The University Surfriderz Club has become recognised as the most successful in the history of Australian University surfriders.

Details on page 21.
UNIVERSITY'S FIRST GRADUATION CEREMONIES AS AMALGAMATED INSTITUTION

More than 2000 students graduated from the amalgamated University of Newcastle recently.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Keith Morgan, said at the ceremonies that the University was an institution able to demonstrate a full and diverse academic program, and sustain and extend its reputation world-wide for academic and educational achievement.

The Vice Chancellor's Graduation address and graduation pictures is on pages 12, 13 and 14.

Michael Dudman, Dean of the Faculty of Music, cuts the Faculty's celebratory graduation cake with graduating students, Chancellor of the University, Justice Elizabeth Evatt and Vice Chancellor Professor Keith Morgan.

UNIVERSITY WETLANDS SEE RETURN OF WILDLIFE

The University Wetlands, previously a garbage dump, have undergone a transformation. Our story on page 22 describes the task to restore the site.

A Blue Wren suns itself at the University Wetlands. More pictures of wetlands wildlife appear on page 23.

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The University of Newcastle, celebrating its 25th anniversary, has become an integral part of the local community. From its beginnings as a University College to its present day as a multidisciplined academic institution, the University of Newcastle has developed strong and extensive links.

The local community now includes the Upper Hunter and the Central Coast.

UNINEWS interviewed the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Keith Morgan on the issue of communication.

Q Looking back over the 25 years, and in your view, what has the University done for the community?

A The University has been responsible for a major transformation of the city and the region. Now whether the University is strictly responsible for that or whether the transformation has just happened to coincide with the period of the University, I can't say.

But I can say there has been an influx of academics which continues and there has been an influx of students all seeking aspects of life which are not necessarily found in a non-university city. A lot of obvious cultural activities like music and theatre and art have developed over that period. There are a lot of things related to work both in types of employment and in types of industry which have had impact. Above all there have been major changes in the physical quality of life, notably in awareness of our environment and in terms of health care which in one way or another can be related to the arrival of the University.

Q In your short history, have you been happy with the University's involvement?

A One of the things I've enjoyed seeing is a very positive response to the notion that we are very much part of the city and the region. There are not any false or artificial boundaries which divide the University from the city. We are part of it and we must function as part of it.

Q Do you think invisible barriers exist between the University and the community?

A Yes. It's inevitable that they exist. We now have a sign which says visitors are welcome. It is my proud boast that we are the only university in Australia which has such a sign. It is a very real indicator of the attitude of all of us in the University to our involvement with the community. Nevertheless we are viewed by many people as a somewhat remote and distant body. By the very nature of the work that goes on here, I think that's inevitable. What we would like to do is to make sure everybody in the community knows that we are here as their university.

Q Do you think that the Hunter Region realises the asset it has in the University?

A I think it does, but not everybody knows how to make best use of it. The university carries a responsibility for this— we've got to make sure that people have a greater awareness of what it is that we are doing. When we are more successful in this, people will in return realise that we can help in general and in specific ways. The University should use its standing in the community to contribute to solving particular problems and also to become involved in wider aspects of civic and regional life in a truly helpful and creative way.

Q How do you see the University communicating in a better way with the public?

A This is a major job. Quite a lot of the work done in the university is necessarily complex and not immediately comprehensible when taken out of its academic or intellectual context. We need to become more skilled at presenting the significance of this part of our work and perhaps seek to identify its relevance to the life of the community.

But equally, a lot of what we do has immediate impact on a lot of people's lives. There are now some 12,000 members of the community as students here and another 2,000 members of the community who work here—that's a lot of people playing a very big part in the community. We ought to be able, through them, to communicate the excitement of learning and the satisfaction as well as the skills that accompany the acquisition of knowledge.
Q Do you believe the University is promoting its research to the community?

A The answer to that has to be no. Too few people appreciate the outstanding achievements and high reputation that has been achieved by the research work staff and students in the University. Twenty five years is a short period to establish national and international reputations yet this is precisely what has happened. We need to improve our communications so that the whole community can appreciate this achievement and the major resource it now represents. We are already doing a lot and a lot more is now known about what goes on at the University — but we’ve certainly not reached a situation that I regard as satisfactory.

Q What about the future? There’s been talk about a Science Park — is this all part of the University and where it is heading?

A I think this is one of the most important developments I would like to see come to fruition. It’s important to the University but even more important to the city and the region. A great deal of international experience has shown that a science park or a technology park is a great trigger for industrial development of new technologies. It provides a mechanism for identifying and focusing on a region’s commitment to the creation of new industry and new developments.

All international experience suggests that for success this has to happen in proximity to and with the close involvement of a university. I believe we ought to acknowledge this and push very hard for this type of development. There cannot be any more appropriate location in Australia for such a development. It will require encouragement and support from government at all levels, Commonwealth, State and Regional government: but now is precisely the right time for all levels of government to translate their expressions of support into effective action which will generate new industry and a new image of a restored and rebuilt city.

Q What is your vision of the University in the year 2000?

A "Crystal ball gazing" is something I try to avoid. It’s far too easy to be wrong on crystal ball gazing for even a few weeks away. But certainly universities in general, and this university in particular, are going to be playing a bigger part in the wider community. There will be a greater demand for access from students and there’ll be greater demand for their services over a wider range of activities. Education will increasingly open the door to important and satisfying careers and to life in general. It is perhaps the best investment in the future we can make.

But as well as providing traditional courses, I’d like to see a greater growth in what has been called continuing education whether it’s professional, post-experience education or whether it is continuing education in the wider sense. I believe this is something which the community should demand from universities. This university ought to play a major role in it by the end of this century.

Q In what other areas is the University involved which you consider important?

A There are a number of areas in which the university is involved which are very important. The formal operations of a university — teaching and research are one aspect of this. This can be extended very easily into consultancy work. Tackling the industrial, commercial and business problems that arise is of the utmost importance. This is a major regional resource.

There are also major contributions to the life of the community produced by a university simply because it is here. The staff live in the community — they are part of it — and they make their contributions not just as academics or members of the general staff, they make their contributions because they are likely to be interested and committed members of the community wanting to do a lot of things. These will embrace both professional interests and personal interests. They will be involved in councils or voluntary organisations or engaged in music, theatre or sporting activities. In an informal way these are also measures of involvement of the University. The life of students is not solely contained within the campus, it’s not solely contained in the Union. It is evident in all the other activities that go on in and around the region and this also ought to be seen as a major contribution from the University. One of the great pleasures of a university is the endless opportunities for new experiences, and wider appreciation of the diversity of life. In a multicultural society such as ours we have a particularly rich opportunity to enjoy new attitudes and experiences. Our overseas students are a very important component of this to us and to the whole community.

