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VENTURE TO THE

The University camping and study tour of the Red Centre. Our story and pictures appear on pages 11/12/13.

Cover picture: Malcolm Smith and Uncle Bert Marr were two of the dancers in the coroboree held at the University in October. At 16, and initiated only last year, Malcolm was the youngest dancer; Uncle Bert, in his 70s, was among the oldest.
A MESSAGE FROM
THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

From the 12th century, when the first universities began to appear in Europe, one of their defining characteristics has been that students travel from many countries, from farms and villages and cities, to study.

The first recognisable university, Bologna, had attracted through its reputation for legal instruction students from perhaps 14 countries by 1189, when strict guidelines were published fixing the rents of students who were not natives of the city.

In 1990, the University of Newcastle enjoyed the presence of students from countries throughout Asia, from America, from the South Pacific and even a small number from Europe. Such students add greatly to the University. They share an interest in learning, but they are not homogenous in what they have learnt previously; like the foreigners who travelled to the first universities, Bologna and Paris, they bring challenging and stimulating views.

So too do the thousands who come to Newcastle from interstate and around New South Wales.

Unfortunately, the days when a university could fix rents for students in the town have long passed out of memory and into the history books.

This became a matter of crucial importance to Newcastle in 1990, because the earthquake of December, 1989 destroyed a great deal of the rental stock in the city.

Those with memories of the former University College at Tighes Hill will recall the Cross Keys Hotel, where not only did the staff enjoy the company of students but many lived. Many fondly remembered staff, like Emeritus Professor Brin Newton-John, lived at the Cross Keys when they first arrived to take up their posts.

The Cross Keys no longer exists, a victim of the earthquake.

Traditionally, students in Newcastle have sought rented accommodation along the bus route from the inner city west to Shortland. The earthquake did its greatest damage in these very areas, the low-lying suburbs where a great number of the city's older buildings stood. Hamilton, for example, suffered most dramatically, indeed tragically.

The University got off relatively lightly on December 28, 1989: damage to the buildings was estimated at more than $10 million, but we were spared the serious injuries and fatalities which the city will always remember.

Even before the academic year resumed, however, it was obvious that accommodation would be a critical difficulty for a great number of students.

It is fatuous to say that an earthquake could not have come at a worse time: is there ever a good time for a disaster? But the accommodation crisis could not have arisen at a more difficult time in the University's history, with the amalgamation of the Hunter Institute, the University and the Conservatorium about to face its first academic year.

The University has had halls of residence for many years. With amalgamation, the number of students at the University doubled, but the accommodation available on campus did not increase simply by virtue of amalgamation and the accommodation available in the city had just been seriously depleted.

The net result has been that only four per cent of the student body can be housed on campus, a long way short of the ten per cent the University would like to accommodate.

University Village was created to cater for some of the overflow from the devastation of the city. It was a temporary facility and had to be removed. The site of University Village was not developed for long-term accommodation: it has problems with drainage, there are no paths leading to this most distant point of the campus, it has no landscaping.

In short, it would not serve as accommodation of an acceptable standard in the long term, and the University could not condone the existence of what would eventually deteriorate into a favela, a shanty town.

However, even without University Village, the University enters 1991 able to house more students on campus than it could at the beginning of 1990 with the Village. Evatt House, the newest accommodation on campus, has helped greatly. More needs to be done.

A master plan for the Shortland site, prepared by the architects Eckford Johnson suggests that even if we were to cover the area of the campus available for student housing with two-storey buildings, we should still fall short of accommodating ten per cent of students.

An examination of the newer accommodation, which provides facilities for residents to cater for themselves rather than having all meals provided, as in Edwards Hall, shows that they reduce the
cost of providing each bed by about one-quarter. This is no small saving when we look at accommodating some 1,500 students in a few years.

It seems that the student residences we must build will be quite different from the model with which the University began.

The University Council has given its approval to a fourth hall of residence, to be added to Edwards Hall, International House and Ewart House.

On this occasion, the University will seek what might be termed in contemporary parlance, sponsorship. In effect, we are seeking a return to an older University tradition, the provision of student accommodation by bodies such as religious groups.

Colleges at Cambridge and Oxford have had many religious associations, although they were as likely in the universities' early days to have been founded by the King as by a bishop; colleges at Australia's older universities, such as Sydney and Melbourne are almost all controlled by churches.

We must build for a new century.

Today, one student in three drives a car to the University, something of which their parents would not have dreamed. Parking is likely to be the single biggest factor inhibiting the University's future development.

The Newcastle Buses division of the State Transit Authority has recognised that, with 13,500 students and 1,500 staff, the University is the single biggest generator of demand for transport in Newcastle, and its expanding routes and timetables benefit the University considerably, opening up new areas of the city where students without their own vehicles may feasibly live.

If their railway counterparts would recognise the same fact by opening a station at, say, Warabrook, the position for students living on the line to Maitland would improve considerably.

But, as the University's reputation as a centre of excellence grows, so does the demand for student places, and the University must do what it can to accommodate at least some of the students — more than one in three of our current enrolments — who come from outside the region, not to mention those from Newcastle who do not live at home.

There is much that the local community can do to help. To some, unfortunately, renting a room has connotations of taking in a lodger to help through the Depression; perhaps it would be more appropriate if they thought in terms of the post-war period, where housing returned soldiers was seen as a community responsibility.

The concept of communal responsibility is the basis of many university colleges and the reason they have often been established by churches.

Perhaps, as we approach the 21st century, we may find a new collaborative path for the provision of accommodation, perhaps with a church, perhaps with one, perhaps with other bodies — major companies, for instance — which find the provision of accommodation for students an appropriate expression of their civic responsibilities.

It is imperative that the University do all it can in this area. The possibility of copying past models — our own or Oxford's or Bologna's — is constrained by the fact that this is 1991, not 1189 or even 1965; but the potentialities that 1991 gives us are unconstrained and their exploration should prove invigorating.

Office for Overseas Students

Whereas overseas students are counselled in their own countries to prepare them for "culture shock" when coming to Australia, at this end there is a helping hand too.

The Office for Overseas Students has been established on the campus, under the supervision of Hon. Pro Vice-Chancellor (Development), Dr Les Eastcott, to help overseas students achieve their educational goals at the University.

The office concentrates on marketing the University's higher educational services to prospective full-fee paying students from overseas countries, particularly Asian countries.

The staff of the office includes the Director, Mr Brian Freedman, a Secretary, a Student Welfare Officer, a Student Adviser, Administrative Officers and are responsible for student affairs and liaison with the Academic Registrar, for International Relations.

Full-fee paying students are a great asset to the University. They have provided income which has been directed towards residential accommodation for all students and the development of the new infrastructure services for the benefit of all students of the University.

After satisfying the University's requirements in respect of English language, prospective overseas students must either pass an English language test, and fulfil at least comparable academic criteria as Australian students entering the University. Those who fail the English language test but fulfil the other criteria may be required to study for a period through the University of Newcastle English Language Centre.

The Office for Overseas Students helps the overseas students to adjust to life in Australia, beginning at the initial stage of departing from their home countries, including airport reception and being assisted with accommodation and encouraged to get to know their fellow students.

The Hunter Committee for Overseas Students (HCOS) meets regularly to discuss overseas student matters.

HCOS is run by students who are predominately the elected members of the various overseas student associations on campus.

The Committee is subsidised by the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau to co-ordinate activities to enable students to settle in to the new way of life at the University.

Represented on HCOS are a number of student associations, including the Malaysian, Indonesian, Hong Kong, Singaporean, Thai, Korean, Indian Sub-continent and South Pacific Islanders Associations.

Ms Catherine Brown (the Overseas Student Welfare Officer) and Ms Alice Munnings (the Overseas Student Adviser) are employed specifically to assist overseas students.
University of Newcastle English Language Centre

The University of Newcastle has an outstanding name for its intensive short-term English language programs for overseas students.

Since it was established in 1988, the Hunter English Language Centre at the University has provided personalised care and attention for these newcomers in programs which include reception at the airport and leisure activities.

The Centre has been accredited by the Australian Government to provide a number of ELICOS English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) programs - part of the Government's initiative to sell Australian education globally.

