Vice-Chancellors speak out on funding cuts

A MESSAGE FOR JOHN HOWARD & KIM BEAZLEY

POOR FUTURE.

POOR UNI FUNDING...

The Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (AVCC) has coordinated a campaign to protest the decline in public funding of university education on the eve of the federal election. The campaign, including print and radio advertising and the dissemination of brochures, was launched in Newcastle by Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Brian English. For details of the launch and the AVCC's 10 point plan to combat funding cuts, see the Vice-Chancellor's column on p.2 and article on p.4

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Vice-Chancellor's Column

On 3 October, we will all go to the polls to elect a Federal Government for another term. As you are aware, there has been a significant effort by the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (and the broader higher education community) to raise the profile of higher education in the election debate. Locally, a media launch for the campaign was directed by Professor Brian English and local television, radio and newspaper reporters recognised the significance of our message, providing us with good coverage.

I thought it would be useful to remind all of the readers of Uninews about the substantial issues raised during the AVCC campaign. Firstly, a series of press advertisements emphasised the importance of accessibility on the part of younger Australians to a high quality higher education system. Their future and the future of our country was strongly linked with universal access to tertiary education, leading to a more knowledgeable society and a knowledge based economy into the next century. Secondly, the reductions in net public funding of higher education that have occurred since 1990 were given major prominence. Three five year points, based on direct government funding in 1990, 1995 and projected funding for the year 2000, revealed a progressive decline from $10,510 to $9,945 and to $8,071 per EFTSU in 2000.

The AVCC has developed a plan for Australian universities to address a number of major issues. These are briefly summarised below:

- providing an additional 10,000 publicly funded places from 1999, to be funded from a proportion of the HECS repayments of students and graduates;
- keeping university study affordable for students by raising the minimum income required for HECS repayments to around $30,000 (currently $20,700);
- allowing deductions for self education through the tax system and changing the age of independence for receipt of Youth Allowance payments to at least 22 (currently 25);
- establishing a Teaching Quality Fund to advance creative teaching and learning and access essential teaching technologies;
- reversing the current plans to reduce infrastructure funding for research by 4% in 1999, and 20% in 2000 (compared to 1998). The Research Quantum is the essential infrastructure support for research and research training, which needs to be increased by $25m in 1999, and $50m each year from 2000 to support the development of a world class R&D effort at Australian universities;
- improving the taxation incentives to strengthen links with business and industry, by providing a 150% tax concession on R&D investments, including scholarships, cadetships, sponsoring education programs or professorial positions;
- assisting universities to pay salary increases for staff. The bulk of reductions in staff numbers at this University were caused by the need to 'self fund' the 11.4% increases in salaries over 1997-99, at a net cost of around $11-12m per annum.

Universities require a more realistic factor (or indicator) to adjust the level of government grant, such as the Wage Cost Index developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics;
- supporting universities in the development of their international student and curriculum profile. For example, an extension of the Youth Ambassadors Program to allow more Australians to study overseas would add significantly to our presence overseas, and assist universities with their own substantial study abroad programs;
- changing the tax system to encourage private bequests. Australian universities recognise the need to diversify their funding base, however some taxation laws penalise donors who wish to support the higher education system.

One of the other key issues in this election is the proposed introduction of the GST by the Coalition. Advice from the Executive Director, Finance and
The advantages of a graduate school

Most of Australia's 36 universities have established some sort of graduate school. But what is a graduate school, where does it fit in to the university structure and should we have one? Newcastle University Postgraduate Students' Association (NUPSA) sought answers to these questions in a forum held at Callaghan in September.

The Vice-Chancellor, Roger Holmes, said that postgraduate education was both a major challenge and an opportunity at the University. Despite the fact that Newcastle ranks ninth (just outside the "big eight") in its research quantum, it is 36th in terms of the percentage of its students who are enrolled in postgraduate programs. "Our postgraduate enrolment doesn't reflect our position as a research university," the Vice-Chancellor said. "Today's discussion is highly appropriate and timely. With less than 10% of our total student load studying at the postgraduate level, we need to look at ways to address these issues."

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Ron McDonald, said that of the 36 universities in Australia there were 36 different models of graduate schools. "From NUPSA's viewpoint, a graduate school should be aimed at getting a better deal for students. There is no school in Australia, however, where there has been a shift of graduate fees into the school." Ron said that Newcastle already had a graduate school because the management of students was done centrally by the Research Higher Degree Committee, which influences the way in which resources are distributed to faculties and assesses programs, acting as a jury in determining the outcome of examinations where necessary.

He felt that more emphasis should be placed on providing postgraduate students with a range of skills and experience that better prepare them for their probable roles in middle management.

Head of the Graduate School of Business (GSB), Scott Holmes, pictured above, called for the establishment of an umbrella, student-focused graduate school for the University.

"A graduate school that moves across traditional faculty boundaries and provides a clearing house for student services, consolidation of administration, marketing and development costs, that assists in international recruitment and student support, that provides a pivot for opportunities that come to the university, that nurtures, guides and resources the mechanisms required to develop distance learning programs...and most importantly, starts from the perspective of the student."

Associate Professor Lindsay Johnston, from Architecture, agreed that a campus-wide development would provide opportunities for each faculty to share the costs of developing postgraduate programs that were tailored to today's market, while retaining faculty specific add-ons. "Individual departments and faculties don't have the entrepreneurial freedom or the resources needed to progress a concept. We need to think in terms of a global faculty and that needs to be resourced in the same way that a new faculty of law or medicine would be," he said.