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UNINEWS

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TEACHING AND LEARNING OFF-CAMPUS
An alternative for busy people

Off-campus study in Australia is currently undergoing dramatic changes. Many of the changes have come from the Federal Government’s White Paper — which has stressed greater access to university education — while others are occurring because of rapid technological advances in teleconferencing, video conferencing and the use of computers in education.

The Director of Off-Campus studies for the University of Newcastle, Dr John Schiller, said that the University is playing its part in providing Off-Campus studies through the operation of Off-campus ‘centres’, each one with a different mode of operation.

“Off-campus at the University of Newcastle is a term used to describe teaching and learning programs which are offered away from the main University campus at Shortland,” Mr Schiller said.

The off-campus ‘centres’ of the University are:
External Studies Centre — located in the Hunter Building and servicing 304 teachers who are upgrading their initial qualifications, and Workcover Authority of NSW inspectors studying for the Associate Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety. The majority of the teachers are in Primary, Early Childhood and Mixed Mode Diploma courses, while others are completing degree studies in Industrial Arts, Home Economics, Physical Education, English/History and Science.

Central Coast Campus — located at Ourimbah and being developed under a Federal Government grant of $700,000, this campus began offering part-time courses in mid-1989. Although officially part of the Newcastle campus, its location south of Newcastle classifies it as an ‘off-campus’ centre. Full-time students were enrolled this year into the Bachelor of Business and Bachelor of Arts degrees while part-time students are studying in the Associate Diploma of Police Studies, the Diploma of Management and the Master of Business Administration.

Londonderry — located near Richmond, west of Sydney, the Londonderry Occupational Safety Centre of the Workcover Authority of NSW is being used as a lecturing venue for the Associate Diploma of Occupational Health and Safety course.

Singleton — Upper Hunter residents for the past three years have had the opportunity of studying units in the Bachelor of Educational studies and Master of Educational Studies courses. The Faculty of Education this year is using the Singleton Teachers’ Centre on Tuesday nights and the Singleton High School on Saturdays for more than 20 students enrolled in the units.

Terrigal and Muswellbrook — The Department of Community Programmes has nearly 60 students enrolled in its Open foundation course at Terrigal and nearly 20 students enrolled in the same course at Muswellbrook. The full-year course is designed to prepare people to enter a number of undergraduate programs.

Bosley Park High School — located in Western Sydney region, the school is a venue for a pilot scheme in Australia with lectures in May and June. The students are mainly professionals who have re-trained under the NSW Government sponsored Mixed Mode Diploma of Teaching Program to become high school Industrial Arts teachers. The teachers undertake an initial full-time program with the University’s School of Education and complete the ‘off-campus’ component of their course at Bosley Park.

Dr Schiller says some of the latest developments in off-campus study came from the Federal White Paper which recommended that the number of tertiary institutions offering ‘external’ courses be reduced from more than 40 across Australia to only eight universities.

“These centres, established in 1989, are known as Distance Education Centres — or DECs — and the two in New South Wales are Charles Sturt University and the University of New England”, Dr Schiller said.

“The interesting issue coming out of the creation of these centres is that other universities can still offer external courses, but in conjunction with a Distance Education Centre so that there is more efficient and effective use of resources. For example, the University of Newcastle could become a ‘specialist provider’ of external courses in teacher education, medicine, architecture or other specialisations, thereby providing these specialisations to a wider state or national audience,” he said.

The proposal is that each ‘specialist provider’ university will work in conjunction with a Distance Education Centre in offering external courses. The University of Newcastle plans to continue to offer external courses and has entered preliminary negotiations with a number of Distance Education Centres. Although discussions are in their early stages, the university is investigating possible links inter-State as well as intra-State.
A new research facility within the School of Health fosters a range of health related research activities and projects focusing on regional issues.

The Centre for Transdisciplinary Studies and Research in Health and Welfare, established in 1989 aims at encouraging research activities and projects that focus on health-related issues in the Hunter Region and the development of quality-of-life indicators. It also envisages a national role in the fields of holistic health, human ecology and health impact assessment.

The Director of the Centre, Dr Morteza Honari, said that an exciting range of projects had already been initiated, as well as a series of fortnightly lectures on transdisciplinary health and welfare including public health problems, prevention, health promotion and policy formulation.

Dr Honari said that at present four researchers were associated with the Centre.

He said that the Centre's primary concern was health issues of transdisciplinary nature in the Hunter Region, reflected in the Health Status in the Hunter Region project, which would take into account health, environment and socio-economic indicators in relation to the quality of life, and global health and international issues.

He said that the Centre would also work towards the establishment of an Australian branch of the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC), Australia, to co-ordinate relevant activities in South East Asia and the South Pacific, and to organise regional, national and international activities in association with the Council.

He said it was anticipated that the co-operative, multidisciplinary exchange of information and ideas encouraged by the Centre would assist in the achievement of national and state health goals.

"Human conditions world-wide are changing in alarming ways at an alarming rate. Society's concern has been reflected during the past 50 years in a primary focus on global problems each decade," Dr Honari said.

"The 1950s was a decade of reconstruction and the beginning of social movements; and the 1960s was a decade of technology with massive socio-political changes; the 1970s was known for popular awareness of the environment; the 1980s was concerned in large measure with holistic health and well-being, and now it is looking to human ecological approach to solve many identified problems.

"After all, holistic health, as defined by the World Health Organisation is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being; as such, it is inextricably linked to total social orders, policies and cultural values."

According to Ms Jenny Graham, Head of the School of Health, and the Centre's Co-Director, Dr Anthony Nicholas, the development of the Centre for Transdisciplinary Studies and Research in Health and Welfare will support the undergraduate and postgraduate course initiatives of the School, which had already placed holistic health and human ecology approach at the core of curriculum.

It will provide a real model of multi-professional and transdisciplinary endeavour for health and social welfare and community development professionals of the future.
Photogrammetric Surveying Instruments designed in Newcastle

A portable photogrammetric device, designed by University of Newcastle senior lecturer, Mike Elfick, is being used by civilian and military groups worldwide to produce three dimensional topographic maps.

The "MPS-2" is one of a series of photogrammetric instruments developed by Mr. Elfick, Senior Lecturer in Surveying. The MPS-2 has demonstrated its versatility by being used extensively in Newcastle since the earthquake.

Photogrammetry uses two photographs to form a three-dimensional image, from which accurate height, width and depth measurements can be recorded. The method has proved to be an extremely valuable and flexible measurement tool in the production of topographical maps. It is ideal for analysis of objects which are very large, very small, inaccessible or complicated in nature and are unsuited to direct measurements.

The Development of the MPS-2 has meant that its technology is available in a portable form.

"The instrument is extremely rugged and is shipped around the world fully assembled and ready for use," Mr. Elfick said.

"It has been accepted well overseas, but in Australia the photogrammetric community regarded the MPS-2 as a toy until the full potential of the system was examined.