The Director of the Hunter English Language Centre, Dr Doug Absalom, said several developments had taken place to cope with the strong demand for the Centre's programs. From early in 1991 the Centre would have a name change - to the University of Newcastle English Language Centre - and would be re-located to a down-town location. This re-location has become necessary because of the space demands and growing enrolments.

"We are looking at a continuing enrolment of 150 overseas students a year", he said.

Because the students' needs were very different, the Centre would offer a wider variety of courses, ranging in length from four to 55 weeks.

Dr Absalom outlined the main activities of the Centre as follows:

- Teaching English for academic purposes so students could participate in lectures and seminars, and write essays and research reports at tertiary levels.
- Teaching English for general international purposes within the community (often called "survival" English).
- Teaching English for functional purposes within business or technical college environments (for people who can do more than "survive").
- Teaching English for cultural purposes to (varying groups) including tourists, school students and senior citizens.

A further important function of the Centre is its Research and Inservice component which analyses second language acquisition, contributes to University courses in teaching ESL, and assists lecturers who have difficulty with the changing cultural aspects of their student population.

Established by the former Hunter Institute for Higher Education, the Hunter English Language Centre admitted its first overseas students late in 1988, the course running for 10 weeks over the Christmas vacation.

Many of the foundation students then made a transition from the Centre to the Health Sciences (Nursing) course, which then took them two years to complete.

The Centre employs a number of experienced English as a Second Language teachers and its programs make use of a fully-equipped Language Laboratory and a number of computer-assisted, self-access language learning devices.

Dr Absalom said that the Federal Government, under the auspices of the International Development Plan (IDP), was endeavouring to establish what was called Australian Educational Centres in some overseas countries in Asia.

By incorporating the ELICOS programs in the work done by the centres, some overseas students would be able to develop an adequate knowledge of English before they left home to study in Australia.

Dr Absalom said the University had also been invited to become the Hunter provider of the Intensive English Language Testing System (IELTS), a program which indicated whether the students had sufficient ability in English to be admitted to University.

"This is a truly international test of a person's ability in English, which is recognised in universities in Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and America", he said.

Where our students came from in 1990

A survey of the postcodes of home addresses given by students showed, as expected, that most came from Newcastle and Lake Macquarie, but a number of unexpected results also appeared.

The third-highest number of enrolments came from the Sydney region rather than the Lower Hunter, although the number of students from the Hunter as a whole still exceeded the number from Sydney.

Overseas students in 1990 numbered 619. However, many of these - more than one in five - are pursuing postgraduate courses or research, and the number at the University at any one time varies according to their individual programs.

Taking into account the overseas students, it is clear that at least one student in three has to live away from home to attend the University of Newcastle. Notwithstanding the development of the Central Coast campus at Ourimbah, which attracts students from the local area and from northern Sydney, there are thousands of students whose "home" postcodes represent their accommodation away from home, even when "home" is within the Newcastle area.

The necessity of developing further accommodation for students, both on and off the Shortland campus, as the number of courses offered by the University increases and as the University's reputation continues to grow, cannot be denied.
The Asian Education Market

The University is playing a key role in the provision of academic expertise and training for students from Asia.

It has established institutional links with a Chinese university and a teachers' college in China, two Korean universities, a Japanese university, a teachers' college in Thailand and the Thai Education Department. Further partnerships are planned in Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia and with a Korean Junior Health College.

The income from Asian students who paid full fees for tuition at the University in 1991 will exceed $4 million. In 1990, 280 full-fee-paying students from outside Australia were enrolled.

But even established institutional links do not translate directly into enrolments, and enrolments from overseas are worth more to the University than simply the fees they bring.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Keith Morgan, said the building of educational relationships with the Asian University sector was proving to be a great asset to Newcastle, creating a student population with a broader range of interests and more opportunities for access to major centres of research.

In the past eight months, Professor Morgan visited Japan and Korea to look at several top universities, while the presiding officer of the Academic Senate, Professor Ron McDonald, visited two leading technology universities in Korea. It is ten years since the University reached its first co-operative agreement with an Asian university, Kumamoto University in Japan. Under the agreement, students from Kumamoto study in the Department of Modern Languages for a year, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the partnership, the number of Japanese students coming to Newcastle has increased from four to five a year.

The forty Kumamoto students who have studied at the University of Newcastle outnumber the students who have taken part in any other exchange agreement between Australia and Japan.

The former Hunter Institute of Higher Education also enjoyed links with overseas institutions and one of the benefits of amalgamation has been to bring together the agreements arranged by the two institutions and to unite Newcastle's efforts to attain further exchanges.

The International Students' Office, under the supervision of Dr Les Eastcott, has done much of the groundbreaking in the unfamiliar territories of Asia.

One major objective in establishing institutional links is to establish through them the credibility of the University of Newcastle in Asian minds. To cement relations, involvement at all levels is required.

While in Japan, the Vice-Chancellor had discussions with senior officers of Kumamoto and Yamaguchi Universities. A link between the Faculties of Engineering at Newcastle and Yamaguchi had existed previously, but general agreement was reached during Professor Morgan's visit on extending this to full university links.

Professor Morgan said the Japanese Government had provided a significant number of scholarships to Newcastle students who studied Japanese, allowing them to undertake study programs in Japan.

A co-operation document had been signed with Zing Zan University in China, Professor Morgan said. Although Zing Zan was yet to send students to Newcastle, the University was glad to play a role in encouraging educational links in this part of Asia.

Good relations had been established with institutions in Korea, with a view to increasing significantly the enrolment of Korean students at Newcastle and to encourage the exchange of postgraduate students.

Following the work done by the former HIHE, the University now enjoys a well-developed exchange agreement with Ewha Women's University in Seoul, Professor Morgan said.

Established in 1886, Ewha has 15,500 undergraduates and 230 postgraduate students. With its own 600-bed hospital, Ewha is regarded as the premier institution in Korea for women, particularly in the field of nursing. For this reason, the Director of the School of Health, Jenny Graham, was closely involved in establishing the first links with the University.

To have Newcastle linked with Ewha ensures that Newcastle's Health Studies are held in high regard by Koreans. Professor Morgan said an important component of the exchange agreement with Ewha was the proposal for a joint Bachelor of Nursing program, which would involve students being taught at both Ewha's College of Nursing and the University. The proposed program could begin operating shortly.

Professor MacDonald visited Korea to see first-hand the University's marketing to potential full-fee-paying students.

He concentrated on developing an understanding of the Korean senior school system, which should help the University determine standards for the offer of places at Newcastle.

"We probably know more about this now than most universities in Australia, so our marketing in Korea can be better targeted than theirs," he said.

Professor MacDonald also visited KAIST, a top-level institute for science and technology, and POSTECH, the Pohang University of Science and Technology.

POSTECH has already established links with the City of Newcastle: there is a "sister port" relationship between Pohang and Port Hunter, and BHP played a significant part in the development of the steelworks in Pohang.

Professor MacDonald said the owner of the steelworks was also the creator of POSTECH, a modern university superbly equipped, with a student-to-staff ratio of 5:1, and which recruits from the top one per cent of Korean matriculants.

He said work was continuing on the development of strong links between both KAIST and POSTECH and the University of Newcastle.

Professor Allan Roberts, Director of the School of Engineering, will visit both institutions soon.

Mr Michael Dudman, Dean of the Faculty of Music, will also be visiting Korea to help establish the University's name less technical areas.

The University expects to chart new territory this year by accepting Equity and Merit Scholarship holders, mainly from Nepal and Sri Lanka; a special link with the Maldives is anticipated, with the Government there providing a number of scholarships to enable local students to study at Newcastle; and the International Students Office will continue to pursue other Asian links, particularly in Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore.
Seoul company brings students to this University

A Seoul company with a very high reputation for handling arrangements for students enrolling at universities in Australia says the University of Newcastle is establishing its own high reputation in Korea.

ISEP Korea works closely with the University's Office for Overseas Students and has helped the University considerably in boosting its Korean student numbers. ISEP Korea distributes material on the University to government, universities and schools in Korea and, when students are offered places at Newcastle, the company provides counselling and help in relation to passports, air tickets and other travel considerations.

The President of ISEP Korea, Mr I.K. Kim, said the University of Newcastle's name was highly regarded in Korea as a result of the work done by the Office for Overseas Students and in particular its Director, Mr Brian Freedman.

