Students from the University have scooped the pool in Australia's premier student graphic design awards, with Fiona Heslop winning first prize and five of her classmates also receiving awards or commendations. In our pictorial feature on pages 10 and 11 we feature the students' work.
Enquiries and contributions should be directed to the Editor, Uninews, Marketing and Media Services, phone: (02) 4956 1869 or (02) 4956 2829, email: prklb@cc.newcastle.edu.au

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

1998 deadlines and publishing dates

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Publisher - Fran Flavel
Editor - Kim Britton
Writers - Kim Britton, Anne Long, Cae Pattison, David Herbert
Photography - Wendy Sanson, Cae Pattison
Designer - Tim Burns

Cover pic - Award winning cover design by Bachelor of Design (Graphic) student, Fiona Heslop (top), and below, the six winning students.

1998 Readership survey results

Thank you to all those who responded to our readership survey. A total of 49 people responded, of whom 53 percent were members of general staff, 39 percent were academic staff members and eight percent were either members of Convocation or on our external mailing list. No students responding to the survey.

Respondents seemed generally satisfied with the visual appearance and overall content of Uninews, with 80 percent in the satisfied categories. Forty seven percent were highly satisfied with the publication's visual appearance and 39 percent were highly satisfied with the overall content.

Forty one percent of respondents had read all four editions of Uninews, with twenty nine percent having read three issues and ten percent had only read two. The majority (78%) read areas of interest, while 22 percent read it in detail.

While only a small percentage of respondents wanted to see less of any of our story categories, a significant number (47%) wanted to see more pictorial stories and more stories about research. Forty five percent wanted more administrative information like that presented in our Etcetera pages and 39 percent wanted to see more stories about administrative staff and students.

Your feedback, comments and corrections to our mailing list were greatly appreciated. Marketing and Media Services staff will be analysing the survey responses closely to try and improve our publication. We welcome any additional feedback you would like to provide.

Vice-Chancellor's Column

A visit of a University delegation to China has been recently concluded, and I thought that it might be of interest to share some of our experiences with you. The delegation included the Chancellor, Professors Jenny Graham, David Finlay, Neil Rees, Dr Nafis Ahmed from Engineering, and myself. We were also accompanied by the Dean of Law from the University of New South Wales for the Beijing and Tianjin visits, and Mr Michael Griffin, CEO of SABCORP Pty Limited, a US based pharmaceutical firm with interests in China, for the Harbin and Shenzhen visits.

The primary purposes of this major visitation program to China were to become personally familiar with the higher education system in this country; to determine where opportunities exist for the University, particularly in areas of student and staff exchange, joint academic program development, fee-paying student and research postgraduate student enrolments, and collaborative research areas; and to sign agreements with appropriate universities. The primary purposes of this major visitation program to China were to become personally familiar with the higher education system in this country; to determine where opportunities exist for the University, particularly in areas of student and staff exchange, joint academic program development, fee-paying student and research postgraduate student enrolments, and collaborative research areas; and to sign agreements with appropriate universities. The primary purposes of this major visitation program to China were to become personally familiar with the higher education system in this country; to determine where opportunities exist for the University, particularly in areas of student and staff exchange, joint academic program development, fee-paying student and research postgraduate student enrolments, and collaborative research areas; and to sign agreements with appropriate universities.

One cannot visit China without being moved by the immensity of its size and its huge population. China is also rich in its historical and cultural heritage. It is, however, undergoing rapid development in each of the cities we visited, which included Beijing, Tianjin, Xian, Harbin and Shenzhen. This development is also apparent among the universities visited, which are seeking to improve the quality of their teaching and research programs; to establish linkages with overseas universities; and to provide enhanced facilities for students and staff.

Chinese universities are certainly very different to those that we are more familiar with here in Australia. They are usually more specialised in academic profile, and might cover a limited range of disciplines, such as business and education (eg the University of International Business and Education in Beijing), or medicine and health (eg Xian Medical University). In addition, campuses provide a wider range of facilities for students and staff, going well beyond those for teaching, research and other facilities found on Australian campuses, including accommodation and providing health and education services for all members of the university, including families of all staff. Studying, working and living at a Chinese university is a 'whole of life' experience.

As a result of this visit to a number of Chinese universities, including some of the highest ranked institutions, and the signing of agreements with several of them, I am confident that the University will be better positioned for implementing a range of co-operative and exchange teaching and research programs. Given our major ambitions in further internationalising our student and academic profile, co-operation with a number of these Chinese universities will assist these developments.

May I invite each of you to contribute to this process of internationalisation in whatever role you play within the University. The University of Newcastle, as part of the recent strategic planning exercise, is seeking to expand its role in the international arena. China provides a range of important opportunities for us, which will be, I am sure, of mutual benefit.
open day

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

Hands-on displays
Demonstrations
Music
Food
Course information
Entertainment
Drama
Fun and lots of advice

want to get serious

The University of Newcastle
Australia
The world of education is changing rapidly. Not only are universities facing challenges created by information technology advances and shrinking government budgets, they are increasingly having to grapple with changes in the qualifications of their potential students. With a national move toward outcomes based competency standards in the vocational training sector and a new approach to the way in which New South Wales high school students are assessed for university entrance, the changes are significant and far reaching. A Forum held at the University in June sought to clarify some of the issues surrounding admission and recognition of qualifications.

Peter Hannigan, Principal Project Officer for the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA), who spoke at the Admissions Forum, gave an overview of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector, its key bodies (at both national and state level) and their roles, and the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF).

The VET sector, which includes TAFE as its biggest supplier, as well as commercial training businesses and private enterprises, operates in response to labour market and workplace demands, Peter said. He talked about the National Strategy for VET, which was agreed in May and will operate for five years. Its mission is to ensure that the skills of the Australian labour force are sufficient to support internationally competitive commerce and industry and to provide individuals with the opportunity to optimise their potential.

The AQF provides for a range of pathways to qualifications, particularly in the VET sector, Peter explained. For example, a qualification in the VET sector may be gained as a result of work-based training, work and institution-based training, recognition of prior learning and further training as necessary. 'If you think of the qualification as a $100 bill, then the coinage is the modules or units of competency or work experience,' Peter said.

In response to questions from University staff about how universities could select students on merit for admission to tertiary courses, Peter said that it was unlikely that there would be a consistent national position on grading of students in the VET sector. While he thought there would probably need to be some sort of grading for vocational courses offered in the school system, it would be determined by the State and Territory governments. "Traditionally, grading in the vocational system meant that 50% was good enough to gain a qualification, whereas in competency-based courses the student must achieve all that is required to complete the course," Peter said. "It is up to the individual providers of training to set grades."