"The MPS-2 is cheap and sufficiently intelligent so that anybody can use it to get three-dimensional information off standard photographs and this puts photogrammetric measurement techniques within the reach of thousands of users for the first time."

Mr Elfick said his initial work was undertaken by large format equipment, but he later developed a system for 35mm and 70mm cameras based on "PC" technology, and a standard binocular microscope as part of the viewing system.

The device was used by the University's Department of Civil Engineering and Surveying, which had been called upon to monitor the movements of buildings damaged in the earthquake.

"We have taken a series of photographs and made measurements of about six buildings damaged in the earthquake. We have repeated these measurements in order to monitor cracks and have been able to see whether cracks are worsening without having actual contact with the buildings," Mr. Elfick said.

"We took a series of photographs of the Scots Kirk, the Presbyterian Church in Hamilton, and produced accurate drawings in case a section of the church has to be demolished and rebuilt. From stereo photography using two 20mm cameras mounted on a bar, the MPS-2 was connected to a CAD system which produced accurate workshop drawings," he said.

The MPS-2 is being manufactured and marketed worldwide by a West Australian company, Adam Technology.
OVERSEAS NURSING STUDENTS EXPAND THEIR CARE THROUGH NEWCASTLE EXPERIENCE

Twenty-three nursing students from Hong Kong, Singapore and Korea enrolled in the University’s Nursing Conversion course, which will see them graduate with a Diploma of Health Science (Nursing), recently took part in the four day camp with developmentally delayed children.

Nursing Lecturer Kim Usher, who was responsible for the coordination of the camp, said the clinical experience for the students and was a practical session which supported the theoretical component for developmental disabilities in their course.

Ten patients from Stockton Hospital were taking part in a camp held at the Morisset Base Worldwide Evangelical Crusade Camp which was planned to give the University of Newcastle overseas nursing students clinical experience with developmentally delayed people in their own countries.

"For most of the overseas nursing students it was a very new experience. Many of them have never been involved with nursing developmentally delayed people in their own countries," Kim said.

"Not only have these students gained new skills but the clients have had a lot of special attention. Everyone involved has enjoyed the camp.

"The students have been surprised not by what their clients can’t do, but what they can do," she said.

She said the camp served an important purpose because it gave the students the opportunity to be totally responsible for their clients, to plan and implement the nursing care and also to understand the needs of those particular clients. She said that some of the clients also had physical disabilities which needed to be taken into consideration.

HOME-START operates in the eastern suburbs of Lake Macquarie and is an offshoot of the Hunter Caravan Project which is based at the University. It aims at providing friendship, support and practical experience to families with young children who may be facing frustrations or difficulties for a variety of reasons.

Mrs Greiner said she was extremely interested in the success of the program, especially as her background was in social work and early childhood.

"Only 10 to 15 years ago the concept of volunteering was looked down upon but HOME-START is debunking that myth."

While in Newcastle, Mrs Greiner took the opportunity to visit a promotion week display by the Hunter Caravan Project at the University. The Caravan Project was established in 1986 to improve the lifestyles of families with young children living permanently in caravan parks, mainly in the Hunter Region.
The University of Newcastle has, over a number of years, developed a schools liaison policy and the recent amalgamation has provided a catalyst to launch into a new phase of communications, particularly with high schools.

One of the major aspects of the new phase is the appointment of an adviser for prospective students whose major task is to coordinate and organise student liaison activities for the University. This involves liaison with schools, industry, TAFE, commerce and the professions.

Ms Julie Swain has stepped into the position with an air of confidence as one of the major 'front people' for the University.

Ms Swain holds a Bachelor of Arts from Newcastle and a Diploma in Tertiary Education from the University of New England.

Her extensive experience and background is needed in the position as prospective student liaison is now closely integrated in a functional manner with the Admissions and Enrolments Sections and close contact is required with many other sections of the University.

Ms Swain said the position has brought its challenges, not the least being the production of new course promotional material to reflect the wide range of opportunities provided by the University.

"In hindsight, the decision to print information in the form of booklets was probably one of the initial effects of amalgamation," Ms Swain said.

She said that while the size of the University and number of courses offered was important as an indicator of ability to meet demand, quality was the criterion that the University was determined to sustain.

She said that achievement of excellence in all aspects of teaching, scholarship and research was integral to the University's ability to satisfy the needs of the community.

"By going into the community and by having the community come on campus I think we are well on the way to having members of the public realise the asset they have at their doorstep," Ms Swain said.

"We still have much work to do, especially as we are a new university, but we are reaching many prospective students through a policy which is largely based on face-to-face promotion.

"Just as our image is changing, I believe we are helping to make people more aware of the tertiary opportunities available to them and therefore their future careers," she said. In addition to meeting people from different areas, Julie is investigating other avenues of communication.

One successful venture has been the distribution of a CONTACT newsletter to careers advisers in high schools and other sectors such as TAFE. The newsletter covers a wide range of topics pertinent to developments at the University and is already proving a popular link between the Newcastle campus and careers advisers.

Ms Swain said the option was to print a pamphlet for each course — which could have amounted to about 100 in circulation for all our courses and facilities — or to print an undergraduate course information booklet for each of our Schools and Faculties.

"We think of print being a more attractive option," Ms Swain said.

Ms Julie Swain, Schools Liaison Officer.
From the earliest times, man has sought to make paper.
Whether it was made from papyrus, leaves, bark or other vegetable matter, mankind has sought to produce a medium on which to record the development of our society by written word.
This quest has by no means diminished, and even though we are now inundated by a proliferation of commercially made papers, there is nothing to compare with the subtle and delicate nature of hand made paper.
Students studying in the Fibre/Art specialisation of the Bachelor of Arts (Visual Arts) are pursuing this quest as part of their course and are producing fine hand-made paper from several sources.
Lecturers in Fibre Art/Textiles, Jutta Federsen, Susan Morris and Brett Alexander, are proud of the papermaking process in their art specialisation and the innovative papers being produced. Not only is the paper useful for standard purposes, but it is being used in artworks and in many cases is the artwork itself.

The process is long and involved but the results are stunning. After soaking the raw material for 24 hours (it can be anything from computer paper, telephone books, old rags, brown paper, silk waste, cotton cloth, leaves, bark, petals, etc.) it is then put into a small bath, known as a Hollander, and beaten. This disperses the cellulose matter and separates the fibres. It then goes to a special timber vat to break down the fibres and then into a mould and deckle press to squeeze out the water between calico sheeting and old blankets. Scope for embossing is unlimited during this pressing stage with patterns being made from such things as leaves, bark and special seals.
"Every paper has its own particular texture depending on what raw materials have been used. The papers made with plants are specially beautiful using unexpected sources such as Bulrush, Water Hyacinth, Blue gum, Rose Petal, Camellia, Bougainvillea, Hibiscus, Frangipani and many others," Susan said.
"The diverse creative possibilities of this medium are demonstrated in the student's paper-making skills where both conceptual and technical problems need to be overcome to produce a beautiful article.
"In an era of awareness of the importance of preserving our environment, in particular the world's finest, recycling used paper and natural products to make hand-made paper could come into its own during the next few generations," she said.