He said his company should be able to provide the University with about 30 students for its English language and Nursing programs this year. In addition, more than 50 students were expected to enrol in the new joint nursing course to be taught in both Korea and Newcastle.

"The number will increase in future with the introduction of the foundation program to prepare Korean students for study at the University. Only the University of Newcastle seems to understand the requirements of Korea at the moment".

Mr Kim said all of his school counsellors had visited Australia and obtained experience of the Australian education system. "We help the students who are going to Australia to get passports and visas, and book their air tickets to Newcastle."

"With more than 50 courses, the University of Newcastle can offer almost every thing students want".

Mr Kim said ISEP Korea was located in Seoul and had virtually "introduced" Australian educational programs in Korea. His office was made up of counsellors and staff totalling about 20 people.

Korea was a dynamic industrialised country with a population of 42 million people and there was a strong demand for opportunities to enrol in education programs in foreign countries.

ISEP Korea now worked virtually for the University of Newcastle alone. The company had initiated discussions with prospective students in schools and colleges in Korea and with their parents, giving advice on the preparations that should be made before going to Australia.

He believed that there was a potential for 150 to 200 Korean students a year wanting to broaden their qualifications at the University of Newcastle.

The University's Korean connection, now well-established, should be strengthened considerably this year when about 100 Korean students are expected to enrol in educational programs in the Schools of Health and Education.

The Korean Students' spokesperson is Mr Eom, President of the Korean Students' Association, who completed a Master of Industrial Education degree last year.

Mr Eom, President of the Korean Students' Association

Mr Eom said he hoped to return in 1991 with members of his family to study for a PhD degree in Industrial Relations.

He said a large part of the Korean Students' Association comprised men and women who were bachelor degree and diploma students in Nursing. Before enrolling at Newcastle they had graduated from universities or junior colleges in Korea.

"Most are very happy studying at the University of Newcastle, where some stay in residential colleges or off-campus (in private homes)"

"I am most impressed by the Auchmuty Library, as well as the methodology used to teach industrial art. It should be easy to apply what I have learned back home in Korea".

With a total of 45 members last year, the Korean Students' Association has been very active.

Mr Eom said that after helping new students to find their way around the Shortland campus, the Association staged Australian/Korean goodwill functions and social outings for its members.

"We are the first Korean students to become residents of Newcastle and our numbers will increase considerably", he said. "Having accumulated very good experiences in our first year here, we will have the opportunity to spread knowledge of life in Australia."
ACCELERATED LEARNING
A DYNAMIC WAY OF TEACHING LANGUAGES

When Lecturer in Chinese, Frances Huang, commences a lecture, you can be sure that she won't extend a conventional greeting to her students, nor will she follow traditional methods of conveying her message to them and it certainly won't be in English.

She is more likely to play some baroque music, get her students involved in physical relaxation and mind-calming exercises and set a very different scene before the introduction of any formal lecture material. If this seems different — it is! And it is showing results that have surpassed expectations in end-of-year marks, student participation and enthusiasm and fluency.

The 29 students enrolled in a new course at the University, the Bachelor of Education (Languages/Asian and Cultural Studies), have enjoyed the benefits of Frances's enthusiasm for the teaching method known as Accelerated Learning. Pioneered by Bulgarian medical practitioners and psychiatrist, Dr Georgi Lozanov, in the mid 60's, and developed by many others, it has been widely accepted in America, particularly in tertiary institutions, and is now becoming more widely known throughout Australia.

Frances says it involves a two-part method. The first part is the introduction of relaxation, music and mind-calming techniques followed by the introduction of new material in a dynamic way. The second part is the employment of the newly learned material through activities, games, plays, music and other means.

"Baroque music ensures that the information is stored in the long term memory and creates an environment conducive to learning," says Frances. Of the first group of students to experience the revolutionary teaching method, 78% say they have learned more or much more than expected while the remaining 22% say they have learned as much as they expected. All have gained invaluable experience both academically and culturally and almost all students are quite competent in Mandarin Chinese after one year.

Frances says the method has the potential to revolutionise our future educational systems in the 21st century. It's obvious there is a strong bond between Frances and her students. At the end of the academic year, the students presented a series of sketches, performed in Mandarin Chinese, which featured everyday facets of life: a birthday party, television advertisements, a cooking demonstration, a fashion parade, and many other snippets.

"I also set my students the task of presenting a five-minute talk in Mandarin without notes, researching material, setting the correct environment and preparing the material. This could have been a daunting task but all students met the challenge."

Over the four years of the course, students gain fluency in Mandarin Chinese, study East Asian society and Chinese history and culture, geography and economics. They have the option of learning a second language and gain practical skills for teaching a second language as well as experience in Teaching English as a Second Language. They will become trained secondary school teachers of Chinese.

A highlight of the course is that students are required to spend the last semester of the study in an Asian setting, preferably Chinese.

Method Applied To The Teaching of Other Languages
As a result of her success Frances and the Dean of the School of Education, Dr Jack Caldwell, were invited to speak and demonstrate at the Regional Language Teachers' Conference late last year.

At the conference, more than 60 foreign language teachers gained an insight into the teaching method. The teachers of German, French, Japanese, Chinese, Indonesian, Greek and Italian were interested in how the methodology could be applied to all language teaching.

"It takes people some time to absorb and become comfortable with the technique," says Frances. "But when they do, so much can be achieved," she says.

THE CONCEPT OF ACCELERATED LEARNING

It has been widely accepted that conventional teaching has assumed that learning should involve determined concentration and frequent repetition. Accelerated Learning, in contrast, teaches how to achieve a pleasantly relaxed, yet receptive state of mind. It presents new material so that it is absorbed readily by both the left and right brain and by both the conscious and subconscious mind. Learning is achieved with less conscious effort.

The method has developed from findings of psychological researchers including the Nobel Prize Winners, Dr Roger Sperry and Dr Robert Ornstein, Dr Georgi Lozanov and Professor Donald Schuster who asserts that the method achieves at least 300% improvement in the speed and effectiveness of learning.

With memorable visual and sound associations, the student absorbs the material in the conscious and subconscious mind. Educational information is positioned so it can be absorbed by peripheral vision, and sentences are short and rhythmical because such items are easily remembered.

Basic theories of the method are that learning should be characterized by joy and the absence of tension; as humans, we operate with conscious and subconscious levels; and suggestion is the means to use the normally unused reserves of the mind for increased learning.

In practice the method requires the teacher to create an initially favourable atmosphere before presenting the material to be learned. With a totally positive attitude the teacher communicates an integrated message at conscious and subconscious levels, and verbal and non-verbal levels. The students prepare themselves prior to the presentation of didactic material by several methods, physically relaxing exercises, mind-calming exercises and restimulation of previous pleasant learning experiences.

In the presentation phase the material to be learned is presented in a holistic way on the same day; review of previous material, dynamic presentation of new material and repetition of new material to be learned in a passive, but receptive, state. Typically, everyday material that is positive and of interest to the students is chosen and is presented with imagery as well as drama to reinforce meaning and support long-term retention.

Students are given fictitious names, personalities and biographies so that when they make a mistake, "they" do not make the mistake; this helps to eliminate embarrassment and fear of failure.

Control quizzes are given on an ungraded basis and are scored by the students themselves. Thus, again, fear of failure is eliminated. Grades are given only on the basis of final tests.

The method is successful in that a 'snowball' effect is created. The student's learning ability gains momentum from initial success by learning more effectively from these unusual techniques. This produces students with a very high degree of learning retention and also with a love of learning and confidence in their abilities.
Newcastle's team made a clean sweep of the opposition in the 1990 University Challenge quiz competition.

Without the support of ABC television, universities in New South Wales organised their own competition along the lines of the original series.

The only team to defeat the students from Newcastle was a team of professors — also from Newcastle. The University of New South Wales came close but, in a nail-biting finish, pioneered the path to defeat which Sydney, Macquarie and Wollongong would soon follow.

The competition prompted a series of selection matches held in the bar of the Shortland Union at lunchtime. This was not the quiz game "as seen on TV": the aspiring team members had to cope with the conviviality of the bar at lunchtime and sometimes-rowdy audiences of up to 100; there was spirited barracking and the distraction of spectators audibly murmuring the answers - usually the wrong answers - to questions; in sum, the atmosphere resembled the Colosseum on a Roman holiday.

