Governor's visit

On February 27, Air Marshall Sir James Roulend, KBE, DFC, AFC, visited the University in his role as Visitor. Sir James, recently installed as Governor of New South Wales, was accompanied by Lady Roulend. On arriving in their limousine they were met by the Chancellor, Sir Bede Callaghan, and Lady Callaghan, and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Don George, and Mrs. George. They spent an hour at the University and had morning tea in the Vice-Chancellor's Office. The Chancellor and Sir Roulend are pictured in front of the Great Hall.

Student employment

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT - GREAT NEED!

Offers of part-time or casual work would be welcomed by the Careers and Student Employment Office - Extension 466.

Many students need supplementary income to make life bearable, whilst undergoing degree studies.

Their talents can be used as waitresses/waiters, barmaids/barmen, shop assistants, research assistants, laboratory attendants, storemen, garden labourers, academic coaches - high/primary school, driveway attendants.

CAN YOU HELP? CAN YOU PROVIDE A LEAD?

The Careers and Student Employment Office is located in Room T25 opposite the Mathematics Building.

Survival lessons

Heavy rain did not deter more than 70 mature-age students who arrived in the Great Hall on February 7 looking wet but enthusiastic for a one-day seminar entitled, Survival Skills for Mature-Age Students, organised by the Department of Community Programmes and run by Peter Bamford and Pat Loftus of the University Counselling Service. In the three years that the University Counselling Service has run this programme, numbers have almost doubled. The first of these seminars was put on in 1979, with the University Counselling Service having recognised that Mature students entering the University are a special group with special needs. (This is not to say there aren't other categories of student with special needs). It is certain, however, that mature students do have particular problems associated with beginning a university course and it was with these problems of transition that the seminar was concerned.

Almost all the students at the seminar were aiming at Arts, but a few potential Economics and Commerce students were also present. Approximately one-third had successfully completed the Open Foundation course, but the majority were entering University after a long period away from formal study.

After an introduction by Professor John Burrows, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, a lively symposium was held, with Professor Burrows and ten mature-age students answering practical questions from the group and providing information out of their own backgrounds about their methods of dealing with the stresses involved in taking up their courses of study at the University.

A segment of the programme dealing with strategies for coping with the home and personal relationships produced considerable small-group discussion, particularly from the women present, many of whom were very aware of the necessity of juggling time for partner, home and University. In the afternoon a talk on Anxiety and How to Cope with It led on to films and discussion about two of the major study skills required for successful work at the University: Notetaking and Essay Writing.
Letters to Editor

Dear Sir,

The final version of the report on University finances (academic affairs was recently distributed. Its senior author spoke, in last year's final issue of University News, in positive terms of the cause of honest discussion of the cause of importance to the University'. That cause must have gone by the board. The report displays a notable reluctance to enter into discussion. Some passing reference to the fact that 'the whole matter is overlaid with issues of equity' will not do to explain this. If that fact would make the give and take of rational argument impossible we would, hence forward, have to leave all decision making to the inspired judgment of the few.

The authors claim that consensus on the matters discussed would be 'pleasant' but that they are afraid that most of the problems will have to be resolved by 'executive decision'. Pleasant it seems, however, that they are quite prepared to forego this pleasure. Consensus in a free society does not come without its price: the laborious business of careful and patient argument is no evidence that the gentlemen of the report are willing to pay this price. A glaring example of this is the fact that one of the original report's most controversial passages, that on 'academic leadership', has been left virtually unaltered. There is still the implicit suggestion that an academic needs to have the departmental rubber stamp in his drawer, and the key to its kitty safely in his pocket, to be counted as an 'academic leader'.

It should be pretty clear, however, that 'academic leadership' is too problematic a concept to be simply identified with administrative headship or formal rank in general. The main question here is that of the varying correlation between formal rank, academic influence and intellectual merit. It is quite conceivable that these three factors may sometimes be found to be inversely related. The British-Polish sociologist Stanislaw Andreski presents interesting considerations on this point in his article 'Freedom, Influence and Prestige of the Intellectuals' (included in his Elements of Comparative Sociology, London 1964).

This is, of course, not the last and only word on this problem. I am very much afraid, however, that the gentlemen of the report do not even recognise a problem here. Instead they seem to believe that academic leadership can be conferred upon people by 'executive decision'.

A. BRAND,
Department of Sociology.

Dear Sir,

The current galloping inflation in the housing market in Newcastle has hit students very hard. Whereas three years ago, when an inquiry was made into the question, students were paying$15 per week for $30 to $50 rent (usually three sharing a three bedroom house at $45 per week), this year that sort of figure seems like something out of a dream world. Rents are currently at least double that, in some cases treble it. Needless to say TEAS allowances have not advanced in the same ratio.

