WHITE CHRISTMAS FOR GEOGRAPHY STUDENT

A Newcastle University geography student, currently on his way to Antarctica, is guaranteed a white Christmas — his first ever.

Mr Roland Payne will be in Antarctica for three-and-a-half months on a research project to assess the stability of the edge of the Antarctic ice sheet.

With members of a team from the Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition (ANARE) he departed from Hobart aboard MV Icebird on 30 November.

The vessel should reach Davis Station in East Antarctica, the expedition’s destination, on New Year’s Day.

Mr Payne’s co-researcher at Davis Station is Mr Sean Fitzsimons, a PhD student from the University of Tasmania.

Professor Eric Colhoun, Professor of Geography at this University, arranged with the Antarctic Division of the Department of Science in Canberra for the duo to visit Antarctica to assist him with his research into whether the main Antarctic ice sheet is advancing or retreating.

Mr Payne’s field work will be part of the research he has to do to obtain honours in physical geography, while Mr Fitzsimons, who is being supervised by Professor Colhoun for his doctorate, will include his findings in his degree studies.

Professor Colhoun’s project will get underway when Messrs Payne and Fitzsimons establish stations on the ice edge and adjacent bare rock. The stations will monitor whether the ice sheet is advancing or retreating.

Professor Colhoun explains: "There has been much speculation in both the semi-popular and scientific literature concerning the rapid melting of the Antarctic ice sheet, but there is no real data on what is happening at present.

'The observations that I made at Bunger Hill in 1986 suggest that the ice edge may well be in a fairly advanced position and that sudden retreat is not as likely as has been suggested by some authorities.

In addition, a detailed photographic record of the characteristics of the ice edge, including the exposed structures within the ice cliffs, will be made by Messrs Payne and Fitzsimons and the sediments deposited up the ice edge will be studied, with a view to determining the stability, or otherwise, of the ice edge,' he says.

Two Professors stand for Council

PROFESSOR LES KEEDY and PROFESSOR ALAN ROBERTS are the candidates in the special election for the position of professorial member of the Council.

Professors are currently voting in a postal ballot, which will close on 17 December.

The position for a member elected by the professors will become vacant when Professor Ron MacDonald becomes Deputy Chairman of Senate from 1 January, 1988.

INSIDE: University increases its ARGs funding
The recently announced changes to the University's senior administration were long overdue, says Professor Ken Dutton. Professor Dutton, who has completed seven years as Vice-Principal, will next year move to the newly-created position of Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Students.

The existing structure was a creature of the 1960s and had long ceased to be appropriate, Professor Dutton said. In particular, the position of Vice-Principal needed to be radically reviewed or abolished, and he had been pressing for this for some time. 'It was too much taken up with routine administrative tasks which should have been handled further down the line.'

Although he had managed to rationalise the Vice-Principal's duties to some extent over the last seven years, fundamental reform was needed to provide an effective senior administration, and this could now happen, Professor Dutton said.

'It should be remembered that we had two full-time Deputy Vice-Chancellors up to 1981. The increasing complexity of the University's activities since that time has added further to the workload, and it now makes sense to return to the earlier system. The duties cannot be handled effectively by only one person.'

Professor Dutton said that his main regret was the number of major initiatives which had not been possible because of the time taken up in day-to-day administration. Nonetheless, he was pleased with the progress made in a number of areas affecting staff, especially the introduction of an EEO programme and equitable procedures relating to adverse reports on staff members and to staff discipline. 'What is now needed, to build on this work, is the allocation of resources to a proper Staff Development programme,' he said. This applied to both academic and general staff.

He is looking forward to his new role, which will be a welcome change from 'keeping the existing system going', towards the development of new initiatives affecting students. The chief areas in which he is hoping for substantial developments are:

- the introduction of a full-fee paying Overseas Students programme.
- a significant increase in student residential accommodation on or near campus;
- the more effective provision of student services in close conjunction with the CAE;
- outreach programmes to make University courses available to people currently unable to undertake them because of socio-economic disadvantage;
- encouraging the development of the 'distinctive identity' of the University which the Planning Committee of Senate saw as lying in a special concern for student development.

Many of these initiatives would require a degree of entrepreneurship, including the extension of student services. Professor Dutton was hoping to see the establishment of dental, optometry and physiotherapy services on campus to complement the existing medical and counselling service. He also hoped for the expansion of the careers and accommodation services, which were both hard-pressed to keep up with current demand.

'For this to happen, we shall need to look for outside assistance more than in the past. But we shall also need to devote more internal resources to these areas than at present, if our plans are not merely idle rhetoric. Over the last few years, the support of student services has actually decreased relative to other activities, and unless the University is prepared to allocate proper funding to them we shall appear hypocritical in talking of our concern for students.'

Professor Dutton feels that the creation of the post of Dean of Students, and its designation at the senior level of Pro-Vice-Chancellor, is a promising sign of the University's increasing commitment in this area.

He is looking forward to undertaking some teaching and research in his discipline, along with his new role. Although he has completed two books and a number of articles over the last seven years, he has not had the time he would have liked for research activity, and he missed the teaching contact with students. 'The Vice-Principal has a great deal of contact with students, but the teacher-student contact is vital for a serious academic and I look forward to resuming it.'

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**Request for books and journals**

The University College of the Northern Territory (a new tertiary institution) is seeking books and journals for inclusion in its library.

The College, located in Darwin, offers courses in anthropology, economics, english, government, history and law (Faculty of Arts) and botany, chemistry, mathematics, physics and zoology (Faculty of Science).

The library is facing problems in terms of acquiring older materials, back runs of journals and sets of law reports and periodicals. It would be helpful if in the first instance donors could write to: Mr Alan Butler, College Librarian, University College of the Northern Territory, PO Box 1341, Darwin, NT, 5794.
UNIQUE APPARATUS ON CAMPUS

Two overseas scientists have come to the University because of the existence on the campus of unique apparatus which can assist them with their research.

Within the Department of Physics, Professor Ken Snowdon, from the University of Osnabrück, West Germany, is collaborating with Professor Ron MacDonald and Dr John O'Connor on the study of surfaces using low energy ion-surface scattering. He says the apparatus and facilities available to him in the Department are not available in Europe.

Professor Peter Kammerer, from the Technical University of Darmstadt, West Germany, currently a Visiting Professor in the Department of Computer Science, is focusing his research on the Department's completely new research computer, the MONADS-PC, because, he says, it employs some very interesting ideas and mechanisms.

Professor Snowdon's collaborative project in Physics will last until Christmas, while Professor Kammerer proposes to work with the Computer Science group until next February.

One of Professor MacDonald's former students at the ANU, Canberra, Ken Snowdon has been a guest at the Max Planck Institute for Plasma Physics, Germany, and is now at Osnabrück University. Since obtaining his Habilitation (a higher teaching and research degree in the German university system) he has obtained a C2 professorial post at Osnabrück.

He said he could not speak any German when he joined the Max Planck Institute for Plasma Physics. However, he learnt the language at night classes which lasted about two semesters and he had been assisted further by his German wife, Helga, who has accompanied him to Australia.

He said he, Professor MacDonald and another one of Professor MacDonald's former ANU students, Dr John O'Connor, have kept up a close 'academic relationship' since their days at ANU.

