 1 while those of Sydney and NSW expired in December last year. Despite this, university management and representatives of the major staff unions hope to reach agreement without recourse to industrial action.

Newcastle President of the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU), Bill Warren, said his members had decided to take a minimalist position in terms of the national NTEU action, agreeing to provide moral support and financial assistance to their Sydney colleagues.

"There are a number of leading sites identified nationally, including Sydney and NSW, that open the enterprise bargaining round," Bill said. "The Vice-Chancellor of the University of NSW has taken a step sideways from the dispute by calling a meeting of the vice-chancellors to urge the government to supplement academic salaries. Niland hopes that everyone interested in tertiary education will lobby their local member and members of the Cabinet about the sad state of universities in the wake of Federal Government funding cuts."

The NTEU has presented a log of claims to the University and has begun negotiating with management.

Director of Human Resource Management (HRM) Branch, Don Reeves, says that funding for universities has limited what they can offer staff but that management are bargaining in good faith.

"The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Brian English) has put forward a consultative rather than adversarial process and we will be approaching negotiations in that way," he said. "Funding for universities has become much tighter - you could almost say precarious - and that places limits on what we are able to do."

There needs to be a matching of expectations as well as a measure of creativity in order for management and staff to meet their common objectives, Don said. The universities are putting their minds to ways in which they can generate other sorts of revenue, with some universities looking at growth opportunities as a virtual contingent for salary increases, he said.

Bill Warren agrees that the University, through the DVC who is leading the negotiations on behalf of management, has entered the enterprise bargaining in a spirit of cooperation and conciliation.

"The union is happy that the university has resource us for the bargaining round - that is a cooperative thing - and so far the early negotiations seem to be going smoothly," he said. While the union is optimistic that the bargaining will be completed by mid-year, Bill says there are one or two areas of concern to be worked out.

Ron Hunter, head of the largest of the three Newcastle general staff unions, the Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU), said preliminary discussions held with the DVC had established a consultative framework for enterprise bargaining. While there had been no formal negotiations with the University on behalf of the general staff yet, the unions were poised to present a comprehensive log of claims.

"The unions are concerned that the simplification of the HEGSS Award (the general staff conditions award) by the Australian industrial Relations Commission will reduce some conditions to minimal standards and that some will be struck out under the '20 Allowable Matters' rule of the Workplace Relations Act," Ron said. "We are working on an enterprise agreement which will preserve the current conditions."

Joint bulletins will be released to keep staff informed of any substantive issues as the enterprise bargaining proceeds.

Helping new students clear first hurdle

The initial six weeks of first semester are a risky time for first year students, when one third seriously consider dropping out.

"Often it is not their course or their workload which makes them drop out, but their contact with others - or more precisely, lack of it," said Bruce Fumer, a counsellor with the University counselling service.

In an effort to curb the stresses of commencing university, the University hosts Connecting at Uni, an event for new students to meet others, and familiarise themselves with their surroundings. Held on February 13, the event was useful for new students, particularly those from rural and isolated backgrounds.

"Coming to university can be a culture shock, especially for people from small country towns, many of whom have never been away from home before," Bruce said.

"They find themselves in an unfamiliar environment where they don't know anyone. This can lead to feelings of homesickness and dislocation until ultimately the student feels they can cope and they just want to go home."

Connecting at Uni helps students establish their social network, and encourages them to get over their initial difficulties.
Sending out an SOS

If you noticed a lot of students all wearing the same green and white I-shirt at the recently held Commencement Day at the Central Coast Campus, you were witnessing the start of a new student support scheme.

The I-shirt sported the letters, SOS, which means Students for Other Students, a mentoring scheme introduced at the campus to help new students settle into university life. The scheme, which started this year, already has the thumbs-up from the students and looks like being a resounding success.

Initiated by the Central Coast Campus Student Union and endorsed by the Student Support Unit, the aim of the SOS Mentor Program is to enhance the social orientation of students through their transition into the life of a tertiary institution. This is achieved by helping to develop in the student a sense of belonging and recognition as an individual within the system, assisting with the development of strategies to enhance student success in first year study and providing a mechanism to enable commencing students to develop social and learning networks to enhance their confidence.

The program is operational in the Schools of Business and Humanities, but is expected to spread through other academic areas as it gets going. More than 30 student mentors (current second or third year students) have undertaken specific training for their role in helping new students. The mentors, who have been nominated by academic staff, take on the role on a voluntary basis. This role extends to many aspects of campus life including using the Information Resource Centre/Library, computing/emailing facilities, academic issues, student support services, student union facilities and activities, and familiarisation tours of the campus.