This catastrophic situation has already resulted, I believe, in a fall in enrolments. It is currently estimated that for a student to live in Canberra, Armidale, Wollongong or even possibly, in Sydney than it is in Newcastle. Why then should he expect less?

In the light of this situation it is ironic to remember that three years ago a committee was set up by the University to investigate the possibility of building non-collegiate student accommodation on University land. On the basis of four bedroom units (built on the townhouse principle) and with the larger portion of the costs provided by a housing loan (the other portion coming from the Vice-Chancellor's discretionary fund), it was calculated that the University could recover its costs if it charged a rent of$18 per student per week.

In another article it was stated that students could rent private accommodation for $15 per week, that sum may have seemed excessive. Three years later it seems a marvellous bargain.

The report of that committee (Professor Tweedie, Dr. Vinson, Mr. Loftus and myself) disappeared without trace, and its recommendations were not acted upon. In the current situation we could do worse than dust it off and look at it once more.

NOEL RUTHERFORD,
Department of History.

Women's Report

A Report under this heading appeared in the last edition of University News last year. It contained information about a meeting at the Worksop Centre at Mayfield which had been attended by Dr. Vera de R. O'Byrne of the Department of Education at the invitation of the Vice-Chancellor.

The Report was included in the paper because it was thought that the matter would be of interest to many readers of University News; it was based on a memorandum from Dr. O'Byrne to the Vice-Chancellor. After publication of the article, Dr. O'Byrne informed the Editor that she considered that two of the passages in her account of the meeting about the Copenhagen Conference to the Vice-Chancellor which were not covered in the report in University News were vital ones. She said "Two vital ones, but mention of which incidentally is more feared by male chauvinists than anything else for compensatory legislation to attain some degree of equal opportunity for women and the reasons for such legislation and the resolution of the conference which says that such legislation is not discriminatory, but that on the contrary it is a legal remedy against a legal wrong".

Unsure as to what her report did not cover what Dr. O'Byrne considers to be particularly important points and happily publishes below the two passages concerned:

"The interpretation of the thirty articles is difficult and presupposes a great deal of examining the existing structures and conditions. It is considered necessary to legislate to end discrimination, because even if people do not like the laws, they have to conform; and support to those who want to promote equality but are under social pressure not to do so."

New Award Book

The latest edition of the Association of Commonwealth Universities publication "Awards for Commonwealth University Academic Staff, 1981-1983" has been placed in the Auchmuty Library.

The publication contains information on fellowships, visiting professorships, grants, etc. open to an specially academιc staff in a Commonwealth country who wish to carry out research, make study visits, or teach for a while at a university in another Commonwealth country.
Low dress standards
The Warden, Newcastle University College.

Dear Sir,

May I (together with some of my fellow-students who are in agreement with my views) draw your attention to a matter which we consider to be of importance in a university college, and for what will be an autonomous university in the near future.

Some of us (at least) try to dress reasonably well and to maintain something of what we consider to be the requirements of our academic atmosphere. However, some of the lecturers set very low standards. To these Sydney men, this is 'bush' life and a 'bush' college, and anything appears to be good enough. To us this idea of 'bush' or 'beach' standards in dress and general appearance in working hours lowers the status of the college. This view is also held by a number of Newcastle citizens and visitors to the college. The standards of dress by academics would not be tolerated in other Australian universities. In particular, I may mention the following:

• Some Lecturers, far from wearing a gown, lecture in their shirt-sleeves, in some cases without a tie. One Lecturer throughout the entire year wore neither coat nor tie when lecturing. Incidentally, his lectures lasted only 30-40 minutes.

• One examination Supervisor-in-Charge wore an open-necked sleeveless shirt, shorts and thongs (no socks or stockings) during his supervision of examinations; others may not have worn such 'beach' attire, but were dressed in a slovenly manner. Others work in the college in this type of dress.

Where are our standards, as befits an academic institution? Students cannot be blamed for low standards of dress, when many members of the staff care nothing about academic decorum. Some of us resent this situation. Are you aware of it, and can anything be done about it?

Yours respectively,
Second Year student.

5 December, 1963.

(Working in the University's Archives produces diverting moments, for example, when remembrances like the one above are unearthed.)

Thank you, Dr. Purdue

Dr. Frank Purdue is renowned for his work for Newcastle and its University. On February 20, the Chancellor officially named a room in the Great Hall after Dr. Purdue to mark his 14 years as a member of the University Council and Chairman of the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

A plaque in the Great Hall records the facts: Dr. Purdue was an alderman for 30 years and Lord Mayor for 10 years. He was a member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly for seven years and a member of innumerable City Council and community committees. He was Chairman of the Lord Mayor's Committee for the establishment of an autonomous University of Newcastle and Chairman of the Lord Mayor's University Appeal Committee, which raised in excess of $800,000 towards the cost of constructing the Great Hall. A portrait of Dr. Purdue in Lord Mayoral robes, by Heder Enderle, was donated to the University by his wife, the late Mrs. O. Purdue. The portrait hangs near the Purdue Room.

