Special graduation for new Chancellor

By her own admission, the first ceremony of the University’s Bicentennial Graduation was a very special occasion for Dr Elizabeth Evatt.

The University’s new Chancellor, who follows as Chancellor Sir Bede Callaghan, was installed in her office in traditional fashion.

And, she was one of a large group of distinguished Australians who were admitted to honorary degrees of the University as a commemoration of the Bicentenary.

After the Deputy Chancellor, Dr Alec Forsythe, conferred an Honorary Doctor of the University degree upon her, Dr Evatt retired and donned the robe of Chancellor. Then she returned to the stage of the Great Hall, with the organist playing a triumphant processional, and commenced the first of four presentations of degrees to new graduates.

The Chancellor admitted to degrees and diplomas 940 people, which is a record for the University. The graduates included 11 who received honorary degrees and 12 who were awarded University Medals.

A wonderful experience was the singing of the University Choir at the Economics and Commerce and Mathematics graduation ceremony. Father Peter Brock conducted the choir for Advance Australia Fair and Gaudeamus Igitur.

Dr Evatt gave the occasional address (see page 4). Speaking to the new graduates she said it was also a very special occasion for her, marking, as it did, the beginning of her connection with the University and her assumption of the office of Chancellor.

This is a source of great pleasure and pride, enhanced this morning by the award of an honorary degree,’ she said. ‘In contrast with most of you in this hall, I have been awarded

Continued page 3

NEW LOOK — NEW READERS

This is the first issue of University News under a new name UNINEWS and with a new appearance and format.

From this issue UNINEWS will be a monthly magazine reporting on the variety and excellence of activities at the University of Newcastle.

More attention will be given to reports on research and on academic and student pursuits, with the aim of enhancing the University’s reputation and support within and beyond the University.

UNINEWS will be distributed to a variety of audiences within the Hunter Valley, and within educational, academic and scientific communities around Australia.

The New UNINEWS is part of a programme to improve the quality of, and purpose of, University publications.

UNIVISIT '88 shaping up well

With three months to go to the University's Bicentennial Open Days (Saturday and Sunday, September 3 and 4), good progress is being made on the hundreds of activities to be mounted by faculties, departments and other units of the University.

According to the Open Days Organiser, Assoc. Professor Colin Keay, several departments are progressing magnificently with preparations for well-thought out and attractive displays.

He says there will be a great variety of activities during UNIVISIT '88, ranging from exhibitions of new technology and research work - through Folkloric dancing, band concerts, outdoor entertainment and gourmet food stalls - to displays demonstrating the strong links between the University and the community.

Professor Keay says an estimated 16,000 people attended the last Open Days in 1984. He hopes that if departments participate one hundred per cent in this year's event the University can have about 25,000 visitors.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Keith Morgan, has said the purpose of the Open Days is to allow members of the Hunter community to discover, together with their families and friends, the expertise and facilities which a first-class University contributes to the region and the nation, including basic research, courses, careers, technology, sporting facilities, etc.

For several months, committees have been considering the organisation necessary for successful Bicentennial Open Days. A Standing Committee, headed by Professor Keay, is co-ordinating the activities of sub-committees and reporting to the Open Days Committee.

The campus has been sub-divided into five zones to give sub-committees responsibility for the activities and crowd movement within the zones.

The Publicity Committee has chosen a theme, 'Looking Ahead', and a poster and an invitation to UNIVISIT '88 have been produced in large quantities. Copies will be delivered to departments and campus organisations participating in the Open Days.

Some departments have virtually finalised details of their activities.

As for the Great Hall, the early plan for events to be held there has been modified. Besides presentations on the stage, such as a full-scale rehearsal by the University Choir and Orchestra, a mini-trade fair incorporating a number of sponsored displays will be held in the foyer and the Purdue Room. Assoc. Professor Tim Roberts has agreed to organise this event.

Another major event will be the presentation of entertainment on a stage in the outdoors near the fountain in the Plaza. One of Australia's top military bands, the University of New South Wales Regimental Band, will present recitals here.