Credit transfer was another area in which a national position was difficult to adopt, Peter said. While the Australian Vice-Chancellors Committee (AVCC) had worked with ANTA on a credit transfer and articulation project to attempt to improve transfers between the tertiary and VET sectors, there was no national policy framework and it was up to individual universities to negotiate arrangements with their VET suppliers. "I think universities have to come to terms with competency-based training," Peter said. "Industry has been at them for years to introduce it." He said that there were a lot of developments between individual suppliers where institutions offered courses that ran across both sectors and that the multi-sector campuses such as Coffs Harbour and Ourimbah had also furthered these developments.

Other speakers at the Forum included Dr John Grant, former Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) at the University of Canberra, who spoke on the recognition of defence force qualifications, Anne Finnane from the Access Educational Services Division of TAFE, who spoke on TAFE's Tertiary Pathway Programs, and Jennifer Moody, Board of Studies Liaison Officer, who spoke on the proposed changes to the NSW HSC. Organised by the University's Admissions Manager, Maryanne Cartwright, the Forum was held on June 26.
School groups from all over NSW had a taste of university life on Friday July 3, Schools Visit Day. Displays, demonstrations and activities ranging from the excitement of a flight simulator to the gentle beauty of a Japanese tea ceremony were on offer, showcasing the many facets of the University's offerings.

The Visit Day heralded a range of activities and events for school children held at the Callaghan campus during the school holidays. A Poetry Study Day for HSC students was held in the English Department on July 6 and the School Sector HSC Study Day was held on July 7. A Hamlet Study Day on July 17 featured lectures on the play, small workshops on major scenes and a debate between lecturers. The Vacation School for Gifted and Talented Children was staged on July 13 and 14 for students in Years 3 to 10. Workshops covered philosophy, science, drama, computing, journalism, fine art, printmaking, pottery, mask making and dance.

Groundbreaking study into euthanasia

In an internationally significant study, patients with cancer, including those receiving palliative care, will be asked their views on euthanasia as part of a research project currently under way in Newcastle. The project titled - Euthanasia: Perceptions of patients with cancer and their providers - is a collaborative research initiative of the University and the Hunter Area Health Service.

A National Health and Medical Research Council two-year grant of $120,000 has been allocated to the project which is expected to attract much interest, both here and overseas. According to project team member Dr Ian Kerridge, the research is unique for two critical reasons - it includes patients with advanced illness and also attempts to explicitly address the influence of beliefs regarding euthanasia on questionnaire design.

Dr Kerridge explained: “Our research is not seeking support for or against euthanasia; we’re seeking to establish actual attitudes and practices.” More than 600 patients (300 of these in palliative care) are expected to be interviewed during the course of the project. In a later study, every oncologist, haematologist and palliative care specialist in the country will be invited to take part in an anonymous questionnaire. Those patients already interviewed have welcomed the opportunity to voice their opinions, according to Dr Kerridge.

Principal investigator on the project, Lynne Hancock, said that the public discussion around euthanasia is very emotive and that there is an absence of good research to back up any particular stance on the issue. “What we are trying to do is take the emotion out of the discussion,” she said. “We really want the patient’s point of view and we’ll also be asking them questions about their quality of life, religious beliefs, their experiences with levels of pain and anxiety and depression.”

An advisory group working on the project brings a range of specialisations including behavioural science, palliative care, psychiatry, ethics and health law. “I think one of the strengths of the study is the range of skills, backgrounds and views the group brings to the project,” Lynne said.

- Advisory group members (left to right): Ian Kerridge, Kathy Rainbird, Lynne Hancock, Greg Carter and John McPhee. Group members Peter Ravenscroft and John Cavanagh were absent.
Supporting students

Director of the University Counselling Service, Nanette Bryant, is in no doubt about her professional mission in life: to support the University's academic enterprise by directly supporting students, particularly those at risk of dropping out or not performing well in their studies. And after 16 years as a University counsellor (the last five as Director), she knows the sorts of stresses that affect her clients and how best to address them.

"It is well recognised that issues of personal and social adjustment play a large role in a student's ability to adapt to and succeed in tertiary studies," Nanette explained. "We have a group of qualified professionals in the counselling service who are clinical or counselling psychologists and social workers. We are very committed to our client group and we keep our skills up to date."

They direct their expertise in at least three ways:

- by helping students to adjust to the transition phase involved in commencing undergraduate or postgraduate studies;
- by helping students resolve personal difficulties and unexpected life events that might get in the way of them doing well;
- and by providing psycho-educational programs to acquaint students with personal and inter-personal skills that will help them find employment and serve them well throughout life.

"We also have a role with students with mental health problems," Nanette said. "More than 20% of the students who consult us have a mental health problem." While not many students have major psychotic illnesses, the counselling service sees people with clinical depression, anxiety, eating disorders and drug and alcohol problems that put their studies at risk. The majority of students are in the young adulthood age group and of these problems manifest for the first time.

The demographics of the University's population demonstrate the need for strong student support with a high percentage of students coming from a low socio-economic background and many coming from rural areas and living away from home. There is also an increasing population of international students who are faced with major personal, academic and cultural adjustments.

Newcastle was the first university in Australia to employ a full-time student counsellor and has supported this service when many other institutions were downsizing services. But even with the best intentions, continuing government funding reductions to universities have led to the service having to cut 15% from its budget by the year 2000.

Nanette will address the challenge presented by budget cuts in a number of ways. "The demand to date from students has been for individual counselling however we have always offered a program of workshops to groups," she said. "We will now work to develop more workshops, perhaps in consultation with faculties and departments, to help with different types of transitions and to improve student retention."

The programs currently offered include stress management, relaxation, management techniques for examination anxiety, and orientation workshops for mature age students. Nanette is concerned, however, that moving resources into these strategies for groups could increase waiting times for individuals seeking counselling.

"Mental health services in the community are declining and we feel professionally bound not to turn people away when we can't refer them on," she explained. "Timely intervention is crucial and we know that things can become much worse when people are forced to wait two to three months as they may need to in order to access appropriate counselling in the local community."

One innovative strategy that has proved to be successful has been the brief intervention approach, which has been tested at "walk-in" clinics. The clinics, which allow students to see a counsellor without an appointment, were set up to address the waiting time issue and are run two mornings a week. The counsellors, while providing a full session at the clinics, try to help people with strategies to assist them in one session. "We surveyed students who had attended these clinics and the results were even more positive than we expected," Nanette said. "Eighty percent of the sample reported an improvement in their situation as a result of their walk-in session."

Another strategy that will need to be explored is cutting the counselling service to staff or introducing a fee for service. "Around 10% of our clients are staff and we are aware that by helping staff we are also impacting positively on students," Nanette said. "We are trying to maintain a supportive environment for staff and students but for us to keep those values going in the current economic climate is quite a challenge."
Part of the current climate in tertiary education is to encourage people to pay for postgraduate qualifications. While there is an increasing need for people to continually upgrade their qualifications to succeed, there is also a growth in competition fuelled by flexible options being offered via the Internet.