Dr. Purdue, responding to the Chancellor, stated that he deeply appreciated the honour which had been conferred upon him by giving his name to the room in the Great Hall.

However, he said, he needed nothing like it to remind him of very close and happy associations with the University. "Now I have not only reached, but passed, the time for retirement, I recall with great pleasure the 14 years I spent as a member of the University Council and Chairman of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. "Until the last four years, the allocations made for new buildings, extensions and improvements were fairly substantial but we always needed more. It is most unfortunate that the present financial stringency is delaying many essential new projects and I hope that there will soon be an end to this financial impediment."

Dr. Purdue continued: "To you Mr. Chancellor, Mr. Vice-Chancellor and members of Council I extend my best wishes and hope you will have the pleasure and satisfaction of seeing this great University develop and progress as envisaged."

"This City and district is fortunate indeed to have such a progressive University which is destined to play an increasing important role in the development of this area and I extend my best wishes to you, Mr. Chancellor, the Deputy Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor and all members of the Council."

Award

Languages Galore and Qantas are offering a prize of $5,000 worth of international travel - flying Qantas - for the best bilingual book by an Australian resident. The purpose of this award is to encourage the writing and enjoyment of books in the many languages now spoken in Australia.

Four copies of the manuscript or book must be forwarded to:

Languages Galore Competition,
C/- Helen Thompson,
School Library Services,
35 Mitchell Street,
NORTH SYDNEY. 2060.

Telephone: 922 6700.

The closing date for the competition is July 3, 1981. Late entries will not be accepted.

All entries must be accompanied by the official nomination form available from Helen Thompson.
down on the University on February 19 and 20 not only spawned swarms of mosquitoes but hindered the travel arrangements of many of those who were travelling to Newcastle to attend the Institute of Industrial Economics' second annual conference. Nevertheless, the 69 who gathered to attend the Conference on Government Regulations of Industry found it worth waiting for (it had had to be postponed from mid-November because of the air refuellers' strike).

The conference was financially supported by the Economic and Social Research Fund of the Reserve Bank of Australia. The main issues were the discrepancy between what regulation is expected to achieve and its true impact, and the conflict in Australian economic policy-making between a desire to encourage uninhibited competition in the domestic market and the search for strong local producers who can withstand foreign competition.

The next conference to be organised by the Institute of Industrial Economics will be a by-invitation-only workshop on regional income and employment multipliers. The Institute has received substantial outside financial support to assist it in holding this workshop.
Coal diploma studies

Whilst most members of the University's staff were enjoying a well-earned holiday in January, the Geology Department resumed classes for the Postgraduate Diploma in Coal Geology. With an additional intake commencing this year, all staff involved were kept very busy in practical sessions attending to the needs of the 16 students. To accommodate the equipment requirements of the group, Professor A.C. Cook had to bring all available microscopes, point counters, etc. from the University of Wollongong to supplement the range available in Newcastle University.

The student group is a diverse one, including employees of companies such as BHP, Shell, State Electricity Commission, Coal and Allied Industries, MIM Holdings, the Geological Survey of New South Wales and a number of other companies involved in coal exploration.

As well, there is a small group of geology graduates who are currently working in other avenues and who are seeking qualifications to re-enter the industry.

The current employment market for geologists with some expertise in coal was overwhelming, Professor Engel, Head of the Department of Geology, told the News. "Our graduates of several years ago - even if they did not study coal - are being offered starting salaries of $25,000 plus industrial bonuses. Students in undergraduate years would be well advised to study geology as the future of this industry in the Hunter Valley is a long-term one which will give them ample opportunity for good employment on graduation.

Right Bottom: An impressive array of microscopes and associated equipment from the Universities of Newcastle and Wollongong which was brought together for the January session of the Coal Geology Diploma.

Below: Students using a Leitz Orthoplan microscope fitted with a MPV photometer which records the reflectance properties of coal macerals.

Photos: Jan Walker

Readers wanted

Radio For the Print Handicapped, broadcast daily at 9.30 am by 2NUR-FM, is a selection of readings from the newspapers designed to keep blind and print handicapped people up to date with local events.