Once again, Carnivale will be held in conjunction with Open Days. The Ethnic Communities Council in Newcastle will present an arts and crafts exhibition, gourmet food stalls and Folkloric dancing displays. An exhibition marking 40 years of multi-cultural life in Newcastle will be included in the Carnivale activities.

Vice-Chancellors want freedom on research

The future health of Australian research may be placed at risk unless the Federal Government guarantees universities some freedom in deciding research priorities, according to the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee.

In a statement timed to coincide with the ANZAS Centenary Congress, the AVCC said that Australia's outstanding research record could be diminished if Canberra had complete control of the direction of research.

The AVCC Chairman, Professor John Scott, said it was essential that universities continued to receive some untied research funds to be allocated at their discretion.

"Australian research is at the crossroads," he said. "The Government is determined that research be firmly directed to national goals and priorities."

It recognises the immense contribution which university research has made and will continue to make to the development and economic strength of the nation. But in its efforts to centralise funding decisions it risks destroying one of the best features of Australian research - open-ended, curiosity research.

"Allowing the universities the right to use a small proportion of research funds for seedling money to help promising young researchers or support innovative new projects would be an insurance policy against a narrowing of the country's research."

Universities accept that the Government has a right to determine priorities and encourage certain research but handing all the power to Canberra is potentially dangerous."

(Under the Government's proposed new funding system for higher education, universities are likely to lose the proportion of their recurrent income designed to support research activities.

Under the Government's plan, this money, along with existing special research grants, will be allocated through the new Australian Research Council to specific individual or team projects.

The opportunity for universities to develop their own strengths and back their own judgement in research will be restricted.)

Professor Scott said that the Government must avoid any significant dislocation to university funding. If just 2 per cent of recurrent funds were removed for distribution through the ARC the institutions would have to make dramatic adjustments to their programmes.

An overnight reduction of 2 per cent, or around $30 million, could not be made without disruption to long-term research programmes and the threat of staff redundancies.

Professor Scott said that the AVCC wanted to see more industry involvement in research and teaching and was disappointed that the Wran Report on alternative funding methods had not made stronger recommendations in this area. As a major beneficiary of higher education, industry must be persuaded to put more money into the system.
University continues to grow

The University continues to develop. In numerical terms there are more graduates this year than ever before: and to match that the number of students in the University continues to grow.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Keith Morgan, referred to the changes and developments that are occurring at the University in his report to Graduation 1988. He also discussed some of the issues in the Federal Government's Green Paper on higher education.

This year there are some 6,250 students in the University,' he said.

'The research of the University continues to expand in scale and scope: the income to the University for research reached a total of well over $6 million last year.'

'Even allowing for the marvellous donation from the NBN Telethon of $1,750,000 for cancer research, this is an indicator of growth and expansion,' Professor Morgan said.

'There had also been the designation of a Special Research Centre in Control Sciences — essentially the national centre of excellence in this area — associated with the work of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

'All of this is good and exciting news,' he said.

'And yet there was, as in all universities, an air of concern about what the future may bring. This was largely occasioned by the publication of the Green Paper.

Professor Morgan said there was much in the Green Paper which had to be welcomed.

'It recognises the importance of higher education for the national well-being of Australia; it envisages an expansion of educational opportunities to meet the demands of students and the needs of employers: it recognises the proper contribution that can be made to social justice and equity as well as national productivity by way of higher education. All of this is good.'

'What caused doubts, the Vice-Chancellor said, was a perception that having willed the ends, government might be less prepared to will the means. And, more generally, the government's perception that more educational productivity could be found by reducing resources.

Undoubtedly, the basic prescription of the Green Paper — that the primary purpose of higher education was to generate economic advantage — contained an essential element of truth. 'Fewer of us would be here today if we did not believe that a degree was of value in our careers.'

'But when we talk about "personal aspirations": Professor Morgan said, 'I fancy that most of us would expect something more. Would we perhaps expect that the process of education had widened our horizons, given some perspective on life and new sense of community, of culture, of service?''

He believed that the primary purpose of education was education — 'that opening of the mind to acquaintance with achievement both of the past and for the future.'

Special graduation cont'd

degree without having to undergo the usual agonies of assignments and examinations.

'Our University, has an outstanding reputation in many fields — a reputation that is recognised internationally.