Recycling is a way of life
The growing awareness of the need to preserve our environment and also the world's dwindling resources has been translated into a practical exercise by the University of Newcastle.
The University has examined methods of paper recycling and has introduced a collection system for paper, envelopes, computer paper and cardboard.
Facilities Officer in the Property Services Division, Ms Sandra Jones, says that collection bins have been placed in strategic locations throughout the campus and will be emptied regularly by a commercial recycling firm.
Sandra said the University believed that recycling makes good sense, not only from its own point of view, but for Australia as a whole.
"It is one step down the path toward a sustainable society and reduces waste in many ways," Ms Jones said.
"Recycling requires far fewer trees to be cut down and processed, which reduces air and water pollution, while less waste paper is dumped as rubbish.
"Many organisations are thinking about ways they can contribute to the preservation of the environment and it is very pleasing that the University is acting on this initiative," she said.
"Management and staff of the University have been extremely supportive of the exercise, even though they are being asked to take the trouble to place their waste paper in the bins at the end of each working day," Sandra said.

RECYCLING FACTS
- It takes three trees to make 2,385 kgs of paper (954 reams) whereas recycled paper uses previously used paper.
- It requires 440,000 litres of water to make this amount of first class paper whereas it takes only 1,800 litres to make recycled paper.
- It requires 7,600 kilowatt hours of energy to make this quantity of first class paper whereas it takes 2,750 kilowatt hours to make the same quantity of recycled paper.
The University of Newcastle holds an extensive art collection, and each edition of Uninews will feature an artwork from the collection. The first to be featured is John Olsen's Storm on the Lily Pond.

**Storm on the Lily Pond, 1975**
mixed media on paper mounted on composition board
73.2 x 81.2 cms
Inscribed, lower right, John Olsen 1975 Hunter Collection

John Olsen

Born in Dawson Street, Cooks Hill, an inner city suburb now home to a number of art galleries, John Olsen is well-known for his mural painting Salute to Five Bells in the Sydney Opera House.

During the period that Storm on the Lily Pond was painted Olsen, with the naturalist, Vincent Serventy, made numerous journeys to Lake Eyre, which for only the second time since white settlement was in flood. Many paintings, drawings and prints of the cycle of the lake in flood, of the animals and birds congregating there, and of the slow return to the dry salt pan resulted from these visits. Whether the drawing reproduced here is related to the Lake Eyre series is uncertain, but it continues Olsen's pre-occupation with the minitiae of the Australian landscape and reflects his long-time interest in Oriental art and its relationship to nature. Like the Chinese and Japanese ink painters, the artist here sees what might be called "controlled chance". As is his usual work practice, random splashes and drips of the fluid watercolour medium result from the deliberate shaking of a loaded brush over the virgin white paper, an effect akin to the scatter of raindrops on a pond's surface.

The fluidity of the watercolour and gouache media produces unexpected informal effects, which are developed with more deliberate use of additional brushwork and the introduction of firmer accents in crumbly pastel and crayon. The free use of the following media relates to the watery organic subject matter. This is not an artist copying the depth or surface of the pond, but an imagination translation of the external subject into graphic expression.

Andrew Fergusson
May, 1990

One student has used hand-made paper in an unusual way to create artworks that are unforgettable.
Ms Colleen Pinkerton, a third year BAVA student, has incorporated painting and drawing with paper-making to produce haunting images that at first don't reveal themselves.

Painting on a series of layers, some of which are hand-made papers and overlaid with tissue, Colleen has painted portraits of her family members in an effort to understand the life of the generation before her.

"For me it is like bringing back the past through this medium," said Colleen.

It's obvious that the paintings have brought back very strong memories for Colleen, particularly the ones of her late father and another depicting him and his twin sister when they were children.

"My father was the quiet twin while his sister was very outgoing. It's very interesting to explore their relationship through my painting," she said.

"I am really enjoying the fibre art/textiles specialisation of this course. I have always been a painter and I have always been environment conscious and this medium adds another dimension to my work," Ms Pinkerton said.
HONORARY DEGREES RECOGNISE EXCELLENCE

Conferring honorary degrees is a practice in which the University of Newcastle takes great pride.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Keith Morgan, said honorary degrees signify recognition by the University of outstanding public contributions by individuals.

"The conferring of honorary degrees is the University's way of indicating its pleasure to be associated with outstanding people," Professor Morgan said.

"These people may have achieved academic excellence or excellence in other areas covered by the University's involvement with its community."

Professor Morgan said the University is concerned with international achievement and excellence and reflects this in its normal academic activities.

"Being able to recognise outstanding individuals with honorary degrees not only brings credit to the individual but also to the University for its association with such individuals."

Recipients of honorary degrees at the 1990 graduation ceremonies were Dr Alan Hewson, Mrs Margaret Bowman, Mr John Miner, Dr Ray Chambers, Mr Ted Flowers, Mr Warren Derkenne, Professor Cyril Renwick, and Mr Bruce Thomson.

Mrs Margaret Bowman, awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters, said she remembers graduating from Newcastle University College at Tighes Hill in the sixties. Mrs Bowman, who became Principal of Wyong High School in 1988, was one of only 20 students graduating with a university degree.

Addressing candidates in the University's School of Education who qualified as teachers, Mrs Bowman said the system today was much bigger and less uniform than it was in 1960.

"In these 30 years the responsibilities of teachers have been extended beyond the classroom into areas of social engineering. Teachers are increasingly expected to be accountable to, and integrated into, the school's local community and at the same time teach a curriculum that is more centralised and restrictive," she said.

The new graduates had grown up in a less coherent society than that of the sixties, Mrs Bowman said.

"There is a greater tolerance of differing social behaviours and a greater variety of family patterns. Children are no longer the docile creatures who could be taught in classes of 50.

"Teaching methods geared for a passive audience have been superseded by expectations that children will be active participants in the classroom.

"These children bring their society into their classrooms. Unless you learn to manage them, you will not be able to teach them — and managing them can be very difficult," Mrs Bowman said.

Mrs Bowman said it would be a most exacting task for tomorrow's teachers to help restore a respect for education and give an example of its liberating effects.

Honorary Degree recipient has links with City

When Professor Ray Chambers walked to the lectern and spoke to new graduates and guests in the Great Hall on May 11, few people in the hall knew that he is a Novocastrian.

Professor Chambers has fond memories of Newcastle, where he spent his early life. His father and both grandfathers were coal miners. His fond memories date back to his days as a student "in the High School on The Hill" where he was introduced to the world of books and learning.