Coordinator of the Program, Ms Helen Tobin, said the SOS Mentoring Program has been appreciated by new students. She said that on Orientation Day, the mentors played a crucial role at the Introduction to Schools sessions.

"After a campus tour and IRC tour, relevant information was exchanged between the mentor and the students in each group. Mentors then arranged to meet with their groups again, on a regular basis over the first few weeks of semester, answering questions, participating in social events, sharing experiences and providing assistance where needed," Helen said.

"So far we have had a great deal of positive feedback. It looks like we may be on to a winner."

Heads of Schools named

The University Council has noted the following appointments to the Faculty of the Central Coast:

Dean
Professor Les Eastcott
Deputy Dean
Professor Frank Clarke
Head of School - Humanities
Professor Lyndall Ryan
Head of School - Business
Professor Catherine Smith
Head of School - Science and Technology
Professor Ron Wills
The sonorous tone of the didgeridoo called people to the circle of chairs in the Treehouse Room of the Shortland Union for the start of the Indigenous Research forum, Critique and Reflection, last month.

When the speakers and delegates, from as far afield as New Zealand, Western Australia and the Northern Territory, had settled themselves in the talking circle, the Head the University’s Indigenous research centre Umulliko, John Lester, tapped Mick Davidson on the shoulder and the didgeridoo was silent.

After a welcome to Awabakal land by elder, Uncle Bob Smith, and the telling of an Awabakal dreaming story, John spoke to the group about the loneliness of Indigenous researchers. “This forum provides us with the opportunity to share each others’ ideas and perspectives and to break down some of that and to form networks,” he said.

Organiser, Nerida Blair from Umulliko, outlined the objectives of the forum, stressing the importance of “talking circles” in the process. “It’s important that we all start on a level playing field. The forum aims to bring together people with interests in indigenous research to talk about their thoughts and feelings, because we are often too busy to take time out and do the talking and philosophising about what we are doing.”

The objectives were listed as:
- for Indigenous researchers to actively reflect on issues involving Indigenous research and to critically analyse such issues;
- for Umulliko to contribute to the pursuit of excellence in the field of Indigenous research through the conduct of the forum;
- to create the opportunity and the space for Indigenous researchers to get together;
- to provide a forum for Indigenous post-graduate students to meet and discuss issues of relevance to them.

The first of the speakers was Linda Tuhiwai Smith, Co-Director of the Research Unit for Maori Education at the University of Auckland and author of the recently released book, Decolonising Methodology. Linda told of her attempts as a young researcher working with a group of Maori mothers in the early 1980s to get help from the existing research literature. She tried cross-cultural studies, feminist approaches and the writings of African/Americans or Asian/Americans but none of them spoke to her. “There were no Indigenous writers and while there were a lot of Maoris at that time who had higher degrees, none of them had said ‘I am a Maori researcher’.”

Linda said that carrying out research in Maori communities on issues that affected them raised ethical and cultural issues. “It doesn’t take you long (as an Indigenous researcher) to realise that you’re not doing the sort of research that your supervisor thought you were doing,” she said. “I thought that if I was doing things this way, I’d better start writing it up. It wasn’t enough to write that I had met with 25 families and spent an hour with each. When we, as researchers, enter a relationship with our communities, it’s a lifelong obligation and relationship. We are constantly in debt and obligation to each other. That’s who we are.”

In her current role, Linda trains young Indigenous researchers and negotiates projects for them within Maori tribal hierarchies. She appealed to the forum audience to share their Indigenous research methodologies. “Each of you must write what you are doing so that we can begin to develop a literature that allows us all to share the insights you gain. The challenge to all of us is to move beyond technical reports to writing methodology reports.”

The Critique and Reflection forum was held from March 4 to 7. Other speakers included the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Ron MacDonald, Director of Jumbunna at the University of Technology, Bob Morgan, Director of the Curtin Indigenous Research Centre, Jeannie Roberts, and Martin Nakata, whose PhD thesis studied the intersection of Western knowledge systems and Torres Strait Islander positions and experiences. Some of the forum proceedings were recorded by representatives of the Indigenous Online Network of the University of South Australia.
"O" Week

The University staged a series of activities for commencing and continuing students as part of its Orientation Week. "O" Week, as it's better known, is designed to offer students information on all aspects of University life.

"It's predominantly for first year students, to give them an idea of what facilities and clubs they can access during their study here, allow them to meet their fellow students and lecturers, and learn to find their way around the campus," explained Kay Dunn from Student and Academic Services Division.

This year's program, which offered a full three days of events, started Wednesday February 12, was put together with the assistance of the University Union and the Student Association.

Chancellor, Dr. Gibson, welcomed the new students at a Commencement Ceremony in the Great Hall to kick off "O" week, with the Vice Chancellor for delivering the Commencement Address.