The benefits flowing from a strong University are felt throughout the Newcastle and Hunter Region, and the relationship between the community and the University is particularly strong,' Dr Evatt said.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Keith Morgan, presented Dr Evatt to the Deputy Chancellor for admission to the honorary degree, saying that she was appointed as the first Chief Judge of the Family Court of Australia in 1975.

'It was now seen that Dr Evatt had presided over a major development of Australian law and had achieved an outstanding social reform.'

'Her translation to the Law Reform Commission at the start of this year,' he said, 'can surely be seen as the widening of her ability to apply social idealism to a wider range of problems.'

Professor Morgan said that to all her work Elizabeth Evatt brought a thoughtful and compassionate spirit. 'She brings a level of commitment and a deep sense of justice. And she demonstrates that capacity for sympathy with people and especially for her staff which always elicits a warm response and deep loyalty.

'Elizabeth Evatt, born into a family with expectations of high achievement has clearly fulfilled those expectations,' he added.
Chancellor sees issues of great concern

This is an extract from an edited version of the Chancellor's, Dr Elizabeth Evatt, address given at one of the recent graduation ceremonies.

The Green Paper raises a number of issues of great concern. At the same time it offers opportunities for institutions which want to to pursue policies of equity and fairness. The challenge is clear. Ways must be found of ensuring that far more people are able to take part in tertiary education — young people, people of mature age, people of every race and creed, and from every part of society. At the same time, standards of excellence established by the University must be maintained in all its teaching and research functions.

Because the functions of the University are so important to the community and because ultimately their cost is borne by the community, universities must be accountable to the community. The Green Paper emphasises that $2.5 billion is spent on education, and that it is therefore important to express and achieve the objects of education.

A central theme in the current agenda is to seek greater participation in higher education. This is a laudable goal. However, growth implies the allocation of more resources, and there is a legitimate concern as to whether sufficient resources will be made available. In other words, the fear is that more will be wanted for less.

This concern is increased when it is considered that an important motivator for change appears to be economic efficiency and the need for a more highly skilled workforce, able to respond to the demands of technological change.

At the present time the demand for tertiary education places is not fully met. In this current year up to 20,000 people, of whom more than half were Year 12 students, were unable to secure places in universities or colleges, though meeting minimum standards. The Green Paper envisages an increase from the present level of 88,000 graduates each year to a level of 125,000 by the year 2001.

The result for Newcastle could be a student enrolment of 10,000. This would put a heavy load on staff, accommodation and facilities at the University, and would require significant increase in capital and current expenditure.

An increase in the number of people who have a university education can benefit society; but only if that increase is applied fairly and only if standards are maintained. Some groups within the community have not been able to participate in tertiary education on equal terms.

Equal access

Affirmative action is needed to ensure appropriate representation of all groups of society in higher education, and to enable those who do enter to take advantage to the fullest extent of what the education system has to offer them. Equal access is impeded when lack of resources inhibits the successful delivery of education.

The principles of equity are of special importance to Newcastle University, being in a region which has a relatively low rate of participation in higher education, due to social and economic disadvantage, affecting particular groups, including those of Aboriginal or ethnic background.

Newcastle University has already taken steps to deal with this problem, by setting up bridging courses, aimed at those with educational disadvantages as well as to those school leavers who need to be brought up to university starting level in particular subjects. There are also Summer Science and Mathematics Schools. The Women in Engineering programme has been successful in attracting an increase in the proportion of women entering engineering courses.

Newcastle's Advisory Committee on Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity has given special attention to this part of the Green Paper, and has in particular emphasised that attention should be paid to the special needs of women at the postgraduate level and to the need for measures to increase the participation in tertiary education of the Newcastle and Hunter Valley Regions. The need for child care is part of the strategy.

Another concern is that aspects of the Green Paper could run counter to the notion of participation and equity. Part of the additional cost of increasing the number of graduates is to be met by improvements in efficiency and productivity. Efficiency in this context appears to be measured in terms of number of graduates per educational dollar. There is potential for a levelling down effect in such an approach.