'We are presently carrying out fundamental research into the structure and composition of the surfaces of solids. The apparatus in Newcastle is among the most sophisticated in this area in the world.'

'In this country people are doing world-class fundamental research using equipment which is attractive to people who are working overseas. This situation is not appreciated enough by some Australians.

'Another reason why Australians should continue to support fundamental research of this kind is that so often the same research workers initiate or provide the solution to key industrial and applied problems associated with surfaces, such as those related to corrosion and wear.'

Professor Snowdon obtained, in addition to support from Newcastle, a grant from the German Research Council for his visit in the Department of Physics.

Professor Kammerer and Professor Les Keedy met at the Technical University of Darmstadt while Professor Keedy was involved there in the development of the new programming language, LEIBNIZ — before he joined this University as Foundation Professor of Computer Science.

Professor Kammerer says he is pleased to be at the University with the opportunity to exchange expertise about distributed computer systems, and to gain some insights into the design and operation of the MONADS-PC.

Within his own Department at Darmstadt University, he and his colleagues are using the UNIX-PCS computer, — an interesting unit, he says, which has recently been marketed in Europe. It incorporates interesting techniques for improving file-sharing and remote programme execution in a distributed environment.

Professor Kammerer's research group is working with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem on transporting and enhancing an operating system developed by Professor Barak for PCS computers and, using funds provided by Siemens, developing new systems for Siemens computers incorporating load balancing.

Professor Kammerer said the Monads Project employed a very interesting approach to integrating file systems into the concept of a virtual memory. 'MONADS is a very unconventional system with a software-oriented hardware design which provides a lot of interesting mechanisms to facilitate software development. It offers a great potential for distributed computer systems and I am interested to learn to what extent MONADS ideas may be transferred to other distributed system architectures.'

Professor Kammerer's wife, Doris, will visit Newcastle in December to spend a few weeks with him.

His unusual hobby is collecting mouse traps. 'When I travel overseas,' he said, 'I look around hardware shops and buy mouse traps which use different methods to catch mice. So far I have about 15 different commercially available mouse traps using different techniques.'
ENTHUSIASM SHOWN FOR DEGREE

Representatives of the building industry were extremely enthusiastic about a proposal for a Building Degree in the Faculty of Architecture, Senate was told at its last meeting.

The Vice-Chancellor recounted how the degree had been under consideration for a fair number of years.

"In discussions with people from the building industry on the current situation, we learnt that there is a demand from all over New South Wales and the only course available is in Sydney.

"The industry has suggested that the degree be introduced on an external studies basis, but the problem is that the University is not licensed to provide external courses.

"A Building Degree requires funds to pay for substantial overheads and the Federal Government is not likely to provide the money."

Professor Morgan said the building industry apparently had access to funds and could make them available. He would invite the representatives to discuss the proposal with the University so needs and funding could be clarified.

So long JULIET

In her three years as Tutor in Japanese, Ms Juliet Tan became a real personality around the campus. She will leave shortly to go into private enterprise in Sydney. She says she has enjoyed teaching immensely and wishes all her students the best in the future. She thanked staff members for their support.

Life remembered along the Rivers

DR JOHN TURNER, Senior Lecturer in History, is the co-author of From Nobbys to Paterson, the fourth volume of the Photos of Old Newcastle series. From Nobbys to Paterson is an 80-page collection of photographs recording life along the Hunter and Paterson Rivers in the nineteenth century.

Concentrating on the river towns of Hexham, Raymond Terrace, Hinton, Morpeth, Woodville and Paterson, the book shows old wharves, buildings, industries, bridges, and many pioneers.

The great houses, including Duckenfield, Tomago, Leeholme and Stradbroke, receive attention. Many of the photos have not been published before.

Beginning with photos of Nobbys, From Nobbys to Paterson travels up the rivers by boat, as the explorers did, and culminates among the orange groves of Paterson, Old Hunter's favourite picnic spot.

Mr Jack Sullivan is the other co-author of From Nobbys to Paterson, which follows Photos of Old Newcastle, From Stockton to Minmi and Down to Lake Macquarie in the series.

The book sells for $13.50 soft cover and $16.50 hard cover.

Student takes Chemistry prize

MR GREG SCHUMACHER, Chemistry III student, has won second prize in the Royal Australian Chemical Institute's 1987 competition for analytical chemistry.

The prize of $100 plus membership of the RACI was awarded to Mr Schumacher for his project, conducted with Mr Grant Foster, on the determination of trace elements in aluminium. He is one of four students from tertiary institutions in New South Wales who were chosen to present their work to members of the RACI Analytical Group at the University of New South Wales on 18 November.

The project was part of the regular third year analytical laboratory programme, supervised by Dr Graham Orr, in which students are given an opportunity to try their hand at real-life problems.

Student takes Chemistry prize

Mr G. Schumacher
UN INCREASES ITS ARGS GRANTS

The University is one of eight universities in Australia which have increased their ARGS funding next year over 1987.

The University received ARGS grants totaling $1,019,348, an increase of $111,591 over 1987.

The announcement of these grants follows the statement of $11,599 over 1987.

The grants totalling $1,336,263 to staff of the University any new ARCS grants, has not awarded the year over 1987.

(University $1,336,263 to staff of

The list of successful applicants in 1983 to more than $1 each of 1987 and next year.

However, the University's two research groups receiving Program Grants (Professor R. Antonia and Dr L. Browne, and Professor C. Goodwin, Dr R. Middleton, Dr R. Evans, Dr D. Hill and Dr G. De Souza) have been allocated $124,789, an increase of $12,389 over 1987.

Forty-six applications for support for research projects have been funded under the ARCS compared with 63 applications submitted.

ARGS funding for research at UN has risen from a little less than $450,000 in 1983 to more than $1 million in each of 1987 and next year.

The list of successful applicants for grants next year.

NEW GRANTS

Professor W.F. Pickering, Metal Ion Speciation — Soils, Sediments and Suspended Matter, $20,000.

Professor I.R. Plimer, Boron Isotope Study of the Coal Measures in the Hunter Valley: A Pilot Study, $12,000.

Dr R.E. Betz, Non-Linear Control of Inverter-Fed Induction and Synchronous Machines, $12,000.

Assoc. Professor J.C. Fryer, Dr H.L. Mitchell and Mr H.M. Effick, Correlation of Images from Overlapping Stereoscopic Pairs of Photographs, $17,000.

Professor J.J. Ready and Dr J. Rosenberg, A Massive Memory Supercomputer, $32,000.

Dr G.E. Murch, Computer Simulation of Diffusion in Ordered Alloys, $17,000.

Dr S. Rajagopalan, Interaction between Spanwise Vorticity and Coherent Structure in Turbulent Shear Flows, $15,164.

Assoc. Professor E.M. Andrews, Anglo-Australian Relations during the First World War, $14,500.


Assoc. Professor J.R. Giles and Dr A. Stern-Mishkat, The Determination of Differentiability Properties of Distance Functions of Banach Spaces and Application to Non-Smooth Optimisation, $26,826.

Dr B.V. King, Mass and Energy Spectra of Sputtered Insulators, $20,000.

Professor R.J. MacDonald and Dr D.J. O'Connor, Neutralisation in Ion Surface Interaction, $48,000.


Dr D.C. Finlay, Electrophysiological and Behavioural Study of the Perception of Apparent Motion, $13,500.