The programme has a shortage of readers. Anybody interested can contact Narelle Lewis, telephone 522 883, and volunteer their services. Those who volunteer are asked to read from the papers over the air for an hour every three weeks.
Dr. John Rockey, of the Department of Architecture, received $2,700 from the Australian Research Grants Committee for the third year of his continuing project: 'Australasian Utopias: A Political, Social and Architectural History of Community Projections, Experiments and Alternative Societies'. He told the NEWS that the idea for the study grew out of political theory research at Oxford University, when it became clear that Australasia had been the focus of visionary activity both before and after settlement.

The impetus for utopian thought is the flight from human misery and a vision of earthly happiness. Utopias usually contain a detailed description of a social system that is non-existent or a constitution that will promote an ideal common life. Responsibility for the existence of evil in society is rarely ascribed to the individual; it is society that becomes the object of corrective measures. The call is not for personal redemption, but for sweeping social reform, generally in a radical yet peaceful way. Not surprisingly, we find literature of this type proliferating during periods of social discontent and turmoil.

The visions of Terra Australis Incognita, consequent upon the discovery of the New World, set the image of Australasia as a region of freedom and opportunity. Imaginary voyages, Robinsonades and travellers' tales occasioned exaggerated and embroidered stories of our once isolated and virgin land. Speculation continued through the colonial phase, but reflected a greater literary realism regarding conditions and climate. As the Old World was seen to be crumbling into ruins, the Antipodes became identified as a haven for all that was fine in European civilisation.

The project seeks to delineate the character, sources and incidence of writings in this genre; its position relative to British and American utopianism; the conditions that encouraged speculative projections and actual experiments. Literary utopias encompass visionary cities, futopias and fictional projections of life in the outback, whereas practical counterparts include agricultural and industrial communes; certain forms of co-operatives; model farms, factories and towns, the latter being echoed in aspects of ideal planning which characterise certain Australian and New Zealand towns.

Simple and complex methods have been devised by those speaking to realise their ideals. Often makeshift, ill-conceived and ill-planned, some projections rejected institutions such as government, family, monetary exchange and private property, while lauding anarchistic, egalitarian, communist, isolative or millenarian values.

The history of utopias is studded with failures, but this is no deterrent to those seeking a fresh start. Indeed, as we reach the end of the millennium the impetus for re-creating society seems to be gathering momentum. The author has recently completed an article on alternative lifestyles and architecture in the Nimbin communes of New South Wales, the research for this particular study being funded by IRAC.

Should any readers know of such schemes, whether published or unpublished, and however short-lived or peculiar, the author would be glad to hear of them.

An urban utopia planned for New Zealand.
The four colleges of the Natural University, or Elysian Academy, and model farm at the centre of Robert Pemberton's town in The Happy Colony (1854). Pemberton, whose biography is the subject of a forthcoming article, is claimed by relatives to have been the illegitimate son of George III. Principally an educational utopia, it envisages a feast of learning and mind formation from three months to 21 years.
International News

This information is supplied by the Australian Vice-Chancellors Committee.

If you would like further information, contact the Secretary, AVCC, P.O. Box 1142, Canberra City, ACT, 2601, or write direct as indicated.

Interested Australian men and women in mid-career with significant experience in the subject of a particular seminar are invited to participate in the programs of the Salzburg Seminar in American Studies. The purpose of the Salzburg Seminar is the study, at the highest level, of contemporary problems of world-wide scope as well as of significant aspects of American society. Each year the Seminar offers seven or eight sessions lasting from two to three weeks, each on a different subject and each with a different faculty and group of Fellows. All sessions are held at Schloss Leopoldskron, Salzburg, Austria. For further information contact the AVCC or Sir John Bunting, KBE, 8 Arnhem Place, Red Hill, ACT, 2603.

To celebrate the 15th Century of Hijra the Centre for Islamic Legal Studies, Zaria, is planning to hold a book exhibition on Islam entitled The Message of Islam in Print, in October 1981. The Director of the Centre has invited the Australian universities and other interested persons to despatch their publications on Islam to be displayed in the exhibition. The Centre would also welcome any gifts of books, journals, reprints, monographs, or proposals for the exchange of publications. If you are interested in this event please correspond direct with Professor Abdur Rahman I. Doi, Director, Centre for Islamic Legal Studies, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria.

The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences of the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium is organising a postgraduate course on Irrigation Engineering commencing in the 1981/82 academic year. For further information write to K.U. Leuven, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Kardinaal Mercierlaan 92, B-3030 Leuven, Belgium.

The Matsumae International Foundation, Japan, has provided information about its 1981 Fellowships programme. The Fellowships are intended for people to do research at Masters or Doctorate level for short-term (three to six months) or long-term (seven to 12 months), but extensions of time are available. Fields of study include all fields in the Humanities, Social and Natural Sciences. The Fellowships provide travel expenses, lump sum on arrival (300,000 yen) and a stipend of between 200,000 yen and 300,000 yen each month. For further information correspond direct with the Matsumae International Foundation, 33F Kasumigaseki Building, Kasumigaseki Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan 100.