It is a paradox that while improvements in participation and retention rates at tertiary level generally require an overall increase in resources plus additional funds for special categories of students, the Green Paper actually envisages a reduction in resources available per full-time student. This seems to negate the value of tertiary education to the community, and may reduce the capacity of individual universities and colleges to meet equity targets.

Materialistic

The approach adopted in the Green Paper seems to give undue emphasis to the value of education in purely material terms. Vocational training should be pursued in a system which also values education for its ability to foster the creative and inquiring intellect, to initiate and communicate ideas about human behaviour and values, and to extend human knowledge in all its dimensions.

Newcastle University has a special position to be considered in the current debate. It is the only University in a very large and significant region of Australia. It has established strong cultural links with the community which it serves, and contributed significantly to the quality of life and development of the region. It has created new educational opportunities for people in the region. Although participation rates are on the low side, there continues to be growth in student numbers to the extent that there is considerable stress on accommodation, and staff.
Breast cancer is the most important fatal cancer that affects women.

Almost 6,000 women have breast cancer diagnosed in Australia each year, and one woman dies of breast cancer about every four hours. Globally, almost one million women will be diagnosed with breast cancer per year by the year 2000, and the number of deaths approaches two every minute. Furthermore, this problem is steadily increasing as the population in large developing countries where breast cancer is an important problem (including India, Indonesia and China) is steadily increasing in age. Finally, breast cancer causes more deaths than any other cause in the very important age group from 45 to 60, when women make a major contribution to both the workforce and family life.

Professor John Forbes, who has taken up his appointment as Professor of Surgical Oncology at the University, addressed a symposium during the Centenary Congress of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science (ANZAAS). He said the results indicated that if quality mammography screening could be made both available and accessible and women utilised this resource, then the risk of such women dying from breast cancer could be dramatically reduced.

'It is clearly important to carefully consider the requirements for obtaining such a potentially dramatic benefit,' he said. 'First, the mammography process must result in a quality X-ray that is correctly and accurately interpreted.

'The process requires skilled and trained radiographers to be involved to ensure that patients are...
Research and Technology

Early detection of cancer cont'd

correctly positioned and that the X-ray is correctly taken for each particular patient with particular breast characteristics.

Next, the film obtained must be developed by dedicated processing equipment to ensure that the degree of detail necessary to make a diagnosis is not compromised.

'And finally, the radiologist must be expertly trained to avoid over or under diagnosis.

'It would be tragic for a woman to be reassured inappropriately that she did not have breast cancer, when in fact it was simply not detected by virtue of a technically inadequate process or inexpert reporting of her film. Furthermore, it is unacceptable to have women having further investigations and perhaps breast surgery as may occur when X-rays are reported as abnormal without sound justification for this,' Professor Forbes said.

'Second, there would be no impact on breast cancer mortality, even if quality screening is available, unless women complied. It was the experience of the Swedish trial that women under the age of 50 were much more compliant than those over the age of 70.'

Professor Forbes said women ought to be able to attend for screening without being compromised according to their particular personal requirements. It follows that there should be no cost impediment to screening, nor physical hardship in terms of the location of screening, taking into account that it is unlikely to be required more often than annually.

'Some women believe that breast cancer screening is health maintenance and an opportunity for them to do something about their own welfare and health. They do not necessarily wish this to occur at a hospital, which conveys different intents and potential outcomes to them. 'Others would prefer a hospital. 'Other women prefer to have an opportunity for breast cancer screening in their normal daily environment, such that they can have screening completed close to their home by virtue of a mobile facility, or in a daily living environment such as a shopping mall.'

The important factor, he said, was to recognise individual preferences, and to attempt to cater for broad groups if we wished women to comply and hence obtain benefit from screening.

'Third, it is essential that the administration of the screening process is professional and designed to ensure that proper documentation is completed. This is essential to allow deficiencies, such as technical inadequacies of equipment, lack of specificity in reporting of films and such problems as low compliance, to be identified and corrected.

'It is also essential to ensure that proper follow-up of patients is maintained, and that regular advice is given for subsequent screening recall for further investigation when it is required, and intervention and treatment results.' Women had a right to expect that this would be a part of the screening process when they committed themselves by first attending, he said.

'Of all the dramatic and exciting developments that have occurred with breast cancer management,' he said, none is as important as the application of mammography screening on a wide scale.