"Thanks to the diligence and exuberance of some memorable masters in English, mathematics and science, I acquired an enduring interest in language and the romance of discovery," he said.

continued on page 21.
The University is now clearly characterised as one institution able to demonstrate a full and diverse academic program, and sustain and extend its reputation world-wide for academic and educational achievement.

This was the message from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Keith Morgan, in his address at the recent graduation ceremonies.

"Achieving amalgamation did not mean the work of integrating the various functions and activities of the University is complete," he said.

"We are a large institution, now with some 12,500 students and with many continuing commitments."

"To meet the needs of those in areas remote from Newcastle, the University must seek to establish new methods of provision of its academic programs, building on the work that we had been doing so successfully in a number of centres through the Department of Community Programmes," he said.

"This will provide a key component of our plans for an expanded equity and access program throughout the region.

"The University has now an additional responsibility beyond the region for the establishment of a new campus on the Central Coast at Ourimbah. With proper and adequate funding, not yet provided, and the necessary support from both Commonwealth and State Governments, the campus will grow to serve the already evident needs and aspirations of the residents on the Central Coast."

The Vice-Chancellor referred to the close relationship between the University and the region. He said the relationship was very clear and had become painfully evident in the aftermath of the Newcastle earthquake which, while inflicting harrowing damage, injury and death, identified a great unifying spirit across the city and the region.

"Members of the University, as members of the community and people with expertise and skills, contributed in many ways to the work which had to be done and continues to be done to regenerate our city," he said.

"Much damage was done to the fabric of the University by the earthquake. All of it was repairable and the University is indebted to many people for their help in this.

"The creation of University Village was an immediate answer to deal with part of the problem of finding residential accommodation for students. I wish to acknowledge the inspiration of those in the University who formulated this concept; and to express our appreciation of the support provided by our insurers, the GIO, the builders, and the staff of the University, which enabled us to translate the idea into reality," he said.

"We are a large institution, now with some 12,500 students and with many continuing commitments."

"To meet the needs of those in areas remote from Newcastle, the University must seek to establish new methods of provision of its academic programs, building on the work that we had been doing so successfully in a number of centres through the Department of Community Programmes," he said.

"This will provide a key component of our plans for an expanded equity and access program throughout the region."
Sport and Career bring Many Achievements

The name John Miner is not only synonymous with optometry in Newcastle, but also with rugby union refereeing. Mr John Miner, O.A.M. has been a prominent figure for many years in his optometry practice and on the football field as a respected rugby union referee.

His distinguished career in both fields was honoured recently, when he was conferred the honorary degree Master of Laws.

Such an honour came unexpectedly to Mr Miner, who is hesitant to talk of his achievements, yet it has not come as a surprise to the many who know him as dedicated to his patients and his sporting code.

This dedication began early in his life when Mr Miner began his career as an optometrist, requiring him to work in Newcastle and attend nightly lectures in Sydney.

It may sound like an ordeal but Mr Miner remembers with a certain fondness (no doubt brought on by the passing of several years) his endless trips on the early morning train which would leave Sydney at 1.25 am and arrive at Cardiff at 5.30 am.

His close relationship with the University of Newcastle’s rugby union fraternity has spanned several years, and has earned him great respect and many friendships.

He has refereed many hundreds of games and in 1988 was the Australian representative on the rugby union’s World Cup Appointment Board, a position he still holds. Mr Miner is the only person to be invited to serve two terms on the Board.

He maintains a dedication to the sport because of the rewards it brings.

“I have always wanted to achieve in rugby refereeing because by giving to the game I receive the reward of helping others,” he said.

Mr Miner’s achievements are not limited to rugby. His optometry practice has earned him great respect, and he has been invited to give lectures on optometry in places around the world including the United States of America and England.

Commitment to Medicine
A Way of Life

Dr Alan Hewson, Newcastle obstetrician and gynaecologist, who has received the honorary degree, Doctor of Medicine, began his working life not as a Doctor of Medicine, but as a metallurgist.

While this may seem as radical change in career path, Dr Hewson’s fascination for medical matters led him to study for his medical degree at Sydney University shortly after World War II.

Upon graduation, Dr Hewson began a lifelong career which has seen him become an active and respected member of the medical fraternity, closely linked with the University of Newcastle for many years.

Dr Hewson’s relationship with the University of Newcastle reaches beyond the establishment of the University’s Faculty of Medicine. Dr Hewson, as former President of the Central Northern Medical Association, was the author of the Association’s submission to the Australian Universities Commission, pledging support for the establishment of a Faculty of Medicine at the University of Newcastle.

Dr Hewson’s career is peppered with positions on committees concerned with obstetrics and gynaecology and medical education; a testimony to his dedication to medicine and education.

Dr Hewson is committed to improving the quality of medical education and in turn, patient care to benefit the whole community.

He has been a key participant in the development of the curriculum in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Newcastle, and believes the graduates of the Faculty are of high calibre.

“The Faculty of Medicine gives students opportunities to see the broad span of medicine, exposing them to many facets of resources, and they become motivated to learn for themselves,” Dr Hewson said.

“As a result of their training, graduates seek out information and knowledge, a habit of adult learning which they carry throughout their lives.”

“This kind of training is a great advantage to students and one of the reasons why they are well regarded,” he said.

“I have always been extremely proud to be associated with the University of Newcastle and to assist in the development of the medical students.”
Developments over a brief three and a half months will be of vital importance to the University of Newcastle and to its Convocation. In that short time-frame, members of the Convocation are asked to:

1. Determine who will be the four members elected by the Convocation on the University’s Council after amalgamation.
2. Elect the first Warden of the Convocation of the combined University.
3. Form the amalgamated University’s new Convocation.

As most of you know, this has been the first opportunity graduates of the three former institutions - the University, the Hunter Institute of Higher Education, and the Newcastle Conservatorium - have had to vote together for the future of their new University.

My message in this second Warden’s column in Uninews is that the vote carried enormous responsibility. It is my hope that every member of the Convocation has used and will continue to use, their voting rights and use them wisely.

Convocation’s voice on Council mainly because of amalgamation and the Federal Government’s burning desire to streamline University governing bodies, will be reduced from seven representatives to four.

We must choose the four people we believe will best serve the University, its graduates and this city. Sadly, for far too long, the vast majority of the Convocation membership has been a silent majority. We need to mobilise our membership for the benefit of the University and its graduates. With our potential membership doubled by amalgamation, we have never had a better opportunity.

A rough timetable of events will be:
- Nominations for the four positions on Council and for Warden went out late May.
- A ballot has been held in July, continuing into August.
- The Convocation Formation Meeting will be held in early September.

Your Interim Standing Committee has worked hard to draw up and present amended rules and by-laws for the amalgamated Convocation and these will hopefully become law at the Formation Meeting. It has been a time of hectic change and readjustment but I am confident our efforts will be made worthwhile with the emergence, officially, of the new Convocation.

In the meantime, Interim Standing Committee has been able to maintain and, in some cases, expand Convocation’s existing annual program of events.