...
Strong reaction to Vice-Chancellors’ funding campaign

The recent launch of the Australian Vice-Chancellors’ Committee (AVCC) campaign for greater higher education funding created a great deal of interest in the local community. The campaign was launched nationally on August 31 by the President of the AVCC Professor John Niland and by each university in its local region. In the Hunter, the campaign was launched by Deputy Vice-Chancellor Brian English.

The overall central message has been the need for both major political parties to increase higher education funding and to adopt the AVCC’s ten point plan for the future of higher education. It received substantial national media coverage and in the Hunter was run by every major media outlet.

Since then there has been a series of national newspaper and radio advertisements including advertisements in The Newcastle Herald. The extent to which the media has been interested in the campaign can be seen locally by the fact that The Herald chose not only to run the story of the launch itself, but also to tie a University research story on its front page to the funding question, and dedicate its editorial to the issue.

The Herald has also dedicated a substantial amount of its recent education page to the funding campaign. The main thrust of the Newcastle campaign has been to emphasise the economic contribution the University makes to the region.

A recent Hunter Valley Research Foundation report found that conservatively the University contributes over $600 million to the Hunter economy each year. In addition it creates more than 3200 jobs, both directly and indirectly.

Professor English pointed out that reduced higher education funding would put that economic input at risk. This is in addition to the benefits higher education provides in the Hunter.

There is an obvious need in areas like Newcastle for people to have access to education for the purposes of changing employment and re-skilling themselves in the face of globally driven change, Professor English said. In this regard he pointed to the recent major drops in the number of mature age students around Australia. The drops have coincided with increased HECS fees and the lowering of the HECS repayment threshold. He said that given the large number of mature age students who attend the University of Newcastle, this was a particular concern.

The other major thrust of the public campaign has been in the area of research funding. Professor English explained how government funding for research has been falling and how there are fewer incentives for industry to become involved in supporting University based research. He said the paradox was that research was an area in which Australia needed to be competitive in order to survive in modern economies. Without the innovation which research provides, Australia risks sliding behind the rest of the world as technology improves, he said.

Reaction to the campaign by the major political parties has so far been muted. From the outset the campaign has been designed to be bipartisan, inasmuch as it has called on both major parties to boost higher education funding as a priority.

The Federal Education Minister David Kemp dismissed the campaign the day after it was launched, producing figures he claimed as proof that higher education funding had in fact increased. The AVCC in return, accused the minister of creative accounting. The Labor Party was quick to agree with the aims of the campaign and has incorporated at least three points of the AVCC’s ten point plan into its education policy.

Festival attracts top pianists

A strong focus on Australian music and encouragement for young musicians in the form of two competitions were highlights of the 10th annual Keyboard Festival, held in August.

Festival coordinator, Philip Sketchley, said the emphasis was on encouraging young keyboard players to nurture their talents. “This is done through the Jean Bogan Prize for Piano Composition and this year, with the addition of a new Piano Competition, which carries a $3,000 first prize,” he said.

The Jean Bogan Prize is donated by Whitebridge resident Laurie Bogan as a memorial to his wife. He has contributed $5,000 prize money for the competition each year since 1998. Entrants must write a 10 minute piece to be played on the Faculty of Music’s Stuart and Sons piano. The prize is well known in the music industry and attracts attention nationally, with this year no exception. The winner was Nigel Westlake of Sydney.

The new Piano Competition, staged for the first time this year, requires entrants to play a winning piece from past Bogan Prize competitions. “While there are a number of piano competitions already in Australia, this one stands out because it gives greater access to pianists living in regional areas.” Philip said. The $3,000 first prize was won by Jia Wang from the Australian Institute of Music. Newcastle student, Nicole Edwards won an award for best interpretation for her performance of the 1997 Jean Bogan composition (composed by Brenton Broadstock).

World acclaimed Italian pianist Michele Campanella included the Keyboard Festival on his Australian tour. For his Newcastle concert, held on August 25, Campanella chose to play a Stuart and Son piano in preference to the Conservatorium’s excellent Steinway. As well as congratulating the designer, Wayne Stuart, at the conclusion of his concert, Campanella has provided a written endorsement of the piano. “With great pleasure and interest, I experienced the new sound of the Stuart piano. I am pleased that in Australia there is such clear vision for the future,” he said. There are several versions of the Stuart and Sons piano, which have been designed and built in association with the Faculty of Music and TUNRA.

An Australian Music Day on August 26 brought together three of the country’s leading composers, Dr Nigel Butterley, Elena Kats-Chernin and Gordon Kerry, who talked about their experiences as well as sharing their knowledge and expertise.
Poor funding is a serious concern. If we don't act soon, a quality university education will be beyond the reach of Australian children.

Tell Mr Howard and Mr Beazley now that a quality university education is not a luxury.

It is the future for our nation... the future for millions of Australian children.

Further details are available by phoning (02) 6285 8234, or visit our website:
http://www.avcc.edu.au/

Decline in Government Funding per student (net of HECS):

$10,510 $8,965 $8,061

1990 1995 2000

(DEEWR Dept of Advancement Government education)

UNIVERSITIES. POOR FUNDING. POOR FUTURE.

A MESSAGE BROUGHT TO YOU BY AUSTRALIA'S UNIVERSITIES
Authorized & prepared by Stuart Hamilton for the AVCC - Canberra.
Indigenous tourism in demand

Delvene Parkin thought her path in life was well mapped out as she pursued Olympic gold medallist, Cathy Freeman, through the same Queensland high schools striving to equal her athletic achievements. "She was a year older than me, so I always had the advantage of catching up with her," Delvene, who is an associate lecturer in Tourism Studies, said. "We've been friends since we were 10 year olds and went to the same schools, both on sporting scholarships."