In this environment, many universities have seen a drop in demand for their traditional postgraduate coursework programs as the savvy consumer looks for tailor made options. But the Faculty of Economics and Commerce has managed to achieve a sustained and dramatic growth in enrolments in their programs, with student numbers more than doubling in the past five years (see Table below).

One of the secrets to success for the Faculty was establishing the Graduate School of Business (GSB), which administers the graduate programs and will shortly move to new premises at University House in the CBD. Head, Professor Scott Holmes, said the GSB was set up in February, 1997 and has been responsive to customer demand. "We deliberately set out to create a profile for the GSB in the city, using a very public launch and dramatic advertising and promotion," he said. "We're very active in the business community and our move to the city next year demonstrates our commitment to that community."

Building an image and promoting the GSB name was only a small part of the story. The Faculty also introduced new courses and modularised them, in response to demand from both the domestic and international markets. The entrepreneurial spirit of Scott and his Assistant Director, Suzanne Ryan, has created new international markets as well, with the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program being offered successfully in Malaysia. "The offshore program has been highly successful," Scott said. "We will have 100 MBA students in Malaysia by the end of the year and are planning to introduce it in Singapore and hopefully through distance mode in Hong Kong. "The next area of interest for the GSB is Scandinavia and Europe.

The GSB is also involved in providing tailor-made training packages and courses to industry. Having developed a Master of Applied Management (MAM) (Corporate) to suit the retraining needs of BHP Steel managers, the GSB is now negotiating to provide a similar package to a number of other companies. In addition, they are working through TUNRA to provide executive development training to several companies. "We have also been very active working across the University as well," Scott said. "A proposal for a MAM (Professional) that will be offered via the Internet and will allow people to tailor make their individual career path across all the university's disciplines is currently being considered by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor." The MAM (Professional) is aimed at people in Australia and overseas who prefer to study by distance mode and for whom management education in their own profession (e.g. architecture, nursing, teaching, etc) is appealing.

Building alliances with their customer base is not enough, however, and the GSB team are busy safeguarding the integrity of their product by looking at ways to encourage innovations in (and emphasising) teaching of postgraduate students. They plan to develop philosophies of teaching and build them into staff selection criteria to ensure they continue to recruit high calibre teachers.

The mid-year intake for GSB programs was 75, including 45 local students and 30 international.

Despite their successes, the GSB Head is frustrated. "The reason we have been able to do so much is due to a lot of hard work," Scott said. "This growth has been supported on a budget based on prior expectations, so we are all tremendously stressed. We could do so much more with increased resources."

Faculty of Economics and Commerce Coursework Postgraduate Student Enrolments 1994 to 1998 at Callaghan campus only

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Recently in 'The Castle', the temporary art premises on the Central Coast Campus, a group of art students concentrated on their works in progress. They scarcely noticed any onlookers and brooked no distractions.

In another area, eerily quiet, another group of students sketched charcoal images of a life model, the mood equally intense, the artistic process taking place again. In yet another area, the mood was significantly different. This was the scene of the digital imaging laboratory, where computer images were manipulated and altered in a keystroke. A room full of colour and movement and creativity.

The artists were not the usual inhabitants of these premises. In fact they were visiting for just one day, a day that passed amazingly quickly. The visitors were Year 11 students from eight Central Coast high schools who were taking part in an art workshop. They spent an activity packed day at the Central Coast Campus and at the end of it they had something highly original to show for their efforts. Reports are that the day was a huge success, with many of the students expressing their keenness to repeat the experience if they get the chance.

Part of an innovative program conducted by the Department of Fine Art, the art workshop is the first of a series to be conducted at the campus. Lecturer in Fine Art, Andre Brodyk, said the art workshop not only provided a valuable experience for the students, but also fostered an important link with the art departments of local high schools. He said the initiative had been received positively and enthusiastically in the schools and was planned as an ongoing activity.

Andre said the workshop was made possible through funding to the Interdistrict Creative Arts Education Program from the Department of Education and Training. He said the funding provided an opportunity to offer a high quality workshop to the high school art students.

"The workshops focussed on Painting, Life Drawing, Mixed Media and Digital Imaging. It was a day of intense activity and the students made the most of the opportunity to work in a totally different environment," Andre said. "Art teachers from the various participating high schools were also involved, working together with Central Coast Campus lecturers to present the day. It was a fine collaborative effort and one we hope to build on for the future. In particular we recognise the efforts of Sandra Hiscox, the Art Co-ordinator at Woy Woy High School who was a driving force for this project," he said.

Andre said that an exhibition of the works is planned for later this semester and that a follow-up workshop is planned for later in the year, this time involving Year 10 art students. "The success of this first workshop has proved that the initiative is valuable and is appreciated by the students," he said.

The art workshops are not only to be continued, but will be expanded in a different direction. Talks have already been held to implement a 'buddy system', similar to work experience, where a Year 11 art student teams up with a First Year university art student for a particular project, usually over a few weeks. "This could have very positive benefits for both the high school students and our art students as well," he said. "Our art students are highly supportive of this idea and are looking forward to its implementation," he added.
International students learn the meaning of adversity

When Yudan Shi (Queenie) first heard the word "adversity" used to describe the situation of herself and fellow international students at the University, she had to turn to her English dictionary to find out what it meant. And although she found that it meant misfortune, trouble and hardship, Queenie told a gathering at a farewell function for international students held at the University last month, that she viewed adversity as the meaning of challenge, growth or movement to a higher ground.

Delivering the response on behalf of international students at the farewell on July 3, Queenie said that many people questioned the sanity of the students who gave up the comfort and security of their own language and culture to study in Australia. Her own arrival at Newcastle from her home in Shanghai, China, to study for her Master's in Business Administration (MBA) had elicited an array of emotions in her, ranging from anxiety and fright to excitement and wonder, Queenie said.

"I can still remember the first lecture in marketing concepts. There was a sea of strange faces, all of whom obviously came from various countries and cultures," Queenie told the audience. "This, to tell you the truth, alleviated my fears as I knew that I was not alone. I was not the only international student who had to deal with such fears, apprehension and worry." Eighteen months later, the 22 year old had made close friendships and mastered the language so that the completion of her final assignment left her with a feeling of emptiness.

"First and foremost it was because I was to leave my friends and an environment to which I had become accustomed and comfortable with, and secondly, because I know that finishing the MBA course means that I have just completed another chapter in the story of my life - a chapter that will be one of the most memorable and unforgettable."

With the closing of this chapter in her life, however, Queenie is busy working towards a happy ending. She will visit her parents in Shanghai, where her father is a mathematics professor at Jiao Tong University, before returning to Australia to the arms of her own "Prince Charming", her boyfriend, Jason Low, who has just completed his Master's in Marketing. Queenie, whose undergraduate degree is in computer science will look for work in Newcastle.