By the time you read this column, there will have been three highly successful graduation dinner dances run by Convocation for this year’s graduands. Members of Standing Committee will also have assisted at the graduation ceremonies by offering information and advice and by selling mementoes.

On April 27, we held a well attended and very successful annual Convocation Dinner at which the Newton John Award was presented to the Director of the University Choir, Father Peter Brock, and the Convocation Medal was presented to Professor Alex Harrison. My congratulations go to both these very worthy recipients.

We have arranged two successful inaugural lectures, the first by Professor Vaughan Carr and the second, on May 10, by Professor William Gillespie.

On August 21, we will be running our second annual Careers Fair which promises to be even more successful than our first in September last year.

The new Convocation will undoubtedly provide new initiatives as well as strengthening the old. We have many things to achieve and we are looking for your interest and your pride in your Alma Mater.

Convocation is as strong as your input so we need to hear from you now.

Vic Levi
Warden

New Professor of Mechanical Engineering wins Convocation Medal for Professional Excellence.

The newly appointed Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Dr Alexander Harrison, has won the 1989 Convocation Medal for Professional Excellence awarded by Convocation of the University of Newcastle. The Medal was presented to Professor Harrison at the Annual Convocation Dinner on Friday, 27 April, 1990.

Professor Harrison recently returned to Newcastle to take up the newly created Professorial Chair in Bulk Materials Handling and Conveying at the University. Professor Harrison’s association with the University began in 1982 when he enrolled in a PhD in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and completed a thesis entitled ‘Dynamic measurement and Analysis of Steel Cord Conveyor Belts’. Previously a physics student, he holds a BA(Hons) in Physics, 1974, and a M.Sc in Applied Physics, 1980 from Macquarie University, as well as a B.Eng (Electrical), 1977, from the University of Technology, Sydney.

In 1979, while working in the CSIRO Division of Applied Physics, Alexander Harrison initiated a research program aimed at developing a method of monitoring steel cord conveyor belts as a result of requests from industry for assistance in process control and preventative maintenance for conveyor belts. He devised a non-contacting instrument, based on magnetic reluctance of the steel cords to examine the condition of metal reinforcement in a conveyor belt during normal operation, thereby avoiding interrupting the transportation of materials. Professor Harrison’s invention of the Conveyor Belt Monitor won the 1988 Exporter of the Year Award.
Where are they now?

Maria Charlton BA 1976, MBA 1981, is trained Facilitator, college Lecturer and Presenter of public seminars and holds the position of Managing Director of Marketing Advisers for Professionals Pty Ltd. She has worked as a Marketing Consultant for the last seven years and has been involved in a variety of projects including an image survey for Computerland, a market feasibility study for a retirement village at Bathurst and a marina at Port Stephens.

Maria has also assisted the former HIHE to develop the marketing module in its Bachelor of Business Degree. Her interests in marketing and local business are reflected in her membership of various national and local organisations including the Australian Society of Accountants, the Australian Marketing Institution, the Newcastle Businessman's Club (of which she is the first female member) and the Newcastle Chamber of Commerce and the Junction Chamber of Commerce.

Hok Min Lie BE & BMath 1988, is a software Engineer at the BHP Central Research Laboratories where he has been working since 1988. Hok is involved in the application of Expert Systems Technology to a wide range of operations within BHP and has developed SHEPA a software tool that enables rapid prototyping of Expert Systems.

Dr Richard Hill BCom 1967, and MBBS 1973 (University of Sydney) became a fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. After completing his clinical training at Camperdown Children's Hospital in 1978, Richard spent 8 years in research training at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada. Returning to Australia in 1981, Dr Richard Hill took up his present position as a Consultant Paediatric Gastroenterologist at the Children's Medical Centre in Perth Western Australia.

Associate Professor Noeline Kyle, BA (Hons) First Class 1980 and PhD 1983, is currently Deputy Head of the School of Learning Studies at the University of Wollongong.

On Associate Professor Kyle's initiative, a Gender and Education Unit was established within the School of Learning Studies in 1988. The Unit has provided a more structured focus for research and teaching in the area of gender studies within the Faculty of Education. The unit is a valuable resource for on-campus research and teaching and provides a wide range of consultancy skills that could be effectively used for policy making for the Illawarra community.

Outside her University work, Noeline maintains a keen and active interest in local and family history which gives her a high profile in the local and the wider historical community.

Elizabeth Morrison BA 1972, DipEd 1973, worked as a History teacher and went on to work as Head of Branch School of General Studies at the Newcastle Technical College until 1989. In 1980, Elizabeth was the first woman elected by Convocation to the University Council and was inaugural Chairperson of the Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunity in 1982. Her interest in University affairs extended to student accommodation and Elizabeth was a member of the Board of Trustees of Edwards Hall from 1984-1986 and was also involved in research into accommodation needs of TAFE students in NSW. This resulted in the appointment of Accommodation Officers in nominated TAFE Colleges.

She is now a director for Kronelk Pty Ltd and a partner in her husband's firm Regional Illustrators, for which she has written text and captions for three books: Newcastle, NSW: Newcastle in Colour: and Newcastle Seen.
Father Peter Brock Receives Newton-John Award

Father Peter Brock, conductor of the University choir and priest-in-charge of the Catholic parish in Belmont was presented with the Newton-John Award at the convocation Annual Dinner in April 1990. The Award is the fifteenth to be awarded by Convocation.

The Warden, Mr Vic Levi, noted with pleasure that Emeritus Professor Brin Newton-John, after whom the Award is named, had himself established a University Choir during his time as a staff member at the University of Newcastle.

Professor Newton-John, who was unable to attend, said that he was delighted to hear of Father Brock's success. In awarding the 1989 Newton-John Award to Father Brock, the Selection Committee acknowledged Father Brock's influence on the musical life of the community. There has always been a tradition of choral music in the Hunter Valley but what has been remarkable is the type of music which audiences have come to accept and enjoy. As well as the popular great choral works such as the Messiah and the Bach Passion, Father Brock has included in University Choir programs concerts of unaccompanied singing, long thought to be unpopular, and works by recent composers such as Vaughan Williams, Benjamin Britten, Edward Elgar and Nigel Butterley.

One of his innovations which has enabled lesser known works to be more readily acceptable is the Open Rehearsal at which words of the choruses are provided to the audience. Peter Brock gives an introductory talk about the work, introduces the instruments of the orchestra, holds a musical quiz for the children and invites them onto the stage to observe the players at close quarters. Many people then come to the actual performances with a sense of familiarity that enhances their enjoyment.

Well aware that the involvement of children is essential to ensure a continuing rich musical life for the people of Newcastle and the Hunter Valley, Peter Brock invited the children in the audience to contribute to the Christmas concert of 1989. They came eagerly onto the stage, entirely unprepared, and after a few quiet instructions, sang Away in a Manager.