CONTINUING GRANTS

Assoc. Professor R.J. Rose, Mechanisms of Chloroplast DNA Segregation in Somatic Fusion Hybrids and in Plant Development, $14,000.

Assoc. Professor R.C. Jones, Professor B.P. Setchell and Assoc. Professor G.M. Stone, Regulation of the Functions of the Initial Segment of the Epididymis, $20,009.

Dr C.E. Offler, Pathway of Phloem Unloading of Photosynthates, $13,559.

Dr J.W. Patrick, Control of Phloem Unloading of Photosynthates, $59,199 ($30,000 shared by Dr R. Rose and Dr C. Offler.)

Dr J.C. Rediger, Artificial Breeding of Marsupials, $10,485.

Dr G.A. Lawrence, Carbon Acid Metal Templates Syntheses of Multidentate and Binucleating Ligands, $10,000.

Dr E. I. von Nagy-Felsobuki, Investigation of Electronic and Structural Properties of Small Alkali Metal Vapours, $10,000.

Assoc. Professor B.A. Engel and Dr L.N. Morris, Evolutionary and Palaeogeographic Studies of Carboniferous and Permian Bryozoan and Trilobite Faunas of Australia, $11,800.

Dr R. Offler, Illite Crystallinity, ... and Polytype Study of E-White Mica in Rocks from Forearc Basin and Subduction Complex Sequences, New England Fold Belt, $6,000.

Professor G.J. Jameson and Mr G.M. Evans, Bubble Production in Stirred Vessels, $26,000.

Professor J.J. Ready and Dr J. Rosenberg, Dr A. Distributed Monads-PC System, $19,500.

Professor R.J. MacDonald and Dr B.V. King, Depth Profiling and Recoil Implantation in Metals and Alloys, $23,000.

Professor R.E. Melchers, Stochastic Analysis of Structural Systems, $10,000.

Dr G.E. Murch, Demixing of Multi-Component Oxides in a Chemical Potential Gradient, $18,500.

Dr A.W. Page and Mr P.W. Kleeman, The Deformation and Failure of Masonry Under Triaxial Stress, $17,000.

Dr B.G. Quinn, On-line Estimation of Frequency, $6,000.

Professor A.W. Roberts and Mr M. Ooms, Understanding the Boundary Forces Between Particulate Solids and a Solid

[more over the page]
Surface with Measureable Topography, $14,533.

Mr R.H. Roberts, Surface Compositions of Alloy and Recoil Implanted Metal Surfaces and Their Relation to Corrosion and Wear Resistance, $15,000.

Dr J. Rosenberg and Professor J.L. Keedy, Monads-PC-A Workstation for Software Engineering (Operating System), $7,000.

Dr S.W. Sloan, Numerical Prediction of Collapse Loads in Geotechnical Engineering, $7,000.


Professor C.A. Hooker, An Evolutionary Epistemological Theory of Scientific Progress, $25,000.

Assoc. Professor D.I. Wright, History of Methodism in New South Wales from 1812, $1,600.

Assoc. Professor B.J. Fraser, Propagation Studies of Hydromagnetic Waves between Spaced Stations, $23,300.

Professor R.J. MacDonald, Low Energy Ion Scattering for Surface Crystallography and Atom Location, $23,000.

Dr D.J. O'Connor, Medium Energy Ion Scattering for Surface Structure and Composition Analysis, $23,900.

Dr R.A. Heath, Parallel Distributed Models for the Storage and Retrieval of Spatiotemporal Information in Human Memory, $12,840.

Emeritus Professor J.A. Keats and Dr R.A. Heath, Individual Differences in Experimentally Derived Parameters and Their Relationships to Intelligence and its Development, $12,840.

Professor M.G. King, Pineal Principles: Adaptive Behaviours and Brain Biochemical Profiles, $26,750.

Dr S.A. McFadden, Development of Binocular Vision in a Lateral-eyed Bird, $9,350.

**PROGRAM GRANTS**

Professor R.A. Antonia and Dr L.W. Browne, Transfer Processes in Turbulent Shear Flows, $111,405.

Professor G.C. Goodwin, Dr R.H. Middleton, Dr R.K. Evans, Dr D.J. Hill and Dr C. De Souza, Robust Control and Communication Systems, $104,084.

**INTEREST IN NEW ISOTOPE FACILITIES**

Earth scientists from nine Australian universities made application to the ARGS for the establishment of a centralised facility for stable and radiogenic isotope analysis.

The facility, called the Centre for Isotope Geochemistry, has been co-ordinated by Professor Ian Plimer, Professor of Geology at this University, and Associate Professor Suzanne O'Reilly, of Macquarie University.

Professor Plimer, Chairman of the Management Committee, said a total of $300,000 had previously been raised from CSIRO and University sources. The $100,000 for the centre provided by the ARGS, plus over $200,000 in individual applications, now provided the seed funds for the establishment of centralised isotope facilities for geochemistry at the CSIRO, North Ryde, Sydney.

'Isootope geochemistry is a major frontline research area in earth sciences,' he said. 'It is fundamental to understanding processes of mantle/crust evolution, the nature of the primordial Earth and its subsequent differentiation processes.'

Professor Plimer received a grant of $16,000 for a stable isotope project, with Dr J. Kleeman, from the University of New England, and a grant of $13,000 for a pilot project to investigate boron isotopes.

He said only two geochemistry laboratories in the world were able to measure boron isotopes of rocks and minerals, and a boron isotope extraction line would be established in the Department of Geology at Newcastle University.

**STOP PRESS...**

As the University News was going to press, it was announced that among several research grants received from external sources, apart from the NH&MRC and the ARGS, there were two from the National Energy, Research Development and Demonstration Council (NERDEC).

Associate Professor Terry Wall, of the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering received the grants, valued at $224,000, in connection with research on the origin of unburnt combustibles from coal and electrical conductance as a measure of strength of coal ash deposits.
Chinese population includes millions of ethnic origin

The population of the People's Republic of China includes 67,000,000 people belonging to ethnic minorities, says Mrs Guan Jian, an Assistant Research Fellow and Secretary for Foreign Affairs at the Institute of Nationality Studies in Beijing.

Mrs Jian, who visited the University at the invitation of the Department of Sociology on 17 and 18 November, said the members of ethnic minorities were additional to the 937,000,000 Han Chinese.

Among the "nationalities" are large groups, such as Manchu (4.3 million), Tibetans (3.9 million), Zhuang, Hui, Yi, Mongolians, Uygur, Miao and so forth, as well as smaller populations, such as the Hezhe and Gaoshan with less than 2,000 people (82 census figures). The Institute of Nationality Studies forms part of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, and its members carry out research into various aspects of these numerous nationalities.

Mrs Guan Jian herself has done field research on nationalities in Yunnan and Szechwan. Her original academic training was in ethics and philosophy and she is particularly concerned with value-systems of different nationalities. She says problems often arise where the administration is unaware of the differing value-systems of minority nationalities. In such cases the Institute may be called on to investigate.

Religion is an important component of the value-systems of many minority populations, she says, and her current research is focused on shamanism among peoples in North-East China. She hopes to carry out fieldwork shortly in this area with surviving shamanic practitioners.

Mrs Guan Jian's role as Secretary at the Institute is concerned with making arrangements for foreign scholars visiting China and Chinese scholars travelling overseas.