Queenie's tale was just one of the many success stories of the students who were farewelled at the ceremony. Fifty four students, including 12 who were here as part of an exchange program, will close the chapter of their lives that saw them attend the University. As well as receiving certificates, the students were addressed by the Deputy Director of the International Office, Gail White, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Brian English, the University Secretary and Registrar, Gem Cheong, the Deputy Pro Vice-Chancellor (External Relations), Bernie Curran, and Convocation representative, Jill Scott, before having afternoon tea in the foyer of the Great Hall.

Award honours leisure and tourism excellence

A 29 year old student in the final year of his Bachelor of Commerce course at Callaghan has been awarded one of 12 Minister's Student Achiever Awards for Tourism and Hospitality Studies for 1998. David Archer, who was selected on the basis of his performance in leisure and tourism courses at Newcastle, was presented with his award by the Premier, Bob Carr, at a ceremony held during the official launch of Tourism Week.

David became aware of the potential of tourism while working as a sales representative in Cairns but it was studying Leisure 209 in the second year of his course that really sparked his interest. "When I started my degree I wasn't contemplating a career in tourism but the course was really impressive and my interest grew from there," he said.

The awards, which were first presented in 1991, recognise the State's top 12 students in tourism and hospitality studies. Head of the Leisure and Tourism Studies Department, Dr Peter Brown, said the awards demonstrate the NSW Government's strong commitment to the field of tourism studies.

David, who hopes to undertake Honours studies in leisure and tourism next year, is interested in pursuing a career in the policy and planning side of tourism. As well as a framed certificate, he was awarded $1,500, which he will put towards a honeymoon when he marries next January.
Design students dominate awards
Students in the final year of their Bachelor of Design (Graphic) courses at the University have dominated an annual competition run by the biggest and most influential design journal in Australia, Design Graphics. This is the first time Newcastle students have taken out a prize, and not just one prize but six, including the coveted First Prize.

Design lecturer, Roger Quinn, who sets the competition as an assessable design task for his students each year, said that it was quite a coup for Newcastle to have done so well. "It is fabulous publicity for the students whose work is seen nationally and internationally," he said. "The winning designs are printed in the August edition of Design Graphics and are reproduced again in the new Design Educators' Resource Guide as well."

Valuable exposure in the right circles isn't all the winners received. First prize winner, Fiona Heslop, won an Apple Power Mac G4 computer, a four day all expenses paid trip to Melbourne to attend a course and graphics software and equipment. The other winners received various software packages and equipment and all six of the students won a year's subscription to Design Graphics Magazine.

The winners are:

**Design graphic awards**

First prize: Fiona Heslop
1st prize: Renaissance Blakemore
Commendation: Kylie Richards
Commendation: Kristine Ramsay

**AGDA awards**

2nd prize: Adam Scrivener
Commendation: Ben Serbutt

*Left to right: Adam Scrivener, Ben Serbutt, Kylie Richards, Kristine Ramsay, Fiona Heslop, Renaissance Blakemore*
Marilyn Jean Pedder  
(4/9/45 - 28/6/98)

After a short illness Marilyn died at home surrounded by friends. Prior to her illness Marilyn held the position of Assistant Dean Undergraduate Programs, in the Faculty of Nursing. She had been a foundation member of the University’s Nursing staff in 1984, and had contributed significantly throughout the intervening years to the development of the Faculty’s nursing program. After completing her training as a registered nurse in 1967, Marilyn gained qualifications in midwifery and operating theatre. Fourteen years later, after working at a variety of hospitals in NSW and overseas, Marilyn moved into education, joining staff of the then Newcastle College of Advanced Education. Having already undertaken tertiary studies in education and the arts, she completed her Master of Educational Studies at the University in 1986. Her many management positions in the Faculty of Nursing included Head of Department, Course Coordinator, Director of Continuing Education, International Student Coordinator and Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Programs. She initiated and involved herself in a number of projects across the Faculty and the University. She served on University and external committees, acting at one stage as President of the National Association for Loss and Grief (NALAG). Marilyn possessed a continuing commitment to excellence in teaching particularly in the area of problem based learning in nursing. She wanted nursing students to be critical thinkers, and empathic carers who understood how patients, relatives and friends felt about the events that touched them. She wanted them to be nurses who cared about their work. Some students will remember Marilyn with gratitude for the care extended to them as individuals. Others will recall her attention to detail. Colleagues will remember her as “matter of fact”, hard working, committed to academic standards and consistent in her application of the rules. They will also recall her enthusiasm, her kindness to those who were ill and her generosity. For many there was, therefore, a sense of sadness and dismay when the gravity of her illness became apparent. She had always been able to offer support and a clear-headed response to problems. She was there - visible, accessible, reliable. As well as a passion for her work, Marilyn found real joy in theatre, art and nature. She savoured the gifts of life and friendship. She will be sadly missed. Marilyn is survived by her partner of twenty years, Spec.

This tribute to Marilyn was compiled by her friends and colleagues: Vicki Parker, Shirley Schulz-Robinson, MaryAnne Quinn, Ron Sharkey, Marie Quinn and Margaret McMillan.

Program to address incontinence

A University research team is developing an education program designed to prevent urinary incontinence among new mothers. Surgery to correct incontinence among women costs the national health care system almost $30 million a year. That fact alone was enough to convince the panel at the MBF Health Research Awards to help fund the team’s work in this field to the tune of $111,700 over the next three years.

“Urinary incontinence is a ‘trendy’ area of medicine and yet I knew the figures showed expenditure in this area to be great and increasing at a rapid rate,” explained research academic and project team member, Dr Jill Cockburn. The grant will allow Jill and her colleagues, consultant physiotherapist Pauline Chiarelli and Associate Professor Max Brinsmead, to deliver the program within the Newcastle area, initially.

The program will involve educational intervention with a random selection of postpartum women considered to be in an ‘at-risk’ category i.e., those who have just experienced a ventouse/forceps delivery or given birth to large babies.

“We’ll be providing the women with a range of pelvic floor exercises and physiotherapy techniques they can follow,” she said. Their progress will then be checked at six weeks, three months and 12 months after the birth and compared against a control group.

“We’ll be using the services of existing health care professionals within the local hospitals to show it doesn’t take any more money or resources to achieve an outcome in this area,” Jill said. “We’ll be suggesting that these strategies can be easily incorporated into the existing health system as a routine element of post natal care. It’s a much more cost-effective and positive solution than surgery which is an expensive and rather drastic option,” she said.
Vale John Turner

I should like to make some remarks on Dr John Turner from the perspective of nine years in which I was Professor in the Department of History.

I first met John during the selection meetings for the Chair in History in 1986. He struck me immediately as a warm, courteous and straightforward person with a deep commitment to history and to his students, a colleague to rely upon and know that things would be done well. And so it proved.