While in town, were organized a variety of events, field day and all campers, and we traveled to the 'short-cut' Deep Creek, operating the 'Seniors' best entertainment spot at a camp, and 'Youth' from the Business Peace.
Change the way doctors and nurses are taught?

Deidre Wicks has conducted an in-depth study of health care professionals for her recently published book Nurses and Doctors at Work.

"After a thorough look at the day-to-day work of nurses and doctors, I've come to the conclusion that the delivery of nursing and medical care would be improved if the workers were educated differently," Deidre said.

"We need to do away with the traditional means of teaching these professions, where two separate degrees are offered. Instead, all health workers should do a common foundation qualification before branching out into a particular speciality."

The course would involve basic hands-on care of patients, as well as studies in science, humanities, communications, and public and preventative health care.

In her book, Deidre undertakes a detailed historical and current day examination of the work of nurses and doctors - what they do, how they communicate with each other and their patients, and as importantly, what they don't do or say.

"I look at the effects these deeply imbedded patterns of behaviour have on the well-being of patients as well as on the doctors and nurses themselves," she said.

She found that some doctors in particular completed years of training only to find that they don't like the 'personal' or hands-on requirements of their profession.

"Some quite literally don't like to touch their patients, and leave that work to nurses," she said. "The training system I am recommending would help them come to that realisation sooner."

She said patients would be the ultimate beneficiaries of such a radical change to the way doctors and nurses are trained, as the quality of health care would be significantly improved. Nurses and Doctors at Work is published by Allen and Unwin.

Turning a disadvantage into an advantage

Enrolments of first year students from many of the region's high schools have more than tripled on last year's figures.

One of the reasons for the rise is the University's efforts to highlight the advantages of a tertiary education to select schools, particularly to the area's 'disadvantaged' schools, as identified by the Department of Education and Training.

Coordinator of the Unilink Program, Kay Dean, said the program works with students in years seven to 12 in schools that tended to have a lower number of HSC students progressing to university.

"The low rate of transition from disadvantaged schools to university is often due to the fact that the students have no history of tertiary education in their families, so often don't realise what university can offer them," Kay said.

"The Unilink program is designed to 'demystify' higher education and bridge the gap between high school and university."

Kay also coordinates the University's Access Scheme which recognises that illness, financial pressure and personal trauma all affect a student's ability to do well in their HSC. The scheme assists students to compete for entry on a more level playing field.

This was the case for Sarah Murray of Rutherford, who returned to Rutherford Technology High School last year to re-sit her HSC.

"I've always wanted to be a primary school teacher but I didn't get the marks I needed so I did my HSC again," she said.

It was a tough year for 20 year-old Sarah, who suffered from ill health that put her in hospital twice through the year. However, the support she received through the Unilink program and her school gave her the conviction to continue.

She has been accepted into the Bachelor of Teaching/Bachelor of Arts combined degree at the University.

Sarah's school is a Unilink high school and the number of students from the school enrolling at the University has increased by nearly 300 percent.
Technology bridges barriers to learning

A high-tech level of teaching involving the internet and CD-Rom has been developed specifically for a nursing program being delivered to the Maldives.

Ten nursing lecturers from the Institute of Health Sciences in the Maldives have started studying their Graduate Diploma of Nursing through the Faculty of Nursing.

"The idea is to qualify them to the Graduate Diploma level, and eventually the Masters level, then work with them on restructuring their curriculum to focus more on problem-based learning - an approach for which the University has an international reputation," explained project coordinator Ron Sharkey.

Aus-AID has funded the project for $345,440 as part of a larger program also involving the University of New South Wales.

After securing a memorandum of agreement with the Institute of Health Sciences, last year, the Faculty of Nursing has re-written its Graduate Diploma program to meet their specific needs.

"This is the ultimate in flexible delivery," explained Dean of Nursing, Professor Margaret McMillan. "It has meant developing an internet site, producing a CD, as well as sending lecturers to the Maldives for a 24-week block of face-to-face teaching."

The Institute of Health Sciences requested a problem-based learning approach in five areas of nursing - acute care, paediatrics, midwifery, community health and mental health.

"To ensure students received the maximum benefit in this regard, we've assigned specialists from both within and outside the University who will be mentors. They will communicate with their students via email," Margaret explained.

These areas have been identified to meet the special challenges facing health care delivery in the Maldives.

"We talk about remoteness in Australia, but the Maldives are made up of more than a thousand islands, where health workers are many hundreds of kilometres by water from a hospital. This sort of 'hands on' teaching is extremely important for this reason," Ron explained.

Examining mania and ADHD

A Hunter-based study of children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) could provide vital clues to the long-term effects and treatment of one aspect of the condition.