But from such testing conditions are champion teams born.

Mr Mark Priest, a second-year Science student, captained the team again and Mr Noel Leggett, in his second year of Modern Languages, also backed up from the 1989 team which reached the finals of the national competition in Hobart.

They were joined by Mr Keith Joseph, a Medicine student, and Mr Stuart Cooper, from Computer Science and Mathematics.

After the team was selected, practice was also provided, again in the bar, by teams representing the Auchmuty Library Staff and from the teaching staff. This latter comprised Professor Frank Bates (Law), who had captained Sheffield University in the British competition in 1966, Professor Ian Plimer (Geology), Associate Professor Colin Keay (Physics) and Associate Professor Norman Talbot (English).

Having been thrashed the first time they met the University team, these professors very gamely fought a return bout a week later and earned the distinction of being the only team to beat the students, albeit narrowly.

Two surprising facts emerged from the competition: first, despite repeated invitations, no women volunteered to risk making fools of themselves on stage; and second, a large number of talented competitors who were knocking on the door of selection gave their support right through the competition.

Mr Priest paid tribute to those who did not quite make the team when he told the Newcastle media it was the standard of competition within Newcastle University which brought the team to a level no other University could match.

The team was also helped by Brother Damian Wilson, one of the University's chaplains. He was regarded as the only suitably unimpeachable person for the vital task of reading the questions, not only in practice but also in the first-round matches against Wollongong and at Kensington.

Plans for the 1991 competition are already under way, with the onus on every other university in Australia to prove any claim they make to being better than Newcastle.

The University's championship team, not risking a hasty answer in practice against the Professors' team (left to right): Mark Priest, Keith Joseph, Stuart Cooper and Noel Leggett.
University’s environmental path mapped by graduate

Dr Diana Day, a member of the University Council elected by Convocation in 1990, has become the first person appointed to the University’s Centre for Environmental Management.

Dr Day’s appointment was announced to Council at its final meeting for 1990, with Dr Day indicating she would take up her post as Senior Research Fellow this February.

A senior policy analyst with the Department of Water Resources at the time of her appointment, Dr Day graduated from the University with an Honours degree in Geography and a Diploma in Education. She obtained her doctorate in catchment hydrology and management from the University of New England.

Her environmental policy research at the Australian National University included an examination of the Hunter regional environment, further enhancing her qualifications for the task of establishing a path for the Centre for Environmental Management.

The Hunter provided an excellent base for exploring methods of environmental management, Dr Day said.

“It has a major centre of population, a great deal of agricultural and mining activity, it generates 75 per cent of the State’s power, it is one of Australia’s premier manufacturing areas and it has important and beautiful natural resource assets, such as beaches, lakes, rivers and a harbour.

“There’s a complex interaction of environments.”

The University currently offers two undergraduate degree courses specifically in the environmental area, Environmental Assessment and Management and Environmental Science, as well as a Masters degree in Environmental Studies, articulated programs within New South Wales secondary schools and post-experience programs in areas such as coal combustion, water resource management and environmental health.

One of Dr Day’s tasks in the Centre for Environmental Management will be to look at the courses available to ensure that optimum use is being made of the diverse talents within the University.

“There is a wealth of talent working in these areas at the University. We must be confident that our skills and our facilities are used to achieve the greatest possible effect.”

Dr Day said the work of the Centre would be of benefit to the Hunter, because it would address problems that existed in the region. No other research institution in Australia was able to apply itself so directly to regional environments, she said.

“The Hunter is unique because of its multiple land uses, regional cohesion and the close relationship between the University and the rest of the community and the spirit of co-operation.”

However, the work of the Centre would not end there.

“Its research output, teaching programs and expertise in providing government and industry with policy advice can be applied to other regions of the State, interstate and internationally, because many of these environmental problems are universal,” she said.

Dr Day acknowledged the existence of dozens of community groups in the region with an interest in environmental issues as well as industry groups and government bodies, State and local. Everyone was interested in the environment and individuals could make a difference to environmental goals, she said.

“The Centre will be liaising with government, industry and local bodies. They will be consulted in relation to Centre activities.

“And I’ll be promoting regional problems, to get to their solutions.

“Water quality, atmospheric pollution, land degradation and new land uses - these are physical problems but they can also be political and social problems.

“The environment is a community asset, so all sectors must have an input into its management.

“The Centre will not shirk balanced analysis of conflict and alternatives in good management solutions.

“Questions of ‘sustainability’, better technical education, better technological transfer and better communication will be of substantial interest to the Centre.”

The Centre for Environmental Management is being established by the University to accommodate expansion within the area of applied sciences and to integrate environmental programs into studies in economics and information sciences and into wider curricula.

Without a coherent, research-based appraisal of environmental phenomena, their inter-relationships and their social and economic consequences, agitation for change in environmental practice risks becoming an ineffective reaction to costs and antiquated management responses.

An increasing understanding of environmental issues has, however, sparked a desire on the part of government and industry to ensure that industrial practices and policy conform to environmentally sound principles. The community is now well behind the shift in management values to balanced development decisions.

Consequently, the demand for trained scientists and managers will increase while at the same time the demand for further research and examination of possible improvements in environmental practice will, the University hopes, be met by developments such as the establishment of the Centre for Environmental Management.
VENTURE TO THE Heart of the Outback

"Each wildflower becomes part of a Grand Nature"

Gould’s sand goanna awaits a feast at a rabbit warren

Convoy team members stand on the bed of Lake Eyre. Mr Don McNair, Team Leader, looks at the lake sediments.
Their eyes light up when they talk about the odyssey they made.

An expedition from the University took a four-wheel drive camping and study tour of the Red Centre early last summer. They found a vast arid region full of great experiences.

The "outback convoy" was arranged by the Department of Community Programmes and 35 people including seven young people were transported for 2,300 kms in 11 sturdy 4WDs.

Mr Don McNair, Honorary Associate in Biological Sciences, and a former Convocation Visiting Scholar, escorted the safari. Mr Keith Davey, of the Instructional Media Unit, and Mr Herbert Heinrich and Ms Anne Young, of the Department of Expressive Arts and Design, gave expert tuition on arid landscape and wildlife.

It was intended that the safari explore an overland route from Broken Hill to Lake Eyre, via Mootwingee, Tibooburra, Fort Grey, the Strezelecki Track, Marree and Lake Eyre.

Rain many weeks earlier had flooded creeks in Queensland, which drain into Lake Eyre. Despite Coopers Creek being in flood, the convoy reached the lake and found it was still dry. Such are the vast distances of the inland.

Mr McNair said some of the most memorable features of the 10-day excursion were:

- Mootwingee (about 130 kms north east of Broken Hill - a right turn off the Silver City Highway). Muriel Bates, a ranger, showed the visitors some of the sites in the park that are significant to Aboriginal culture.
- Tibooburra, a town in the extreme north-west of New South Wales. The travellers camped in Dead Horse Gully in the Sturt National Park.
- Fort Grey. A dry lake and some startling red sanddunes were inspected on the fringe of the Strezelecki Desert.
- The Bus Stop. (A double-decker bus was taken there by surveyors and abandoned.) The Merti Merti Sandunes are as red as a fire engine and a most interesting example of arid zone ecology.
- The Strzelecki Track. The party from the University traversed the Cobbler Desert on the Track and the members had a swim in an artesian bore at Monte Collina. Soon after the safari reprovisoned at Leigh Creek.
- Marree, where the 520 kms Birdsville Track begins. This is a former transhipping centre and the last resting place of the Ghan, the old train that used to run to Alice Springs, and several other locos.
- Coopers Creek. The site of the ferry was an oasis. A camp was set-up among the wild budgerigars. The sunrises and sunsets were dazzling.
- Lake Eyre. The Newcastle visitors spent two nights studying plants and animals such as the big red kangaroo. At this point, the lake had not started to receive the floodwater.

Mr McNair said he believed that taking part in the safari, which wound up with a trip to the Flinders Ranges, had turned the participants into devoted naturalists.

