National Reconciliation Week was held from May 27 to June 3. It began with National Sorry Day on May 26, held to mark the first anniversary of the tabling in Parliament of the “Stolen Generation” report. In our pictorial feature on pages 10 and 11 we look at events held on campus to mark reconciliation week.
State and Federal elections are being planned by current governments, and we need to find ways, both as a University and as part of the Australian higher education system, in which we can raise the profile of universities within the debate.

The proposed Wik legislation, funding of health care, the falling Australian dollar, industrial relations and employment issues, and the prospective tax reform package, will all be high on the agenda as key items in the minds of many voters at the federal level. At present, higher education may not rate by comparison, however, it is in our best interest to do all that we can to contribute to the debate on major issues, and ensure that university funding and policy is among those being considered as significant in the election.

What then are the issues to focus on?

Firstly, in my view, we should be emphasising the roles played by universities in providing the knowledge and skills essential for Australia’s economic, social and cultural success. The higher education system must be of high quality, otherwise we will fall behind other advanced countries in the education and training of our people, whether young school leavers, or of a mature age, seeking opportunities in the work force. Universities are the ‘engine rooms’ of Australian research and development, and are solely responsible for research postgraduate training in our society. Our research activities lead to advances in health and medicine, science and engineering, information technology, our understanding of the environment, communications, education, creative arts and the law, resulting in a more knowledgeable, successful and culturally aware nation.

Secondly, Australia must continue to think internationally in terms of its economy and cultural awareness. Universities are key players in building the education of international students into a $3 billion industry, Australia’s eighth largest export industry. In addition, they produce graduates trained to think and operate internationally, and provide key research linkages overseas to ensure that Australia is aware of, and able to use, new research developments and innovation for our benefit.

Thirdly, all eligible Australians should be able to access an ‘affordable’ university place to maximise their achievement potential. As a system, we are over enrolled by more than 5 percent. At the University of Newcastle, this is closer to 9 percent. From 1998, we are being funded at a grossly marginal rate for this overenrolment (the discount HECS rate of $2,517 per student), which does not provide an adequate support structure for these students. To be brief, the funded load for the system needs to be increased, and this can be achieved by diverting some of the HECS repayments towards the Higher Education system. The AVCC has argued strongly that funding for higher education from public and private sources increased to 2 percent of Gross Domestic Product, which would provide additional capacity for this increased funded load.

An overall plan to achieve our objectives might include the following:

- restore Government funding per student and use HECS repayments to fund additional and better funded places;
- restore the threshold for repayment of HECS to average weekly earnings;
- restore the age of independence for the receipt of youth allowance payments to a more realistic age of 22, as compared with 25 currently;
- maintain government investment in research equipment, facilities and resources at least at 1998 levels, and negotiate with government on areas requiring enhancement;
- invest in high quality staff through indexing government grants according to the new Wage Cost Index. The latest staff salary increases contributed strongly to the need for a Change Management Program at the University, requiring savings and revenue enhancement of more than $11 million per annum.

I hope you agree that those objectives could be usefully raised in the lead up to the next Federal election. May I invite all members of the University to share their views on these important issues both within and outside the University.
Handson displays
Demonstrations
Music
Food
Course information
Entertainment
Drama
Fun and lots of advice

Sunday, August 9, 1998
10am - 4pm
Central Coast Campus
Chittaway Road
Ourimbah
(02) 4348 4139

Saturday, August 22, 1998
10am - 4pm
Callaghan Campus
University Drive
Callaghan
Freecall 1800 636 466

want to get serious

The University of Newcastle
Australia
It is widely accepted that young male drivers are the group most likely to be involved in fatal motor vehicle accidents. RTA statistics show that 36 percent of all accidents involve drivers in the 16-24 age group and that 23.8 percent of those involved males. Yet little is known about the driving behaviour of young males.

Dr Kate Hartig from the Department of Geography and Environmental Science has conducted research that indicates that driving behaviour could represent a rite of passage for young males into manhood. Funded by the Federal Office of Road Safety, the research led Kate to conclude that young male drivers assume that risk taking driving practices such as speeding are normal male driving behaviour.

"Young males adopt very different driving behaviour, notably speeding, so that they can be distinguished from female and older male drivers," Kate said. "It also enables them to maintain their definition of masculinity and self esteem."

Presenting her research paper at the Fifth Newcastle Interdisciplinary Gender Studies Conference, Kate said that young males were twice as likely to be involved in traffic accidents as females in the same age cohort, were less likely to wear a seatbelt and were more likely to lose control of their vehicle. They were also more likely to have 'unknown speed' recorded against them, experience more accidents at night and have a greater percentage of their accidents on winding roads.

The research paper, entitled Speeding to death: young male drivers and the construction of hegemonic masculinity, involved an analysis of Hunter RTA accident statistics, a questionnaire, and interviews with young drivers and police patrol officers. Many of the young men interviewed equated speeding with improved driving skills and would deliberately place themselves in positions of danger to express their expertise and power over technology and to define their masculinity.

Learning to drive was seen as a normal process of growing up, with independence a major factor. Comments included "I guess it's partly a male thing, the speed and adrenaline rush"; "without a licence you have no independence. You can't take your mates or your girl anywhere".

Kate said much of the literature she read, including media reports, tended to accept the high involvement of young males in fatal traffic accidents as a 'problem behaviour syndrome in youth'. "Instead, their behaviour should be recognised as symbolic of societal flaws, a waste of life, and a testament to a dominant and problematic performance of masculinity."

Other topics covered at the Conference ranged from living in a male body to spanking stories. Held at the University on June 5, the conference was organised by the Faculty of Arts and Social Science to promote inter-disciplinary gender studies and highlight research being undertaken in these areas. It provided an opportunity for postgraduate students to present their papers, organiser Ann Saul said. "It is a small, friendly conference," she said.

The keynote speaker was Associate Professor Elspeth Probyn from the Department of Women's Studies at the University of Sydney, who delivered the plenary address - Beyond Food/Sex: Towards a Queer Ethic of Existence.

CCEB students shine

Patrick Kelly, a PhD student with the Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CCEB) beat many other international postgraduate students to win the opportunity to present a paper at the International Society of Clinical Biostatisticians Conference to be held in Dundee Scotland in August 1998. Patrick will speak on "multilevel survival models for recurrent infectious diseases in children".

Another CCEB PhD student, Margaret Harris, was awarded a Commendation Certificate in the Hunter Medical Research Council's Young Researcher of the Year Award for 1998. The award acknowledged Margaret's work and research into screening participation and recruitment for first degree relatives of people with colo-rectal cancer.
Students suffer financial hardship

Most people expect students to struggle a bit financially. Those of us who received Commonwealth scholarships to study know that there was very little left over for luxuries and that a part-time or vacation job was needed to provide a sense of comfort. But the sort of student poverty which seems to be increasingly evident among today's undergraduates seems to be far more serious and in some cases students are literally starving.