The research team, headed by Director of the Child & Youth Mental Health Service, Professor Philip Hazell, will examine the connection between mania in children with ADHD and the development of bipolar disorder (commonly known as manic depression) later in life.

"Mania is a clinical state characterised by a distinct period of elevated, expansive or irritable mood, and is one avenue by which bipolar disorder may first present itself," Philip explained. "Some children with ADHD can also show signs of mania in their middle childhood years."

The study aims to compare children with ADHD and mania, and those with ADHD alone, to determine whether the groups present different psychological outcomes by the time the children reach their mid to late teens.

"We suspect there is a distinct difference between the two groups, and that children with mania and ADHD are more likely to develop psychiatric problems like bipolar disorder. If our study confirms this, it holds tremendous benefits for earlier detection and treatment," Philip said.

The two-year, $101,144 study is funded by the National Health & Medical Research Council. It will extend work undertaken in North America.

"Confirmation of the links between ADHD and mania in a location far removed from the site of earlier research in large metropolitan centres in the USA will add considerable evidence for the scientific robustness of the phenomenon," Philip explained. "We hope to further expand our research to reassess the people in their mid-twenties to determine the adult outcomes of problems first identified in middle childhood."
Celebrating life – facing death

The journal of the last months of a Newcastle man with cancer could become recommended reading for cancer patients.

Magnanimous Despair, written by the late Professor Grahame Jones, has been published by Boombana Publications under the sponsorship of the University’s Hartley Bequest Program.

"Professor Jones writes about his realisation and acceptance that he is dying, while he celebrates his life and discovers a family he didn’t realise he had. It is of tremendous relevance for the people of Newcastle, and the University, on many levels," explained Director of the Hartley Bequest Program, Professor Ken Dutton.

Professor Jones was the first graduate of the (then) Newcastle University College to be appointed to a Professorial Chair. At the time of his death in 1987 he was Professor of French, and Pro-Vice Chancellor elect of the University of New England in Armidale.

"The diary is many things – it is, in part an autobiography – the remarkable story of a man brought up in false belief that he was an orphan, and on whom the truth about his real parentage was revealed only late in his life," Professor Dutton explained.

Born in Newcastle in 1938, Grahame Jones was educated at Newcastle Boys’ High School and Newcastle University College, where he came under the influence of Professor Kelver Hartley, Professor of French.

The diary vividly describes the hardship of Grahame Jones’ youth in working-class Hamilton, and of the characters he met in places like Carrington and at the old College site in Tighes Hill.

In his mid-40’s he discovered that he had been stricken with a lymphoma. Being treated at St Vincent’s Hospital in Sydney, he was advised to write about living (and dying) with cancer from the point of view of a patient. A major theme of this book relates to the fight against his enemy, Cancer.

Towards the end of his life, when he discovered his real background, he found out he had a brother.

"Grahame Jones continues to influence people in death as he did in life. The oncology staff at St Vincent’s Hospital in Sydney have all been encouraged to read the book by the surgeon in charge, as he believes it is one of the best things ever written about cancer," Professor Dutton said.

The book is currently being considered by the NSW Cancer Council for recommending to patients who are counselled by phone.

It is on sale at the University Co-Operative Bookshop, and at Pepperina in Bolton Street, Newcastle.

Kelver Hartley was Foundation Professor of French at the University from 1965 to 1969. In retirement, he wrote a novel and a number of short stories, and developed a growing interest in the stock market. Donating his valuable library to the University, he lived the life of a pauper while his portfolio of shares grew in value towards his target of $1 million.

At his death in February 1988, it was learned that he had bequeathed his personal fortune to the University in order to assist students of French by enabling them to travel to France to pursue their studies, a legacy that had risen to almost $2 million.

The Hartley Bequest Program has published a memorial volume devoted to the life and work of Professor Hartley (Kelver Hartley: A Memoir), and is engaged in the publication of his novel and his other creative writings. It intends to establish a series of publications in conjunction with the academic publishers Boombana Publications, containing work which would have been of particular interest to Professor Hartley (including Magnanimous Despair).
Medical students broaden their experience

Two students from the University of Papua New Guinea (PNG) were welcomed to the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences last month as part of an unusual exchange program. While there is nothing unusual about exchange students coming to the University, this program differs in that it was organised by a student group and not by the Faculty or by the International Development Office.

One of the organisers, Greg Keane, said the University of Newcastle Medical Society organised the exchange because it wanted to broaden the scope of the group. "Rather than just organising things that were of benefit to us, we wanted to give something back," Greg explained.

The Society was successful in gaining funding from the Queen's Trust for Young Australians as well as additional funding from AusAID, that has resulted in five reciprocal student exchanges for 1999.