While in Newcastle Mrs Guan Jian met members of several University departments, including Professor Ron Laura (Education), Professor Michael Carter (Sociology), Associate Professor Daphne Keats (Psychology) and Dr Henry Chan (History), as well as Dr Geoffrey Samuel (Sociology), who organised and co-ordinated her visit. She met three Newcastle University graduates who are now working in the multicultural and related fields — Mrs Trudy Mills-Evers, of the Ethnic Affairs Commission, Ms Kay Jackson, of the Anti-Discrimination Board and Mrs Maureen Strazzari, of the Migrant Health Unit.

Mrs Guan Jian also spoke to two people active in local Aboriginal affairs — Mr Ray Kelly, of the Minimbah Aboriginal Youth Support Scheme, and Dr Marie-Anne Hockings, of the Awabakal Medical Centre and Ms Elvira Sprogis, Ethnic Affairs Reporter on The Newcastle Herald.

GROUP TO REACT TO GOVERNMENT'S POLICY STATEMENT

On 25 November, Senate formed a working party to prepare a response to the Federal Government's policy statement on the future of higher education in Australia, called the Green Paper.

Senate approve nominations brought forward by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor K. Morgan, for membership of the working party.

In his post-Budget statement the Minister for Employment, Education and Training, Mr Dawkins, said the Green Paper would be published as a basis for consultation and community comment. Following the consideration of responses, the Government expected to produce a White Paper, or a policy statement on higher education, as a basis for legislation to be introduced after the next Budget.

The Vice-Chancellor told Senate the best indication of the date of release of the Green Paper was 10 or 11 December after it had been cleared by Cabinet.

'There will be three months of consultation before the White Paper is published, so time for the development of our argument is short,' he said.

Senate agreed that Professor Morgan, Professor M. Carter, Professor R. J-McDonald and the Deans form a working party to report to Senate in January and subsequently Council. It is hoped to have the University's response to the Green Paper completed by March.

Senate also agreed to the Planning Committee reconsidering the submission which the University made to the CTEC for the 1988-1990 Triennium.

The Vice-Chancellor said that, as the Government had delayed the start of the next funding triennium while the review of higher education was made and would no longer have the benefit of the advice of the CTEC, which was to be abolished on 1 December, it would be helpful for Mr Dawkins to have available to him a submission which reviewed the case put at the end of 1986.

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RESULT OF PSA ELECTION

The ballot conducted to fill the eight positions on the Management Committee of the University Sub-division of the PSA resulted in these candidates being elected:

Mr David Farmer (Secretary's Division), Mr Robert Milan (Staff Office), Mrs Mary Stroud (Department of Education), Mr David Marr (Secretary's Division), Mrs Joy Hoesli (University Counselling), Mr John Sanderson (Bursar's Division), Mr Lionel Farrell (Secretary's Division) and Mrs Kate Hutchinson (Department of Community Programmes).
'A PRIVILEGE TO MEET SO MANY YOUNG PEOPLE'

After being involved with the University since 1966, when he became a member of the Council, the Chancellor, Sir Bede Callaghan is about to retire. The man who was educated at the old Newcastle High School and awarded more than 7,800 degrees at graduation ceremonies talked freely to John Armstrong about the period in which he has presided over ceremonial occasions and Council meetings.

Question: What is your assessment of Newcastle University — what are its main qualities?

Sir Bede: I regard the University highly and among the best. It has done a tremendous job in a relatively short period. It has now had three Vice-Chancellors and every one has been a different person. Professor Auchmuty was something of a dictator. Professor George was the other end — a democrat. And we currently have — and are glad to have — an administrator, who I think will make tremendous changes — all for the good.

As for the level of scholarship, the last University News has reference to people such as Professor Hooker and Professor Goodwin who have been elected to Academies. The staff of the University have proved themselves not only in Australia but internationally.

Photographs showing the Chancellor's contribution to University life, including (far right) a presentation of long service awards and a meeting with a former Lord Mayor, Mrs Joy Cummings.

Medicine, Engineering and other faculties are in world-class and are developing quite rapidly. I am very hopeful of big advances in several areas, for example Economics and Accounting, where new professors have been appointed.

Question: What are the main problems the University is facing?

Sir Bede: Funding will, of course, remain a problem. The Minister for Education, Mr Dawkins has made some remarks which I am not sure I fully understand. But, I think Newcastle University is getting greater recognition now and, in the minds of people in Canberra, is one of the more highly classified universities.

Personally, I prefer to see the University remain a separate, unamalgamated institution. However, if amalgamation is forced upon the University and the CAE, then it is not the end of the earth. We have top-quality people in both institutions and they will make amalgamation work.

Question: How can staff and students protect their University?

Sir Bede: I think the students tend to get too involved in politics, but of course Newcastle is a political city. The responsibility, of protecting the University, lies with the governing body, the Council, acting in the light of advice from the Vice-Chancellor. It is most desirable that the Vice-Chancellor gets support, especially from the academic staff and other members of staff. The Vice-Chancellor recently brought changes in the senior administration designed to make the University more efficient and a better organisation. I hope that the University will support the Vice-Chancellor. That's the way we will improve the University.
Question: Does it get the support and recognition it deserves from politicians, and the community?

Sir Bede: I guess the community would be blind not to see how well the University does in areas such as medicine. That is just one example. It is probably harder for the community at large to see what is being done in some other areas, such as engineering. I would say the community is aware of the University, but the University needs to continue to work on the concept of 'town and gown'.

Question: How would you judge the changes made in such areas as EEO and Affirmative Action?

Sir Bede: We have handled things extremely well. I don't even mind signing minutes as Chair instead of Chairman. It must be borne in mind that 20 years ago there was still a law preventing Commonwealth departments and bodies such as the Commonwealth Bank from employing married women. So, community attitudes have changed and in EEO the change has been quite dramatic.

Question: Should young people follow your example and accept public positions?

Sir Bede: You should omit the word 'young'. I think everybody has an obligation to other members of the community. If we don't try to help one another we're 'gone a million'. We lose money. There's no money in being Chancellor.

Question: Could you tell me more about your 'Newcastle connection'?

Sir Bede: I regard myself as a Novocastrian, even though I left Newcastle as a young man and now live in Sydney. My mother's people started out at Speers Point in 1870. They ran sheep and had a homestead where the old Council Chamber was. My paternal grandfather was headmaster of Hamilton School in the 1880s. My mother and father were teachers and they met at Adamstown School. I was born in Tighes Hill and went to the old co-educational Newcastle High on The Hill.

I had to leave school after the intermediate certificate at the age of 14 because I 'mucked up' more than I studied. It isn't something I'm proud of. I worked in the Commonwealth Bank in Newcastle as a junior clerk before being transferred to Cootamundra.

[Sir Bede served the Commonwealth Bank in London. From there, he went to Washington, DC, where he became an Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund of the World Bank. Later he was appointed foundation general manager of the Commonwealth Development Bank. From 1965 until his retirement in 1976 he was Managing Director of the whole Commonwealth Bank group.]

Last question: Do you enjoy graduation ceremonies?