Back from UCLA Successful Year

Professor B.J. Fraser, Associate Professor in Physics, returned in January from a year at the University of California at Los Angeles, where he was a Visiting Professor in the Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics.

Professor Fraser's visit was also supported by the Australian-American Educational Foundation with a Senior Fulbright Grant.

At UCLA he studied the properties of hydromagnetic waves observed by the ATS-6 geo-stationary satellite situated 40,000 km above the earth's surface in Van Allen radiation belts.

New results included the discovery of the existence of helium and oxygen ions in this plasma region and these results were presented at the Fall Meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco in December, 1980.

Professor Fraser returned via London and held discussions with geophysicists at Imperial College on this work and ground-based geomagnetic pulsation studies presently being undertaken at Newcastle University in the Physics Department. 1980 was a very successful year for the University of Newcastle Women's Group. Probably the highlight was the Pot Luck Dinner and a group also welcomed quite a number of new members, particularly recent arrivals from overseas.

Monthly lunches are continuing this year, interspersed with evening gatherings. A warm welcome is extended to all women who are associated with the University in any way.

The first meeting for 1981 was on February 26 in the Great Hall. Mrs. McCarthy, Senior Social Worker at the Royal Newcastle Hospital, spoke about The Rape Crisis Centre. Those who would like to be members of the Women's Group should send $2 subscription to the Treasurer or come to a meeting.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on March 19. The UNWG conducts Activity Groups. Book discussion groups meet monthly. Tennis is played on Wednesdays at 10 am. A Jazz Ballet class has also been formed.

Mr. Colin Anderson

STAR OF NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE REVUES; B.A. GRADUATE (1963); now SENIOR LECTURER IN DRAMA, RIVERINA C.A.E.

Mr. Anderson has been judged winner of the Newton-John Award for his great impact in the Riverina as Lecturer, Actor, Director and Community worker.

The Dinner will be held in THE SOUTHERN CROSS LOUNGE in the Union, March 27, 7.30 for 8 pm.

TICKETS COST $12 a head. Please telephone Convocation Office, Extension 213 (685 213).
Council News

The Chancellor noted that Professor G. Curthoys, member elected by members of the academic staff, was attending his last meeting prior to leaving on an outside studies programme. Every member of the Council, the Chancellor said, was grateful not only for the efforts made by Professor Curthoys but also for the spirit in which he had approached matters before the Council. He thanked Professor Curthoys for his great contribution.

Council was advised that the University’s major clinical sciences facilities at Royal Newcastle Hospital are now nearing completion and the Faculty of Medicine has commenced occupation of some areas of the building.

The Vice-Chancellor reported that he had received advice from the Premier’s Department and the Minister for Health that approval had been given for work on NEWMED 2 to recommence. This building will contain clinical teaching facilities for the University, and Pathology and Mortuary facilities for the Mater Misericordiae Hospital.

Extensions to the University Sports Pavilion are now in progress to provide an additional squash court, an enlarged shop and an unlicensed lounge area on the upper level. The work is being funded by the Sports Union.

Council responded sympathetically to the request from the Religious Centre Committee that a site be allocated for the possible erection of a small chapel or meditation centre on campus. An undeveloped area to the north-east of the Engineering bridge has been made available should the Committee wish to proceed with a building of the nature currently proposed.

Council considered a proposal that it establish a Public Relations Committee. In discussion it noted that the University was entering a period in which it would benefit from a Public Relations Committee which would stimulate a greater interest in its role in the Newcastle Region. The Vice-Chancellor was asked to submit a report on the best ways of implementing the Council’s decision.

Council considered the following proposals to amend the procedures for the election of members of Council:

- To allow all candidates – not only those from Convocation – nominated at a meeting to give the University financial support and to implement the constraints of a standard Ph.D. programme.

The University’s major clinical sciences facilities at Royal Newcastle Hospital are now nearing completion and the Faculty of Medicine has commenced occupation of some areas of the building.

- To allow all candidates – not only those from Convocation – nominated at a meeting.

- To replace the first-past-the-post system of voting with a form of proportional representation, and

- To require candidates for election to the Council by the members themselves to agree in writing to being nominated.

It was decided to advise Senate, Faculty Boards, the Staff Association and the University Sub-Division of the Public Service Association that the Council supported proposal (1) in respect of academic and non-academic staff members of Council welcomed the views of the organisations. As for proposal (2), it was resolved to obtain a report from the By-laws and Constitutions Committee. It was agreed not to make any changes to the formal procedures for Council to elect members themselves but the Vice-Chancellor would try to avoid the difficulties which occurred in the 1980 elections.