Paul Bodell, Student Support Officer (Loans and Welfare), says there has been a dramatic increase in the number of students he is seeing with basic problems like eating or paying their rent. "Up to a couple of years ago, we would have seen one or two people a month who could not afford to eat," Paul said. "Now there are two or three every week and I am seeing two or three students a day who are having trouble paying their rent." The changes in eligibility for Austudy, including a lowering of the income threshold for supporting parents, has meant that many students are forced to survive on $200 a fortnight or less, Paul said. "While that means they can usually pay the rent and eat, if bills come in, they are in trouble."

One of the biggest areas of difficulty was buying textbooks and the Student Support section collaborate with the Coop Bookshop to provide six bursaries to needy students each year. The University also provides small student loans for short term emergencies and negotiate with individual students to work out a repayment method that will avoid putting them into further debt.

The University Chaplain's office put Paul in touch with local welfare agencies who are able to provide food vouchers to desperate students to allow them to get basic supplies. Manager of the Islington St Vincent de Paul centre, Peter Burke, said he has noticed an increase in the number of students, and young people generally, seeking assistance to buy food and pay bills. "The Federal Government has made changes to student benefits and they think that it is adequate for students to survive, but it obviously isn't," Peter said. "Ten years ago we struggled at university but if I were leaving school now there would be no incentive for me to go to college. They are turning students into second class citizens and making things increasingly difficult for them."

For several years Newcastle University Students' Association (NUSA) has been providing a free lunch for students each fortnight on the day before Austudy payments are due. NUSA education officer, Jamie Walker, said the number of people using the service had grown by 30 percent this year. "I'm not putting all of that increase down to student poverty but it definitely comes up in conversation with them," Jamie said. "They are hungry and when we did an informal survey at a lunch in May of 168 students, one third of them said that was the only meal they would have that day."

NUSA convened a new student welfare committee at the beginning of this year that brings together a lot of the student services on campus to look at the changes to student support and employment in the area. "Forty two percent of the University's students receive Austudy - the highest percentage of any Australian university," Jamie said. "Up to 150 students have come to see us recently concerned about how the common youth allowance will affect them and we are having a lot of difficulty in getting any complete information on it. Even Centrelink doesn't have complete information and the changes are supposed to come into effect on July 1. We're very concerned that students might drop out as a result of the changes."

"Students are living way below the poverty line unless their parents are able and willing to support them."

Director of the Counselling Service, Nanette Bryant, was also critical of the Government changes to student funding and eligibility criteria. "Families are now expected to support their adult student children up to the age of 25, which is a major shift," she said. "The changes to Austudy and the introduction of the new Youth Allowance have made it increasingly difficult for students to assess their eligibility and level of entitlements. Yet students have to make decisions about undertaking their studies in the absence of clear information about their entitlements. The introduction of the Youth Allowance will probably mean that some students entitlements change, Nanette said. "It's hard for us to stay well informed about the proposed changes. You need to be an expert in social policy just to decipher the effects of the various policy changes."

The University recruits students from a wide geographical area meaning many of the students the Counselling Service is seeing are living away from home and trying to survive on a shoestring. Others were being forced to stay in dysfunctional or non-supportive families due to the tightening of criteria for students to be considered as independent.

Another group of clients Nanette was seeing were those who were working too many hours in too many jobs to make ends meet. "They may earn sufficient funds to pay their expenses but the things they have to do to survive mean they can't give their studies adequate time," she said. There was also a connection between the stress of student poverty and recurrent illnesses, Nanette said. "I'd say that in a substantial proportion of the people we are seeing in the Counselling Service, financial issues contribute to their presenting problems, such as anxiety and depression. Students are living way below the poverty line unless their parents are able and willing to support them."

Scholarly information resources forum

Where to from here?
9.30am - 1pm, Friday, July 17
Lecture Theatre RW1-49,
Richardson Wing, Callaghan campus

Speakers include the Vice-Chancellor, Roger Holmes, and University of Melbourne Librarian, Helen Hayes. Issues raised in the Scholarly Information Resources: an issues paper will be placed in a broader context. The forum will provide an opportunity for academic input into the establishment of University strategies to respond to the issues.

RSVP to Bronwyn Nelson by July 14, ph: ext 5853 or email: ulbm@dewey.newcastle.edu.au
Unwind and get fit

Take a break from work and classes by taking part in one of the courses and classes being offered by the Sports Union. Activities include sunrise and sunset walks, belly dancing, stress management courses and yoga classes. To find out more, contact Chris Tala on Ext 6963, email: yahoi@Pacific-ocean.com or drop in to the Forum.

Hunter homecoming

When the Director of the Umulliko Indigenous Higher Education Centre, John Lester, became one of the first group of Indigenous teachers to graduate in 1976, he also became one of the first Aboriginal teachers to be unemployed. "There was an oversupply of teachers at that time," John explained. "But the sad part was that it sent all the wrong messages to the community. We were being held up as role models and were not supported with employment."

While John took advantage of his lack of employment and completed an arts degree at Macquarie University, the disappointment he experienced stayed with him. So much so that he was part of a group that fought for and achieved an affirmative action plan for Aboriginal teachers to ensure that others are guaranteed work.

When he began work, John's first appointment at Redfern Public School proved demanding when the Department of Education called upon his negotiation skills and he was sent to Moree High School to assist in resolving serious racial incidents.

John has played an integral part in the development of Aboriginal education policies in Australia since he joined the NSW Department of Education in 1980. There have been a lot of firsts in his career, including first Aboriginal senior education officer at the Department of Education, first Aboriginal head of an Aboriginal Education Unit in NSW TAFE, and the first Aboriginal TAFE principal when he was appointed to Griffith College. At 31, he was also the youngest appointed principal to that grade of college.

From Griffith, John took a promotion to Grafton TAFE College and later became Assistant Director on the north coast of NSW for TAFE, with acting responsibility at the Coffs Harbour Education Campus. With a Masters in Educational Administration from the University of New England, John is a member of the Vocational Education and Training Advisory Board, the Rural Communities Consultative Committee and is Vice-President of the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group.

Umulliko is one of five centres of excellence to encourage Indigenous researchers established by a federal grant last year. "The long term aim of the centre is to create specific opportunities to match Indigenous research needs, as identified by the community, with appropriately qualified indigenous researchers," John said. "The centre will build on the wonderful work that has been established at Newcastle by Wollotuka and the Discipline of Aboriginal Health."

The centre has identified three key areas where the community needs research completed - law, medicine and health sciences, and environmental studies. To stimulate interest in these areas, Umulliko offers three student scholarships a year as part of their funding. "We began in October 1997 and are very much on track," John said. "Umulliko is supporting three PhD students and five students doing their Master’s research degrees this year. They come from very diverse areas, which is pleasing."