But when Delvene was in Year 12, after returning from a track and field trip to the USA, she sustained a back injury that made her examine her options. "I realised that my career relied on my physical abilities and it was very disheartening to have it taken away from me so quickly," she said. "I needed something more stable so I went to university and did a Bachelor of Leisure Management."

Delvene, a Noonukul Nuigi, formed an interest in indigenous tourism while growing up on Stradbroke Island. "Coming from Stradbroke and understanding the landscape and the stories behind where my mother and grandmother were born made me realise that I was in a position to be able to share the things I knew," she said. "The strangers who visited the island didn't understand the significance of the beaches or the lakes they were seeing."

While studying for her degree at Griffith University in Brisbane, Delvene worked in Queensland Aboriginal Creations, an art gallery, and at the Dreamtime Cultural Centre in Rockhampton as one of her field placements. In her final year (1995) she became Miss Aboriginal Australia for her involvement in community projects, her cultural awareness (both within and outside the Aboriginal community) and her presentation skills. "I was invited to go in Miss Universe Australia, which was probably a bit of a token thing," Delvene said. "But it did give me some extra exposure as well as public speaking experience."

For the past three years, Delvene has worked in Gavala Cultural Centre at Sydney's Darling Harbour as their marketing coordinator. During her time there she dealt with Aboriginal artists and performers, fielded requests from the conference market and the committee organising the Sydney Olympics and worked with NSW Tourism. She travelled to the USA again to promote the Centre and indigenous tourism.

"There's a lot of interest in indigenous tourism and it is important that there is Aboriginal involvement in all areas, including management and ownership," Delvene said. "It's important that Aboriginal people take control of their own resources in their own areas and present them on their own terms that are appropriate to visitors.

Gavala is a really great model - it's run by two Aboriginal people without government funding and it's very successful."

Delvene has come into a position at the University targeted as part of the Aboriginal Employment Strategy. "The position is perfect for me," she said. "It's a training position so I'll be sitting in on staff lectures to look at techniques and I've agreed to undertake my Master's degree here." Delvene will take tutorials and give guest lectures on indigenous tourism next year. "There are quite a few areas where indigenous tourism can be incorporated into the curriculum. For example nature-based and environmental tourism and other tourism and recreation subjects."

While she will miss the contact with a broad range of people that her work at Gavala provided, Delvene is looking forward to working at Newcastle. She is impressed with the presence of Aboriginal people at the University and the centres that support their studies.

"One of my goals is to work with Wollotuka to encourage more Aboriginal people to enrol in the Bachelor of Social Science (Recreation and Tourism), because there are currently only two studying in the Department," Delvene said. "I would also like to see Aboriginal students in other disciplines enrol in some of the electives in Leisure and Tourism."

Delvene also joined the Department to work with Dr Heather Zeppel, a postdoctoral fellow conducting research on indigenous tourism.
Additional funding for women’s health project

The Women’s Health Australia project has secured another $4.5 million in federal funding to continue examining the health issues of more than 41,000 Australian women.

A project of the Research Institute for Gender and Health, Women’s Health Australia was initiated in 1995 in response to the National Women’s Health Policy, which noted a particular need for more research into Australian women’s health. The recent funding is on top of the $3.5 million the University received for the first phase of the project. It will be distributed in increments of $900,000 a year over the next five years.

“This will take us nine years into what we hope will be a twenty year study, and the most comprehensive ongoing assessment of the health and lifestyle issues affecting Australian women,” explained Director of Women’s Health Australia, Professor Annette Dobson.

The team has surveyed more than 41,000 women in three age groups (18-23; 45-50; 70-75), regularly inviting them to help define health issues of importance to them and express their views about the adequacy of current services.

“Since starting the research, we have defined many issues. For example, Australian women are happy with their general practitioners and elderly women are as interested in their quality of life as they are in their health,” explained Project Manager Dr Wendy Brown. “The study has also identified that young women have very high levels of stress and are concerned they would not be able to achieve their life expectations, and that widowed women have specific needs relating not only to their physical and mental health, but also in the areas of finance and social contact, which need to be better addressed.”

Special cohorts projects have been established in conjunction with the University of Queensland to explore issues specific to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and adult female migrants to Australia. The results have been used to provide specific information on various aspects of policy and health promotion at both state and federal government levels.

Vice Chancellor, Professor Roger Holmes, said the funding confirmed the University’s reputation for research excellence. “The University is one of Australia’s top nine research universities, investigating in areas of relevance and interest to the general population and having significant impact on government policy at all levels,” he explained.

“Women’s Health Australia is a prime example of this, reflecting the views of Australian women to government, and playing a large role in the development of health promotion and the delivery of health services.”

Sports Union administrator honoured with life membership

Executive officer of the Sports Union, Adrian Iakin, was awarded Life Membership for his outstanding contribution to University sport at the annual Blues Awards Dinner held last month. There have been only 15 awards of Life Membership made by the Sports Union since 1967.

Appointed as the Sport and Recreation Officer in 1984, Adrian brought with him from Armidale the idea of forming a strategic plan for sporting developments at the University. Sports Union President, John Fryer, in his speech at the dinner, said this plan was later termed the “Master Plan for Sporting Precinct”. Some of the achievements of his administration include a major review of student insurance, construction of No.3 oval and establishment of sporting facilities for the Faculty and Conservatorium of Music and the Central Coast Campus. But his most important contribution has been his involvement with the University’s new sporting complex.