On these pages we offer access to some of the secrets of the Outback through sketches executed and photographs taken on the track.
Free dunes on Merti-Merti station

"Fort Grey near Cameron's Corner - a testament to human endurance"

"Western New South Wales appears as a carpet of wildflowers"

Photographs by Herbert Heinrich and Anne Young of Wildlife Encounters.

Sketch by former Lecturer in Architecture, Mr Henry Clarke, executed during the extended tour of The Outback.
Let's keep applied research bubbling

Australia needs more people like Professor Graeme Jameson. His approach is a salutary reminder that solving the world's practical problems stimulates further research.

Professor Jameson is a scientist who believes that each person like him should be doing both pure and applied science, especially in Australia in an age where new technology is needed to provide employment.

Precisely, he is a chemical engineer and has filled a Chair at the University of Newcastle for the past 12 years.

What's more, Professor Jameson recognises that success in research springs from good, old-fashioned hard work. In the space of the past 30 years he has studied bubbles. There is something intrinsically absurd about the notion of people spending their lives studying bubbles, he explains, yet bubbles are of enormous importance for Australia.

The flotation process relies on the peculiar properties of bubbles. It is responsible for the production of all of our copper, lead, zinc, nickel and tin and part of our gold and coal and other minerals and is worth about one billion dollars a year in exports.

Professor Jameson researched and designed a device which uses flotation to separate minerals from rock. Called the Jameson Cell, the invention creates bubbles which collect the minerals and wastes away the impurities.

The radical new device is simpler, cheaper and more effective than conventional means of separating minerals and is now being used widely in Australia and overseas.

He believes the key significance of the Jameson Cell is that it provides useful employment in our own country and can service export markets.

"In the development of new technology, it is not sufficient just to have a good idea, a technical breakthrough or an innovative concept. For an idea to become a practical reality, it has to fall on a receptive environment. It will not be taken up by an industry unless there is some kind of back-up unless it satisfies a need or solves someone's problem."

"The quickest way for acceptance is for the innovator to work with a company which can use the technology in its own operations, and which has the resources to develop its potential. Research has little value where there is an industrial infrastructure to support it. There is little point in developing new technology only for it to be sold overseas."

Professor Jameson is a strong believer in the importance of mining and agriculture to Australia's export industry.

"Because we already have a toe-hold in mining and agriculture, I believe that they will offer us the quickest and best returns on our research dollars, and it is in these areas that we should be concentrating our efforts.

"Our industrial base is in reality narrow and weak, with a few peaks here and there. Although in time the base will spread, this can only happen through the income generated by our limited range of successful operators on the world scene."

"I firmly believe that each individual scientist should be doing both pure and applied work. It is the applied work which continually provides the challenges and insights to stimulate pure science."

"As a timely example, I should say that the world-wide preoccupation with the greenhouse effect will, I believe, paradoxically open up new opportunities for selling clean Australian coal and Australian clean coal technology. We must not let these opportunities slip away."

Professor Jameson says scientists and engineers should show accountants and lawyers, who run businesses, the way in which Australia can produce more tradable goods. However, he says, they are being held back through their inhibitions and attitudes.

"I did my PhD at the University of Cambridge", he says. "I can claim to be part of a continuous stream of scientists, which included illustrious mathematicians and physicists such as G.I. Taylor, Horace Lamb, Lord Rayleigh and G.G. Stokes - back to Newton and beyond."

"Each made lasting and original contributions to science and not one shirked practical problems. Indeed, if you read their papers, they seemed to revel in practical ordinary life as a source of interesting problems to work on. Stokes for example, derived the equations which describe the motion of fluids. They are of universal value for the fluids of ordinary life, and may be used, for example, to predict the courses of storms or the mysteries of flight. But in his original paper, Stokes was trying to predict the drag force on a swinging pendulum, as a means of designing better timepieces, and the equations were derived as a means to this end."

"Taylor, Lamb, Stokes, and Newton were all recognised in their time by receiving knighthoods. However, the honours were bestowed not for the excellence of their mathematics or physics, but for services to the community."

Professor Jameson is critical of the notion that science can somehow be broken into two parts - "pure" science, driven only by curiosity, and "applied" science, a peculiarly modern view, he says which has taken root firmly in Australia.

"It is a mistaken view, which has held back the development of science in this country and limited the ability of science to help the Australian community."

"I firmly believe that each individual scientist should be doing both pure and applied work. It is the applied work which continually provides the challenges and insights to stimulate pure science."

"I have no intention of abandoning this work. But, if some little pearl, such as the Jameson Cell, should roll out of one of the scientific oysters I am trying to prise open, I would be delighted to pursue its industrial application with the same vigour with which I pursue my science."

He strongly believes he should try to follow Lamb, Rayleigh, Stokes etc and do the fine examples they have set, and involve himself in important practical problems of the present.

"For it is only then that I can expect the public to support my basic research - to subsidise my hobbies, if you like. It is perfectly possible to do work which is at the leading edge of a scientific specialisation and which is at the same time practically relevant."

RESEARCH
The Convocation of the new University of Newcastle took another important early step in its history at a meeting in Hong Kong on December 12.

I am delighted to announce in this issue of UNINEWS that four of our Chinese graduates agreed at that meeting to help form Convocation's first Hong Kong Branch.

The four graduates are Joseph C.S. Fung (BCom), his wife, Loren S.L. Lee (BCom), Simon Lo (BEng) and Connie So (BCom). I made contact with all four over dinner during a week’s holiday in Hong Kong and the timing could not have been better. Simon Lo had already started to organise a reunion dinner for University of Newcastle graduates in that frantic but fascinating city.

Joseph, Loren, Simon and Connie were happy to form the nucleus of a committee to set-up our Hong Kong Branch and to mark the occasion I presented them with one of our University plaques engraved with the words: “From the members of the Convocation of the University of Newcastle in Australia to our fellow graduates in Hong Kong”.

Standing Committee of Convocation played a major role in the formation of a similar branch of Convocation in Singapore two years ago. My predecessor as Warden, Father James Bromley, worked hard on the Singapore project and his efforts were greatly appreciated.

The members of our Hong Kong committee estimate that there are up to 100 University of Newcastle graduates now back in that city. They are optimistic about our chances of getting a high percentage of those graduates together in the New Year to discuss the formation of the new branch.

We have sent them copies of our new constitution adopted by the formation meeting of the new Convocation on September 20, last year.

The proposed Hong Kong Branch will not only keep our graduates in Hong Kong and China in touch with the Newcastle campus but will also greatly assist new graduates wanting to return to Hong Kong from the Hunter Region in search of their chosen careers. The network of contacts set-up by the proposed branch would be of invaluable assistance to future graduands.

Our congratulations go to Dr Peter Ramadge, the winner of the Convocation Medal, and to Dr John Mathieson, the winner of the Newton-John Award.

Dr Ramadge, the son of former Newcastle Maritime Services Board Head, Mr Brian Ramadge, and brother of well-known Newcastle Herald journalist, Paul Ramadge, is one of the world’s most talented engineers.

He is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering at Princeton University.

Dr Mathieson, well-known for his research into bicyclist trauma and for his involvement in the Cycleways Movement, is the Primary Plants Technology Manager of New Zealand Steel Ltd.

Both were selected from an exceptionally strong field of candidates by the judging panels just before Christmas and they will receive their awards at Convocation’s annual dinner at the Shortland Union on March 15.

My sincere thanks go to Standing Committee for handling Convocation affairs so ably during my two months leave overseas.

I am particularly grateful to Mr Brian Adamthwaite, who did such a fine job as Acting Warden and to Convocation Officer, Ms Margaret Wells, who has already proved to be a great asset to our organisation.

Since the formation meeting, Standing Committee has devoted a great deal of time and effort to ensure that we improve communication with our membership.

We have found at all levels a renewed awareness of the fact that the graduate body is the University’s greatest resource and we are giving top priority to bringing our membership register up to date.

Several important steps have also been taken to streamline Convocation’s management structure. These include the election of Mr Ray Hodgins as Honorary Treasurer and the establishment of two sub-committees to deal with specific organisational functions of Standing Committee.

The Activities Sub-committee has already developed a calendar of events for 1991 which embodies all existing major functions and also provided a number of innovations.