Less widely known is Father Brock's talents as an arranger and composer. His arrangements of well-known carols, hymns and folk songs are very popular with audiences and many people have asked to hear again his setting of Canticle of the Creatures, the text by St Francis of Assisi, which was performed by the University Choir at Singleton and Newcastle in 1984.
Call for Nominations for 1990

Convocation Medal
FOR PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

The Standing Committee of Convocation invites nominations for the 1990 Convocation Medal. The Medal is awarded annually to a graduate of the University of Newcastle (including graduates of the former Hunter Institute of Higher Education, the former Newcastle College of Advanced Education and the Newcastle Branch of the Conservatorium of Music) with the most outstanding record of professional excellence that can be found. It is expected that, through the names of those to whom it is awarded over the years, it will become recognised as an Australian award for outstanding professional merit.

The Selection Committee will look at the curricula vitae of possible recipients but in particular will be seeking a discovery, a new understanding or a new development, which has significantly advanced some particular field. The graduate can be working anywhere in the world.

The award may have to be announced in absentia, but it will be given much publicity. The award will not be made in any year which the Committee is of the opinion that no work notified to it has reached the high standard required for this medal.

Previous Award Winners
1987 — Dr Peter Cummings
1988 — Dr Robert Ether
1989 — Professor Alexander Harrison

Any graduate who would like to be considered, or any person who would like to put forward a nomination for the 1990 Award, is invited to forward all relevant information including a Curriculum Vitae to Mr Vic Levi, Warden of Convocation, Convocation Office, University of Newcastle, 2308 by 31 October, 1990. All information received is strictly confidential to the Selection Committee.

For further information telephone: (049) 68 5370.

Newton-John Award

The Standing Committee of Convocation invites nominations for the 1990 Newton-John Award.

The Award recognises graduates of the University of Newcastle who have made a substantial contribution, by way of innovation or creativity in any field, towards enhancing the quality of life in the community. The Award was instituted in 1974 with selection being based on the following criteria:

• Graduates of the University of Newcastle or graduates of the University of New South Wales or the University of New England who spent at least three years as students of the Newcastle University College are eligible to be nominated for the Award.
• The Award is given for innovation or creativity in any field with the emphasis on: originality, or lasting value or aesthetic value or benefit to the community.

Previous Award Winners
1975 — Allan Morris
1976 — Errol Hodge
1977 — Brian Suters
1978 — Mary Callcott
1979 — Alex Young
1980 — Colin Anderson
1981 — Jess Dyce
1982 — Trevor Waring
1983 — Roy Gilbert
1984 — Robert Beal
1985 — Vic Rooney
1986 — Brian Gilligan
1987 — Anne von Bertouch
1988 — Kevin Snell
1989 — Peter Brock

Any graduate who would like to be considered, or any person who would like to put forward a nomination for the 1990 Award, is invited to forward all relevant information including a Curriculum Vitae to Mr Vic Levi, Warden of Convocation, Convocation Office, University of Newcastle, 2308 by 31 October, 1990. All information received is strictly confidential to the Selection Committee.

For further information telephone: (049) 68 5370.
The number of overseas students is increasing at the University of Newcastle, as more courses are promoted in overseas countries.

One facility to help these students settle into University life is on-campus accommodation at International House.

Warden of International House, Mr. Noel Rutherford, said International House was originally established to 'create international understanding' and to 'create a good environment for learning'.

Although International House has been developed with the needs of overseas students in mind, approximately half of the residents are Australian.

"Part of the success of International House is the fact that people of many different cultural backgrounds can live together and understand each other, as well as fostering an environment conducive to learning," he said.

Pictured below are eight of the overseas students who are currently living at International House.

Chun Kuen (Andy), 21, from Hong Kong, is a second year student in the Bachelor of Commerce degree program, majoring in Accountancy.

He found the transition to Australian life a little easier than most because English is his second language. He describes Commerce as 'a tough course', but is glad to have the chance to study here as he was unable to secure a place in the highly competitive university system in Hong Kong.

Debbie Sampson, 21, from Arizona, USA, is studying at the University of Newcastle for a year as part of her degree in Dietetics at the Arizona State University.

"It's a big change for me," Debbie said.

"Newcastle is so green! I'm used to the desert in Arizona.

"It's really great living at International House and meeting people from so many different cultures. I think I've become more worldly." Nomna Jobodwana, 27, from Zambi, is enrolled in the first year of the Diploma of Health Science (Nursing) course and is being sponsored by the Australian International Defence Aid Board.

Nomna, who previously worked as a nurse in South Africa, said she is enjoying her course even though it involves a lot of work.

Edmund Kho, 27, from Malaysia has transferred to the University of Newcastle from the National University of Singapore and is in the fourth year of an Architecture Degree.

Edmund said he plans to go back to Singapore after completing his studies, then return to Australia.

The staff at International House know all the residents by name and that makes a big difference to Piyanch Promotedham, 22, from Thailand.

"Just this small thing makes you feel that you belong," she said.

Piyanch, who lived in Singapore for 10 years before coming to Australia, is in the first year of a Bachelor of Commerce degree.

The Deputy Warden of International House, Gcina Dlamini, 30, from Swaziland, is in the final year of a Master of Business Programme.

Gcina is on unpaid study leave from the Central Bank of Swaziland and holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Swaziland.

Although Gcina said she loves living in Newcastle, she was not always happy.

"Every day I used to cry and I wanted to go home. I was so homesick, as life in Swaziland is much slower than here," she said.

Allen Jeng, 25, from Taipei in Taiwan, learned to speak English in Sydney before enrolling at the University of Newcastle to study in the Bachelor of Computer Science.

He enjoys the community atmosphere at International House and even though he is used to "big city" life, the pace here is "just right for studying".

Buddama Seewalie, 24, from Sri Lanka, is currently attending the English Language Intensive Course for Overseas Students (ELICOS) and hopes to enrol in the Bachelor of Social Science (Welfare Studies) next year.

His interest in social welfare stems from his curiosity about people and a genuine interest in helping them. He wants to return to Sri Lanka after graduation to work in social organisations.
The increasing interest in the study of the Japanese language and Japanese culture has led to the establishment of a Chair in Japanese at the University of Newcastle, funded by the Japan Foundation.

Professor Michael Carter, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, said the contribution would provide funding for the first three years of the appointment. "The contribution by the Japan Foundation has enabled the University to get off to a good start," he said. "The Chair will be the focal point for teaching, scholarship and research, and the University will be seeking a Professor of international renown who will provide leadership in the study of Japanese and all its facets," he said.

Professor Carter said the study of Japanese is already on the map in Newcastle and the appointment to the Chair in Japanese will ensure that it becomes a landmark throughout Australia, in Japanese studies.