John sees recent developments at the University, including the establishment of a Department of Aboriginal Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Social Science and the Aboriginal and Islander Education and Training Board, as positive signs of the University's commitment to Indigenous education. "I think there is a commitment on the part of senior management to ensure that Aboriginal studies is a permanent fixture at the University," he said. "I couldn’t have asked for greater support and I look forward to the completion of a new multi-million dollar facility to house all Indigenous education programs on campus next year."

Personally, the move to the Hunter from Yamba is something of a homecoming for John. While he grew up in inner city Redfern and Sydney’s western suburbs, John is traditionally from Wonnarua, in the area in and around Singleton.

"Philosophically, it’s a coming home for me," John said. "I’ve already become involved in the local community and particularly in my traditional area of Wonnarua, where I was recently asked to chair a local Native Title council."
What goes around comes around

Peter Newey began cycling in 1947, when he was 16 years old. Two years later the young cyclist pedalled to Melbourne and back. Then Peter "graduated" to motor bikes, forming a passion that lasted for 46 years until a serious accident forced him to retire.

"I was in hospital for three months and when I came out my right leg wasn't much chop so I decided it was too dangerous to continue riding motor bikes," Peter said. Some years later, in September 1995, Peter saw a movie about a Californian college student who lost a leg in a motorcycle accident and then went on to cycle across the United States. "Before the movie was finished, I made up my mind to get back on a pushbike and repeat the Melbourne ride I'd done 46 years previously," he said.

After a shaky start when Peter wondered if he would even make it to the first corner on a bicycle, he made it to Melbourne and back. And that was just the beginning. Peter, at the age of 66, has just completed a 2,025 kilometre Pedalthon to Brisbane and back to raise money for Michael Dudman Scholarships for music students. An organist at Scots Kirk, Peter has had a long association with the Conservatorium of Music and was a great fan of the late Michael Dudman, former Dean of the Faculty of Music.

"I am a member of the Music Foundation. Although I am virtually self-taught on the organ, I learned so much from Michael about technique and interpretation," Peter said. "I would find out the program that he was to play and get all the scores together so I could follow the music as he played. He opened up a vast repertoire of organ music for me and I learnt there was more to play than Bach and Mendelssohn."

Peter covered the 2,025 kilometres in 92 hours and 42 minutes, averaging 22.1 kilometres per hour. As well as raising money through sponsorship, he visited schools and music teachers along the route raising the profile of the Newcastle Faculty of Music and Conservatorium, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Robert Constable, said. "The way in which Peter has raised our profile in the north of the State and all along his route is very important to this institution and we are very grateful to him for that."

Apart from a puncture at Willow Tree, which he described as a "deflating experience", Peter enjoyed the trip and was even a little sad to reach the end. He was accompanied on his journey by a support crew - Russell Hatfield and Harold Warton - in a landrover.

Preparing patients for difficult procedures

Statistics show the majority of us will have to undergo some form of medical procedure at some stage in our lives. The figures also show that some of us will cope with it better than others. Research currently underway through the University is looking into ways to alleviate the considerable stress caused by some specific medical procedures.

The research project - "Preparing patients for a potentially threatening investigation: a comparison of strategies" - is being conducted by the John Hunter Hospital's MRI Unit and the NSW Cancer Council's locally-based Cancer Education Research Program (CERP), which is administered by the University. CERP has been actively involved in developing guidelines for medical students and clinicians in various areas of medical practice.

A two-year grant from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) is the funding base for this project which is being co-ordinated by research academic, Dr Billie Bonevski. The project could have wide-ranging implications for many areas of medicine and health science, she said. "While we're looking at a specific procedure this time, there's no doubt the project has the potential to be expanded to include many other procedures patients consider threatening and frightening."

The current project is examining MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) which is often considered an "anxiety-provoking procedure", according to Billie. "We're developing guidelines for clinicians to help them walk their patients through the procedure with the least amount of stress."

Information will be provided to patients before the procedure which will aim to detail everything they need to know and address all of their concerns. Information will be available from both the clinicians and from interactive computers which will be set up at various points around hospitals.

"We want to provide the information to people in a form which is comprehensive, clear and understandable and tailored to their individual concerns," she explained.

"Brochures aren't always as successful as the interactive media when it comes to disseminating information. We've conducted two patient surveys with the interactive medium which have shown it to be the most cost-effective, time-saving method acceptable to patients."

Dr Bonevski is currently working with computer programmers to develop the content for the project. Our aim is that people who use the program will have reduced anxiety and depression and, therefore, increased satisfaction with the procedure," she said.
Central Coast News

Reaching to boundaries

Cranes and trucks, building workers and contractors are a common sight at the Central Coast Campus at Ourimbah. In fact they are so much a part of the campus at the present time, that when the sights and sounds of the intensive building program currently underway are gone, it will seem very quiet indeed.

The latest building program, worth $10 million is part of the last stages of development of the Central Coast Campus. It will see the addition of five new facilities which will be in full operation during this year. The total development of the campus is expected to be completed by 2000.

The new facilities include the Early Childhood Studies Centre, the Fine Art Studies Centre, an Information Technology Centre, a substantial office complex for academic staff and two general purpose teaching blocks. They are in addition to the recently completed Building and Construction Studies Centre, purpose designed and built to provide facilities for students enrolled in Hunter Institute of Technology building courses.

It's a long way from the fledgling days of the campus when in 1989, the then Minister for Education, Dr Terry Metherell, turned the first sod of earth in a small ceremony to mark the occasion. Back then, the campus was just a tangle of bush with two old houses perched high on its perimeter. The vision was great. The job ahead was massive.

Since that time a major development has taken place, one which has progressed purposefully and smoothly to achieve the state-of-the-art campus that we see today, itself a unique concept in Australian post-secondary education.

A joint venture of the University, the Hunter Institute of Technology and the Central Coast Community College, the Central Coast Campus is able to provide opportunities for education in a multi-sectoral environment. And this is what it seeks to do, offering courses at a number of levels where students, if they wish, can cross into other streams using a system of credit transfer points.

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Director of the Central Coast Campus, Professor Les Eastcott, said that both students and staff are appreciating the benefits of the expanded facilities and are looking forward to the new facilities coming on line.

"We began here in the houses and a demountable building, provided by the Community College and have not looked back. With state and federal funding, $55 million in total, our expansion has been rapid and now, eight years on, we are seeing the benefits of that," he said.

"It is not often one has the chance to start from scratch and construct purpose-built laboratories, classrooms, offices, Information Resource Centre, and so on, all to a house-style that is harmonious and modern. It is an exciting opportunity."

Part of the overall building plan has been to landscape the site, rid it of noxious weeds, introduce a water course and lake and plant literally thousands of native plants to create an environmentally sustainable campus.

Currently there are around 4,000 students attending the campus, a mixture of University, TAFE and Community College enrolments. "We will remain a relatively small campus by international standards, aiming for a target of 8,000 students by 2005," Professor Eastcott said. "We hope to remain small enough to be friendly and large enough for academic excellence."
A group of honours students in the Plant and Wildlife Illustration course offered by the Faculty of Art and Design have been commissioned to produce a series of taxonomic drawings for a CSIRO entomology publication. The students won the competitive contract to produce the illustrations for a forthcoming publication by Dr Michael Braby, A Handbook of Australian Butterflies. The book, to be published by CSIRO Press, will lead the world in butterfly publications of its type.