'The potential gain for Australian women is not only a potential reduction of 500 or more deaths per year from breast cancer, but also a greatly enhanced quality of life, as those women who are diagnosed in a mammography screening programme not only have an excellent chance of being cured of their disease, but also can avoid mastectomy as their primary management.'

(The Newcastle Herald recently reported that a mammography unit had been received by the oncology unit at the Mater Misericordiae Hospital at Waratah and that a screening service was expected to begin in the Hunter in June.)

TUNRA offers industry research and consulting services, drawing on expertise available from the following Faculties (and Departments) of the University of Newcastle:

- Architecture
- Arts (Classics, Drama, English, Geography, History, Linguistics, Modern Languages, Philosophy and Sociology)
- Economics and Commerce (Commerce, Economics, Law and Management)
- Education
- Engineering (Chemical/Materials, Civil/Surveying, Electrical/Computer and Mechanical)
- Mathematics (Mathematics, Statistics and Computing Science)
- Medicine
- Science (Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Geology, Physics and Psychology)
Drug prohibition not worth the price

The returns on the resources committed to the prohibition on humans taking drugs have been questioned by an economist from the University.

Mr Jacobus Doeleman recommends the return to a permissive regime for drug use.

'In a permissive regime, the cost of drug abuse can be minimised by the optimal allocation of funds for preventative measures,' he says.

Mr Doeleman, Senior Lecturer in Economics, in his paper presented to the Centenary Congress of ANZAAS at the University of Sydney, points out that, although many unacceptable human practices are prohibited, mention of prohibition today is associated with the legislation proclaimed in the United States in 1919, repealed in 1933, and designed to prevent the production and sale of alcoholic beverages.

'With Al Capone in the history books,' he says, 'a reintroduction of a ban on alcohol, or on tobacco, is not now being considered a serious political option in the West.

Yet, during the last two decades unprecedented efforts have been mounted to enforce a new set of bans on the production and use of a range of intoxicating drugs. Prohibition today is pursued with a far greater outlay of resources, applied over a wide international front.'

Individuals' rights

Mr Doeleman says a permissive regime concerning drug abuse upholds — within limits — the right of individuals to ingest, inhale, inject, or otherwise consume, intoxicating substances as they see fit. Such a regime may entail considerable costs to the drug user and to the community, especially where drug abuse is addictive and incapacitating.

'Obviously, then, the promotion of permissiveness should on no account be confused with the promotion of drug use. Quite the opposite, a permissive regime is compatible with a range of policies designed to discourage and prevent the ill-advised use of drugs.'

Mr Doeleman says the enforcement of prohibition reaches out as far as the poppy fields of Thailand, or the cocoa plantations of Bolivia. However, enforcement does not seem to be reaching the mind of the drug user.

'A permissive, or preventative regime — aimed at controlling demand rather than supply — may succeed in this respect where the repressive prohibitive approach is failing.

'Even where prohibition succeeds to repress the abuse of one harmful drug, the result will merely be a substitution response. One drug is replaced by another from a long and growing list of alternatives. Foremost are the legal alternatives of tobacco and alcohol.'

A number of medicines have also become widely abused, Mr Doeleman states, including barbiturates, amphetamines, tranquilisers, such as valium, and painkillers like codeine and aspirin.

'But there are growing problems of addiction with glue, solvents, paints, petrol and the like. And it goes on.'

The illegal range of alternatives is widening too and now comprises of cannabis, heroin, pentyl (a potent heroin substitute), cocaine and a range of hallucinogenic substances.'

Clearly, Mr Doeleman submits, the limitation of the cost of drug abuse cannot be based on a method that leaves such endless possibilities of escape by substitution.
Drug prohibition cont'd

For this reason, and because of the cost of induced crime, another approach is wanted. What stands in the way of a new approach are the vested interests now entrenched and associated with the prohibitive status quo.

He claims that enforcement agencies and criminal elements have become part of the status quo and are likely to defend it.

Vested interests would also be a danger to an effective permissive regime, as is abundantly clear from the promotional efforts of the alcohol and tobacco industries and from the Chinese experience with opium.