A special meeting of the Council will be held on March 6 at 10 am to consider the final reports of the two Working Groups which reviewed the University’s finances and the submissions made in response to the original reports.

Council was told that Standing Committee of Convocation had finalised the establishment of a Newcastle Convocation Foundation, by means of which it would be possible for the University’s graduates to give the University financial support.

Council noted that other initiatives were under consideration and that discussion regarding the integration of the fields of activity, with a view to ensuring that the benefits to the University, would seem to be desirable. The Vice-Chancellor was asked to discuss the proposal with members of Standing Committee of Convocation.

Following a recommendation from the Senate, Council approved the establishment of the degree of Doctor of Medicine. It was reported that the Faculty of Medicine believed that the University should develop this degree to meet the needs of a small, but important, group of medical graduates who had a substantial contribution to make towards medical and scientific research and could not be expected to accept the constraints of a standard Ph.D. programme.

The Tomago Aluminium Company Limited had offered to support two scholarships for full-time undergraduates in the Department of Chemical Engineering. After being told that the recipients of the scholarships would receive $1,650 a year and they would be supported for the four years of the Bachelor of Engineering course, Council approved the establishment of the new scholarships.

Approval was also given to the establishment of the Coopers and Lybrand Prize for the best performance in the subject Taxation.

Emeritus Professor C.D. Ellyett suggested that the Council set up a committee to seek out and consider positive ideas which might be applied to assist the University. In a paper presented to the Finance and Personnel Committee, Professor Ellyett claimed that for several years he had been concerned at the low morale of many of the academic staff. In part this had been engendered by political and other factors beyond the University’s direct control, but, it was also amplified by the many reductions and curtailments within the institution that had come about for financial reasons. He had spoken to a few members of staff who had agreed with him about the situation at the University but who also had individual ideas about positive steps that might be taken. After the Finance and Personnel Committee reported to the Council, it was decided to receive ideas and consider initiatives from interested parties, Council agreed to establish an ad hoc positive initiatives committee.

Awards

The Australian School of Nuclear Technology, Luchteights, New South Wales, is offering Radioisotope Course for Graduates No. 27. This course will be run from July 22 to August 14.

The objective of the course is to assist scientific, engineering and technical personnel of graduate level to obtain, within a short period, proficiency in radioisotope techniques to use them safely and efficiently within their individual fields.

The fee for the course, exclusive of accommodation, subsistence and fares, is $500.

The closing date for the receipt of applications is June 22. Further information may be obtained from Mrs. G. Durham, Extension 240.
International workshop

More than 50 people (those pictured above) participated in the International Workshop on Electron and Ion Beam Techniques which was conducted in the Department of Physics from February 23 to 27. Researchers from the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany and Australia presented papers and participants from these and several other countries were in attendance.

Poetry Companion STAFF

Appointments

Dr. M.W. Brinsmead, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine.
Mr. R.W. Dixon, Tutor, Department of English.
Miss A. Elkington, Pre-School Teacher, Child Care Centre.
Mr. J.J. Fennessy, Tutor, Department of Modern Languages (Japanese).
Mrs. S.J. Gardner, General Librarian, Auchmuty Library.
Miss S.J. Geary, Child Care Assistant, Child Care Centre.
Dr. S.J.U. Grimes, Lecturer, Department of Sociology.
Miss L.C. Hartley, Child Care Assistant, Child Care Centre.
Mr. R.L. Herd, Technical Officer, Faculty of Medicine.
Dr. D.W. Jackson, Clinical Supervisor, Faculty of Medicine.
Miss A. McLeod, Tutor, Department of Modern Languages (French).
Dr. V.J. McPherson, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine.
Dr. D.R. Mason, Lecturer, Department of Geology.

Mr. G.L.G. Morrison, Attendant, Faculty of Medicine.
Dr. D.J. O'Connor, Lecturer, Department of Physics.
Mr. T.S. Phelps, Junior Laboratory Assistant, Department of Biological Sciences.
Dr. I.A. Wilkinson, Clinical Supervisor, Faculty of Medicine.
Dr. D.H. Wood, Lecturer, Department of Mechanical Engineering.