Wildlife illustration lecturer, Andrew Atkins, said the students would complete 30 illustrations of butterflies for the book. “There are a lot of professional scientific illustrators around who could have done the work. But they know our students are capable because they have been winning entomological illustration awards.”

Five Newcastle students won awards in last year’s Insect Illustration Competition run by the Australian Entomological Society. Three of the winners are doing honours this year. The funding for the students’ work was provided by the Thorsborne Trust, a small group that helps biology students and conservation groups throughout Australia. The project will be administered for the Faculty by TUNRA.

Education gives South African lesson

Two lecturers from the Faculty of Education have won a grant to develop outcomes-based science teacher education programs at two South African tertiary institutions.

Dr Roy Killen and Dr David Palmer spent time at Vista University and M L Sultan Technikon in South Africa in May/June, running a series of workshops.

The project is part of the Australian/South African Institutional Links Program and is funded by the federal government through AUSAID and managed by IDP. “The funding was obtained through a process of competitive applications for grants, with only 10 projects funded each year for all the institutions in Australia and South Africa,” Roy said.

The project was developed jointly with Open Training and Education Network (OTEN), the external studies centre for the Department of Technical and Further Education (TAFE).

The South African government has determined that all education in South Africa will become outcomes-based and has established seven critical outcomes of education including communication skills, problem solving abilities and the ability to work as part of a team, Roy said.

“The curriculum standard of science education in South African schools is extremely low,” Roy said.

“They have very few qualified science teachers and, in general, poor facilities and resources.”

Roy and David delivered five two-day workshops at different locations, then two people from OTEN followed up with another workshop in each location.

It was Roy’s fourth visit to South Africa. He has previously been involved in a joint research program with a professor from the University of South Africa (UNISA) and as a result of that research, did a stint as visiting lecturer at UNISA in 1996. “While I was there I established contacts with other South African academics, including some at Vista University.”

The AUSAID project is a two year venture which began earlier this year when six South African academics visited the University to study Australian approaches to outcome-based learning.
National Reconciliation Week was framed by two significant dates in Australia's history which symbolise the hopes for reconciliation. May 27 marked the anniversary of the 1967 referendum in which over 90 percent of Australians supported the removal of clauses from the Constitution which discriminated against Aboriginal people. June 3 marked the anniversary of the High Court's judgement in the Mabo case, which overturned the myth of terra nullius, that Australia was empty and unowned before 1788.

The Aboriginal Education Centre, Wollotuka, organised events on campus to coincide with Reconciliation Week. On May 27, students and staff were given the opportunity to sign a hand in support of reconciliation. The plastic hands are an initiative of the Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTAR), who plan to take the signed hands on a tour around Australia, forming a sea of hands to demonstrate the widespread support for reconciliation in various places as they go.

Speaking in front of the sea of hands at the Hunter Union, the Vice-Chancellor said that National Sorry Day (May 26) and reconciliation week provided opportunities to express deep regret to the "stolen generation" and their families and communities. "The healing process will not be fully realised until the whole community contributes to the process," Professor Holmes said. "Commitment to the improvement in health, living conditions, education and recognition of cultural identity is required by government and the community."

Wollotuka Director, Laurel Williams, said that Sorry Day and reconciliation week provided an opportunity for Australians to deal with past injustices now. "We need to address them openly in society so that we can place them in the historical files and say we have dealt with them. But if noone does anything and we look back in 20 years time and see those things are still happening then reconciliation is not possible."

Reconciliation Week activities included performances by Kev Carmody (May 26) and Tiddas (June 2). A Sorry Book was available for signing at the NUSA office of the Shortland Union for the week commencing April 27.
Uni\TAFE movement research surprises

The Technical and Further Education (TAFE) sector has been increasingly viewed by universities as a prime recruitment ground. Many assumed that the movement from training and vocational-based courses to tertiary studies was a natural progression, almost in the same way as primary school students move on to high school. But research presented at seminars at the University in May into the movement between university and TAFE shows a very different trend.

Barry Golding, Research Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Higher Education at the University of Melbourne and Research Officer at Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE, found in his study that movement of people from university to TAFE far exceeded movement in the other direction. While Barry’s findings, based on material in preparation for his PhD, concentrated on Victorian movements between 1990 and 1996, he has validated them nationally using other surveys, data sources and published research.

People who moved from university to TAFE were primarily seeking vocationally specific training, but also attempting to develop links with industry and update existing practical skills. Around half were in a position of vocational uncertainty and wanted to retrain for a new career to avoid future unemployment. The majority of people were moving to a new field of study and changing direction. Those who were employed were often doing TAFE study to get a better or higher level job - many had found it hard to get work related to their previous university study. One third indicated they had experienced a recent decrease in their job prospects, and some said they had lowered their expectations of what constituted an appropriate job.

“The movement from university to TAFE appears to be mostly contingency driven,” Barry said. “What was particularly striking is that 97 percent of people didn’t anticipate they would move to TAFE at the time of their university studies.”

The movement to TAFE noted in Barry’s study was mostly delayed, was only indirectly associated with university non-completion, and more likely to be explained by recent (post 1990) increases in labour market difficulties affecting the wider population. The overall perception of those who moved from university to TAFE was that TAFE offered a cheaper, quicker and easier way to gain a new vocational skill or qualification by means of a more flexible learning and study mode and with better job prospects.

Barry’s research into movement from TAFE to university found that it accounted for only a small fraction (2.6 percent) of all university undergraduate recognition. There were strong contrasts between high levels of TAFE to university movement and recognition in newer, lower status universities and very low levels in older, higher status institutions.

Commenting on the issue of credit transfer, Barry said there were some areas such as business, engineering, computing and social welfare studies, where TAFE and university courses overlapped. TAFE certificates and diplomas were recognised in many of these areas as the equivalent of the first year of a degree course, he said. His study showed there was a lot of TAFE to university movement in a small number of fields, e.g from business to business and engineering to engineering. He said that credit transfer was best handled "close to the student" on a course by course basis.

Barry gave presentations to staff at the General Purpose Building and Wollotuka while visiting the University on May 20 and 21.

Professor Hilary Winchester, Chair of the TAFE-University Articulation and Credit Transfer Committee said “Through negotiations with the Hunter Institute of Technology, we have developed comprehensive articulation and credit transfer arrangements for TAFE students seeking to enrol in our courses. For example, TAFE students successfully completing a Diploma of Fine Arts could gain, in 1998, a full year's credit in our Visual Arts degree.”