Sir Bede: I certainly do. Not the least enjoyment comes from the fact that the Great Hall is filled with people who have probably come to a university for the first time in their lives. I am talking mainly about the parents of the graduates. They see all the rich colour of the ceremonies. I am very grateful to senior members of staff who participate in the academic procession because it is the sort of thing that gets 'the town' and 'the gown' together. It has been a privilege to meet so many young people. Very attractive boys and girls they are in the great majority of cases. Some quite senior people are coming up on the stage now to receive their degrees.

Advising about training units

As well as delivering lectures in the Department, Dr Allerton is continuing his collaboration with Mr Jim Sparks, Manager of the Civil Air Training Academy, on the installation of flight simulators at the academy's base at Cessnock, where students who take the University's course in aviation will be given flight training.

Dr Allerton previously paid two visits to Australia to assist the CATA after the academy had purchased two of the simulators from the University of Southampton.

He, his wife, Claire, and their sons, Fergus (9) and Patrick (7) are living in a home close to the CATA's base.

Early-1988 visit to West Germany

Ms Amanda Cady (computer science honours) will be off to West Germany in the New Year to study at the Albert-Ludwigs University of Freiburg/Breisgau.

Ms Cady's study programme is designed for students who want to improve their language skills and understanding of contemporary German affairs.

Her visit will last for eight weeks, beginning 4 January, and will be sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

Dr D. Allerton

DR DAVE ALLERTON (above), a Senior Lecturer in Computer Systems at the University of Southampton, England, is currently a visitor to the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.
Manning Valley book by staff member launched

DR JOHN RAMSLAND's book The Struggle against Isolation: A History of the Manning Valley was officially launched by the Minister for Local Government and Water Resources, Mrs Janice Crosio, at Taree on 27 November.

The function, sponsored by the Taree Literary Society, took the form of a cocktail party, which was attended by 200 invited guests.

Alderman Eric Richardson, Chairman of the rural city's Bicentennial Community Committee, acted as Master of Ceremonies. The Mayor, Alderman Ray Green, Mrs Crosio, Dr Renshaw, President of the Taree Literary Institute, and the author himself presented speeches.

The launching was the first of a series of major events planned by the local Bicentennial Community Committee that are intended to celebrate, in the Manning Valley, the Bicentennial Year.

Dr Ramsland said he had set out to write a history about all the people of the Manning — both black and white — since the day Lieutenant James Cook, aboard the Endeavour, passed by the Valley on 12 May, 1770, on his way north.

The launching was followed by a formal mayoral dinner in honour of Mrs Crosio. This was attended by the author and his family and the aldermen and heads of divisions of the Greater Taree City Council and their wives and husbands.

Mr Malcolm Sainty, representing the publishers, the Library of Australian History Press, with Dr John Ramsland at the book launching. Photo by courtesy of The Manning River Times.

UNIVERSITY SMOKING POLICY

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, Professor Keith Morgan, has approved a University policy on smoking which, among other things, prohibits smoking in certain areas.

The Vice-Chancellor said the University assumed that the normal atmospheric environment is that of the non-smoker. 'Consequently, while it is the policy of the University to respect the rights of all individuals,' he said, 'where the exercise of these rights leads to conflict of opinion and practice over smoking, the rights of the non-smoker must prevail.'

Within this policy it was expected that in all matters of conflict the best endeavors of individuals and officers of the University would be used to resolve them and, if possible, find mutually acceptable solutions.

In accordance with this general statement, Professor Morgan said smoking shall not be permitted in the following areas —

- in confined areas of general access, for example, the Auchmuty Library, lifts, lecture theatres, departmental offices, seminar rooms and toilets;
- in lunch rooms and rest rooms;
- in areas frequently visited by members of the public;
- in areas where it constitutes an immediate hazard, e.g. flammable liquid stores; and
- in University vehicles.

Professor Morgan said the University smoking policy provided for the following consensus areas —

- in offices shared by two or more persons, one being a smoker, that person should ascertain whether smoking is acceptable to all non-smokers in the same office. If unanimous agreement cannot be reached the office shall be declared a non-smoking area;
- if an employee is the sole occupant of an office, the designation of that office as a smoking or non-smoking area should be left to the employee.

NEW STUDENTS WILL BE WELCOMED

The University will put on a formal welcome for new students on the first day of first term next year.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor K. Morgan, told Senate on 25 November it seemed sensible to develop the welcome as a fixed event on the new students' calendar.

'The welcome could be followed by visits to faculties and conducted tours,' he said. 'It might also be sensible to encourage departments to put on orientations on the second day of term.'

Professor Morgan said he planned to send a draft timetable for the welcome to Deans soon after the meeting.

Christmas bargains in sports gear

The University's Sports Store in the Squash Pavilion is holding a Super Christmas Sale with a blanket 10 per cent discount on stock.

The sale commenced on 1 December and will conclude on 24 December.

The following items have been discounted from 30 to 50 per cent.

Shoes: Adidas, Brooks, Diadora, Dunlop, Puma, Power, Pro Kennedy, Reebok, Stellar.

Ladies' and Gents' sportswear — Emrik, Puma, Spank, Yonex, T-shirts, sweatshirts, shorts and Tiger.

The shop also has a large range of top-quality squash and tennis racquets (the ideal gifts for Christmas). They are available in all leading brands.

Our shop provides a wide range of sporting items all year round, especially priced for the student. However, the general public are most welcome to inspect.
DOCTORATE IN CHEMISTRY FOR NEWCASTLE MAN

David Barker, of the Department of Chemistry, has recently been awarded a Doctor of Philosophy degree for his research into the molecular structure of a family of organic chemicals.

Born and educated in Newcastle, David commenced study for a Bachelor of Science at this University in 1978 and completed an honours year in Chemistry under the supervision of Associate Professor L.A. Summers in 1981, obtaining First Class Honours. His honours research programme involved the investigation of the reactivity of a cyclopentadiipyridine, which had previously been prepared by Professor Summers' research group.

He gained a Commonwealth Postgraduate Research Award in 1982 to study for a PhD under the joint supervision of Professor Summers and Professor R.P. Cooney. David's research direction changed somewhat during this time from pure organic synthesis to an instrumentation-based approach to the determination of the structures of a family of molecules known as bipyridinium salts, which have provided the basis for much of Professor Summers' research efforts in recent years. This family includes the well-known herbicides, paraquat and diquat.

David combined his knowledge of organic chemistry with Professor Cooney's spectroscopy group, in order to study these molecules using a range of techniques, including Raman, infrared and ultraviolet-visible spectroscopy. His studies took him to the University of Auckland in 1986 for a few months following Professor Cooney's appointment to the Chair of Physical Chemistry there. David completed his thesis early in 1987. Overall his researches have resulted so far in five papers in learned journals.

He is currently employed by CSR Timber Products at Raymond Terrace as a research chemist, and is involved with the development of hardboard technology and products.

Making safe our basic freedoms

Many Australians seemed to be ignorant of the Constitution and the need to guarantee fundamental rights and freedoms, Mr Thomas Keneally, one of Australia's foremost novelists, said at the University on 11 November.

Speaking in the Staff House, Mr Keneally said that in the United States everybody seemed to be aware of the Constitution — even the most notorious criminal who sought protection under the Fifth Amendment.

'The tragedy is that Australians have not learnt that they have a Constitution and that it has changed little since 1901.'