Resignations

Miss M.F. Brosnan, Histologist, Department of Biological Sciences.
Miss F.E. Ide, Machine Operator, Auchmuty Library.
Professor T.O. Morgan, Professor, Faculty of Medicine.
Mr. R.R. Mudge, Senior Technical Officer, Department of Psychology.
Mrs. D.M. Rhodes, Technical Officer, Department of Biological Sciences.
Mr. F. Zabrana, Photographer, Department of Metallurgy.
Mr. F. Bullen, Professional Officer, Department of Civil Engineering.
Mrs. L.K. Rule, Child Care Assistant, Child Care Centre.
Research breakthrough

Professor John Burrows, of the Department of English, is engaged on research that was recently described in the University of Connecticut Professor D. Frucht as "potentially a major breakthrough in the subject". The "subject" is the application of computer-aided word-frequency analyses to literary text. In his case the language of Jane Austen.

Professor Burrows said the research began a number of years ago, in an attempt to test out certain large generalisations about Jane Austen's ideas of reason and imagination, duty and prudence, the elegant and the amiable, and so on. It seemed only reasonable, if not quite elegant, to establish how some of these words themselves were actually used in the course of her novels. It emerged that, whenever one began, number of opinions on these subjects, her use of the words was essentially dramatic. Again and again, Professor Burrows said, given would prove to be the property of one character rather than another. Again and again, the sense he or she attached to it would differ markedly and appropriately as a novel unfolded.

More recently, however, my path has taken me beyond such "key-words" to the commonplace words of all. If similar truths obtained there, what followed? If not, just where did the patterns so evident among the less common words begin to fade?

With energetic support from early, the last eighteen months have produced machine-readable texts of Northanger Abbey, Mansfield Park, and Emma; and similar texts of the other novelists remain untouchable. The further task of comparing the dialogue of one novel and the second in a given character's use of each very common word. Better still, the exceptions arise almost entirely with the heroes and heroines - in whom "character-development" is most to be expected. The further task of comparing Jane Austen's usage with that of other novelists remains untouched.

For an ordinary literary criticism, somewhat unconventional methods serve not only to extend the range of inquiry into some unexpected corners but also to provide a firmer basis than we are accustomed to. On the whole, however - it is a pleasure to discover it - this objective evidence is in close keeping with the judgements of the best of our predecessors and contemporaries. The new evidence seems likely to enrich rather than weaken the inferences about the links between idiom and "personality".

Professor Burrows
This new evidence also raises questions about the creative processes of the literary artist and about the cognitive processes of the reader. Given that patterns of the kind I have so briefly sketched are undoubted. If, however, they can hardly have been set there by conscious design, we need to consider the processes by which they came to be there. Given that their presence has never been described, we need to consider whether the patterns of the very common words are ineffectual shadows, imperceptible unless a computer does our counting for us, or whether, on the other hand, reading may not be at least partly a subliminal activity.

And, finally, we might ask how far the "idioclects" of Jane Austen's characters correspond to our individual habits of expression in real life. Perhaps each of us is possessed of an "idioclect" as subtly but firmly marked as those of her chief characters. That is, scholars in several disciplines might well find common ground in a wide-ranging line of research. Some valuable work has been done, especially in sociolinguistics; but far more remains to be undertaken.

J. F. BURROWS.

The Engineering Fraternity's Annual General Meeting will be held in the Wistaria Room, in the Union on Tuesday, March 17. All students are invited. The cost, $2, provides membership fee and lots of beer.
There are several implications of these findings. Firstly, it would seem that those who deal with pre-school and early school-aged children appreciate that their charges are unlikely to be able to evaluate themselves accurately in different settings. Hence, the bad feelings a pre-schooler might have after failing a jigsaw task would be more likely to carry over into the next activity, say art, even though in reality the child might be a competent artist. An older child might more easily recognize his varying capabilities in the two separate activities. The fact that this research has confirmed other suggestions that people can and do differentiate between their competences in various settings, and评估 them inaccuracy, gives rise to an important implication. If it is the case that an individual's personal perception, as observed by his appreciating that he may have strengths and skills in some settings (e.g. conversational settings) yet weaknesses in another (e.g. sports settings), then perhaps individuals ought to be helped in recognizing such processes. Thus, in various personal development, family relations or mental health programs that currently exist in schools and colleges, it could be of benefit the recognition of major behavioural domains. Thereby course members could be led to a more accurate understanding of their relative strengths and weaknesses.

Orientation

A copy of a book setting out an academic orientation course for overseas students planning to undertake post-graduate study in Australia is available in the Auchmuty Library.

The book contains lectures and other material used for developing oral communication, listening, reading, and report-writing skills which were presented to Indonesian university staff members at short Academic Orientation Courses in 1976 and 1979.

The book has been published by the Australian Vice-Chancellor's Committee as part of the programme of the Australian-Asian Universities Cooperation Scheme. The main topics are Australian customs, oral communication, and specific reading skills. The bibliographical details are:

Riley, P.M. Academic orientation course, AVCC, Sydney, 1980.