John was a gifted scholar, deeply immersed in his studies of Newcastle and the Hunter. Through his many books on the convict period, the mining industry, the river and the city he not only researched the history of our region, he made it. No-one has done more to help people locate themselves within the district and within its history. That legacy will endure forever.

He was a brilliant teacher, quite brilliant. He held, informed and entertained huge classes of first-year students and enthused them to continue with the study of History. His radio audiences were legion. Equally, he engaged the senior students, he supervised and helped them dig deep into regional history. His standards were high. His judgements on the shallow and the pretentious could be fierce. But he dealt with each and every individual with great courtesy and patience. Generous with his time, he helped his students overcome difficulties whenever he could. His seminars, like his lectures, were a delight. He could make the most (outwardly) mundane topic lively and entertaining. This was due in part to his deep and sympathetic understanding and enjoyment of individual human foibles; in part to his wonderful dry humour. At his best when he was being least earnestly academic, he was truly the people’s historian. But he was no mere populariser. John never condescended. His work was penetrating, but accessible.

Finally, John was a very strong Department man. All was changing in the University in those years and many difficult and delicate decisions had to be taken. John played his full part in this. He was always his own man but could be utterly relied upon to be wise and fair, always supportive of changes which ensured that students were getting the best services we could manage. It was typical of John that when he took early retirement in late 1993 he gave the lectures to the big first-year Australian History subject, free of charge, until we could secure a replacement.

John was a unique man, who played a unique role. He will not be surpassed in what was most dear to him. I am very grateful to have been his colleague in the University and share the huge sense of loss and regret that the community feels at the passing of its very special historian.

Alan Ward
Emeritus Professor of History

John Turner - In Memoriam
by Annette Brennan*

Historian John Turner, who died on June 10, will be remembered for his published work on the history of the Hunter region.

John, who dedicated his life to teaching and research, came to Newcastle in 1961 from the University of Sydney to teach BHP apprentices in an adult education program. He joined the University in 1973, working for the Department of Community Programmes and later the Open Foundation program. He was a strong proponent of adult education.

In 1988, John, described by Godfrey Tanner as “a local historian of standard”, joined the history department. He began lecturing in Australian history in 1988, breaking down the department’s traditional focus on European history.

Former history department head, W G McMinn, described John as a “coal face” researcher and an economic historian with a special interest in industrial history. Another of his colleagues, Don Wright, felt that John brought “strength and interest into local history” and had made an “enormous contribution”. Lecturer, Erik Eklund, said of that through John’s work “we are constantly reminded that there is a history where we live”.

John produced work on Newcastle’s convict period, the Lake Macquarie Aboriginals, convict artist Joseph Lycett, local industrialists James and Alexander Brown, and was working on an oral history of several BHP departments up to the week before his death. Another former head of the history department, Alan Ward, said John’s greatest talent was his ability to focus on individuals and build up the local history surrounding them.

John is survived by his wife, Jackie, and sons Martin, Stephen and Chris. I remember him as a meticulous scholar and academic who will be remembered for his work on Newcastle, a city I have come to love.

*Annette Brennan is a graduate of the University who majored in history and who is interested in economic and industrial history. She is acquainted with John’s family and shares his passion for Newcastle.
Big brother isn’t listening

Even our founding fathers, the men who wrote our Constitution, recognised the importance of communication and its potential to spread propaganda. But Australian governments have never used the radio waves as a means of social control, history postgraduate student Phoebe Thornley has found.

In a paper delivered at “Looking Ahead”, a postgraduate conference organised by the Department of History on July 3, Phoebe outlined the dual role of broadcasting in Australia, that of a public service utility and a commercial enterprise. “From when broadcasting was first introduced in Australia, the government has always had a considerable role to play in the expansion of services, as a regulator, as a provider of services and as a supplier of funding.” Phoebe said. While newsprint is virtually limitless and has developed along purely commercial lines, the airwaves are a limited resource requiring regulation.

Australia had initially followed the American model as entrepreneurs saw the commercial potential and set up radio stations on the eastern seaboard. But the public service function of communication that had caused the fathers of federation to control the telegraph and telephone because of their impact on economic development, information dissemination and a sense of community, became a consideration with broadcasting.

In addition, people demanded that broadcasting be developed as a public service in the vast areas of the continent where radio was not commercially viable.

This duality in the continuing development of commercial radio and the acceptance of a government role in providing radio services as a public utility continued and in 1932 the ABC was established as a service entirely funded, owned and operated by the federal government. Public broadcasting came into existence and was seen by government as providing a valuable service to the community, while not taxing the public dollar too extensively. Although many of the early public broadcasters attracted government funding, they were largely self-funding.

In 1972, McMahon’s government accepted a recommendation from the Broadcasting Control Board that FM and public broadcasting be introduced. While some in the Whitlam government entertained ideas of nationalising broadcasting, by the time they lost office in 1975 their legacy was the establishment of three government ethnic stations and a hotchpotch of public stations with no direct government funding and a hazy system of control and regulation. The Fraser government amended the Broadcasting and Television Act to make legal provision for public broadcasting licences and provide guidelines defining what groups would be entitled to apply for them. By 1983 public broadcasting was legally defined as a separate sector, with guidelines and regulations controlled by the government and licences issued to independent operators.

“The varying strengths of different political influences have led to a series of ad hoc and expedient changes in broadcasting policy and the role of government as the development of the public broadcasting sector has taken place,” Phoebe concluded. “But the question of broadcasting policy being used as a means of control has never been a substantial consideration.”

Vacation care on campus

Vacation care for school aged children was made available to staff and students on the Callaghan campus during the second week of the winter school holidays. Organised by the Fair Work Practices team of the Human Resource Management (HRM) branch, the vacation care proved popular, particularly with staff.

The idea was initially canvassed through the University’s Women’s Network and the service was first provided at Easter as a joint initiative with NUSA. The Easter program was supported by staff and students with an average attendance of 25-30 children each day.

The demand for the July program came mostly from staff as the school holidays were not during lecture times. Organiser Kerrie Matterson said that more than 48 children between the ages of five and twelve had used the centre. “I’m a sole parent of three boys and saw the need for on-campus care when I was a student and had to miss lectures during school holidays,” Kerrie said. “Now I’m a staff member, it’s just as important. Both the programs were successful and I think it will build momentum for the future.”

Fair Work Practices Manager, Vincia Martin, said that providing an environment which supports workers with family responsibilities is one of the EBO’s objectives. “Organising a Vacation Care service was seen as an important way in which the University can make this support tangible,” she said.

Care centre director, Selena Ring, said the facilities at the University were ideal, with a large art room in the Hunter building made available to them, with another provided for storage. “University departments donated materials including fabric and fabric paint as well as scissors and wool,” Selena said.