The most important of these innovations is the switch from graduation dinner dances to graduation balls in the “grand style” this year.

The balls will be held on Saturdays, May 4 and 11 from 8 pm and the deadline for tickets will be the week before each of those dates.

There has already been a great deal of interest shown in our return to the graduation ball concept after a break of many years so get your tickets as early as possible.

The balls will be held in the new extensions to the Shortland Union and you can get your tickets through the Convocation Office and at the cashiers’ offices at the Shortland and Hunter Unions.

The four members of our Hong Kong Branch formation committee (left to right): Simon Lo, Connie So, Loren Lee and Joseph Fung.

VIC LEVI
Warden of Convocation
Princeton engineer awarded Convocation Medal for 1990

One of the most talented engineers to come from Newcastle, Peter Ramadge, has been awarded the Convocation Medal for professional excellence.

Now an Assistant Professor at Princeton University in the United States, Dr Ramadge received his first degree, a Bachelor of Science, from the University of Newcastle in 1976. Two years later, he won the University Medal with an outstanding pass in his Bachelor of Engineering degree. He was also at this time a visitor in the Division of Applied Sciences at Harvard.

After a further two years of work, again at Newcastle, he was awarded his Master of Engineering degree for his thesis on Discrete-Time Multivariable Adaptive Control.

He then pursued further research in Canada and the University of Toronto awarded his PhD in 1983 for a thesis on Control and Supervision of Discrete Event Processes.

The following year, Dr Ramadge joined the faculty at Princeton as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering.

He was Co-chairman of the 22nd Conference on Information Sciences and Systems held at Princeton in 1988 and has been associate editor of the scientific journal, Systems and Control Letters.

Dr Ramadge has been an invited speaker at conferences in Italy, Sweden and the Netherlands as well as many within the United States, including one workshop organised by NASA. He has been a consultant to the American telephone company IT&T Bell's Mathematics Centre in New Jersey, and has published many conference papers and journal articles.

The Warden of Convocation, Mr Vic Levi, said Dr Ramadge had done an enormous amount in his career to ensure a high regard internationally for the University of Newcastle.

"Dr Peter Ramadge is one of the world's most talented engineers, and his success is a tribute to his determination, his application and his vision.

"His fellow graduates of the University of Newcastle are proud to recognise his achievements with this medal for excellence in his chosen profession.

"The University has long been proud of its Engineering Faculty and it is a tribute to those within the faculty that a talent like Peter Ramadge's was able to develop so fully under their tutelage.

"It is also a reminder that there are great talents here in Newcastle in many fields of endeavour, people who should be allowed to develop and use their abilities, and who deserve the type of recognition the University Convocation is happy to give to Peter Ramadge."
Cycling pioneer wins Newton-John Award

One of the people responsible for the modern bicycle helmet - which became compulsory for all cyclists in New South Wales on January 1 - has won the Newton-John Award for 1990.

Dr John Mathieson represented the BFA on the committees of Standards Australia which laid down the technical requirements for bicycle helmets. Dr Mathieson is also a prominent chemist, who has worked extensively in the steel industry and is currently Manager of Primary Plants Technology for New Zealand Steel Ltd.

He becomes the 16th winner of the Newton-John Award, which remembers the great service given to the University of Newcastle by its former Vice-Principal, Emeritus Professor Brin Newton-John.

Previous winners have included the architect Brian Suters, the gallery owner Anne von Bertouch and the actor Vic Rooney. The last winner, for 1989, was Father Peter Brock, parish priest at Belmont and conductor of the University Choir.

Dr Mathieson, who was born in Trundle in 1946, won the University Medal in 1967 when he obtained First class Honours in his Bachelor of Science degree; he was also awarded the Colonial Sugar Refineries Prize for Chemistry IV that year, to add to his Royal Australian Chemical Institute Prize for Chemistry III.

He did research in Newcastle until 1970 into the physical chemistry of electrolyte solutions and was awarded his PhD for a thesis entitled The Partial Molal Volumes and Viscosities of Aqueous Solution of some Complex Cyanides.

Dr Mathieson was then able to take up a Fellowship at the University of Ottawa where he pursued further research until 1974, when he returned to Australia and a position as Senior Tutor at Monash University in Melbourne. From 1977 to 1986, Dr Mathieson was employed at BHP's Central Research Laboratories in Newcastle.

His work there included research in the field of environmental control (water and air), and iron and steelmaking, and saw him rise to the position of Principal Research Officer, leading large research teams in very large scale trials of blast furnace coal injection.

Leaving the Research Laboratories, Dr Mathieson became Technical Superintendent of Iron and Steel at BHP's Rod and Bar Products Division at Newcastle, responsible for improving the steelmaking process.

He was seconded to New Zealand Steel Ltd in September, 1989 to improve the unique technological processes used there to make iron.

The Warden of Convocation, Mr Vic Levi, said a list of Dr Mathieson's published work made extraordinary reading.

"His work ranges from documents like Volume and Adiabatic Compressibility of Optically Active and Inactive Tartaric Acids and Tartrates to Bicycle Trauma Reduction: The Next Frontier in Road Safety, which he published last year."

"John Mathieson has made outstanding contributions to Newcastle, through his research and his work at BHP, which has always been an important element of our community, and through his vital involvement from its inception in the Newcastle Cycleways Movement."

"But his influence has extended well beyond this region, extending to all corners of Australia and beyond, through his work in both bike safety and in iron and steelmaking."

"Dr John Mathieson has been an indomitable pioneer, not simply generating ideas but pursuing their implementation with great vigour."

"He more than satisfies the criteria for this award of innovation and creativity in any field."
Our Mister Anderson

ON THE STAGE OUT OF TOWN

Ranged around the foyer of the Riverina Playhouse in Wagga Wagga on a night in November 1990 were members of the audience for Multi Function Follies.

It was time for congratulations and most of the attention was focused on Mr Colin Anderson, the Director of the Student Revue.

Colin Anderson cut his teeth on student theatre at the former Newcastle University College at Tighes Hill. He held Teacher's College Scholarship and, after graduating in 1965, had to teach in order to pay back the bond.

In 1972 he enrolled the first students of drama at Riverina College of Advanced Education in Wagga Wagga. Today he is Head of the Department of Drama at the College's successor, Charles Sturt University.

Obviously a man of influence in Wagga Wagga, his photograph has pride of place in the Riverina Play House, an outstanding theatre on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River. The building cost more than $600,000, jointly provided by the New South Wales Government and Charles Sturt University. Multi Function Follies was a very successful student revue, which was presented by Colin's students.

The show was nostalgic for members of the audience who have seen his earlier reviews in Wagga Wagga and Newcastle. Keating, Hawke, Hinch, Hussein and local identities were fiercely satirised, maintaining the traditional temper of a student revue, and well-known songs were mutilated.

Mr Anderson traces the beginning of his career in theatre to the luminaries present at Tighes Hill when he was an enthusiastic undergraduate.

"I worked at the old Newcastle Abattoir and rose to the distinguished position of Chief Bacon Clerk," he said.

"I had left school at 15 and had decided to do my leaving certificate at night school. "My parents were violently opposed to my going to University. They thought I was aspiring far above my station, because University was only for the sons of doctors and lawyers. Most Newcastle parents would have thought the same."

"The College had been put inside 'the Tech' at Tighes Hill on Throsby Creek, where students staged colourful regattas. It was before the bomb blitz in Vietnam and Watergate and the most persistent preoccupation was with autonomy."

The assortment of 'luminaries' busily working for this objective included K. Flanagan, Barry Gordon, Sandra Clarke, Vic Rooney and Maggie Bowman.

"For me, having been bought up at St Andrews Presbyterian Church, to hear speakers like Maggie Bowman who was Newcastle's equivalent to Germaine Greer, was a shattering shock," Colin Anderson says. I grew up over night at Tighes Hill and became politically aware for the first time in my life."

At this time academic staff seem to have had an extraordinary influence on the students. The late Johnstone Johnston Auchmuty said in 1974: "The advantage of those days was that we knew our students and the students knew us and I think in some aspects of education they got a better deal."

Mr Anderson remembers the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and later Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Brin Newton-John and recalls the nights at Tighes Hill - late lectures over, or sessions in the library completed - students would be invited back to Brin's office for a sherry.