"The exchanges are with universities in PNG, South Africa and the Philippines because they all have rural based medical schools that the University has contacts with," Greg said. "It's been a steep learning curve for us - organising the exchanges - and I'm really excited that it's happening."

The final year medical students from the University of PNG, Cathy Khanim and Paul Harino, billeted with other medical students during their four week stay. They toured the John Hunter Hospital and sat in on tutorial sessions where students were using problem-based learning techniques. Paul is interested in seeing some surgery, while Cathy, who has recently completed her obstetrics exams, is interested in seeing some obstetrics and gynaecology during her visit and hoped to watch some deliveries.

The bard is back!

The recent resurgence in popularity of Renaissance theatre generated a keen response to the Drama Department's production of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night in March.

Hollywood box office hits Shakespeare in Love and Elizabeth, featuring Academy Award-nominated Australian actors, have contributed to the groundswell of interest in the era's theatre, which resounds with wit, romance and tragedy.

The performance season at the university was a forerunner to the Stratford Shakespeare Festival at Gloucester in early May.

Twelfth Night is Shakespeare's most beautiful and amusing romantic comedy. Identical twins Viola and Sebastian are shipwrecked and cast ashore in the mysterious land of Illyria. What follows is a tale of disguise, mistaken identity, romantic love and rollicking comedy played out by a cast of memorable characters.

The production, directed by Mark Gauntlett, offers a clear, elegant and witty interpretation of Shakespeare's classic comedy, striking a balance between the elements of romance and comedy.

Twelfth Night features striking and innovative costume design by Julie Kirby and brings together a cast of experienced performers and exciting newcomers.

It will be performed at the Stratford on Avon Shakespeare Festival on May 1.

The Drama Department has also produced a shorter, performance-based production based on the theme of Elizabethans in Love that will act as an introduction to the main performance. Drama students will offer their expertise to high school students at drama workshops to be conducted on Friday April 30at the festival. Inquiries and bookings should be directed to the Gloucester Information Centre on 02 6558 1408.
While coal is a finite resource and burning it is known to contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, coal-fired generators still produce a large percentage of the world's electricity and Australia (and in particular the Hunter) has huge stores of this valuable commodity.

Researchers at the University's CRC for Black Coal have joined others around the world in working to give coal a future in electricity generation by ensuring that its effects on the environment are acceptable.

A seminar, organised by the CRC and held at Pacific Power's Advanced Technology Centre on March 4, brought together a field of international experts to talk about the latest advances in boiler technology for electricity generation.

The Future of Pulverised Coal Firing seminar saw visitors from Japan, the United States, Denmark and Canada speak about their research and development, while speakers from the CRC presented their latest research results. Combustion of coal in pulverised form, often called PF firing, has been the dominant use of coal for power and heat since it was introduced sixty years ago. The future of PF firing appears to be extending for decades despite alternative technologies such as gasification becoming semi-commercial.

Executive Director of the CRC, John Hart, said one of the highlights of the seminar was a presentation by Keiji Makino of leading Japanese boiler design and manufacturing company IHI on the design of combustion equipment and furnace layout.

"IHI has built many large electricity generation units, including those at Eraring, Bayswater and Mount Piper in NSW, and Mr Makino clearly demonstrated the impressive extent to which research, development and operating experience underlie his company's designs," he said.

IHI has developed its wide-range, low NOx (nitrogen oxides) burner system in collaboration with the Central Research Institute of the Electric Power Industry (CRIEPI) in Japan, whose director Yukio Yoshida also addressed the seminar.

"Joint research with such organisations in Japan - Australia's largest coal market - is a very important Centre activity," John said, "and their participation in the seminar reflected the significance of the collaboration for them too."

Terry Wall, and his colleagues from the Department of Chemical Engineering, covered the measurement, interpretation and prediction of ash behaviour, in which Newcastle ranks highly in the world.

Jorgen Klitgaard, from the Danish electricity utility ELSAM, gave a presentation on advanced steam engineering. The Danes lead the European Union's USC 700 degrees celsius project to extend steam technology as a high-efficiency alternative to the new combined cycle technologies being commercialised elsewhere.

"The ultra-supercritical steam technology being developed in Europe is expected to achieve efficiencies around 50 percent, about the same as projected for combined cycles," John said. "This approach is of great interest to the CRC because it tends to confirm recent strategic assessment that pulverised coal-fired boilers are likely to maintain their dominance in the electricity generation industry for longer than was expected a few years ago."
Thirty years in the Auchmuty Library

He's been seen around campus for thirty years. A tall, spare, bearded figure, usually sporting a black nautical cap: this is Mick Fauchon, Reference Librarian in the Auchmuty Library. On 3rd March, Mick marked thirty years working at the Library with a characteristic lack of fuss. Quite by chance, Mick learned that an attendant's position was vacant whilst he was in the process of re-enrolling for his degree in the Department of Modern Languages in February, 1969. A few days later, the then University Librarian, Ted Flowers, gave him a job.