Vacation Care will be on again in the first week of the October school holidays. For information call Kerrie on Ext 6547, email: kmatters@mail.newcastle.edu.au.
University continues to make architecture headlines

The University has been making headlines over the past few years. Seven of the twelve major new buildings built in the last seven years have won local civic design awards. Four have received Royal Australian Institute of Architect (RAIA) NSW chapter awards, with the architecture studios winning the coveted Sulman Award last year and two other buildings collecting RAIA national awards. We won the Alfred Sharp award double, with first prize for urban design (GP Courtyard) and landscape (Don Morris Walk).

This year is proving to be no exception, with the newly completed Faculty of Nursing building at Callaghan winning the state’s top environmental award at this year’s RAIA awards. Senior Architect/Planner, Philip Pollard, has won the prestigious President’s Award for this year.

The RAIA President’s Award is given to architects who have worked outside traditional practices to make “significant contributions to the built environment”. President, David Brown, said Philip and his department were committed to quality architecture, delivered on time and to budget. “Philip Pollard’s planning and choice of commissioning architects has turned the Newcastle University campus into a showpiece of environmental best practice both in architecture and landscape architecture,” he said. “It is an outstanding achievement.”

The Faculty of Nursing building has won the new Ecological Award for leading the way in environmental standards in the building industry. The award is being offered to encourage the integration of energy efficiency and ecology into building design and is judged according to the demanding criteria of the Commonwealth’s National Strategy for Ecological Development and the RAIA’s environmental policy.

The steel and concrete building was designed using the latest tools in environmental design - computer modelling programs which simulate thermal performance, natural lighting levels and ventilation. The architects have reduced the energy consumption of the building through their choice of materials, ventilation design, lighting systems and planning.

“This building demonstrates that architects have the potential to make a vital contribution to designing buildings which conserve energy and employ the latest environmental principles in the building industry,” David Brown said. “The way the architects, EJE Architecture and Stutchbury Pape, have incorporated energy efficient principles into a well planned, functional building with a tight budget was very impressive.”

The awards were announced at Custom’s House, Circular Quay on June 17.
People do not usually associate the study of whales with surveyors, but two University surveying students have recently begun to change that perception. Final year Bachelor of Surveying students Alison Mendham and Rachel Gibbs spent the last two weeks of June on a headland at Byron Bay plotting the course of whales.

The pair used an electronic version of a standard surveyor's theodolite and a software package they had developed with Dr Eric Kniest of the Department of Civil, Surveying and Environmental Engineering, to accurately plot the mammal's positions.

The whole exercise was at the request of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, which was interested in more accurate ways of tracking the whales as part of their ongoing studies into the migration of Humpbacks. The Service had previously relied on work by the Australian Whale Conservation Society to plot the whales' travels, but were interested in using different technology to improve accuracy.

Rachel said the combination of the surveying skills and the Society vastly improved the results. "The Whale Conservation Society members had years of experience, and could spot pods of whales that we would have missed," she said. "Once the pods were spotted we were able to use our equipment to give a real time location of the mammals. This allowed us to more quickly direct a National Parks and Wildlife officer stationed in a boat to the whales' location for a closer inspection.

"The system also speeds up the collation of data. Previously the Service could have to wait up to six months to get the full tracking information."

The project has also formed a substantial part of the students' final year undergraduate thesis. Rachel said the project was all about lateral thinking. "We simply applied equipment developed for one set of problems to another set of problems," she said. "The equipment essentially provided the same solution."

The pair tracked over 300 whales during the two-week period. They are currently analysing the data, with a view to improving the accuracy of the system even further.

The University has been called in to help arrest the dramatic decline in school students studying science and mathematics for the HSC. Between 1991 and 1996, the number of New South Wales students studying chemistry fell by 28 per cent, while there was a 23 per cent drop in the number of students studying 3 Unit mathematics for the HSC.

The Faculty of Engineering in conjunction with the Institution of Engineers Australia is trying to arrest this through a new teaching package aimed at explaining the practical applications of science and mathematics to students. Professor Adrian Page, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering said studies had shown that students often didn't see the direct practical application of science and mathematics. This combined with the growth in popularity of courses like business management had contributed to the drop of interest in the sciences.

"Our teaching package is designed to show students the link between those areas of study and professional fields like Engineering," he said. "It also shows students the everyday application of science and mathematics and explains how the fields are not as 'dry' as many students think."

The project recently received a $30,000 grant from the Department of Industry, Science and Tourism. "The money is being used, together with other funding to develop the package for junior secondary schools," Professor Page said. "We and the Institution of Engineers already have a highly successful package called 'Engineering Wonders' operating at a primary school level. Both packages draw on the University's extensive experience with problem based learning."

The package is project based and is currently being trialed at Cessnock High School. Once the trial is completed, the package is expected to be released nationwide.
Rare book and manuscript collections reach the WWW

In the hunt for knowledge, there is a thrill that grips you when you come across a source that you didn't know existed. Increasingly, people are turning away from the traditional search along the rows of the library, to find their thrills via the world wide web. Using search engines such as Altavista, Yahoo and Excite, "web surfers" are combing the planet in search of those tender morsels of information that will either conclude a line of inquiry or initiate another.

Since establishing the Archives and Special Collections Website here in the Auchmuty Library, we've provided thrills for local, national and global patrons. Recently, we had an inquiry from a member of the British House of Commons who was conducting research on the Russian Imperial family around the year 1904 and was glad to find that we had a copy of the Almanach de Gotha for the period in our rare book collection.

Another researcher from the University of North Carolina in the US inquiring about Sir James Wilson (1780-1847), the commanding officer of the 48th Regiment, was thrilled to find letters written by one of his Lieutenants, Thomas Valentine Blomfield.

This enthusiasm for our collections has been shared by institutions as well as individuals, including the University of Queensland, University of Melbourne, the State Library of NSW and the State Archives, who seek to use our website as a model for theirs.

There are some magnificent sites out there. One that deserves mention is the Mateo site of the University of Mannheim (http://www.uni-mannheim.de/mateo/epo.html), that offers a wonderful array of scanned images from works of the 16th and 17th centuries. It is sites like this one that will guide us in our manuscript digitisation projects. One such project, ear-marked for next year is a digitised selection of diaries of people who played key roles in the history of Newcastle from 1870 to 1930. Another involves the incorporation of finding aids for the Anglican Diocese, Labour and Aboriginal History collections, with University and Hospital Archives soon to be included. The next stage is the actual scanning and digitisation of manuscripts that completes the chain.

This work generates interest in the historical heritage of the University and its region. It attracts research income through increased exposure, while safeguarding the preservation of the fragile original documents.

Gionni Di Gravio
Archives and Special Collections Unit

New Appointment for Bill Linklater

Bill Linklater took up the new position of Director of Information Services (Central Coast Campus) from 1st July. The position has been created following a review of the needs of Information Services across the Campus and in the context of future developments. Bill brings his wide experience to the position. He was previously the University Librarian and prior to that was the University Librarian at Swinburne University of Technology. He has extensive cross-sectoral experience in the provision of both library and information services which has earned him an international reputation in the development of such services, particularly in Indonesia and Thailand. The staff of IESD wish him well with his new appointment.