“Throughout the eight years of development of the Forum, Adrian has been the person with the most continual involvement - often acting in the role of briefing others who were joining the team and explaining precedents,” John said.

During Adrian’s 14 years of service with the Sports Union, the number of students and staff at Callaghan has grown from around 6,000 to over 20,000, while the number of full-time staff had only increased by two (from 7 to 9). “This is surely a major administrative achievement in itself and one of which all other sports unions across Australia are extremely envious,” John said. His efforts earned him a place in the finals of the NSW sports administrator of the year awards last year.

Adrian had led by example in some sporting activities, playing district tennis in the winter competition and participating in fun runs as well as being involved in athletics. “Unfortunately, age catches up with everyone,” John concluded in his speech, “and he is now part of our University veterans team!”
The University held a graduation ceremony in Singapore and an awards presentation in Indonesia in August and September. The Singapore ceremony, held on August 30, saw 65 people graduate from undergraduate and postgraduate programs from seven faculties.

An honorary Doctor of Engineering degree was conferred on Dr Tan Chin Nam, Permanent Secretary to the University of Manpower. In his Occasional Address, Dr Tan said that since graduating from the University almost 30 years ago, he has been able to focus on "the lifelong journey of making a meaningful difference to society. His role as a public servant has covered fields as varied as defence management, economic and technological development, information technology, education, the arts, tourism and manpower development". He said his education at Newcastle had provided him with a "total system perspective" that had stood him in good stead as his civil service career took him to different functions of the government.

"In this connected world, what is important is our ability to deal with the present while looking ahead constantly to make a contribution with a difference, to make tomorrow better than today," Dr Tan said. "We must dare to dream. The power of the dream will provide the purpose and align the energy for a better world."

Bachelor of Commerce and Master of Business Administration graduate, Teng Jan Siew delivered a speech on behalf of the graduates. While surprised at many aspects of Australian life and culture, including our casual dress modes, Teng said his stay in Newcastle had been memorable and made him more independent. "During my university life, I made friends from all over the world,"

because I realised the diversity in how we actually think despite the fact that we come from the same region."

Following the graduation ceremony, more than 150 Newcastle graduates and their guests attended an alumni dinner hosted by the Chancellor, Ric Charlton, at the Regent Hotel.

Twenty health professionals - doctors, dentists and dieticians - formed the first Indonesian cohort to receive the Master of Quality Improvement in Health Care, offered by the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences through its Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CCEB) in association with Universitas Indonesia. All attended a ceremony held at
the Universitas Indonesia's Jakarta
Campus on September 1. The
celebratory function was attended
by the Vice-Chancellor, who
congratulated those involved in
the development and delivery of
the program including the
Indonesian Ministry of Health, the
Universitas Indonesia and the
CCEB in the Faculty of Medicine
and Health Sciences.

The CCEB Fellows had studied
at both Newcastle and Indonesia,
as well as returning to their home
provinces to gather data for their
theses, the Vice-Chancellor said.
"You, the graduates, have
demonstrated the importance of
cross-institutional and cross­
cultural links in the international
context - academically, socially
and culturally - all those involved
have been enriched by the
participation," he said.

Speaking on behalf of the
graduates, Ms Evodia Iswandi
detailed the appointments made
to her fellow graduates to health
projects and quality assurance
programs across Indonesia. "It
seems to me that the important
thing is how to turn the theory that
we learned into good practice," she said. "I think that all parties
involved in this program can feel
assured that its graduates are now
applying the theory gained during
study to make real improvement
in the real world."

Director of the CCEB, Richard
Heller, said that the clinical care
of patients only makes a small
contribution to improving the
health of the public and there was
an urgent need for skills in public
health research. "This course...will
provide Indonesia with some of
the skills to apply public health
research to a large number of
problems both clinical and public
health," he said.

In the evening of the same day,
around 100 people attended an
alumni dinner at the Fashion Cafe.

A postgraduate design student is hoping to change the way people 'view' their home stereos. Phillip Tejszetski has developed a new set of ceramic sub-woofer speakers which look more like works of art than traditional sound equipment.

"The aim has been to create a set of speakers which people would buy as much for their looks as their sound quality," he said. "There have been other speakers which have looked different to the usual boxes, but they have been made of plastic which isn't a good material for sound quality.

"The difference with ceramics is the sound. To people interested in hi-fi or good sound equipment, sound is everything. Looks are a secondary consideration."

In order to make sure the speakers represented the right balance
between looks and performance, Phillip spent the better part of year
developing many prototypes, educating himself about acoustics and
consulting an acoustic engineer. The result is a set of speakers which
have won acclaim for their styling, construction and sound quality.

Phillip is now looking to mass produce the speakers. He already
has two potential investors on board but is looking for further
backers. "The speakers are not particularly expensive to produce," he said. "I've already had indications there could be a healthy market
for them as well."

Since the speakers were featured in an edition of 'Electronics
Australia', Phillip has had a number of inquiries from people wanting
to buy the product. In addition the speakers made an impression on
many visitors to a students' exhibition at Sydney Town Hall last year.

"I placed them next to two small standard speakers," he said.
"People were amazed about the sound coming from the small
speakers. They were even more amazed when they discovered where
the sound was really coming from."
In 1986 David Cunneen became Managing Director of the high-tech start-up in Sydney called Hypertec Pty Ltd which designed and built hardware for personal computers. By the time he retired from the company in 1993, half its business was in exports, there was a successful office in the UK and he had taken turnover from zero to $30 million.

Today David is a lecturer in business at the Central Coast Campus. He is a man who has come full circle.