The Auchmuty Library, then only a third of its present size, was just one year old when Mick began work there in 1969 and had a staff of thirty. Of these thirty, he is the last remaining. Musing on many differences between now and then, he recalled that even though senior staff had to be addressed by their title rather than their Christian name, the atmosphere was more intimate and everyone on campus knew each other. The first Vice-Chancellor, James Auchmuty looms large in Mick's memory, "He was very high-profile and knew everyone by sight, even if the most you got from him was a nod. Every day I would see him come into the Library to read The Times".

Perhaps of greater significance for Mick than the obvious differences on campus is the changed emphasis in University education. "Whereas thirty years ago the emphasis was on all-round education, now it has become more concerned with vocational training. Engineers and scientists were encouraged to take Arts electives in their degrees, and many did," Mick observed. "It seemed to be as much about the acquisition of wisdom as of knowledge."

Asked about challenges he has faced over those thirty years, he pointed to the pace of technological change. "The few technological advances in libraries thirty years ago were known about well in advance and much thought over before being introduced, but today there is no time for that: keeping up with the pace of change is a challenge."

"To be all things to all men' (a phrase of St Paul's), Mick claims as the motivation for his work in the Auchmuty Library throughout the thirty years. Our congratulations and thanks to you, Mick.

Training and Development- Where Do You Get It?

The Learning and Development Program offers a range of University-wide courses and workshops as well as working flexibly with individuals and academic and administrative units. Staff are encouraged to contact Learning and Development directly to discuss any training and development they may need specific to their workplaces. The profiles of staff and contact information are provided in the IESD Services Guide sent to all staff recently. Additional copies are on display within the Libraries. A quick reference: http://www.newcastle.edu.au/services/iesd/

Courses and workshops offered University-wide are advertised in the IESSD Staff Development Program brochure issued twice per year and sent to all staff.

Information on IT Training and Staff Development Programs is now constantly updated and available on the IESSD Learning and Development web pages. This is most easily accessed under Information for Staff - Short Courses and Training on the top level University home pages. Alternatively you can go direct to http://www.newcastle.edu.au/services/iesd/learndevelop/training/adtrain.htm

If you have not used a web browser to access the University's home page, a Netscape course is offered through the Staff Development Program. The Library also offers internet classes which include an introduction to Netscape.

Year 2000 HELP for your Desktop PC

The Year 2000 Project Team has nominated a process for testing Year 2000 compliance of University PCs (hardware only). For IBM compatible desktop computers, the chosen product is Norton 2000 BIOS Test. This program has been selected because of its functionality, ease of use and cost (it's free). Advice is also provided on how to check and, if necessary, overcome problems with the operating system. The program is being made available via the Year 2000 Website (see address below) or by contacting your PC Support Officer or the Year 2000 Contact Officer.

The Program is used to boot/start your PC and will test the PC's BIOS and real time clock for Y2000 compliance, giving a recommendation of what is needed for the PC to be compliant. Users must also ensure that their applications and data are Year 2000 compliant. For staff with Macintosh computers, advice is available to assist in ensuring that the systems are Year 2000 compliant. Advice on the other operating systems, eg Unix, is being developed.

The Year 2000 Project Team is also busy adding more information and resources to the Y2000 web site to guide computer users on the path to making their PCs, operating systems, applications and data, Year 2000 compliant. Please check our University Web-site at http://www.newcastle.edu.au/y2000 or contact the Year 2000 Project Office, ext 5887, fax ext 6988 or email: y2000@newcastle.edu.au.
Friends of the University Book Fair - Change of Date

The Book Fair dates have changed from Saturday 10 July 1999 to Saturday 17 July 1999. Books, magazines, records, CDs, etc are still needed to build up stocks. Please contact Pat Flowers on 4968 1120 or Narelle Lewis on 4952 2883 to arrange for collection.

For Sale

K2 Three side cut skis 178cms - one season old - with Salomon 8505 bindings. Ideal ski to increase skiing level quickly. $199 - willing to sell for less than the price of the bindings. Open to offers.

Salomon ProForma Skisuit - Bollé Blue Mens Sized Large (fits 34-36" waist) - new. Only) - new $299 will sell for $150 ono.

K2 Three side cut skis 178cms - one season old - with Salomon 8505 bindings. Ideal ski to increase skiing level quickly. $199 - willing to sell for less than the price of the bindings. Open to offers.