Library News

Opening hours

The weekend hours were extended this year and the Library is now open on Saturdays and Sundays from 9.00am till 5.00pm. The Library operates under Study Hall conditions between 9.00am to 1.00pm, and then full services are provided. For a description of Study Hall conditions, please read the Information Screen in NEWCAT, item number 25. To find a particular library's opening hours, read numbers 1 - 7 on the Information Screen. The Auchmuty and Huxley hours are also available by telephoning ext 5831.

Self-checkout units are available in both the Auchmuty and Huxley Libraries. To find the directions on how to use them, read NEWCAT's Information Screen item number 26 - Self Service Loans, or follow the instructions on the panel near the Self-check units, or just ask the lending staff.

Email notification - Did you know that you can receive your library circulation notices by email? For details, please read item number 23 on NEWCAT's Information Screen.

Emailing Inter Library Services requests - Come in and see us to register as an Email Requester. Fill out a Registration/
As a new feature, Uninews will run a diary of events. It relies on us receiving your information within the deadline period (see p.2) to be published in Uninews.

Friday August 7

Friday August 21

The University Health Service is offering HEART CARE DAYS assessing the following risk factors:
- cholesterol
- blood glucose
- blood pressure
- weight
- family history

If you are between 35 and 65 years old and answer Yes to any one of the following questions, you qualify for the Heart Care Day.

Have you, or anyone in your family suffered from heart disease?

Are you a diabetic?

Do you have high blood pressure?

Do you get angina or have you ever experienced chest pain?

Have you ever had a stroke or heart surgery?

The service is free. To make an appointment phone ext 6000 - places are limited.

Tuesday August 11

Sociology and Anthropology Seminar "Male violence, male fantasy and the commodification of women through the Internet" presented by Sydney Institute of Criminology speakers, Chris Cuneen and Julie Stubbs, will be held in Room W320 of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology from 1-2.30pm on August 11.

The paper considers the construction of masculinity and femininity in the context of a new global market for sex and marital trade on the Internet and arose from research into disproportionate levels of violence against Filipino women in Australia. It should interest a wide range of staff including those from gender studies, law, cultural studies and communications.

Wednesday August 12

Courses and Careers Information Evening: Health and related professions 6.30-8.30pm

Nursing Lecture Theatre, Richardson Wing

Thursday August 13

1.10pm

David Hamilton, Tenor

Andrea Katz, Piano

Saturday August 15

8.00pm

Honours Students Vocal Concert

Arias

Thursday August 20

1.10pm

Student Showcase Concert

A concert presented by the students of the Faculty of Music

Saturday 22 August to 27

August

Keyboard Festival Concerts, masterclasses, competitions

All concerts held at Faculty of Music Conservatorium

Conservatorium Concert Hall 49291433

Tickets for evening concerts available at Ticketek, Civic Theatre, 49291977

Thursday August 27

The Centre for the Human Aspects of Science and Technology at the University of Sydney announces:

THE 1998 TEMPLETON LECTURE

will be given by Tim Flannery of the Australian Museum at 6.30pm on Thursday August 27 1998 in the Stephen Roberts Lecture Theatre, University of Sydney.

Enquiries to Assoc Professor James Beattie beattie@chem.usyd.edu.au

Friday 25 September

Graduation ceremonies for the Callaghan and Central Coast Campuses will be held in the Great Hall, Callaghan Campus on as follows:

10.30am Faculties: Arts and Social Science, Law, Education, Medicine and Health Sciences, Engineering, Science and Mathematics.

2.30pm Faculties: Architecture, Music, Art and Design, Nursing, Economics and Commerce

Contacts: Robert Milan Ext 6490.

rmilan@mail.newcastle.edu.au

Joanne Beveridge Ext 6356

sdjjb@admin.newcastle.edu.au

The next graduation ceremonies will be held in April/May 1999 on the Callaghan and Central Coast Campuses.

21-24 September

Sixth International Conference and Workshop Positionization Techniques in Surface Analysis Venue: The Holiday Inn Esplanade - Newcastle NSW Contact A/Prof Bruce King, The Department of Physics, The University of Newcastle Tel: 02-49-21-5448, Fax: 02-49-21-6907 Email: phbkv@cc.newcastle.edu.au

ATEM (the Association of Tertiary Education Managers) is the only professional association for administrators and managers working in tertiary education in Australasia. There is an active group at the University which meets regularly for lunch-time seminars (lunch included) on a range of topics relevant to general staff. Upcoming seminars include:

Thursday 10 September

Speaker: Geoff Barcan

Topic: The University’s Web Page Where it’s at and where it’s headed

Thursday 15 October

Speaker: TBA

Topic: The Millennium Bug: What will it mean for the University?

Friday 13 November

Details TBA

Wednesday 16 December

Speaker: Professor Roger Holmes, Vice-Chancellor

Topic: TBA

If you would like to become a member or to find out more, please contact the Campus LSison Officer, David Donnelly, ext.5561, email ddonnell@paracelsus.

7-10 April 1999

Fifth International Multi-disciplinary Qualitative Health Research Conference University of Newcastle Contact Prof Irena Madjar, Faculty of Nursing - Tel 61-2-4921 7043; Fax: 61-2-4921 6981 Email: pnim@cc.newcastle.edu.au

University web pages worth keeping an eye on

On the University’s web site we have a Calendar of Events and an Announcements page. Both of these pages can be navigated to from the ‘Information for Staff’ menu page, or directly using the following web addresses:


The Calendar is intended to be a dynamic and up-to-date tool for informing the University community of coming events. This is particularly important when key University people could be expected to attend a variety of functions, and often in distant locations.

The Announcements page contains a wide range of announcements of interest to University staff. Relevant items include activities/events/announcements from both the academic and administrative units, such as conferences, book launches and election notices.

The officer responsible for both of these web pages on behalf of the whole University is Jackie McIntosh, Co-ordinator, Web Services, Student and Academic Services Division. Contact Jackie via email jackiemc@mail.newcastle.edu.au
Wanted to buy
Jean Bas Navy long pants - size 8. Phone Frances on ext. 5246.

For Sale
Flexi- rider exercise machine - as new - instruction video included - $60. Ph Anne on Ext 6444.

Set of Rola Roof racks to suit Ford KC-KE 'Bubbleback' Laser $130. Ph Matt on ext 6210.

Mountain Bike, Giant, very good condition, suit someone about 5'6" tall. Has a comfy ladies seat.
$500 call Petra on XT 8794

Three quarter bed, as new (hardly used), suit teenager, timber - black wrought iron, excellent mattress - still in plastic. Cost $750 new - will sell for $600 ono. Telephone 49424572

Land - Sanctuary Estate, Salamander Bay - Level corner block 658m2. Fenced. N/E aspect overlooking protected wetland. Walk to school, shops, aquatic centre & rec activities. Unique. Offers over $90,000 considered. ph ext 8999 (Tu-We-Th) or 4983 1024 (a/h).