"His sherry was not very drinkable, but the hours flew by as we solved artistic, administrative, academic and world problems in an atmosphere full of bonhomie, cheese, biscuits, palls of cigarette smoke and a great deal of laughter."

He remembers T.H. (Harri) Jones the poetry lecturer, who "used to be always half pissed. He'd lean on the lectern with one elbow and he would slur out the poems in a wonderful Welsh accent."

The late Geoff Cranfield gave Colin a love of history that he never thought he would have.

"One of the real personalities you could never forget is Godfrey Tanner. We all 1-1-1-loved Godfrey - a brilliant academic with a wonderful wit a man who loves students and loves student revue."

"There was a period in which the College did not have a Union, and the Cross Keys was the favourite pub. It was absolutely hideous with pale green tiles all round the walls of the bar, but it was our place. We'd go there for a counter lunch and often stayed on."

(The Cross Keys Hotel was demolished on account of damaged caused in the Newcastle earthquake).

Student Colin Anderson recalls being banned from the Library for two days. He was planning a revue for an Autonomy Day prank, he says when Mrs Pat Flowers, the Librarian, addressed him: "Mr Anderson, please be quite."

Although he had thought Mrs Flowers was "a dragon of a lady who ruled the Library with an iron rod"

Pat and Ted Flowers later became mutual friends.

As autonomy was the major issue, the activists were throwing flower bombs and other things at the Vice-Chancellor of the University of New South Wales, the parent institution, Professor Phillip Baxter.

Mr Anderson says he never personally met Professor Baxter. He knew that the Newcastle students hated him.

"We carried effigies of Baxter around and we'd burn them he was a symbol of domination. We were a bit like those fanatics in the Middle East."

On the culture front at Tighes Hill, the College decided to build a Union hall with a stage at one end. The room doubled as a dining area, a refectory and a theatre. There was one wall made out of glass which, Mr Anderson says, wasn't helpful when the lights of cars shone straight into the auditorium.

One of the first staged productions in the union was Macbeth, directed by Dennis Biggins and starring Joyce Williams as Lady Macbeth and John Stowell as Macbeth.

The first College student revue was produced by a student, Sandra Clarke.

Mr Anderson recalls working with Marjorie Biggins on a very successful revue, 8 + 2, so named because it had eight actors and two directors. "We made it a dinner ticket show. People had their dinner and then went into the theatre. It was a huge hit, modelled on Phillip Street Revue, with quick entrances, smart jokes and songs and lots of jokes about Newcastle."
It raised more than eight thousand pounds for lights and curtains for the old Union at Tighes Hill. There should be a plaque on the building which recognises that the cast of the revue raised the money.”

Mr Anderson was a keen supporter of the student newspaper, Opus. As drama critic, he wrote a review of John Laman’s Carousel and commented that the carousel remained permanently out of tune.

Then he reviewed the Newcastle Dramatic Art Clubs production of The Glass Menagerie, which was headed “Shattered Glass.”

“These were real cause celebres,” Colin says. I got filthy letters from people but surprisingly 1 later won the English Department’s prize for the best piece of journalism in that year.” He says that

Mr Colin Anderson - woman bowler (Great Hall, 1974)

The assortment of students who used to present an hour of “really biting, vicious material” are Helen Bell, Jenny Pickering, John Holt, Cynthia Atkin, Janet Rawlings, Judy Rogers, Darrell Taylor and a few others.

“The Alcron allowed us to earn enough money to keep ourselves a little more handsomely than other students were being kept,” Colin said.

In the immediate period following Colin’s graduation he would return to the Alcron to present the New Year’s Eve cabaret.

He says a fundamental thing which he has recognised is how much the student revues influenced his style. “We worked under most stringent conditions, often getting dressed in the kitchen or the corridors. They had rapid-fire scripts, bearing a strong resemblance to the revues which first hit Wagga Wagga in 1972.”

The Tighes Hill students wore causes on their sleeves and took autonomy into the city.

“Our city marches were rather like what the Americans call their Commem Day. It was a chance to get out on the streets and be politically conscious.”

Many of Colin’s friends and family were horrified. “What were you doing parading up Hunter Street dressed in silly clothes? You should be studying”, was a common plaint.

“We had floats and used to parade down the street drawing a lot of attention. It was a very big deal and we threw eggs and kidnapped the Lord Mayor and a few radio announcers. However we always directed the proceeds to worthwhile charities”.

What Mr Anderson loved most of all about Tighes Hill was the tremendous comradeship between students and their fellows and students and staff. “We were encouraged to talk to the lecturers – to want to learn. The staff led by example.

“After we formed the Student Players, Noah was presented in order to raise money to get us started. Brin Newton-John agreed to play Noah and Dennis Biggins was the director. It was presented at the old Roxy Theatre in Hamilton.

“We arranged for John Stowell’s friend, Barry Humphries, (he wasn’t Dame Edna then – only Edna) to put on a Sunday night show to raise money for the Union and Humphries packed the theatre. We made many thousands of pounds.”

One thing that did particularly distinguish Tighes Hill from Shortland was that in those days the graduations were held outdoors.

“We graduates of 1963 sat on the chairs on the lawn and the dignitaries sat on the steps in front of the Clegg Building. There were about 40 graduates that year.

“The students had started the tradition of giving a sherry party in the Common Room for the benefit of the new graduates.

“We served ghastly sherry out of flagons.

“The Graduation Ball was held in the City Hall at night and there was the wonderful tradition of the girls wearing white and the boys wearing black ties.

“The parents sat in the gallery to watch the graduation waltz. I still have photographs of my graduation. It was a wonderful time”

The crunch came for Colin Anderson when he had to cut his ties with his home town to go and teach. “I can still remember getting on the Flyer. There was a flood of tears because I didn’t want to leave my friends. We had been posted all over the state.”

He was appointed to James Ruse Agricultural High School in Sydney, where his first six months were hell, with, he says, the classes running riot around him. However his experience at the University came to his aid and the headmaster asked him to produce plays.

He says his career had been an interesting one in several respects.

“There were the abattoirs and there was the James Ruse Agricultural High School. Then I came to the old Agricultural College at Wagga Wagga and a friend used to say that I put the culture into agriculture”.

While the end-of-year revue is still an anticipated theatrical event in Wagga Wagga, it is only part of the Charles Sturt University’s drama program.

RivCol Drama, the University’s performance arm, does four stage productions a year, including two dramas and one musical.

The Canberra Repertory Society asked Colin Anderson to direct a play each year. He has also visited America twice to work as an invited director.

What does Mr Anderson plan for his future?

“I thought I would stay for just a couple of years in Wagga Wagga but the city has an enormously strong sense of community and I’ve stayed 18 years so far. This year the Associate Diploma in Drama became a full degree program with students majoring in either acting or technical production.

“I will stay here probably for a few more years but I think I am running out of steam and need new fields.”

Newcastle, hopefully, will see Colin Anderson back, even if only to present a New Year’s Eve review at the Alcron.
When one thinks of a gardener, particularly a gardener for a large site, one could not be blamed for thinking of a fairly large, very fit, very strong, and probably male person.

Think again!

The gardener at the Central Coast campus of the University at Ourimbah is very tiny, very ladylike, but strong, extremely fit and very much a woman.

This remarkable person who has transformed the face of the campus in the short time since March last year is Ms Ingrid Feather, who works alone on the task of managing the landscaping, planning gardens, clearing land and all the many other tasks associated with establishing a well presented campus.

Ms Feather, who has been gardening since her early days on a vegetable and chicken farm-cum-orchard in Picton, says she is a self-taught gardener and considers it a hobby as well as her job.

She says that when she first saw the campus it was covered in weeds taller than herself. This prospect would probably be daunting for the majority of people, but not Ms Feather.

She got to work clearing land, starting gardens and establishing lawns.

"When I first started here you couldn't see the lie of the land the weeds were so high. That's when I asked for a brush cutter", Ms Feather said.

"With most of the major clearing done, I can now get to work on planning the gardens. This will be exciting as the property was originally an orchard so it is the best soil for growing on the Central Coast.

"Everything grows really well", she says, "especially the weeds".