“This pattern of a year's block credit is also available for holders of Diplomas/Associate Diplomas in Business, Accounting, Building Studies, Applied Science, Community and Hospitality Management, depending on the Bachelor's degree for which they're applying. The fine details of our current arrangements are available in our booklet Credit Transfer Pathways.”

“For 1999 we hope to have new arrangements developed in Information Technology, Viticulture and Child Welfare.”

Letter to the editor

Dear Editor

I refer to the article “Setting the standard” with photograph on Page 13 of the May 1998 (Issue No.3) edition of Uninews and wish to point out that the article is incorrect.

Robert Witherspoon is not the first Aboriginal Honours student to graduate from this University.

An Aboriginal student in this Department would probably have been the first. His name is Wylie Bradford. He completed First Class Honours in Economics in 1989 and was the recipient of a University Medal for this performance at the May Graduation ceremony in 1990.

William F. Mitchell
Head of Department
Department of Economics

Editor’s note - apologies to previous Aboriginal honours graduates. Robert Witherspoon is the first Aboriginal medical honours graduate.
Complex system researcher heads to Santa Fe

What do turbulent flowing waters, stock markets and ecologies have in common? They can all be complex systems - systems which aren't immediately tractable, are non-linear or have emergent new properties. Like all complex systems they are hard to predict and forecast. And who better to research these chaotic systems than a group of ex-scientists in the Department of Philosophy?

One of this cross-disciplinary group, 34 year old PhD student Scott Muller, was selected to attend the prestigious Santa Fe Institute summer school in the US last month. The summer school receives support from universities, institutes and laboratories around the United States, including the Center for Nonlinear Studies at Los Alamos National Laboratory and is intended to disseminate new concepts on nonlinear complex systems to graduate students and academics.

Scott did his undergraduate degree in chemical engineering, specialising in biotechnology, and worked as a biotechnical engineer for some years after graduating. It was his interest in underlying issues that led him to his doctoral studies. "I would look at the way a company works and the transitions it goes through," Scott explained, "and it is very similar to a lot of physical and chemical processes."

"When I was studying engineering, I was interested in the similarity between the various laws, for instance, mass transfer and heat transfer. No change will happen unless something is different - if something is static it won't move unless there is a reason to move."

Keen to do further study in the field of complex systems, Scott decided the philosophy of science was where his interests lay. After completing a diploma in philosophy at the University of Queensland, he was planning to go to the US to find people working in the field, until he heard about the excellent team of researchers working under Professor Cliff Hooker in the Department of Philosophy at Newcastle. Scott began his PhD studies here last year. His thesis is looking at theories on the nature of information and trying to mould them into a more general theory.

Other students in the philosophy group at Newcastle are doing research into modelling science as an ecology, cognitive processes and adaptive learning, the ways in which individual scientists interact to become a scientific community and the study of economies as dynamic systems. "The group has been going for about five years and has done a lot of groundwork in the area of the philosophy of science," Scott said. "We are ready to begin presenting our ideas publicly, so I will be taking ideas from our own research to Santa Fe as well as looking at what others are doing."

Scott is the only person from the southern hemisphere selected to attend the summer school and joins over 60 other attendees from countries all over the world, including Germany, Italy and Austria.

Indian visitors study child welfare

A group of 13 senior Indian State Government officers have recently completed an Ausaid sponsored four week course on child welfare run by the Department of Psychology. The program included formal lectures on topics such as child cognitive development, disability, health promotion, nutrition, immunisation and dysfunctional family dynamics, as well as site visits to rural education and community welfare centres, the Family Court of Australia, and Worimi juvenile detention centre. The group was particularly interested in indigenous welfare issues and spent time at ATSIC, Wollotuka and the Awabakal Cooperative Centre.

Discussions held with agencies such as DOCS and DEETYA identified common problems such as the stretching of scarce government funding and resources and the move to privatisation of welfare programs. There was also the opportunity to talk about specific Indian problems such as the abuse and neglect of girl children and child labour.
Surf's up for the Hunter

A new University study has found that the Hunter could gain significant further benefits from the surf industry by taking a few simple steps. The study into the issues and impact of the surf industry in the Newcastle area was carried out for the Hunter Area Consultative Committee (HACC) by a multidisciplinary project team from the University.

The study contains a number of proposals designed to assist the surf industry in the region. These include:
- Further research into the Hunter’s extensive board manufacturing industry to provide funding for the development of cooperatives that give smaller manufacturers better facilities;
- Supporting the industry by providing training and education networks, which bring people into the region and capitalise on the Hunter’s surf industry expertise;
- Seeking funds to establish training and education networks, which bring people into the region and capitalise on the Hunter’s surf industry expertise;
- Improving the Hunter’s infrastructure to provide for the potential tourist market that the industry may attract;
- Investigating ways of supporting the industry by enhancing the wave conditions in an environmentally sound manner to protect the beach and attract national and international tourists.

The team, led by Professor Jenny Graham, Vice-Chancellor (External Relations), included representatives of the Graduate School of Business (GSB), the Department of Tourism and Leisure Studies, the Department of Geography and Environmental Science and the Faculty of Education.

Project coordinator, Sharyn Smith of the GSB, said the surf industry is worth more than $35 million a year to the Hunter. “This covers everything from retailers, to competition spin-offs and board manufacturing,” she said.

Commenting on the report, HACC Chair Geoff Connell said the benefit could be significantly increased with the right support. “For example, many people outside the region know that Mark Richards is a champion surfer, but they don’t know that Nobby’s is in the Hunter or that Nobby’s is a Novocastrian,” he said. “By giving the industry a clear identity of ‘brand’ and linking that brand to the Hunter, we could effectively cash in on much more of the national and international surf industry.

“This would also involve changing some of the images of the industry. Surfing is not the sub-culture many people think. We have to highlight its broader appeal.” The study provides a framework from which the industry could be further developed, he said. “Much of the industry has grown up in isolation. We can now move to increase the interaction between the various sections to create a stronger, united industry and deliver greater economic benefits,” Geoff said.

Media Briefs can publicise your University event

Media Briefs is distributed to media in Newcastle, the Hunter Valley and the Central Coast every Monday. It lists University events for that week for example, lectures, presentations and exhibitions. It also summarises University news stories of the previous week. To publicise your event send the relevant details; such as, date, time, venue, name and short description of event, cost, contact person and telephone number to:

Charnelle Mondy, Marketing & Media Services, Email: cmundy@unsw.edu.au. Fax: 49217420.

Internal mail: Box 24, Hunter Building, Callaghan Campus.

The deadline is Thursday 12 noon the week before the event.

For more information please contact Charnelle Mondy, Media Support Officer, on 49218856.

Child of a Vietnam Veteran?

The Vietnam Veterans Trust Education Assistance Scheme (VVTEAS) provides help with education costs for veterans’ children. While funds are limited, those selected for grants would receive $3,500 per year for the whole of their course. For information contact Vietnam Veterans Trust, ph: (02) 9281 7077, email: vvet@accssoft.com.au.