He emphasises that a plea for permissiveness therefore should not be viewed as an invitation for full commercial exploitation of drugs now illegal.

In the final analysis, however, a permissive approach would leave it up to each individual to decide what is right and wrong and to be allowed to act accordingly. Within limits of compassion, those who decide wrongly will become victims.

The costs of drug addiction thus incurred may be acceptable in the knowledge that others will, by example, be helped in making the right decision, Mr Doeleman says to conclude his paper.

Figure 3: Prohibitive Regime:

- Maximum Naive Enforcement Gain
- Total Enforcement Cost
- Total Drug Abuse Cost

The returns on the resources committed to the prohibition on humans taking drugs have been questioned by an economist from the University.

‘Westy’ girl off to Cambridge University

DR JANICE MUIR, who grew up in ‘Westy’ (West Wallsend), is to study at the University of Cambridge in England.

On April 22, at the Bicentennial conferring of degrees ceremonies, Dr Muir was awarded a PhD in Psychology for a thesis which examined the lactation process.

Dr Muir’s thesis evaluated the detrimental effects of psychological stress experienced during pregnancy and its effect on lactation. Using an animal model, she examined hormonal and biochemical changes in lactating female during various stages of the lactation process.

Her research suggests that relatively mild forms of stress produce substantial changes in female. Furthermore, the lactogenic hormone oxytocin appears to modulate many of the hormonal and biochemical changes observed after stress.

Dr Muir’s findings indicate a diverse role for oxytocin, not only in the regulation of the milk ejection reflex during lactation but also as a stress responsive hormone and neurotransmodulator.

Janice Muir attended primary and secondary school in West Wallsend. She commenced studies towards her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1979, graduating with Honours Class I in Psychology in 1984.

In 1985 she was a recipient of a Commonwealth Postgraduate Research Scholarship. In 1987, she was awarded the inaugural Jetset Scholarship, which allowed her to travel to the USA.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE RESEARCH ASSOCIATES LTD.
Bicentennial chief honoured with degree

The Australian Bicentennial Authority's Chairman, Dr James Kirk, recalled his success as a mall boy in Newcastle when he spoke at a graduation ceremony on April 30.

'I have a warm spot in my heart for Newcastle,' he said, referring to his schooling at Newcastle Boys' High School and his having worked at Atlantic Oil at Tughe's Hill.

'I had to ride a bike into Newcastle to deposit cash in a bank. I thought it was silly because it took me half-an-hour and I passed three other banks.'

Dr Kirk used his initiative and put the cash in the first bank he came to. Instead of getting the sack, he was congratulated by the company for his efficiency. Dr Kirk, who was promoted several times by Esso Aust. Ltd. until he became Chairman and Managing Director in 1977, received an Honorary Doctor of Science degree for his contribution to the commercial infrastructure underlying Australia's economic progress.

He told the new graduates that the graduation ceremonies and the Bicentenary were really in parallel in that each was an expression of our optimism for the future.

He spoke to the new graduates on change. 'At one time you said what goes up must come down, but now there are things in space that will stay there.'

Dr Kirk added: 'You are equipped for change and don't be scared: always be ready and take advantage of it in your careers.'

Among the 11 people admitted to honorary degrees — Mr Jim Comerford, Mrs Judy White and Mr Harry Bradford, who were awarded honorary MA degrees. They are with the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Assoc. Professor Don Wright.
Better public image for engineers

The Deputy Chairman of one of Australia's leading engineering companies has expressed the view that engineers have the right to a much higher social status. 'Engineers are, in my opinion, perceived as a pompous lot who can only speak of their projects,' Dr Manuel Alves said.

Dr Alves, Deputy Chairman of the Allco Steel Corporation, of Tomago, was commenting during his address to graduates at the Architecture and Engineering graduation ceremony.

Earlier he was admitted to an Honorary Doctor of Engineering degree in recognition of his achievements and contributions to the modern development of engineering and for the example he has set for others to follow.

Dr Alves migrated to Australia from his native Portugal and, with a partner, formed Alleo Steel in 1968. He is a strong supporter of the University and in his address said that the team work which had developed between Allco and the Faculty of Engineering had produced excellent results.