The Chair in Japanese will be included in the Department of Modern Languages in the Faculty of Arts. Professor Carter said that although Japanese is taught in the Faculty of Arts, its students come from a number of disciplines across the University. "Students come predominantly from Arts, however we are seeing a steady increase in the number of students coming from the Faculties of Commerce and Engineering."

Professor Carter said the University's appointment to a Chair in Japanese was a logical step considering the language's popularity, and the well-established links with the Japan Foundation and the New South Wales Department of Education, in training teachers to teach Japanese in schools.

The Interim Council of the University has announced the advertisement of a Chair in Aviation, which is expected to be filled before the end of this year. The University's Institute of Aviation, which was established in 1987, administers the first University-based course in aviation available in Australia.

The course leads to the award of either a Diploma in Aviation Science (over two years) or a Bachelor of Science (over three years). A Bachelor of Science (Aviation) is proposed for introduction in 1991.

Concurrently, students undertake flight training with the Civil Air Training Academy (CATA) at Cessnock Airport in terms of an agreement between the University and CATA. The program is designed to integrate theory and practice, requiring students to undertake work experience in the aviation industry. A number of aviation organisations co-operate by providing places for students over the Christmas-New Year break. This year, work experience places were provided by such airlines as Aquatic, Kendall, Oxley, Qantas, Australian, Ansett and Aeropelican.
Dr Winston Dunlop, Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Commerce, who presented Professor Chambers for admission to the honorary degree of Doctor of Science, revealed that 10 students taught by the Professor at the "Chambers school" now held Chairs in Accounting in universities in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Giving his Occasional Address, Professor Chambers was typically outspoken and courageous.

He referred to Francis Bacon and how he had observed 400 years ago that "in the customs and institutions of Schools and other places set apart as the abodes of learned men and for the cultivation of erudition, everything is found to be hostile to the progress of knowledge."

"To challenge the conventional wisdom in accounting and finance is to confront entrenched professional beliefs, vested interests of the teaching profession, the self-protective secrecy of the business community and the abiding caution of lawmakers and bureaucratic watchdogs.

"For all those reasons, changes in some of our most pervasive institutions seem exasperatingly slow," Professor Chambers said.

"If we cherish and propagate the follies, the fables and the foibles of the past, we betray the trust of the community, which funds, respects and relies on our independence, curiosity and rigour."

Professor Chambers saw the University motto "I Look Ahead", as capturing exactly the spirit of inquisitive adventure "in the interest of our successors."

The University of Newcastle has won the prestigious Intervarsity Surfing Teams title for the past six years, a dominance unmatched in the IV's history.

The University's Surfriderz Club is recognised as the most successful in the history of Australian university Surfing.

Its tally of wins in the teams events at Intervarsities is twice the best result of any other university.

In the 1990 Intervarsity Surfing Championships, held at Wollongong from April 16 to 20, the Surfriderz not only won the teams event but also won the women's and boogey board categories and gained places in the kneeboard, Malibu and individuals events.

Newcastle University took a full team of 23 surfers. Strong competition came from the Sydney metropolitan universities and the University of Wollongong.

The annual Intervarsity surfing contest is one of the largest amateur events in Australia. It often proves to be a training ground for professional ranks. Surfers who have competed at Intervarsity level, and continued on to bigger and better things, include Terry Fitzgerald, Derrick Hynd and Rod Kiroop.
Scobies Heath, at the rear of the Engineering Faculty, has for many years been choked with the hardy weed cumbunji, however moves by the University have meant the area has undergone a transformation.

The site, which is the former Lorna Street garbage dump, is being cleared to return it to its natural state as a wetland. Wetlands have for many years been ignored as sites of environmental significance and beauty, yet, in Newcastle, the development of the Shortland Wetlands has created an awareness of the natural beauty of such sites. Scobies Heath is one such site, and under its new name of University Wetlands, is being steadily restored. The restoration is a long-term project being undertaken by the University of Newcastle with the assistance of National Estate grants. Two National Estate grants of $10,000 each, have been provided to restore the site, and the University has committed money and labour to the project.

Max Maddock, University lecturer and member of the Campus Wetlands Group, said the major part of the project in the early stages was the removal of the cumbunji with a dragline.

"The dragline had to dig down 2 metres to completely remove the cumbunji. This has allowed patches of open water now where the cumbunji can't grow, and has brought the area closer to its former state as a wetland," he said.

Professor Maddock said the University Wetlands would provide the University with a tremendous teaching resource, as well as forming part of the wider study of the Ironbark Creek catchment system.

"This study, which has been helped by a $5000 grant from the Newcastle City Council, will form the basis of a management plan of the entire Ironbark Creek catchment area including the Shortland Wetlands and University Wetlands. Professor Maddock said the University Wetlands would be used extensively as a field site for students from many faculties.

"It will prove an excellent study area for students of Biology, Geography, Environmental Studies and Art, as well as being a more workable part of the campus. "The restoration has been under way for several months and we are beginning to see species of wildlife returning to the area."

The University Campus Wetlands Group has also approved the construction of a covered area to be used as an outdoor classroom, and gardening staff have begun to beautify the Wetlands foreshore.

"The site is responding well to rehabilitation, to become a healthy environment for wildlife, as well as providing the University and the community with a natural aesthetic educational and recreational resource," Professor Maddock said.

The University Wetlands is becoming a haven for wildlife as it is slowly rehabilitated. Our pictures show some of the animals which are returning to the area.
Convocation Mementoes

Standing Committee of Convocation has produced a range of fine quality mementoes of the University which feature the University’s Coat of Arms. By purchasing these items (see below) you will be helping to support Convocation and also the University. The items can be sent as gifts to members of families and friends if the necessary details are supplied. No charge is made for postage.

- **Glass Commemorative Plate** (hand blown) $30
- **Glass Paperweight** (hand blown) $12
- **Teak Wall Plaque with metal crest** $35
- **Champagne Flutes** — set of six (embossed with University name and crest) $40
- **Desk Note Pad with Pen** (embossed with University name and crest) $10
- **Telephone & Address Book — with Pen** (embossed with University name and crest) $8
- **Schaeffer Pen** (embossed with University name and crest) $5
- **Sketchbook of the University Campus** (drawings by Allan Gamble) $7
- **Greeting Cards** — scenes of the University (set of six) $3
- **Academic Dress - by K.R. Dutton** (origins and history of academic dress) $3

Please tick the memento/mementoes you wish to purchase, and give the number required. Complete the form below and either send it together with your remittance or debit the cost to your Mastercard or Bankcard. Cheques should be made payable to Convocation, and sent to Convocation Office, McMullin Building, The University of Newcastle, New South Wales, 2308.

**Name and full delivery details (postal address, not P.O. Box):**

**NAME:** .......................................................... **ADDRESS:** ..........................................................

**POST CODE:** .................. **MASTERCARD/BANKCARD No.** ..........................................................

**EXPIRY DATE:** .................. **SIGNED:** ..........................................................