Almost 30 years ago he graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of NSW, winning the medal for accounting. He was clearly destined for an academic career and was asked by his Faculty to stay on. He declined.

"I wanted to put into practice all I had learned so my employer at the time, CSR, put me through my MSc in Business Studies at the London Business School and I stayed with them for 14 years. My next field was in the computer industry and that lasted 14 years too."

For the first six years he designed software for accountants. He then joined Hypertec which today has an annual turnover of around $90 million. It was clearly built on very solid foundations.

"Getting companies up and running and making them a success was what I’d really wanted to do when I first left university. It was very exciting and now I’ve done it, I’m back where I might have been all those years ago – teaching in a university." But not just teaching. His experience and talent are being put to great effect in his other role as the Ourimbah campus’s Business Development Manager.

"My first brief was to raise $4 million for a regional art gallery which would be built on the Central Coast Campus. And it’s a brief that has allowed me to combine my other role of business lecturer to great effect. Four of my MBA students wrote the business plan for the gallery as an assignment and they did a fantastic job. I’m passionate about students being given real world projects and without a well-researched business plan we wouldn’t have been able to convince local business and industry that the gallery was something that was economically viable and worthwhile." David’s leadership of the project is such that it is likely that all of the $4 million will be raised by October.

A more ambitious plan is to find $11 million for an 800 seat theatre for the campus. Again the business plan was given as an assignment to three MBA students one of whom has since been awarded the Karpin Award for his outstanding performance in business policy.

Other projects include the setting up of a Summer School for the School of Business and ultimately a Centre for Applied Business Studies.

"The Summer School will offer full fee-paying university level courses which will be offered from the end of November through until February each year. In addition to being open to our existing students, the idea of the Summer School is to give local business people an opportunity to try their hand at university level courses. It will be academically rigorous as well as exciting and challenging and if they pass they’ll then be given a credit towards a degree." The Centre for Applied Business Studies, David says, will be a reality early next year at the latest. "It will offer a range of fee paying courses from one day to full diploma courses. Our principal focus will be the Central Coast business community. The area has a very large number of small business owners but our research would tend to show that many don’t have the level of education necessary to enable them to become as successful as they would like."

Apart from business, David’s other great love is art. After he retired from Hypertec he opened an art gallery in Sydney which was also successful but it wasn’t really for him. "I found out I’m not much of a shopkeeper," he admits quite happily. But the love of art remains. "I continue to deal in art which I’m passionate about and I enjoy teaching business skills to our final year Fine Arts students. I get all of my fine arts students to write a business plan and for some it is revelatory."

"I’m a great believer in the business plan. It’s not always the plan itself that’s important but the journey that gets you there. It can really help you define your goals and test your assumptions." David’s success is living proof.

*Alison Grahame is editor of Thinking Business. This article is an edited version of a profile in the September edition.
How much should nurses care?

Nursing is known as a caring profession but how much care is enough? Many nurses find themselves placed in positions where their professional and personal relationships have the potential to overlap. A group of researchers in the Faculty of Nursing led by Professor McMillan, has won a grant to develop guidelines that set the boundaries of professional practice for nurses.

The Newcastle group was successful in winning a $120,000 grant for the 12 month project. Project coordinator, Helen Bellchambers, said that while there were often local policies that defined boundaries for nurses, there was no statewide guidelines. “We want to examine the boundaries of the therapeutic zone for registered and enrolled nurses,” she explained. “At one end of the spectrum is a cold, uncaring model and at the opposite end is inappropriate intimacy or a sexual relationship.”

Different clinical settings required different responses or behaviours from nurses and individuals would naturally behave differently to each other, Helen said. “There are contextual changes that make some behaviours like hugging perfectly acceptable, for example in the care of babies or of elderly people. This requires individual differences in approach, but all professional nursing relationships should be underpinned by a set of principles,” she said.

Some of the areas to be examined include personal intimacy, financial transactions and relationships with former patients or clients. The research team will conduct a series of consultative workshops at 12 locations throughout NSW. Nurses from a broad range of sectors (public and private), clinical settings (mental health, community health, prisons, aged care, etc) and geographic areas (regional, urban, rural and remote) and clinical specialties will be involved. A pilot workshop will be held at Wyong in December.

Focus groups involving interested health service consumers and health industries will also be held.

“We’ll be circulating fliers and advertising in nursing journals to invite nurses to participate in the workshops,” Helen said. “Once we’ve identified the issues concerning nurses in their relationships with their patients or clients, we will develop a set of guidelines they can apply to help them make decisions about what is appropriate to their professional practice.”

Bronze at World Blind Championships

Psychology student, Sueanne Trindall, won a bronze medal in the 100 metre sprint at the World Blind Championships held in Madrid in July. Nineteen year old Sueanne, who ran a personal best time (12.95 seconds) to win the 100 metres, also turned in personal best performances to come 4th in the 200 metres (27.52 seconds) and 5th in the long jump (4 metres 75).

Almost 2,000 athletes from 73 countries competed in the Championships, which were held in heatwave conditions from July 19 to 26 this year. The conditions suited Sueanne, who comes from Narrabri in western NSW. “It was 40 degrees or more every day,” she said. “It was a really dry heat which is just what I’m used to in Narrabri.”

The competition was held in front of capacity crowds, with live television coverage of many events. “It was a really big deal in Madrid with a lot of attention and advertising all over the city,” Sueanne said. The Australian team stayed at Central Madrid University. As well as athletics, the championships included swimming, judo and goal ball (a fast paced team game played with a large ball with a bell in it).