Dr Alves suggested that engineers 'clearly and openly' engage in a continuous programme of public relations to highlight their talents, expertise and commitment to a profession which, when understood and accepted correctly, would be of great benefit to Australia.

'It would be of great benefit if we start convincing the public that Australian engineers, when given the opportunity, will demonstrate that they are committed and competent professionals.

'The first benefit will be,' he said, 'that engineers will be given the opportunity to produce the goods, and

Dr Gunther Kress and the Head of the Department of Linguistics, Dr Peter Petersen.

Dr Warren Pengilley and the Head of the Department of Law, Professor Frank Bates.

Dr Manuel Alves, who received an honorary degree, with the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Professor Alan Roberts.

the second that they will be correctly compensated for their achievements, eliminating the need for them to go to competing countries just to gain higher compensation.'

'It was important,' Dr Alves asserted, 'that Australia recognised that engineers were grossly underpaid compared with those in competing nations.

'A fund should immediately be started to engage specialist public relations personnel to promote to the Australian public the excellence and professional commitment of our engineers.

'Dr Alves said: 'Unless public opinion perceive that engineers are an influential profession, we cannot expect politicians to join us, or even listen to us.'

Dr Alves said that recently he heard the Governor-General, Sir Ninian Stephens, speak about his recent visit to China. 'He spoke about the enormous value of engineers there and the high positions they occupy in the government.'


Degrees for distinguished original work

Two graduates of the University have received higher doctoral degrees for making distinguished original contributions to their specialisations.

Dr Gunther Kress, Head of the Department of English at the New South Wales University of Technology, and Dr Warren Pengilley, a partner in Sly and Russell, solicitors of Canberra and Sydney, were recognised for their work at the graduation ceremonies on April 29.

Dr Kress was admitted to the degree of Doctor of Letters for his distinguished original contributions to stylistics, language and education and critical linguistics.

Dr Pengilley received a Doctor of Science degree for his original contributions in the fields of competition law, consumer protection, franchising and credit law. This is the first time the Hon DSc has been awarded in the Faculty of Economics and Commerce.

Both have published widely in their areas of interest over a period of more than 20 years.
Expansion plans for 2NUR-FM

The University's radio station, 2NUR-FM, is implementing new policy and programme developments aimed at widening the station's programme base, during improved accommodation and achieving greater integration of the station in University life and affairs.

The new Board of Directors for the station met for the first time on May 18, when progress reports were presented by the Chair, Professor Cyril Renwick, and the Station Manager, Mr Brett Gleeson.

A list of recommendations made by a Committee of Enquiry included the establishment of the Board and the abolition of the former Advisory Board and Executive Committee.

The Committee of Enquiry, made up of Professor Renwick, Professor Mick Carter and Dr Peter Hendry, reported to the Council, which approved all the recommendations.

Apart from the need for a Board of Directors, the committee identified the following key emphases:

- the general demand for broadcasting services by 2NUR-FM as a community station is widespread and enthusiastic.
- volunteer presenter support continues to grow as does external financing.
- better integration into University life is required in terms of programmes, audience, administration and accommodation.
- wider issues relative to publicity and public relations should be considered.

The committee believed that the University should widen and deepen the programme base of the station to give more scope for campus contributions along lines successfully pioneered in drama and some talks.

A survey by the Hunter Valley Research Foundation last year had shown that the station had a weekly audience in excess of 50,000 listeners.

Professor Renwick said the University would underwrite 2NUR-FM's recurrent finances at the present level for the next two years. 'By the end of that time the Board of Directors will be expected to have evolved rolling budgets which will show growing reliance on private-sector support and entrepreneurial income,' he said.

The composition of the Board of Directors is: Chair, Professor Renwick; two members from the Council, Drs Robyn Cotton and Peter Hendry; one member from Senate, Professor Les Keedy; two members from the community, Mrs Iris Nicholls and Mr Patrick Williams; one member representing the station's volunteers (to be elected) the Vice-Chancellor's ex-officio member, Professor Carter, and the Station Manager, Mr Gleeson.

Professor Renwick said that discussions on the financial and administrative arrangements with the Bursar and the Station Manager had been given high priority.