Back to school: 

Blue Mens Skisuit - Bollé Black Sized Large (fits 34-36" waist) - worn twice. $35.00.

Snowboard boots - K2 Sherpa for Clicker bindings - size 8 - one season old (8 days riding only) - new $299 will sell for $150 ono.

Skisuit - Bollé Blue Mens Sized Large (fits 34-36" waist) - Offers please.

Skipants - Bollé Black Sized Large (fits 34-36" waist) - worn twice. $35.00.

Bicycle carrier - fits most cars - straps on - not towbar type - Excellent condition. $5,200 ono. Only 67,300klm. 6 months rego.

Bicycle carrier - fits most cars - straps on - not towbar type - $35.00.

Large (fits 34-36" waist) - new $299 will sell for $150 ono.

For Sale

For Sale

Snowboard boots - K2 Sherpa for Clicker bindings - size 8 - one season old (8 days riding only) - new $299 will sell for $150 ono.

CD Player, portable - battery or power with adapter - $70.00

Speakers with inbuilt amplifiers, portable for CD or Walkman - $35.00

Paul Munro, extn 5278, email

Wollombi acres

For private sale: (1) Wollombi area, Lower Hunter. Twenty-six acres (10.28 ha) secluded bush block near Yango Creek, Laguna, 100km from Newcastle. $95,000. Cleared house site with chimney, current DA. Existing mud-brick weekender would suit owner-builder. Good 4WD access. Phone line.

Enquiries: ext 6831 or 02 4961 0487

(2) Wollombi area, Lower Hunter, 100km from Newcastle. $160,000. Twenty Acres (9ha), prime creek frontage, mostly cleared. Suit general recreation, horse riding, specialty farming, vineyard. Fenced poplar plantation, cottage/studio with verandahs on elevated site. Large storage shed. Good access road, private bridge. Power, phone and fax lines. Two rainwater tanks. Ph ext 6831 or 02 9457 9325


King Cobra 1 & 3 woods.

Graphite shafts, new grips, excellent condition. $300 ono for pair.

Contact Peter Brown, ext 6372.

Bollinger "Trim Rider" exerciser used twice! Will last forever! A bargain at $80.00.

Please ring Anne on Ext 6444.

Daihatsu Charade, red TS 1990, only 64,000kms with 10 months rego.

$5,200 Excellent condition. Please ring Anne on ext 6444 for more information.

Folio Society: 18 beautifully crafted volumes of classic literature, valued at over $1000, titles on application: $850 ono. Ext. 6730.

To Let

Cooks Hill - April 1 - June 24, 2000. Huge Victorian terrace house available while owners on sabbatical. 3 storries, 4-5 large bedrooms, dining room, family room, 3 bathrooms, cottage garden and courtyard, garage, short walk to beaches, shopping and restaurants. Rent negotiable. Contact ext 7352 or 49293254 (pm)

Wanted

Would anyone have a petrol mower (in good condition) they no longer require? Please contact ext 6304 during business hours.

Have you ever thought of patenting your idea?

One of the many roles entrusted to TUNRA is the maintenance of an extensive portfolio of patents on behalf of the University and its academic and professional staff.

On Wednesday 28 April 1999 TUNRA's patenting adviser, John Forster of Griffith Hack & Co, will spend the day holding interviews with groups/individuals, offering advice and guidance, free of charge, on how they should proceed with their ideas - whether to apply for a provisional patent, copyright or suggestions on timing etc.

If you have any enquires or would like to make an appointment, please telephone Lesley Simpson on extension 8777.

University Choir and Orchestra

Musical Director Kevin Cameron presents

Mozart - Requiem

Haydn - Theresa Mass

Featuring Susan Hawkins Hart, Narelle Tapping, James Bonnfin and Peter Brock on Good Friday, April 2 - 8pm in the Great Hall. Tickets $25, concession $20, student (full time) $15 - available from the University Union Post Office; Pepperina's Bookshop, Bolton Street; Latham's Garden City & Charlestown Square; McLean's Book Store, Beaumont Street, Hamilton; McDonald Bros, Maitland and at the door. Ph: 4947 1463 or 4969 5778.

On-Campus Vacation Care is operating during April for the 7,8,9, and 12-16. All interested staff or students wishing to utilise this service for their school aged child/children, please register with Kerrie Tapp on extension 6547 or email kmatters@mail.newcastle.edu.au

** Staff should also note that every last week of school holidays clashes with the University's return to lectures. We are expecting student parents will also use this service, so early bookings and payment is ESSENTIAL to ensure a place.