Ruth Bedford Travelling Scholarship of up to $8,000 is available to Australian citizens who are lineal descendants of ex-service men or women who served Australia during the period after 1914. Contact The Secretary, Veterans’ Children Education Scheme, Commonwealth Department of Veterans’ Affairs, ph: (02) 9213 7616.
**Egyptian mummies give up their secrets**

The University's Professor of Surgical Science, Allan Spigelman, has undertaken ground-breaking surgery aimed at unlocking the secrets of 3,000 year old Egyptian mummies. In a bid to discover the key to diseases such as cancer, syphilis and tuberculosis, Allan performed a series of post-mortem examinations on three mummies housed at the University of Sydney's Nicholson Museum.

Recruited to the project by his brother Mark, who is a physical anthropologist based in the UK, Allan began with an examination of the chest and abdominal cavities of the mummies using endoscopy. The researchers took tissue samples for DNA analysis and for histology, the study of the minute structure of the tissue and organs. "New research is pushing the accepted date for the emergence of tuberculosis, syphilis and bilharzia infections, for example, back further and further," Allan said. It is hoped that the mummies may provide some answers to how these diseases emerged.

The research should also give an insight into the lifestyle of the mummies. A report in the University of Sydney News says that hieroglyphs on the coffins indicate that the two adults were religious figures. "The woman, named Meruah, is thought to date from the 21st Dynasty, about 1,000 BC, while the man, named Pediashakhet, last presided over the strange religious ceremonies of his culture about 700 BC. The unnamed child, a girl, probably dates from the second century AD," the report said.

"It is a history-making process and there is a feeling of a major degree of responsibility because it is an irreplaceable resource," Allan said. "Working on a mummy outside Egypt is virtually impossible now. The results will be analysed all over the world."

Results of the tests should be known in the next few months.

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**Bridging the gap in community health**

The University's Inter-Cultural Studies Conference '98 staged in early June.

Aboriginal community figure Bob Smith spoke of his collaboration with community health workers Kerrie Thorley (physiotherapist), Katie Fitzpatrick-Barr (speech pathologist) and Jane Potter (dietitian) to improve service provision in the Westlakes area on day one of the three-day conference.

Katie is a clinical educator with the Department of Linguistics, while Jane also works as a research assistant in the discipline of Nutrition and Dietetics. According to Kerrie, the need for appropriate and accessible service delivery environments for members of the Westlakes Aboriginal community is crucial. "We know, for a fact, that many Aboriginal people are not getting the care they require due to language and cultural barriers as well as the problems of distance and transport," she explained.

Katie is currently providing speech pathology services at the Awabakal Aboriginal Pre-School and is hoping to develop a language assessment tool for Aboriginal children.

Jane is hoping to adapt a weight-control program for Aboriginal people and is involved with Kerrie in the five-year National Active Australia Campaign which aims to decrease the incidence of colon cancer, heart disease and diabetes by increasing our levels of physical activity. "The Aboriginal community has the highest incidence of diabetes among all groups in our society so we'd like to see co-ordination of diabetes services and even see an Aboriginal diabetes support group established to provide information and assistance," Kerrie said.

More than 25 papers were delivered at the conference covering the gamut of inter-cultural issues from: Teaching Hollywood Across Culture and Language to Is Learning Japanese Difficult?

The keynote speaker was cultural theorist and Reader in French at the University of Queensland, Associate Professor Anne Freadman, whose paper The Culture Peddlers examined the notion of 'culture' and crossing 'cultural boundaries'. Her critique of the assumption of 'national culture' has implications for how we view the role of any person who teaches inter-cultural understanding.

Conference organiser Graham Squires said the conference was most successful. "I was very pleased with the attendance, the quality of the papers and the fact that more than a third of the papers came from outside this University," he said.

"It's clear the conference has an important role to play in promoting internationalisation and raising awareness of inter-cultural issues at a grassroots level."
Getting men and boys to open up and discuss important issues in their lives can be difficult. An educational resource launched by the University last month, the Being a Man Photopak, uses photographs to encourage males to articulate their feelings and needs.

The Photopak was developed by Richard Fletcher of the Men and Boys Project group in the Family Action Centre (FAC) to assist teachers, parents, youth workers, probation officers, health workers and counsellors work with men and boys. FAC Director, Dr James, says in the Foreword to the Teachers and Leaders Manual that accompanying the Photopak, that "In a decade of work with families the need to develop a broader approach to men and boys has been clear to us. The Photopak provides an important tool for those wishing to help boys and men find a voice. Bringing males to articulate their needs and contribute to the wellbeing of the society is an important step in building a community where all children flourish."

In conjunction with the manual the Photopak uses a range of thought provoking photographic images of men and boys. The manual sets out a number of exercises, developed by the Working with Men group in the UK, for the teacher or leader to use to get discussions started.

"In preparing the manual we trialed the photos in a number of states and in both urban and rural, public and private, secondary and primary schools," Richard explained. "The photos have also been used in probation and parole settings and as a staff development exercise with educators and health workers."

An outline developed by the Men and Boys Project for using the photographs to identify boys' needs in schools is also included in the manual. The photographs are drawn from a range of sources including the media, the Australian Quadriplegic Association and the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission.

"The photos work for themselves," Richard said. "Boys and young men readily respond to the images and their implicit values and beliefs as to what men and boys should and should not do."

The photopak was launched at Nyngan on June 18.

Photography used to diagnose melanoma

Photographers from the Media Design, Production and Publications unit of the Information and Education Services Division (IESD) have played a significant role in a study aimed at early diagnosis of skin cancer and melanoma in men aged 50 plus. Researcher Professor Peter Hersey has identified men in this age bracket as being at high risk. The Hunter Melanoma Group's pilot study targets that group specifically.

Study coordinator, Pauline Hanrahan, said that despite only making up 14 percent of the population, more than 50 percent of melanoma deaths occur in this age group. The study will focus on better detection and diagnosis, which is where the photography comes in.

Early diagnosis of skin cancers allows them to be surgically removed before the cancer has time to spread to other body organs. Photographs of the upper body and backs of more than 1000 men from Raymond Terrace, Corlette and Nelson Bay were taken by the Media Program team (formerly Medical Communications Unit). Half the subjects were given prints to take with them when they undergo a skin cancer screening at their GP's within the next 12 months and half were not.

"In this study, we are really looking firstly at whether photographs help GPs pick up melanomas, skin cancers or new lesions because more than 50 percent of melanomas occur where there were no moles or pre-existing spots or lesions," Ms Hanrahan said. The researchers hope that photography will prove to be a useful screening tool in the detection of melanomas in this age group.

Chief Medical Photographer, Bruce Turnbull, said great care was taken in the design of the photographic component of the study to enable accurate measurement of any suspicious or new lesions and give "repeatability" when the subjects are re-photographed in the future. "The Media programs photography and imaging group have a wealth of experience in this challenging and specialised area of photography," he said.
Great Hall venue for careers expo

The annual Newcastle/Lake Macquarie Careers and Tertiary Expo was held at the University for the first time this year, attracting thousands of school students and visitors to the Great Hall in May.