Sueanne, who was diagnosed at the age of 11 with a degenerative disease that effects her vision, is in the second year of a Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) and lives at Evatt House. She has been involved in athletics since she was five and became involved with the NSW Sports Council for the Disabled four years ago.

Like most serious athletes, Sueanne says she has no life outside of athletics and university. She trains most weekdays at The Forum with the Hunter Track and Field Club and on the beaches at the weekend. The World Blind Championships are held every four years. Sueanne’s next challenge will be the 2000 Paralympic Games.
The topic of Professor John Ramsland’s recent inaugural lecture grew from a chance visit to The Foundling Hospital Museum in London and the compelling interest he developed in the Dickensian artefacts he saw there. One exhibit that drew his attention was the display case containing the pathetic necklaces made of coins, bottle tops, old pieces of leather, etc, that mothers desperately hung around the necks of their babies before giving them up to the Foundling Hospital, in the vain hope that they would later identify their children and recover them. Charles Dickens found his plot for the novel *David Copperfield* in the same display case.

The museum visit reignited what was a long standing interest for John in the study of childhood. His earliest work in history, based on original sources, was on childhood - well before it became a fashionable area of research. His first serious historical article dealt with the foster child systems in colonial and early post colonial Australia and although he has explored other major themes in his research, he keeps “returning to the study of childhood as though it were a magnet”.

“Childhood experiences and the notion of growing up are, after all, important aspects of all our own personal histories,” he said. “In the broader context, the history of children and of childhood are significant aspects of social, political, economic and cultural history that are much neglected by historians.”

In his address, “Received a Blank Child” - an iconography of Institutionalised Childhood in the Foundling Hospital, London, 1739-1954, John explored the ideological meaning of emblems and visual imagery of the Hospital, which was a large scale child rescue institution. Prominent eighteenth century artists including Roubiliac, Thornhill, Gainsborough and Hogarth produced works of art that helped to create and depict the ideology behind the institution. It was an ideology based on radical enlightenment theories about approved child socialisation, education and scientific approaches to institutional child care, gender segregation and control.

Hogarth, who was one of the Hospital’s founding members, created his 1739 engraving, *The Foundlings*, to promote the institution. The engraving portrays the bleak nature of child abandonment and infanticide that were widespread in mid eighteenth century London, together with the contrasting warm, healthy and humane character of the proposed institution. The well-fed children leaving the Hospital are carrying the emblems of their future employment as artisans, farm workers, sailors and soldiers or in the case of the girls, domestic servants.

“The Foundlings offers a neat summary and definition of the set of ideas that made up for the Enlightenment mind the notion of institutionalised childhood or concept of child welfare - training, the protection of innocence, prolonged dependence and the development of practical skills for the fulfilment of adult responsibilities,” John said. “Thus was created a complete paradigm for the treatment of abandoned or neglected children.”

While very few of the inmates of the Hospital have written of their experiences, those discovered by John revealed a very different picture of their lives than that portrayed in the iconography and artwork. They talk about the monotony and dehumanisation of their institutional lives. An image of place “where children were brought up *en masse* in the hardship of unrelenting surveillance, where privacy hardly mattered at all and most activities could be coldly formal and without joy”.

“Many left the institution with a deep sense of insecurity and a low self-esteem,” John concluded. “Their departure was a step into the unknown but their ‘blank’ childhoods had at least come to an end.”

Professor Ramsland’s inaugural lecture, presented by the Faculty of Arts and Social Science, was held in the Purdue Room on September 10.
Honeysuckle “fairy godmother” for Cinderella city?

When the Honeysuckle Concept Masterplan was launched at an exclusive function aboard a privately-owned floating restaurant in Newcastle in October 1991, the coalition government unveiled its vision for the barren landscape of the former railway goods yards. The 250 guests saw a video presentation that showed Honeysuckle transformed into a "festival marketplace" development of enterprise, entertainment and high cost living. Seven years and a great deal of controversy later, the city still waits to see what will develop at Honeysuckle.

In her recently published book, Agendas in Place: Urban and Cultural Planning for Cities and Regions, Deborah Stevenson from the Department of Leisure and Tourism Studies uses the Honeysuckle project as a case study in an examination of the ways in which urban planning is carried out. She quotes Newcastle Herald feature writer, Terry Smyth, who said that Newcastle wanted to be noticed, not as an industrial town or a quaint backwater, but as “a city with a soul”. He described Newcastle as the “Cinderella city” that waits for some fairy godmother to appear. It seemed to many that Honeysuckle might provide the impetus to lift the city out of its post-industrial blues.

Stevenson argues in her book, however, that there was little effective community consultation in the planning of Honeysuckle and questions the validity of the developer-driven "festival marketplace" style of urban development.

“Honeysuckle is interesting because it was originally planned for a Darling Harbour sort of commercial development but there was no money provided to do that,” she said. “In the book I look particularly at the idea of cultural planning that attempts to incorporate the arts and the local cultural identity into urban planning.”

Cultural planning involves community communication strategies in an attempt to determine what the community wants from an area before it is developed rather than building on the space and asking people to come and use it.

“There are a lot of questions about the success of developments like Darling Harbour,” Deborah said. “It has taken 10 years for Sydney to begin to accept it as a leisure space. Another drawback of the festival marketplace approach is that these developments need to be constantly re-imaged and upgraded with new attractions.”

In researching the book, Deborah followed the efforts of Newcastle's community and arts groups to influence the development of the cultural precinct at Honeysuckle in the early stages. They wanted to see the space utilised as a heritage precinct with displays of visual and performing arts, studio spaces for artists, cafes and accommodation. The government’s masterplan presented a very different tourism orientated model.