Watch this space

Papers are sought for Watch this Space, a conference on public art organised by the School of Fine Arts at the University and the Australian Journal of Art, to be held in Newcastle, September 4-5 this year. Conference papers will be eligible for consideration for publication in refereed journal and/or in website publication. Please submit 250 words by June 1 to Heather Johnson, PO Box 169, Pennant Hills NSW 1715, ph/fax 02 9484 2459 or Deborah Malor, email: deborah.malor@pgrad.arts.usyd.edu.au
### What’s On

**Schedule of Ceremony Times - Graduation 1999**

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<tr>
<th>Ceremony Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Faculties</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 15 April</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Faculty of Music</td>
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<td>2.30pm</td>
<td>Faculty of Law, Faculty of Nursing</td>
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<td>Friday 23 April</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Faculty of Economics and Commerce</td>
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<td>Faculty of Education</td>
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<td>Friday 30 April</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Faculty of Arts and Social Science</td>
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- Bachelor of Arts (Visual Arts) (Hons)
- Bachelor of Speech Pathology
- Graduate Diploma in Art
- Bachelor of Science and Technology
- Bachelor of Science (Hons)
- Bachelor of Science and Technology (Hons)
- Bachelor of Social Science (Hons)
- Bachelor of Social Science (Primary Studies)
- Bachelor of Social Science (Recruitment and Tourism)
- Bachelor of Social Work
- Graduate Diploma in Linguistics
- Doctor of Philosophy
- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Arts (Hons)
- Bachelor of Social Science

**Faculties**

- Faculty of Science and Mathematics
- Faculty of Architecture, Building and Design
- Faculty of Health Sciences
- Faculty of Design
- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Economics and Commerce

**What’s On**

**Ceremony Date**

- 30 April
- 7 - 10 April
- 1 - 3 July
- 20 - 22 September
- 26 - 29 September
- 30 Sep and 1 Oct

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**Unibriefs**

**Professor Graeme Jameson**

Jameson of the Centre for Multiphase Processes was presented with the President’s Medal of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy at a ceremony in Canberra on March 18.

The University has received $200,000 to purchase a new microscope, which will greatly enhance the study of biological sciences. The Confocal laser-scanning microscope can create high resolution optical sectioning of cells and tissues, without compromising the specimen’s integrity. Professor John Aitken of the Department of Biological Sciences said this would provide researchers with an advantage over current procedures.

All staff are invited to contribute to the annual review of the University’s Institutional Strategic Plan. Contact the office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Brian English.

The Vice-Chancellor has approved web publishing policies and management arrangements to provide guidance to staff web pages and to ensure that the responsibilities for publishing and maintaining information on the web are clearly stated.

Consult-General of the United States of America, Richard Green, visited the University on February 11.

Unitunes, the University athletics team that got together for the Race for Research last year, came second in their category at the Sparke Helmore Triathlon last month. Physical Planning and Estates also fielded a team in the triathlon and Olivia Gallan from Careers and Student Employment came 7th in her individual category. To check out Unitunes full results, go to www.trunews.org.au
Konnichiwa Danielle

One of two language students sponsored by the University on an exchange to Japan at the end of last year believes that spending time in the country is essential to become fluent in Japanese. Danielle Hawkins, who is in the third year of an arts/commerce double degree, hopes to use her Japanese studies as a back-up to her business major when she graduates. "To take advantage of language skills you need to be fluent and I think you really have to go to Japan to achieve that," Danielle said. "I plan to live in Japan for 12 months when I graduate, teaching English or working in a Japanese company."

Danielle, and fellow Japanese student Melanie Smith, went to Shohoku College, in Atsugi City just outside Tokyo, in November/December for a two week study tour. They studied English, met Shohoku students and toured the city. Along with a weekend stay with a family, Danielle listed a visit to a Japanese primary school as one of the highlights of her visit.

"We were allocated a second grade class and were the first Australians who had visited the school," she said. "The children were really excited and jumped all over us as though they'd known us for years. We were bombarded with questions in Japanese."

Shohoku College sends 10 to 15 students a year to the University's Language Centre on study tours to improve their English and learn about Australia. The Faculty of Arts and Social Science reciprocated by sponsoring Danielle and Melanie. The Faculty hopes to send more students to Shohoku next year.

Dressed to thrill

Art honours student, Belinda Campbell, models a wedding dress she created from used tea bags at her recent exhibition, with Tina Maiolo, at Watt Space Galleries. The exhibition, Outre, included such fanciful garments as a corset made of jelly beans and an inflatable dress. Tina, who is currently undertaking her Diploma of Education, and Belinda began working on the collection last year, when they were both final year visual arts students. "It took us more than 12 months of saving tea bags and working during our uni holidays to make the tea bag dress and the rest of the exhibition took us a couple of months to put together," Belinda said. The clothes characterise particular periods of history. Outre was on display at Watt Space from March 3-21.