Mr Keneally was at the University to talk on the work being done by the Constitutional Commission to revise the Australian Constitution and the reforms that have been recommended by the Individual and Democratic Rights Committee, of which he is a member and which is advising the commission.

He said the Individual and Democratic Rights Committee had looked at whether the Constitution adequately protected the rights and freedoms of Australians and concluded that more should be done to safeguard the ordinary Australian against improper interference by government.

'Contrary to what many people believe, the Constitution does not guarantee the right to vote and to say what you think on political questions. Those who framed Australia's Constitution at the end of the last century did not include a "Bill of Rights" on the American model. They preferred to follow the English tradition, which relied upon the spirit of its Parliament to safeguard individual freedom.'

'The negative side to the decision not to include a statement of individual rights was that equality before the law was not extended to minorities such as the Aborigines and Chinese.'

Mr Keneally described our Constitution as being as exciting as the articles of association of a bowling club. Senator Gareth Evans had said that the 'founding fathers' had not included a statement of individual rights because they feared that the Asians would make use of it and they had a problem in accommodating the interests of the States.

'Our democratic traditions come from the "common law", created over hundreds of years, and many Australians believe that the common law protect their fundamental rights.

'But, in fact, many fundamental rights are not guaranteed by common law: the right to vote, freedom of speech, the right to practise one's religion freely, and the right not to be discriminated against when seeking employment,' he said.

In submissions and public hearings the Individual and Democratic Rights Committee heard a surprisingly wide range of argument that the process of initiating amendment of the Constitution by referendum should be placed in the hands of the people and not monopolised by governments. It would require a specified number of voters (say 500,000) to initiate a referendum.

After also considering opposition to this argument, the committee recommended that there should be provision in the Constitution for voter-initiated referendums for constitutional change.

Mr Keneally said the single greatest area of concern expressed to the committee was that the Constitution should stipulate 'one vote one value' as a basic standard. This would put an end to the practice of having electorates, particularly in Queensland, which varied greatly in the numbers of voters. The committee had recommended that the Constitution should stipulate the 'one vote one value' principle for both Federal and State elections.
**Scheme taking shape for extra tennis courts**

An additional four tennis courts, incorporating floodlighting and synthetic grass surfaces, are to be built at the University.

Following an application from the Sports Union to construct the courts adjacent to the existing courts at No.1 Oval, Council agreed to the land being made available and authorised the Vice-Chancellor to commission designs, estimates and documentation for the project.

Mr Adrian Lakin, Sport and Recreation Officer, said that this work should be completed shortly and tenders for the project would then be called. The Sports Union’s allocation towards the project was $200,000, he said.

'The existing four tennis courts no longer meet the requirements of our students and staff players. There are too few courts for the number of Sports Union members wishing to play tennis and the Techtone surface has lost much of its popularity amongst tennis players since the introduction of synthetic grass.'

Mr Lakin said the immediate need was for an additional four synthetic grass, floodlit courts, which would bring the ratio of courts to student/staff population to a more satisfactory level. 'The provision of state-of-the-art facilities will attract University players who are currently playing elsewhere and boost tennis on campus.

'The Sports Union also felt that the courts should be constructed with removable net posts so that the surface could also be used for practise for other strictly compatible sports such as netball and croquet when not required for tennis.'

He said tennis courts in Newcastle had improved dramatically over the past five years. Tennis players are expressing a clear preference for the newer synthetic grass surfaces and high-quality floodlighting.

'The Newcastle District Lawn Tennis Association claims that court usage at District Park has increased dramatically following the conversion of the existing courts surfaces to synthetic grass.

'Synthetic grass tennis courts are preferred by both older and better players because the courts are cooler and softer underfoot and less abrasive on balls and shoes. After rain they dry almost immediately, therefore increasing playing time.'

Mr Lakin said he had made a thorough investigation of alternative tennis court surfaces. His investigations had included inspections of the new tennis centres at Camberwell in Melbourne and Milton Park in Brisbane.

**MAIN ROLES FOR UNIVERSITY IN MATHEMATICS MEETINGS**

The University will make a significant contribution to two mathematics conferences to be held in January, 1988.

The University will be the venue for the conferences and staff from the Department of Mathematics will assist with the organisation.

The 12th Biennial Conference of the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers promises to be one of the biggest meetings of mathematicians held in Australia, with an expected registration of about 300 teachers from primary and secondary schools and tertiary institutions.

The AAMT’s conference will be followed by the Australian Mathematical Society annual summer meeting titled Summer Research Institute 1988 from 20 January until 5 February.

The theme of the mathematics teachers’ conference, to be held from 10 to 15 January, will be Mathematical Interfaces.

The Newcastle Mathematical Association whose members are mathematics teachers from regional schools and lecturers from this University and Newcastle CAE, will run the event, assisted by the New England Mathematical Association.

Mr Barry Jones, Minister Assisting the Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce, Senator Button, will open the conference by speaking on Mathematics, Computing and the Future of Australia in the Great Hall at 9.30 am on 11 January.

The sessions and workshops of the conference will act as a forum for discussion of problems of mathematics teaching and presentations by educators on teaching methods, new ideas, research findings, special projects, etc.

The following distinguished mathematicians will be keynote speakers for the conference:

- Dr Henry Pollak, who holds degrees from Yale and Harvard and retired in 1986 after 25 years at Bell Communications Research doing mathematical research and heading various research organisations.

- Professor Thomas A. Romberg, Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Faculty Associate at the Wisconsin Centre for Education Research.

- Mr Malcolm Swan, honours graduate of Nottingham University who has taught in comprehensive secondary schools in England and is a lecturer at the Shell Centre for Mathematical Education, University of Nottingham, since 1979.

- Mr Charles Lovitt and Mr Doug Clarke, National Co-ordinator and National Facilitator respectively of the Mathematics Curriculum and Teaching Programme (MCTP).

In addition to the national conference there will be a number of social gatherings, including a dinner at Pokolbin and cruises on Lake Macquarie and Newcastle Harbour.

The Summer Research Institute 1988 will comprise a series of lectures by internationally-known mathematicians in combinatorial and discrete mathematics and applied statistics.

The principal speakers will include Professor Claude Berge, Professor Paul Erdos, Dr Ron Graham, Professor Volker Strassen and Professor Ken-IC Fukunaga and Professor Tim Hakulien.
$1 US MILLION FOR CLINICAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

On 20 November the Vice-Chancellor, Professor K. Morgan, announced a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation in the USA of $1US million over the next three years. The grant is for continuation of the training programme of the Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the David Maddison Clinical Sciences Building.

Professor Morgan told a media conference that the doctors from developing countries who are trained at the centre learn about Australian skills and how to use Australian technology and take the knowledge back to their countries.

The Director of the Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Professor R. Heller, welcomed the Rockefeller Foundation's grant, which is larger than the grants the foundation has awarded previously. The money will permit the centre to continue its internationally recognised leadership in providing much needed skills to doctors from developing countries.

Doctors included in the programme are specialists in subjects such as paediatrics, obstetrics, general medicine, surgery, neurology and epidemiology in their own countries who come to Newcastle to learn 'clinical epidemiology'. The course provides them with skills to make rational choices about investigation and treatment for their patients, understand the economic implications of medical decisions and do research into disease problems of high priority to their community.

The Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics is one of four centres worldwide (the other three are in North America) which provide this kind of training programme. The centre's staff come from the Faculty of Medicine and the Department of Statistics, in the Faculty of Mathematics.