Ms Feather, whose husband and two daughters share her love of gardening, keeps a sharp eye on the economics of the exercise too. She saves soil from backhoeing for use in landscaping and also collects magnolia runners from the original gardens of the property to replant. She also cultivates cuttings to save on the cost of establishing new gardens.

"It takes time to develop your ideas with gardening. I can see in my mind's eye the way I would like the grounds to look. It will look wonderful in about 10 years time", she said.

Well-liked by staff and students alike, Ingrid believes that the camaraderie on campus and the University's acceptance by the local community has evolved because everyone involved with its development has been prepared to pitch in.

As a direct result of this camaraderie, a working bee took place last November to complete the landscaping around the Union Building. Students and staff worked side-by-side to complete a very large task in a relatively short amount of time.

And snakes and spiders?

"Oh, yes!" Ms Feather said. "There's a snake that lives under the Main Administration Building and there are plenty of funnel web spiders in the bush on the site. It's a case of keeping the gloves on and keeping yourself well covered."

Despite the snakes and spiders, the campus is blooming.

Ms Feather's determination and energy to burn are showing in major changes which can be seen already around the campus.
A Senior Lecturer in Fine Art, Mr Garry Jones has spent his time well away from the formal art galleries of the world, searching out and cataloguing the original work of native artists.

But, to the Aboriginal peoples of the region, these works of rock art mean more than a Van Gogh or a Michelangelo, because they prove that the culture of their ancestors was a real and living thing.

Often they are hidden under a thin layer of lichen, which helps to preserve the sandstone 'canvas'; too often, it has been damaged by people chalking in the outlines, painting over the work, or scratching their initials onto the stone.

Work by Mr Jones and his fellow researchers has established that the rugged hills west of Wollombi contain a concentration of Aboriginal art probably unparalleled in the rest of the continent.

For it was here, at Mount Yengo, that the creator, Biami, stepped back into the sky after his time on earth, according to Aboriginal dreaming.

For generations, the rock carvings were retraced by tribal people. Perhaps a hundred years ago, however, after white settlement had driven the original people of the district away, the custom fell into disuse; many of the artworks have been damaged, some obliterated, and even those that survive are, in many cases, fading from sight.

To European eyes, many of the carvings and paintings seem simple, even stark. They are not the rich, florid designs of Northern Australia but, to those initiated into the Aboriginal culture, they are powerful images, rich in significance.

The exact location of the surviving pieces which Mr Jones and his helpers - including his former students, Ms Sue Mitchell and Mr Peter Crousen - have found is a well guarded secret.

In one case, the team found a male initiation site - one of the most important of ceremonial sites - but a few months later it was gone. Presumably, some illegal gatherer of bush rock had obliterated in an afternoon several thousand years of history.

There are still sites in hill country west of Wollombi that have never been seen by European eyes.

But their main significance is to the descendants of the artists, people like the members of the Awabakal Co-operative.

The discovery of more than 1,000 works of art has helped to revitalise interest in the ancient culture of the region and has led inevitably to a close relationship between Mr Jones and the Awabakal people.

Last year, the first initiation ceremony in the Hunter since World War I took place at a site outside Wollombi. Only a handful of initiates survived in New South Wales prior to 1989, mostly elders who had received their initiation more than 50 years ago.

Young men have to study their ancestral culture before they can be initiated and become custodians of the culture.

It was largely through the friendship they have established with Mr Jones that the Awabakal group decided to hold an exhibition of Goorie art and artefacts at the University, with Aboriginal artists from around Australia invited to contribute.
Culture clash a winner for both sides

An audience estimated at 2,500 crammed the Great Hall on October 12 to witness a unique performance - the first corroboree danced in public in Newcastle for at least 100 years.

Originally planned as an outdoor performance, taking advantage of the natural setting of gum trees and open slopes of the University, the corroboree was shifted indoors after heavy rain threatened to wash away the soil the University had provided as a literal stamping ground for the dancers.

The rain may have kept some of the potential audience away, but enough people arrived undeterred to make up the largest crowd the Great Hall has been required to accommodate.

The corroboree was arranged by the Awabakal Co-operative, a representative body of local Aboriginal, or Goorie, people in conjunction with an exhibition of Goorie art and artefacts.

The University has strong links with the local Goorie community. Through Wollotuka, the centre for Aboriginal Studies within the University, and through normal enrolments in many degree courses, the University has more than 100 Goorie students.

The work of Mr Garry Jones, who has been studying and mapping historical and ancient artistic sites in the Hunter Valley, has also helped to develop a strong relationship between the University and those who are traditional custodians of Aboriginal lore in the region. (See story, page 21.)

A number of students took part in the corroboree.

Hunter corroboree marks lore revival in lives of Aborigines

by Miranda Harman, Staff Reporter

A corroboree held last night at Newcastle University celebrated much more than Aboriginal ceremony and tradition.

It was the first corroboree held in Newcastle since about 1840 and it symbolised a revival in the teaching of Aboriginal lore by the Goorie people.

(Goorie is the native name for Aborigines north of the Hawkesbury. Koorie refers to Aborigines south of the Hawkesbury.)

An enthusiastic audience packed the Great Hall at Newcastle University for the event.

The corroboree was particularly significant because it was performed under the watchful eye of three tribal elders: Uncle Lenny De Silva, 76, Uncle Leeton Smith, 71, and Uncle Mungle (Alfred) Drew, 77.

Mr Bill Smith, a member of the traditional custodian men’s council of the Hunter Region and north coast, and a founder of the Awabakal Co-operative, said the corroboree was the direct result of the revival in the teaching of traditional Aboriginal lore to the young generation.

The 22 male members of the corroboree had been through the traditional manhood ceremonies under the guidance of the council, and in doing so had become custodians of the land and culture.

Becoming a custodian of the land is an extremely serious process. The ceremonies are covered by absolute secrecy and this reverence applies to many of the spiritual beliefs vital to the culture.

The men in the corroboree came from throughout New South Wales.

Mr Smith said the Awabakal people had had requests from throughout the State from Aboriginal people wanting the knowledge of their elders.

“They’re now learning what should have been taught years ago”, he said.

“There is an awareness across New South Wales of our job and the others are watching us to see how we go.

“We have men recommended to us to go through the lore. I guess you could say that we check them out pretty thoroughly before we start any teaching.

“It’s not just a bandwagon that people jump on. It is knowledge that will now carry on. It’s a part of our life that has never been lost”.

Mr Smith’s 16-year-old son, Malcolm, was the youngest participant in the corroboree.

“This lore should have been handed down to generations of children but it’s been asleep for countless years because of white education and government policy”, Mr Smith said.

The three elders, from the Nambucca area, all went through the traditional manhood ceremonies when they were young.

Uncle Mangie said he went through the ceremony at the age of 17 and “it changed my life”.

Uncle Leeton said young Aboriginal people needed to go through the white system of education to get jobs, but they should also learn the traditional lore.

The elders still speak their traditional language, which is now being passed on to young men.

Mr Hector Edwards Senior, who came from Nambucca for the corroboree, said the progression through the traditional lore could change young people’s lives.

“It gives you a sense of direction, so you feel like you’re not just wandering aimlessly any more”, he said.

Mr Smith said the renewed interest in the culture was bringing dignity and respect back to Aborigines.

“You can see what it’s doing for them. It’s giving them the power to refuse alcohol and all that other nonsense”, he said.

Although women do not take part in corroborees, eight women performed traditional dances at last night’s performance.
# 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. *Please add $12 for each overseas order in excess of $10.*

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<tr>
<td>Glass Commemorative Plate</td>
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<td>(hand blown) (add $2 for engraving) plus $6 p&amp;h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass Paperweight</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>(hand blown)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teak wall Plaque with metal crest</td>
<td>$35</td>
<td>plus $4 p&amp;h</td>
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<td>Champagne Flutes — set of six</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>(embossed with University name and crest) plus $6 p&amp;h</td>
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<tr>
<td>Desk Note Pad with Pen</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>(embossed with University name and crest) plus $2 p&amp;h</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telephone and Address Book with Pen</td>
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<td>plus $2 p&amp;h</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheaffer Pen</td>
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<td>(embossed with University name and crest) plus $1 p&amp;h</td>
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<td>Heavy Chromatic Pen</td>
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<td>Academic Dress — by K.R. Dutton</td>
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