PETER IRWIN, Academic Liaison Officer, A-AUCS.
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House, flat or space to park a caravan, within short walking distance of Univer­
sity. Please telephone Mrs. Win Murdoch
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CLASSES FOR CHILDREN offered by The
Alliance Francaise of Newcastle. (La
Petite Ecole Francaise) between the age
of 6 and 10, on Saturday morning from
10 am to noon. These classes are start-
ing on Saturday March 7 at Hamilton South
Primary School, Kenrick Street, Hamilton South. (Corner of Stewart Avenue and
Kenrick Street.)

CLASSES FOR ADULTS Conversation classes
as well as classes for Beginners, Inter-
mediate and Advanced students can be
arranged provided that a minimum of
seven enrolments is obtained. For fur-
ther details please telephone the Secret­
ary of the Alliance at 57 3209.

Diary of Events

DIARY OF EVENTS
FRIDAY, MARCH 6
noon Seminar in the Department of Math-
ematics. Mr. Bob Berghout, of the
Department of Mathematics will
speak on Elementary Mathematics and
Environmental Impact Statistics, or The Joys of Long Service Leave.
Room V107.
SATURDAY, MARCH 7
8.30 am to 6 pm
Newcastle University Community
Programmes' and lifetime's one-day
workshop on Loneliness and what
can be done about it. Mathematics
Building. Speakers will include
Professor Stephen Leeder.

MONDAY, MARCH 9
1 pm Health Forum on Contraception, The
Union Common Room. Speaker Jane
Lee of the Family Planning Associa-
tion. Also a film: Getting it
On.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10
6 pm Jazz in the Bar, Rosalinda.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11
2 pm Jay and the Brazilian Cockroaches
(Latin band).
noon to 2 pm
Evening film: Ritt ins alte Domest-
iche Land, Wintersgalt (1977/78,
114 minutes, colour, English sub-
titles), Language Laboratory.
6 pm Sue Watton, folksinger, The Bar.
THURSDAY, MARCH 12
noon MARKET DAY, THE UNION.
FILM - Ryan's Daughter, Common
Room.
6 pm Sing For Your Supper, The Bar.
8 pm AT HOME, The Union, Teenyweenies
presented by The Surfriders' Club.

MARCH 16
6 pm PARTY TIME, The Union, Featuring
Musical Flags.

COMMENCEMENT SERVICE
Sunday, March 8, at 7 pm at Scots' Kirk,
Tudor Street, Hamilton.
Students and members of staff are
invited to attend for service and supper.
Joy Bartholomew, Presbyterian Chaplain.

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MARKET DAY. THE UNION. MONDAY, MARCH 9

6 pm

FOLK SINGING IN THE BAR.

THE DAY AFTER ST. PATRICK'S DAY -
Colonial Irish Night. A Bush Band and a
barbecue. Remember St. Pat-
rick in the Union Courtyard with the
History Club. Food and enter-
tainment $4 (which makes you a
member of the History Club).
Tickets from History Department.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20
Spotlight on Air Pollution - The
Department of Community Programmes
presents a full-day symposium.
ROU Geography Building. Speakers
include Mr. John Roberts, Senior
Lecturer, Department of Chemical
Engineering; Mr. Howard A. Bridge-
man, Lecturer, Department of Geo-
graphy; Dr. John Chambers, Senior
Lecturer, Department of Mechanical
Engineering and Mr. Frank Murray,
Professional Officer, Department of
Biological Sciences.

Department of Community Programmes Business Courses for
people in Business, Commerce and Industry.
INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTING - eight sessions commencing March 16,
Mondays 5.30 to 7.30 pm, V020 Mathematics Building, Lecturer
Mr. Bruce Cheek, Computer Programmer.
INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTING - eight sessions commencing March 17,
Tuesdays 6 to 8 pm, V020 Mathematics Building, Lecturer Mr.
Ian Smith, Computer Programmer.
FURTHER PROGRAMMING IN BASIC - six sessions commencing March 18,
Wednesdays 9.30 to 7.30 pm, V020 Mathematics Building, Lecturer
Mr. Bruce Cheek.
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FOR EXECUTIVES - eight sessions commencing
March 17, Tuesdays 6 to 8 pm, V09 Mathematics Building, Lecturer
Mr. David McEwan.

PRACTICAL REPORT WRITING - eight sessions commencing March 18,
Wednesdays 6 to 8 pm, V04 Geography Building, Lecturer Mr.
Tom Blunden.

THE TRAINING FUNCTION IN SMALL TO MEDIUM SIZED FIRMS - eight
sessions commencing March 17, Tuesdays 6 to 8 pm, V25 Mathem-
atics Building, Lecturer Mr. John Collins.

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