Over the next three years the centre will train doctors from China, Thailand, The Philippines, Indonesia, India and Africa. The doctors will be increasingly joined by Australian doctors, who will come for training in the centre following an additional grant from the Federal Government.

CONVOCATION MEMENTOES FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Still hunting for Christmas presents? Remember that the Standing Committee of Convocation has produced a range of fine quality mementoes of the University, many of which feature the University's Coat of Arms. These items would make beautiful and unusual gifts for family members and friends:

- A glass paperweight ($10), a handmade commemorative glass plate ($25), or a wall plaque ($30) for the office, living room or study.
- For a different sort of Christmas greeting card, a set of six pen sketches by Allan Gamble ($3.50) of University buildings in their bushland settings are available. The artist has also recorded his first impressions in a pen portrait album of the University,  _Campus at Shortland_ ($7.50).
- Two other publications available are _The University of Newcastle: An Introduction_ ($5), a 16-page overview of the University with beautiful colour illustrations, and _Academic Dress_ ($3), a well illustrated history of the apparel worn on graduation days at Australian universities, written by Professor K.R. Dutton.
- Finally, something for almost nothing: a letter, or telephone call, to the Convocation Officer, and a large stamped addressed envelope (postage 45 cents, for delivery inside Australia) will secure a copy of any of the three recent Newcastle Lectures.  _Technology and Our Changing Perceptions of Life_, by the (then) Minister of Science and Technology, Mr Barry Jones,  _The Coca-Cola Colonisation of Australia_, by Mr Phillip Adams,  _Peace_, by Miss Freda Whitlam, Moderator of the Uniting Church, New South Wales Synod.

For further information about any of the above please write to or telephone the Convocation Officer, Ms Nicolette Connon, C/- Secretary's Division, University of Newcastle (telephone: 68 5370).

Name change approved for Newcastle CAE

The Newcastle College of Advanced Education has announced that it has gained approval from the State Government to change its name. The college will be known as the Hunter Institute of Higher Education from the beginning of next year.

The President of Newcastle CAE's Council, Mrs Margaret Bowman, said: "The College has been diversifying very rapidly in the past few years and the change from 'Newcastle College' to 'Hunter Institute' will enable attention to be focussed on the region as a whole." Newcastle CAE has been heading towards a broader regional base and the new name will reflect this move.

"The change to 'Hunter Institute' will also stop the confusion which has existed for many years. The Institute will now be readily identifiable from other colleges, particularly those in TAFE, in the Newcastle area."

"The new name is also expected to improve the marketability of the institution, especially with people from other parts of New South Wales, Australia and overseas who recognise the Hunter Region more so than the City of Newcastle," Mrs Bowman said.

The implementation of 'Hunter Institute' will coincide with the introduction of a new academic structure comprising the School of Administration and Technology, Education and Humanities, Health, and Visual and Performing Arts.

The present number of 23 academic departments will be reduced to 14 departments while the internal structure of courses is also being changed under the plan.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

CONVOCA
Concern at proposals for Linguistics

Postgraduate student in Linguistics, Mrs Marcia Boe'chat Fernandes, from Brazil, says she has been particularly concerned by the recent restructuring threatening the future of the Department of Linguistics.

Mrs Fernandes says she feels this way because of the support and benefits she has been receiving from the Department.

'It seems that within the hierarchy of the University, the major criteria for judging the viability of departments or faculties is size,' she says. 'In other words, only "Big is beautiful"!'  

'Since we are a relatively small (but growing) department and the Chair is currently vacant, we obviously presented an easy target for the proponents of restructuring.'  

'Linguistics has valuable contributions to make to other disciplines, such as computer science and the important connection between natural and artificial language, psychology, philosophy, sociology, etc. If one of the major objectives of this administrative restructuring is to cut down on expenses, there are certainly many other ways to save money.'  

Mrs Fernandes completed her undergraduate and Master's course in 1983 at the Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brazil. She attained the highest grade in the course and was awarded the Medal of Honour and Diploma of University Merit.  

She is currently engaged in research leading towards the degree of PhD in linguistics. She is on leave from her University in Brazil - Universidade Federal de Uberlandia - and was awarded a University of Newcastle Postgraduate Research Scholarship to undertake her studies in Australia.  

Her work has already generated interest from a number of eminent international scholars. In fact, she has recently been consulted to analyse a preliminary draft of a taught MEd scheme in foreign language and second language education from Swansea, United Kingdom.  

Her thesis is concerned with the design and implementation of a methodology for the teaching of English as a second and foreign language based primarily on the communication needs of students rather than on grammatical paradigms.  

Based on the communicative objectives I have outlined, alternatives are presented to bridge the gap between usage and use from a process and product point of view. By extracting relevant principles from this dichotomy and allocating them in a proper sequence of uncontrolled plus controlled activities, the sum is "high surrender value", she says.  

Mrs Fernandes feels she is very fortunate to be in Australia especially at this time. In August, she participated in the 8th World Congress of Applied Linguistics in Sydney. She will participate in the 16th FIPLV World Congress on Language Learning, in Canberra, at the start of the Australian bicentennial year.  

She giggles and says enthusiastically: 'Two World congresses in a row, and being held for the first time in Australia, and in the Southern Hemisphere. This is what I call good timing! I'll be here to celebrate Australia's Bicentenary and to see the World Expo, too. I can't wait till 1988, mate!'

CURTIN UNIVERSITY ADMITTED TO AVCC

The Australian Vice-Chancellor's Committee has accepted the membership application of Curtin University of Technology, formerly the Western Australian Institute of Technology.

This brings to 20 the number of universities represented by the AVCC.  

Acting AVCC Chairman, Professor Brian Wilson, said Curtin University had applied for membership in May. Since then, an AVCC Visiting Committee (which he chaired) had conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the institution to ensure recognition as a university was appropriate.

Professor Wilson said the evaluation had been undertaken in accordance with AVCC guidelines on new universities and took into account: staff qualifications; research productivity; quality of student entry; success rates of students during their courses and in gaining employment; postgraduate developments; plant and facilities including library holdings and research equipment; and success in gaining external research support, both competitively and directly from industry.

Professor Wilson said admission to the AVCC was an important milestone for Curtin because it indicated acceptance by the university sector of its achievements and goals. Such recognition should not be given lightly since Australian universities had an international reputation for quality which was relatively homogeneous among institutions.

[The Curtin University of Technology has operated under that name since 1 January, 1987, following legislation passed by the Western Australian Parliament on 3 December, 1986, to change its status from that of a college of advanced education. It had previously operated as the Western Australia Institute of Technology which had been established out of the Perth Technical College. The institution grew from 2,891 students in 1967 to 12,506 in 1986.]

Mrs Marcia Fernandes
Walla on Johann Nestroy

PROFESSOR FRIEDRICH WALLA, Assoc. Professor in German, has had his third volume in the works of Johann Nestroy published by Verlag Jugend und Volk in their proposed 40-volume Nestroy collection.

Johann Nestroy (1802-1862), who started his career as an opera singer and later became an actor and playwright, is considered to have been the greatest German writer of comedy. His work has been adapted into English by Thornton Wilder (The Matchmaker, itself adapted into The Matchmaker's Assistant, Hello Dolly, On the Razzle). While these adaptations are excellent in their own right, they fail to do Nestroy complete justice, Professor Walla says.