Agendas in Place: Urban and Cultural Planning for Cities and Regions looks at recent trends and movements in urban planning and comes out in favour of effective cultural planning. Stevenson, whose PhD is in sociology, describes herself as an "urban sociologist" and her examination of the spaces of cities and their development is very much concerned with the social and political effects of planning. Next year she will attempt to track the progress of cultural planning efforts both within Australia and overseas to see how successful they have been. Her book was written primarily for academics and, while not a text, will be useful to higher year undergraduate students.

Spring Luncheon

Members of the Hunter/Chancellery Staff Association and their guests celebrated the arrival of Spring with a luncheon held in the Hunter Staff Lounge on September 1.
Thursday, October 1
"Toy Show" Exhibition,
Faculty of Art and Design
Gallery

Tuesday, October 13
1998 Vice-Chancellor's Forum to formally launch the University's Institutional Strategic Plan 1998 - 2002, 4.00pm in the Richardson Wing (Nursing Building) Lecture Theatre RW149

Tuesday, October 13
Lunchtime Women's Network Meeting, Canberra Room, The Chancellery Professor Catherine Smith will speak about her research on women at work, and especially gender issues in management. Enquiries: Vircia Martin, Manager, Fair Work Practices, ext 6552, email: vmartin@mail.newcastle.edu.au

Thursdjay, October 15
12.15pm - ATEM (the Association of Tertiary Education Managers) lunchtime seminar. RSVP for catering purposes to Campus Liaison Officer, David Donnelly, ext 5561, email: ddonnell@paracelsus.newcastle.edu.au Speaker: David Morrison, IESD Topic: The Millennium Bug

House sitting
Mature aged person willing to house sit for people going away on business/holidays. Fully qualified with references available. Please contact Jessica on ext 5319 or email: jcoleman@mail

House swapping
Calling all staff considering sabbatical during the school year 2000 who would like to swap houses for all or some of that time with an academic from Auckland. Furnished 5-bedroom house available on the North Shore of Auckland, 3 minutes from the Massey University Albany campus and 20-30 minutes from the University of Auckland, with public transport very near. Car swapping is also a possibility (6 seater Falcon). We could come as early as mid-December 1999 for a full year, or for a shorter period in 2000. Contact Dr. Barry McDonald, Lecturer in Statistics, Institute of Information and Mathematical Sciences, Massey University at Albany, Auckland, New Zealand, ph: (+64-9) 441 8161 (GMT+12h), email: B.McDonald@massey.ac.nz

Available For Rent
15 December 1998 to 1 July 1999 Three Bedroom House With Large Study Situated in Dudley, this light and breezy house has two floors and looks out over the ocean taking in views from Newcastle and Stockton Beach to Redhead. It has a very large study with bathroom and laundry on the ground floor, while a large open living area with balconies front and back and three bedrooms and one bathroom make up the second floor. The house will be fully furnished and use of linen, crockery, etc. is negotiable. Walking distance to beach 15-20 minutes. Enquiries to: Professor Jetse Kalma, Telephone: 49215736, email:

Wednesday, November 4
"A Thousand Journeys" Exhibition comences, Faculty of Art and Design Gallery

Friday, November 13
12.15pm - ATEM (the Association of Tertiary Education Managers) lunchtime seminar. RSVP for catering purposes to Campus Liaison Officer, David Donnelly, ext 5561, email: ddonnell@paracelsus.newcastle.edu.au

What's On
RULES
The following Rules have been made or amended by Council:

Schedules to Boards of Study Rules:
Schedule - Board of Studies for Enabling Programs (R1.6.7)
Program disestablished and Schedule deleted
28 August 1998

Academic Dress Rules (R3.2)
Rule amended by addition of academic dress for Master of Quality Improvement in Health Care, Master of Midwifery Studies and Bachelor of Finance
28 August 1998

Doctoral Degree Rules:
Schedule - Doctor of Philosophy (R4.2)
Schedule amended to allow ten (10) years for completion of thesis on a part-time basis
28 August 1998

Schedules to Rules Governing Master Degrees by Research:
Schedule - Master of Law (R5.4.3)
Program disestablished and Schedule deleted
28 August 1998

Rules Governing Academic Awards:
Schedule - Master of Business Administration (R6.4A.1)
Schedule revised to allow the degree to be offered with Merit.
28 August 1998

Schedule - Master of Applied Management (R6.4A.5)
New Schedule
28 August 1998

Schedule - Bachelor of Business (R6.4B.1)
Schedule revised regarding combined degrees and major sequences
28 August 1998

Schedule - Bachelor of Commerce (R6.4B.2)
Schedule revised regarding combined degrees and major sequences
28 August 1998

Schedule - Bachelor of Economics (R6.4B.4)
Schedule revised regarding combined degrees and major sequences
28 August 1998

Schedule - Bachelor of Information Science (R6.4B.6)
Schedule revised regarding combined degrees and major sequences
28 August 1998

Schedule - Graduate Diploma in Accounting and Finance (R6.4C.1)
Program disestablished and Schedule deleted
28 August 1998

Schedule - Graduate Diploma in Welfare Law (R6.4C.7)
Program disestablished and Schedule deleted
28 August 1998

Schedule - Associate Diploma in Computing Studies (R6.4C.8)
Program disestablished and Schedule deleted
28 August 1998

Schedule - Graduate Diploma in Applied Management (R6.4C.18)
New Schedule
28 August 1998

Schedule - Graduate Certificate in Applied Management (R6.4C.19)
New Schedule
28 August 1998