Formerly held in the City Hall, the expo has been organised by schools careers advisers and careers reference centres for more than 10 years. Hosted by the University and TAFE, the 1998 event enabled exhibitors to be housed in one area for the first time. Representatives from all NSW universities, TAFE, private education training institutions, the defence and police forces and individual career areas attended the expo, which attracted more than 18 school groups (mainly Year 12 students) and hundreds of individuals.

One of the organisers, Ken Blake, who is careers adviser at Kotara High School, said the University provided an attractive venue. “We had a few problems at City Hall and thought we'd try a change of venue,” he said. “It's beneficial having all the exhibitors under one roof, so the kids get to see everything.”

The expo was held between 9am and 7.30pm on May 19.

Colo-rectal cancer researchers win grant

A group of researchers looking at the way in which colo-rectal cancer patients are treated have received a grant of $35,000 from MBF to pilot their survey in NSW. One of only five Health Research Awards presented by the health fund nationwide, the grant will assist the researchers in their study of the treatment of Australia’s second most common cancer.

Study coordinator, Dr David Leong, said that overseas data, mainly from the UK, indicated wide variations in the survival and recurrence rate for colo-rectal cancer patients treated by different surgeons. “It may be that patients have been treated differently and if this is the case, then this will carry important public health implications,” David said. “There is very little Australian data in this area and we will be looking at how patients are managed over a 12 month period, across New South Wales. By assessing the quality and variability of care for this condition, we are striving to ensure that the best available treatments are being provided to all patients, in order to deliver the best health outcomes.”

The survey would collect information by sending questionnaires to specialists on how colo-rectal cancer patients are managed. “This is a large scale quality assurance activity,” David explained.

A unique focus for this survey is the comparison of management patterns between urban and rural areas of NSW, to determine if patients in the country are getting similar treatments from surgeons who are usually too busy to maintain a specialty interest in colo-rectal cancer, as occurs in large urban centres.

This survey is a collaborative project between the University and the NSW Cancer Council; it will ultimately run over three years with an overall budget of around $250,000. The chief investigators for this project are Professor Dick Heller of the CCEB, Professor Allan Spigelman from the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Professor Scott Holmes of the Graduate School of Business, Professor Bruce Armstrong from the NSW Cancer Council, and Lynette Lim, who is the survey statistician.

The MBF award was presented to the group by the Federal Health Minister, Michael Wooldridge, in a ceremony in Canberra last week.
Flexible learning gains a foothold

Four projects have now been approved for seed-funding from the inaugural round of the Flexible Delivery Start-Up Program at a total cost of $235,597. They are as follows:

- An Interactive Computer Learning Subject in Introductory Human Bioscience
  Dr Paul McGrath, Faculty of Medicine & Health Science
- Modularisation of PSYCH 100
  Dr Sally McFadden, Department of Psychology
- Bachelor of Nursing in Flexible Delivery Mode
  Ron Sharkey, Faculty of Nursing
- Enhancing Undergraduate Teacher Education Student’s Learning Using the Internet within a Problem-Based Approach
  Professor Terry Lovat, Faculty of Education.

Three of the projects will involve a degree of support from IESD’s Teaching and Learning Program, with David Cater Project Manager for the Nursing Project. This involves the conversion of the final stages of the Bachelor of Nursing into a more flexible mode, and which will probably utilise video, CD-ROM multimedia and web-based interactions. The first module is expected to be available for pilot testing by students in early 1999.

The Faculty of Education’s Project, coordinated by Terry Lovat and John Schiller, will use a problem based approach with four work-based scenarios in simulated schools on a Website for second year undergraduates. Six IESD staff will be providing advice and support for this project. Keith Davey from Learning & Development is also involved with the Human Bioscience Project as an educational technologist.

IESD will also be supporting an additional “Skills Development for PBL Tutors” package which will result in a CD-ROM and video by the end of 1998. This will provide a self-directed multimedia alternative to the current higher education sector activities that support tutors in developing problem-based learning skills.

The Teaching and Learning Committee’s report to the Academic Senate highlighted the need to clarify IESD’s role in supporting such projects, with IESD’s Executive Director Linda O’Brien suggesting project management and consultancy may be without cost and other services such as media services and programming costed at a competitive rate.

Expressions of interest will shortly be called for a Web-Based Postgraduate Course Development Program 1998, for which the Vice-Chancellor has allocated $500,000.

For more information on these projects or other flexible learning issues, please contact either Jim Cleary or David Cater on extension 7337.

Dial-in modem lines and your telephone bill

Recent newspaper and magazine articles have referred to an anomaly with telephone charges to Internet service providers.

Some telephone customers have been reporting abnormally high numbers of local calls on their phone bill. Investigations reveal that the extra calls are short duration and can be attributed to their home computers continually redialing their ISP when they get a “busy” or “number unobtainable” response tone.

However, these charges ONLY apply to calls made to rediverted numbers via a PABX (or telephone exchange) - just like you pay a local call fee for any call you make to a mobile phone that’s been rediverted (even if the call is unsuccessful). This is because the PABX or exchange accepts the call, places another call to the diverted number and then connects the two calls together.

The University’s dial-in modem service via our own PABX (Staff lines on 4921666 and Express-lane lines on 4921574) and the Mayfield Telstra exchange (Student lines on 49854885 and 49854888) are NOT diverted - so you should not be charged for calls that fail to connect.

Important reminder about telephone numbers

The end of double-trunking (where both the old 6 digit and new 8 digit telephone numbers can be used) is approaching for Queensland Country and NSW Country telephone subscribers.

- Queensland Country - 2nd August 98
- New South Wales Country - 9th August 98

After these dates, you MUST use the 8 digit local phone numbers and the revised STD dialing prefixes -02 for nearly all of country NS and 07 for QLD.

For the local Newcastle area you should replace all references to (02) xxxxxx numbers with (02) 49xxxx.

Please check to ensure that you’re using the new 8 digit numbers for call diversion, number stores (programmable function buttons) and computer dial-up software. This includes software that you may have set-up for accessing the University of Newcastle modem service.


Tony/Nicholson@newcastle.edu.au
Chair Letters

The dreaded chair letter has surfaced from seasons past, with the opening statement "All Things Are Possible." The next paragraph then claims...

"This is not a chain letter..."

Regardless of what it is, copies are being distributed disguised in internal envelopes using the University mail system. The use of the University mail system for non-University business is inappropriate and should not occur.

David Heggari, Senior Facilities Officer (Campus Services). Phone: 02 49216662

The University Health Service

Heart Care Days

Thursday July 16 and Friday July 17. A free testing day for patients who are at risk of getting heart disease.

The following risk factors will be assessed - Cholesterol, Blood Glucose, Blood Pressure, Weight and Family History.