Despite the many difficulties which arose while he was editing Nestroy's own manuscripts (for example, the playwright's heirs saw fit to dismember his manuscripts), Professor Walla says the new edition hopes to restore the original text, removing the 'improvements' forced upon Nestroy by nineteenth century theatrical managers and a repressive and suspicious police censorship.

Each volume edited by Professor Walla contains an introduction to the plays, a survey of the extant manuscripts and contemporary prints, earlier drafts and important variants. Changes mandated by the censor are documented. Nestroy's treatment of his sources, the contemporary reception and the views of the major critics are discussed and an interpretation of the plays is given. Difficult points, contemporary references and obsolete expressions, are explained. Finally, in conjunction with Dr Theophil Antonicek, a Viennese musicologist, Professor Walla has printed the music to the songs belonging to the plays.

The work is also considered to be an important contribution to the theory and practice of editing theatrical texts. The reader learns about theatrical conventions in the first half of the nineteenth century. The documentation of the censor's interference is also of historical interest. The possibilities an author had of handling and outsmarting official censorship are raised and these are problems many authors in different parts of the world still face today.

Professor Walla's work has at various stages been supported by ARC and Senate Research grants, and was finished during OSP leave. He has expressed grateful acknowledgement of the staff of the Auchmuty Library, who processed hundreds of interlibrary loan requests.

He adds: 'I have already been asked to contribute a further volume of the series, volume 8, which would contain Nestroy's most famous and most widely performed play, Lumpactivagabundus, which, however, because of the manuscript situation presents another real challenge to the editor, as only some parts are extant in Nestroy's original, and some of these exist in two differing versions, with no agreement among scholars as to which one is the final version. A first look at the manuscripts has revealed considerable censorship in the standard texts available.'

PROPOSED COUNCIL CHAMBER REVIVED

Instead of the University building a new Council Chamber, the Buildings and Grounds Committee of Council will give consideration to a proposal for the Purdue Room in the Great Hall to be remodelled as a chamber.

The Vice-Chancellor told Senate on 25 November that he would ask the committee to consider the proposal and he hoped a report could be completed by early in 1988.

[Soon after Professor Morgan took up his appointment as Vice-Chancellor last January, he informed Council that he wanted a decision on the funding of a new Council Chamber deferred until the University's financial position was more clearly defined.]

Professor Morgan said he had been persuaded that the existing Council Room was inadequate. 'I have decided that the proposal submitted last year, estimated to cost $450,000, is not a solution to the space problem, as the University does not have the funds for a new chamber.'

He said he had examined the possibility of modifying the Purdue Room with the University Planner, Mr D. Morris, and, for the expenditure of an amount in the region of $100,000 to $150,000 from the Discretionary Fund, it could be feasible to provide meeting facilities for Council, Senate and other bodies.

Will be Edinburgh bound next year

PROFESSOR JOHN BURROWS, Professor of English, has received a University of Edinburgh Fellowship.

The fellowship will allow three months of study at the University of Edinburgh.

Professor Burrows said that from July he would be attached to the Institute of Advanced Studies at Edinburgh, where he would continue his analysis of literary texts by computation.

The first fruits of Professor Burrows' project, his recent book Computation into Criticism: A Study of Jane Austen's novels and an Experiment in Method (Oxford University Press, 1987), has received very favourable reviews, including a recent one in the Times Higher Education Supplement which commences as follows:

Your first reaction to this book might well, like mine, be sceptical: can crunching numbers really illuminate an art as subtly crafted as Jane Austen's? But Professor Burrows is utterly persuasive. For literary critics and statisticians alike, he has opened a fascinating new field of inquiry.
ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

Rhodesian Ridgeback puppies, imported American champion sire, Australian champion dam, puppies available by 9 January, 1988. Show or pet inquiries welcome to Donna, Extension 329 or 33 9073 (home).

Boys bike (suit four to six-year old), $45 or near offer; .22 sports repeater rifle with scope, $75 or near offer; single barrel shot gun, (Brazilian made), $45 or near offer. Please telephone John at Extension 643 or 51 1313 (home).

Ten acres at Gresford on the beautiful Paterson River (ideal retreat ... lovely views). Features: fully fenced, dam, tar road and approval to build. Asking price: $40,000. Please telephone 38 5112.

Bar — glass top, gidgey bricks, footrail and louvre doors (best offer). Please telephone 51 1354.

Cheap household furniture as owner is moving. Lounge, fridge, cupboards, heater etc. Please telephone Juliet at 52 4015 (home) or Extension 357 (work).

Wide range of chemicals, glassware, and other equipment which would make an ideal addition to an existing chemistry set. Includes condenser, flasks, bunsen etc. Please telephone 49 8548 (evenings only) for further details.

Set of Bohemia glass whisky decanter and six large glasses (boxed), $80 or near offer. One Bohemia glass whisky decanter (no glasses), $20 or near offer, (prizes which were never used). Please telephone R. Goodbody at Extension 376.

FOR SALE BY TENDER

One medical examination couch; one computer terminal, Descope Model VT-52AF and 3x terminal stands, DEC VTIXX-ST.

Tenders should be submitted in a sealed envelope marked 'Tender for Surplus Equipment', and addressed to the Purchasing Officer, University of Newcastle. Tenders close at 11.30 am on 16 December.

The University reserves the right to reject all or any tenders.

FREE

Homes wanted for five cuddly fluffy kittens (ready to leave home after Christmas). Please telephone Janien Floyd at 67 6431.

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Furnished home required for family (married couple with two children, 15 and 16 years) who have come from Victoria to be with child injured in road accident and now a patient at the Royal Newcastle Hospital. If you are able to assist please contact the University Accommodation Office at Extension 520. Period required: mid-December for three to four weeks.

FOR RENT

Fully furnished two bedroom home in Charlestown available for 12 months from February, 1988, due to staff member going on leave. Please telephone 43 9178.

PERSONAL LOANS

The Universities Credit Union has announced that members who take out personal loans now won't have to make payments for three months. The CU said personal loans were available at a 1985 rate — 17.7 per cent per annum (rate guaranteed for six months). The offer closes on 29 February.

CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT SEeks Demonstrators

The Department of Chemistry is inviting expressions of interest from science graduates (preferably with a major in chemistry) for appointment as part-time demonstrators for the 1988 academic year.

Assistance will be required mainly for afternoon classes in Chemistry I plus a few specialised courses in higher years. Appointments will be made in February, 1988, subject to the availability of funding.

For further details please contact Professor W.F. Pickering, of the Department of Chemistry, telephone 683 426.

FAREWELL TO MRS TREDGOLD

The Staff House Committee will hold a CHRISTMAS PARTY and a farewell to MRS LORNA TREDGOLD, caterer in the Staff House for the last 15 years, on THURSDAY, 17 DECEMBER from 4 to 6.30 pm

Mrs Tredgold's many friends and colleagues are invited.

In the lead up to the Sheffield Shield cricket match between Queensland and New South Wales, which was played in Newcastle the visiting teams chose the nets at University oval to practise on. Allan Border, Captain of the Queensland XI (and Australia) signed an autograph for Karen Isles, of Birmingham Gardens, watched by lan Botham and Craig McDermott.