He said the Committee of Enquiry had recommended immediate discussions concerning future accommodation for 2NUR-FM.

'it is essential that the station leave the Mathematics Building as soon as possible, as more space is needed by departments and it is desirable that a better location be found for the station itself. We need a building on the campus designed to meet our requirements. Mr Gleeson is having discussions with the Administration and will make a report for the Board, which will need to take wide advice on the matter.'

Professor Renwick said another recommendation was that a Programme Sub-Committee, to be responsible for overall station programming policy, be appointed.

He said it was essential for 2NUR-FM to build upon its good programming record to better reflect the educational base of the University and the contribution the University could make to the social, economic and cultural life of the region.

'We will initiate discussions with academic departments and staff with a view to bringing the University to the Hunter community in new and meaningful ways.'

Professor Renwick said that most of the people who had been interviewed by the Committee of Enquiry had referred, in one way or another, to the role of 2NUR-FM as a link between the University and the Hunter community.

'Some were of the opinion that the links of the station and the Information Office and the Hunter Institute of Higher Education's Public Relations Department should be more securely forged.'
Two staff members from the Department of History were amongst those who were invited to contribute to two new books of essays on subjects of considerable current interest.

Professor Alan Ward, Professor of History, is a co-editor of a new study of nationalism in New Caledonia, which appeared in bookshops simultaneously with the Kanaks' uprising in April. The island rebellion was an issue in France's recent presidential election.

New Caledonia, published by the University of Queensland Press, was written because the Editors believe that most analyses of New Caledonia do not do full justice to the origins and the depth of the impasse between 62,000 Independence minded Kanaks and 83,000 settlers, many of them French.

The Editors believe that it is because New Caledonia has been seen in French eyes as a settlement colony that decolonisation has not proceeded as in other South Pacific states. Indeed, they say, until the 1970s many French settlers and officials believed that the reasonable political development of New Caledonia would be towards the status of a département of France, as Hawaii became a state of the United States.

According to the Editors, the present population structure of New Caledonia amply demonstrates the complexity of racial divisions within the territory. The present population of about 150,000 makes it one of the more populous of the Pacific islands, significantly larger than independent states such as Tonga and Vanuatu. The Census of 1986 enumerated a Melanesian population of 44 per cent of the total.

The Editors recognise that land is of crucial concern to both Caldoches (European settlers) and Kanaks. The acquisition of Melanesian land proceeded remorselessly, they say, and Melanesians were marginalised economically, politically and geographically.

'Nowhere else in Melanesia has so much land been alienated or so many Melanesians killed or banished. It was inevitable that, with growing numbers, unity and political sophistication, Melanesians would challenge their dispossession and displacement.'

The Editors see the real significance of New Caledonia for France as primarily strategic in several related senses.

'The Pacific is seen as a region of growing importance in the world economy. France wants to maintain a share of whatever opportunities lay ahead there and play a part in the future of this region.'

Military history
Professor Eric Andrews, Assoc. Professor in History, was one of several hundred guests who gathered in Victoria Military Barracks, Sydney, on April 29 for the launch of *Australia Two Centuries of War and Peace*.

The handsome book, published by the Australian War Memorial and selling for $50, was launched by the Governor-General, Sir Ninian Stephen.

Professor Andrews' contribution to the collection is an essay about civil-military relations in the twentieth century. He recalls two dramatic aspects of civil-military relations — the relief operation that followed Cyclone Tracy's onslaught on Darwin in 1974 and the use of defence forces to provide security for visiting dignitaries after a bomb exploded outside the Hilton Hotel in Sydney in 1978.

Professor Andrews recognises that in western-style democracies the theory is that military policy should be decided by ministers, not the military, whose duty it is simply to obey the government. Between the politicians and the military, however, come the public servants, who form a separate group of their own, he says.

The essay traces some of the changes in attitude towards the military in Australian society since the First World War and considers questions such as the problems of civilian control and the interrelationship between the different branches of the military, the public servants and their political masters.

It also examines the increasing use of the military as a support for civilian law-enforcement and peace agencies.

'This development,' Professor Andrews argues, 'is perhaps inevitable at a time of continuing terrorist threats, but has serious implications and needs to be watched carefully.'