Schedule - Bachelor of Teaching/Bachelor of Design and Technology (R6.5B.10)
Schedule revised to rename Bachelor of Teaching/Bachelor of Design as Bachelor of Teaching/Bachelor of Design and Technology
28 August 1998

Schedule - Master of Nursing Studies (R6.10A.1)
Schedule revised to reduce credit point requirement from 160 to 120 cps, and time limit from five years to eight semesters
28 August 1998

Schedule - Master of Midwifery Studies (R6.10A.2)
Schedule revised to reduce credit point requirement from 160 to 120 cps, to allow the degree to be conferred with Merit or Distinction, and time limit from five years to eight semesters
28 August 1998

Schedule - Diploma of Health Science (Nursing) (R6.10C.2)
Program disestablished and Schedule deleted
28 August 1998

Schedule - Bachelor of Mathematics (R6.11B.5)
Schedule revised regarding credit point requirements at 100 and 300 level
28 August 1998

Schedule - Bachelor of Science (Aviation) (R6.11B.9)
Schedule revised regarding Qualification for the Degree
28 August 1998

Schedule - Bachelor of Science (Food Technology) (R6.11B.12)
Schedule revised to reduce program from four years to three years
28 August 1998

Schedule - Bachelor of Science (Food Technology) (Honours) (R6.11B.16)
New Schedule
28 August 1998

A copy of any Rule may be obtained from the Office of the University Secretary and Registrar, The Chancellery.

cejk@cc.newcastle.edu.au
or
Martine Kalma, Telephone:
49426217, Facsimile: 49426258.

For sale
Corporate Wardrobe - in good condition. Shirts sizes 10 and 12 from $5 to $20 each. Shirts size 14 from $5 to $25 each. Taupe vest best offer. Anne Lang ext. 6564 or 4963 1058.

Desks - two small student's desks in reasonable condition - $30 each or two for $50. Ph: 4956 1869.

Two mens bikes, in OK condition (new tyres) ($30 each).

Phone Jenny on ext. 7497 (bh) or 49517164 (ah)

Rossignol Graphite Slalom 35L Extreme 185cm skis fitted with Salomon 547 bindings, Rossignol poles $250. Joe Winsen Ph: 4948 7037

"History of the English Speaking Peoples" 23 (-1) hardboard volumes in good condition, based on the text by Sir Winston Churchill, $50 ono. Ph: 4967 1099

Christian Luncheon Worship
A half hour luncheon worship will be held on the first Tuesday of each month in room V21 (Maths Building) at 1pm. Rev Dr N G Aubrey, University Chaplain, will be taking these services. Contact Nos. On campus - Denise Kite Extension 5065. Off campus Rev Dr N G Aubrey 49 514 170. Both staff and students are welcome.

Notice
Some additional White Pages phone directories for the Newcastle and surrounding areas have recently been received. If your section is short, or in some cases did not receive the initial shipment, of these directories please contact Senior Facilities Officer, David Heggart (Ext. 6662) and deliveries will be arranged.
Reaching for the top

When Leo Kaiko found out that his position in the technology department of the bloom mill was one that would disappear in the planned closure of BHP’s steel making facilities in Newcastle, he thought hard about what he could do. The 46 year old engineer didn’t want to leave Newcastle and realised that in 12 months time there would be a glut of metallurgists and engineers on the market.

"Originally, I thought that I’d try and do a graphic design course but I found out that there is a lot of competition in that area too," Leo said. It was then that he heard that some of the others in his section were planning to study at the Faculty of Education at the University to become teachers. Leo decided to try and become a primary school teacher.

Outstanding general staff to be recognised with University award

The University has initiated an award that recognises outstanding and exceptional service by general staff. The Vice-Chancellor’s Award for General Staff Excellence will be awarded to an individual or group that meets one or more of the following criteria:

- an outstanding and exceptional achievement or success;
- outstanding service to clients of the unit/division/university;
- an outstanding or novel initiative that has been implemented;
- significant improvements to workplace procedures or operational systems of benefit to the unit/division/university.

"There has been increasing support across the University for a mechanism which recognises and rewards general staff on the basis of merit," University Secretary and Registrar, Gem Cheong, said. "The Award will provide a similar reward for general staff as that provided by the Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, which rewards outstanding performance by academic staff."

All members of general staff with two years’ service will be eligible to receive the award but particular consideration will be given to the achievements of staff classified at HEW Levels 1 to 5. The award, worth $1,500 for an individual and up to $3,000 for a team, will be presented at an award ceremony.

Up to six awards will be presented annually.

1998 Vice-Chancellor’s Forum

All staff will receive an invitation to attend the 1998 Vice-Chancellor’s Forum on Tuesday 13 October, 1998 at 4.00pm in the Richardson Wing (Nursing Building) Lecture Theatre RW149. A separate Forum for the Central Coast Campus will be held on Tuesday 27 October 1998 at 4.00pm in Lecture Theatre 2.

During the Forum, I will formally launch the University’s Institutional Strategic Plan 1998 - 2002, in the presence of our major industry and community partners, staff and students of the University. A copy of the plan, which was approved by the University Council at its meeting of 28 August 1998, will be sent to every member of staff prior to the Forum.

As Vice-Chancellor I recognise that the quality and success of the University rests in its staff and students and in their achievements. The Institutional Strategic Plan is a working document, which is reviewed each year. Your contribution to the development of this document is important to the University, and thus I urge you to attend the Forum to contribute to the discussion.

Light refreshments will be served following the Forum. I look forward to seeing you on this day.

Roger Holmes
Vice-Chancellor and President