Fullbright - 1999 Awards
1999 Awards for study, research or lecturing in the United States are being offered to postgraduate students, postdoctoral fellows, senior scholars and professionals. Applications close on September 30. For further information and application forms http://sunsite.anu.edu.au/education/fullbright.

Applications for postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows are also available from the Research and Scholarships Office, University of Sydney, ph: (02) 9351 3877, email: gab@reschols.usyd.edu.au and for all senior and professional applicants at the Australian-American Educational Foundation, phone: (02) 6247 9331, email: amanda@aaef.anu.edu.au.

1999 Coral Sea scholarship
Investigate a problem or opportunity relevant to Australian business or industry in the United States. The award is open to those holding post-secondary qualifications and business or industry experience relevant to their proposed field of investigation and must be taken up between July 1, 1999 and June 30, 2000. Applications are encouraged from those no more than 35 years of age and close on September 30. For further information and applications forms, http://sunsite.anu.edu.au/education/fullbright or contact Australian-American Educational Foundation (contacts above).

Sale by public tender
During recent times, a collection of surplus an obsolete/unserviceable furniture, equipment and stores have been collected from various Departments pending disposal.

An opportunity now exists for all departments, which still have a collection of such items, to dispose of them through the "Sale By Public Tender" process, by adding them to the current collections.

Briefly it will work like this:
1. Items will be displayed in the former Hunter Gymnasium for people to inspect.
2. Each item will be given a lot number, and persons interested in purchasing an item can make a bid, enclose it in a sealed envelope, and forward it to the Purchasing Department located top floor of The Chancellery.
3. The successful bidder will be advised in due course of the result of their offer, as well as payment and collection procedures.
4. Items purchased should be removed from campus and not reused in offices or laboratories elsewhere. (This would defeat the purpose of the entire exercise.)
5. Inspection dates/times: Thursday 13 August and Friday 14 August 9.00am to 4.00pm each day
6. Closing date for offers: Friday 21 August at 11am to Purchasing Department.

If you are interested in disposing of items (as defined above) from your Department please contact the undersigned to arrange collection and/or discuss write-off procedures. Items too large to move will be promoted for sale in their current location. Funds raised will, where known, be returned to the User-Department.

Now is the time to clean up in a way that your Department will benefit not only financially, but also physically by perhaps freeing up much needed space for more practical purposes.

David Heggart
Extension 6662.

Thank you in advance for helping to create an injury-free environment for our Mailroom staff.

David Heggart, Ext 6662.

The "Information for Staff" web page has been updated to include links to the recent publications: University Web Author's Guide Corporate Identity Manual Corporate Identity download page

The Corporate Identity Manual has been added to the University's web site. It is a publication from the Marketing and Media Services unit which includes useful information about maintaining the University's corporate image in all publications (including the web). The Corporate Identity Manual includes a download page where it is possible to download University logo images for the web and word processor templates for most computers.

The University Web Author's Guide is now available. The Guide is intended to help web authors and developers produce effective web pages and to provide them with information about relevant University policies and responsibilities. It is a resource which includes sections on logos and banners, style, technical tips, accessibility and page templates.

Software Sales are now located in the Audiovisual section of the Auchmuty Library, Room L328. Efpos is available for purchase of the latest version of software.

Hours of opening during term time are:
Mon-Thurs 9:00am - 6:30pm
Fri 9:00am - 4:30pm
Software Sales Office, L328 Auchmuty Library (AV area). Phone ext 6419.
I do love to be beside the seaside

A ten year labour of love came to its conclusion for author and photographer, Keith Davey, this month with the publication of his book on the Australian seashore. What began as an attempt to rewrite the text he had used as an undergraduate biology student at Newcastle, was to take him and his family on a 30,000 kilometre odyssey around Australia's coastline.

"I wanted to rewrite Dakin's 'Seashores of Australia' and when it was re-released by Isabel Bennett as a coffee table book, I nearly slashed my wrists," Keith said. But rather than give up the project, he rethought it and came up with a field guide that is unique. 

Seashore Life of Australia is the first book to include all of Australia, the first to include distribution maps, the first full colour field guide and the first that photographs the creatures on the sea shore rather than cabinet specimens.

"I made a deliberate decision not to include the rare and exotic creatures or to photograph the pristine, cleaned up specimens in glass cases," Keith said. This decision heralded some exciting times for Keith as he waded waste deep in mud searching for crabs on Cape York while his children watched for crocodiles or fed the savage, freezing surf that breaks onto the rockpools of the nation's south coast in winter. His research provided holidays that took his family off the beaten track to parts of Australia that most tourists never get to see.

Keith, who has written four other books on animal life, began his fascination with documenting wildlife when he worked as a naturalist cameraman for the Leyland Brothers. He then became chief cameraman for NBN 3, a position he held for 10 years before joining the College of Advanced Education as Senior Visual Aids Officer, a job that saw him work as stills photographer, cameraman and graphic designer. He is excited about his recent appointment as Flexible Learning Consultant. "I will be running workshops on Web development for staff," Keith explained. "All my previous skills are so well suited to Web development and I love facilitating people's learning."

Keith's next project will be to use the many thousands of slides he took while compiling his seashores book to set up a Web site that will include the major ecology components and field trip exercises he was unable to include in his pocket-sized guide. Seashore Life of Australia, which was checked by Australian Museum Scientific Consultant, Phil Colman, will provide a useful field guide for senior high school and undergraduate level students.

Unibriefs

- Stephen Tomsen from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology has won the inaugural ISTD Award from the Institute for the Study and Treatment of Delinquency at King's College, London. Stephen won the award of £250 pounds for his paper, "A top night. Social protest, masculinity and the culture of drinking violence". The paper was based on ethnographic research he carried out into the relationship between masculinity and violent drinking in Sydney and Newcastle. It was selected by an expert panel from all those published in the British Journal of Criminology in 1997.

- The refurbished Drama Theatre played host to a production of Tolstoy's Anna Karenina last month. The £350,000 facelift to the theatre included new carpets, seating, lights, air-conditioning, refurbished dressing rooms and a new stage floor and sound system and took three months to complete.

- Famous Australian sceptic, Professor Ian Plimer, was among the guests at two engineering conferences held at the University in July.

- A lively debate on how sport shapes the image and identity of our cities was conducted last month to determine the issues to be addressed at the symposium: "The Knights Win: One year on" to be held later this year.

- World expert on global warming, Professor Rafael Bras, delivered a public lecture - "Questions and some answers to the global environmental change debate" at the University during a visit to work on collaborative research with members of the Department of Civil, Surveying and Environmental Engineering.