Heart Care Checklist

If you are between the ages of 40 and 65 and answer "Yes" to any one of the following questions, then you qualify for the Heart Care Day

- Are you a diabetic?
- Do you have high blood pressure (Hypertension)?
- Do you get angina or have you experienced chest pain?
- Have you had any heart surgery? (eg coronary artery bypass graft, angioplasty)
- Have you, or anyone in your family (brothers, sisters, parents) suffered from heart disease or any of the above symptoms?

There is no charge for this service. Please ring the university health service - extension 6000 for an appointment as places are limited.

We're kicking butt!

Most people will be aware that the University has a No-Smoking policy. This policy states, in part “Smoking is not permitted within the confines of University buildings or University vehicles”...

In recent times, we have installed a series of ash cylinders (black finish with silver dome) affixed to walls of buildings where smokers congregate. We will be increasing the number of ash cylinders in extra areas around the campus, and we would ask all smokers to use these receptacles to thoughtfully dispose of their cigarette butts. We appreciate those of you who are already doing so.

David Heggari, Senior Facilities Officer (Campus Services). Ext. 6662.

Large Internal envelopes

Help Uninews stay environmentally friendly by sending your large internal envelopes to Rose Roohan at Marketing and Media Services.

Confessions and seminars

Announcements of calls for papers and contact details of national and international conferences and seminars can be found at the Campus Review website by going to http://www.camrev.com.au/share/diary.html.

IT Training

For a schedule of July/August courses, look on the Internet at http://www.newcastle.edu.au/services/itd/training/frame2.html.

To register please call Tanya Maddison on ext. 8634. Your place will be reserved for you and you will be sent a training registration form. This completed form must be returned with a Purchase Requisition or Internal Transfer Requisition for the cost of the course. (Urgent Purchase Orders cannot be accepted). When this is received by Learning & Development, your place will be confirmed to you by letter. If you need to cancel your place, please do so at least four days beforehand. If you have any questions about courses or the booking procedure, please call Tanya on ext. 8634.

Word 97 Workshops

Is a workshop for me?

Workshops are for all general and academic staff who have completed all available modules for Word97. The Word97 workshops embrace the concepts of problem based learning. Participants will bring a work-related task in which they have met challenges. The trainer will act as a facilitator and participants will learn from each other by sharing their task with the group.

It may also act as a refresher course in skills covered in previous modules.

The three hour workshops will run in July and August (on demand - maximum class size six) and cost $20. Contact Tanya Maddison for dates or to enrol. For more information contact Tanya on ext. 8634.

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Rules: The following Rules have been made or amended by Council:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>RULE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Schedule to Boards of Study Rules: Schedule - Board of Studies in Business Administration (R1.6.1)</td>
<td>Board disestablished and Schedule deleted</td>
<td>12 June 1998</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schedule - Board of Studies for the Graduate School of Business (R1.6.1)</td>
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<td>Schedules to the Rules Governing Academic Awards: Schedule - Bachelor of Construction Management (Building) (R6.1B.2)</td>
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<td>Schedule - Graduate Diploma in Business Administration (R6.4C.11)</td>
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A copy of any Rule may be obtained from the Office of the University Secretary and Registrar, The Chancellor. 16 June 1998

Gem Cheong
University nursing researcher, Kim Wylie, enlisted the help of a group of Queensland high school students in her project to utilise visual and tactile experiences in the treatment of dementia. Kim, who is carrying out the research as part of her PhD studies, called on four art students from a local high school to paint a mural in a Gold Coast nursing home bathroom.

The mural, drawn from an Australian Geographic photograph of fish swimming underwater, is one of a number of enhancements to the patients' surroundings aimed at reducing their agitation and distress and helping them to live more comfortably with dementia. "There are about 20 residents in the middle stages of dementia in the special care unit of the retirement village," Kim said. "They are often forgetful and compulsive walking and wandering is common. We need to explore other ways to communicate with these people to protect them from injury and ensure their wellbeing. Since verbal instructions often don't work, we are trying to gain entry through their other senses - smell, touch, taste and hearing."

Kim's supervisors, Faculty of Nursing Professor Irena Madjar and Associate Professor Jo Walton, said that dementia patients were often treated inappropriately. "A lot of the care is primarily custodial," Professor Madjar said. "Patients are sometimes physically restrained and doors are often locked. The idea of Kim's research is to try and make their world less threatening and frightening. In her study, Kim is evaluating the effects of sensory enhancements on the behaviour and wellbeing of people with dementia."

The newly decorated bathroom will be fitted with special lights, music speakers and aromatherapy equipment. With financial assistance from the local Lions Club, Kim has also equipped an activity room with a range of tactile objects. Residents can choose different textures in objects and furnishings and can activate lighting or music to suit their taste. "We try to enhance the residents' wellbeing by having the smell of food cooking in the kitchen adjacent to their living room. Recently, one Italian-born lady's face lit up when we played Italian music from the 1930's," Kim said. "Those sensory experiences help to trigger past memories to engage and interest people with dementia in their surroundings," Kim said. "Enhanced sensory stimulation helps them to sleep and eat better and may reduce their need for medication."

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**Unibriefs**

**PhD student** Duncan O'Brien, from the Faculty of Economics, was presented with the Gough Whitlam/Coop Bookshop Scholarship, worth $20,500 p.a. by the former Prime Minister at the Coop Bookshop's 40th anniversary celebration in Sydney last month. Duncan, who will undertake research into the development of an economic model of full employment through government expenditure, said the scholarship will make a big difference to his life and allow him to concentrate on his studies.

**Diversions: A Survey of Works by Garry Jones** is on show at the Art and Design Gallery until July 12. The exhibition of Garry's works spans 1972-1998, with an emphasis on paintings centred on his well known 'Series'.

**Helen Stronarch** won the national student competition conducted by the University of NSW's National Solar Research Unit (SOLARCH) last year. The winning project was a design for a residential secondary high school on a remote coral atoll of Kiribati.

**The Department of Physics** is offering Hunter school students prizes of up to $750 for the best paper aeroplane as part of the University's K-12 Science Competition. The competition will be completed for the Callaghan campus Open Day on August 22.

**Associate Professor Lindsay Johnston** of the Department of Architecture, has been reappointed for another term as Chair of the National Education Committee of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects. The committee coordinates the professional accreditation of all architecture programs in Australia and is concerned with quality assurance aspects of architectural education.

**The Vice-Chancellor** has created a School of Information Technology, to promote and coordinate academic interest in information technology. Membership of the School is open to all staff and postgraduate students with a relevant interest in IT, regardless of their faculty. If you are interested in finding out more about the School, visit http://it.newcastle.edu.au. You can also register your interest in becoming a member at this site.

**A study by the Employment Studies Centre, Redressing the Gender Earnings Gap,** has found that women are still being paid less than men for work requiring similar levels of educational attainment, skills and responsibilities. The study's findings were presented to the Pay Equity Inquiry conducted by the NSW Industrial Relations Commission.