

NEWS NEWS

Newsletter for the University of Newcastle

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Registration: NBH3127

Admission of aborigines — additional courses

The University provides up to four places in the Bachelor of Medicine degree course to suitable Aboriginal applicants. Following a decision of the Council on June 20, Aborigines may shortly be admitted to other courses. The Council agreed in principle to the establishment of an additional Aboriginal Admissions and Support Scheme.

In accepting a submission from a committee appointed by Senate to consider how access for aborigines in academic areas apart from the Medical Faculty might be improved, Council supported the scheme in principle and recommended that every endeavour be made to provide resources for its implementation.

The committee's submission provides, among other things, for the development of an Outreach Programme to identify, motivate and support Aborigines considering proceeding to University and the establishment of an Enclave on the campus where Aboriginal students can meet and receive tutorial and other assistance.

Council requested the Department of Community Programmes to consider such modifications which may be necessary to the Open Foundation Course to accommodate the special needs of Aborigines.

Departments will be encouraged to co-operate with TAFE to show a special interest in Aborigines who are undertaking TAFE courses (including HSC) with a view to proceeding on to University studies.

Faculties will be requested to consider ways in which their particular disciplines might participate in a suitable scheme at Faculty level;

Further, formal discussions will be sought with the Newcastle College of Advanced Education regarding the possibility of the bridging course presently offered by the Collège being suitably modified for students planning to pursue University study;

In addition to supporting the scheme, Council established an Aboriginal Admissions and Support Committee comprising the Deputy Chairman of Senate (Convenor), the Equal Opportunity Officer, the Secretary or his nominee, the Aboriginal Students Liaison Officer for the Faculty of Medicine and one person (preferably an Aboriginal) appointed by the Vice-Chancellor to implement and monitor the scheme and with power to co-opt additional members from time to time.

The committee appointed by Senate reported that a number of tertiary institutions provided special admission schemes for those who had been disadvantaged in their education. Aborigines were included in their schemes.

There were a number of avenues available to Aborigines for admission to the University, including the HSC examination, the Open Foundation Course and completion of an approved certificate or diploma course.

Academic support would be provided by: In the case of HSC candidates, the Outreach Programmes; in the case of Open Foundation candidates, the Enclave, and in the case of students enrolled in degree courses, the Enclave and within departments.

The committee saw the establishment of an Enclave as an

essential component of any scheme. "Such an enclave already exists in the CAE and since its establishment the number of Aboriginal students has increased, as has the retention rate."

Accommodation could be organised through Aboriginal Hostels Ltd., the committee said.

Abstudy provided assistance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. An allowance of between \$65.46 and \$78.96 a week could be provided.

Students may also be entitled to Textbook and Equipment allowances, dependant's allowances and payment of tutorial and fare costs. Assistance may also be provided to students studying part-time.

GENET - THE MAIDS

UNIVERSITY DRAMA THEATRE



DIRECTED BY ELLEN CARAYANIDES

C'est facile d'être bon, et souriant, et doux. Quand on est belle et riche! Mais être bon quand on est pauvre! C'est être le bon et simple et doux quand on est pauvre et riche! But to be good when you are a maid!

Tuesday, July 15, to Friday,
July 18, 6pm; Saturday, July
19, 8pm.

Inside: University drama pioneer retires

Somme, 70 years ago

Using two rare maps on loan from Mr W. F. Geyl, a retired member of the University's staff, the Auchmuty Library has mounted a display marking the 70th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, which cost 600,000 French and British lives.

The maps, the centrepiece of the display, are copies of French maps used by British troops who fought in the battle. They show the districts of Amiens and Lens in Northern France and (as dotted lines) the movement of the front.

In addition, symbols in various colours on the maps are connected with places in Northern France described by six authors who wrote about the First World War.

The Auchmuty Library has added to the display some of its own material on the Battle of the Somme, such as the works of the authors, other contemporary records and sundry items. The display is being exhibited adjacent to the entrance to the Library until the end of this month.

Mr Geyl's army maps came to him more than 50 years ago. His father was Pieter Geyl, a distinguished academic, who was London Correspondent for a



Mr W. Geyl and Auchmuty Library staff member, Mr M. Fauchon inspect the Battle of the Somme display.

foremost Dutch newspaper, from the start of the World War to the finish. His father was handed the maps during a visit to the front.

Among the material exhibited are excerpts from books on the war written by Bill Gammage, Frederick Manning, Robert Graves and Siegfried Sassoon.

"When I realised that it would be 70 years ago that the first Battle of the Somme started, it came to me that my maps were *actually* there, and *are* thus a real memento of that awful happening, and that others would be interested, both were in Australia and overseas."

Child Care survey

The Board of Trustees of the University's community child care centre, Kintaiba, is looking forward to a good response to its survey of people's child care needs.

The questionnaire, which will be distributed right across the University to students and members of staff, will form part of a feasibility study to determine the viability of a proposal for the expansion of the centre and the diversification of its services.

Kintaiba faces a critical situation because of changes made by the Federal Government in funding arrangements and administrative regulations. Parents now have to pay more than previously and restrictions may have to be placed

on the child care centre's services.

The President of the Parents' Group Mr. P. McCormack, several members of the group and the Director of Kintaiba, Mr R. Baxter, interviewed Mr R. Brown, MHR, on June 1 and submitted a case for the Federal Government to provide extra funds to compensate for the restrictions placed on the centre's services.

Mr McCormack told the *University News* that the expansion and diversification programme was expected to broaden the funding base, increase income from fees and widen community support. The additional running costs could be more than counter-balanced by the revenue and the savings achieved through economies of scale.

The Vice-Chancellor has approved the provision of funds for the feasibility study.

One object of the Board of Trustees' survey is to determine the various activities into which the child care centre could diversify, influenced by the facilities currently being used, and the facilities required, by parents.

The questionnaire will be distributed as follows: by direct mailing to members of staff, and through Departmental offices and lectures for students. The forms will be collected from the SRC and the Department offices.

Erich von Dietze, on Ext. 462, and Pat Probert, Ext 214, are happy to provide extra questionnaires.

Miss Whitlam to give Newcastle Lecture



Miss Freda Whitlam, Moderator of the Uniting Church in Australia, will deliver the sixth Newcastle Lecture at the University on August 13 at 8.15 pm.

Miss Whitlam has indicated that in the International Year for Peace she will most likely chose to speak on peace.

The Newcastle Lecture is designed to permit citizens of Newcastle and the Hunter Region to meet and hear celebrated Australian men and women. Admission is free and supper is served after the lecture.

Sir Garfield Barwick, Professor Charles Birch, Mr Don Dunstan, Mr Barry Jones and Mr Phillip Adams are previous Newcastle Lecturers.

Miss Whitlam has a fine reputation as a teacher and a lay member of the Uniting Church of Australia. She is a sister of a former Prime Minister, the Hon. Gough Whitlam.

Miss Whitlam was born in Mosman and grew up in Canberra, where her father was Commonwealth Crown Solicitor. She attended Canberra C of E Girls' Grammar School and Abbotsleigh.

From 1944 to 1946 she was a WAAF in the Royal Australian Air Force.

She holds a BA and a Dip Ed in Melbourne University and an MA in Yale University.

Miss Whitlam taught at Canberra Grammar School and Frensham and was Principal of PLC Croydon for 19 years.

She is a member of Penrith Parish in the Presbytery of Parramatta-Nepean, an Elder, and a Lay Preacher, in the Church.

She is also a member of Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee, the Board for Social Responsibility (NSW Synod) and the Assembly Commission for Social Responsibility.

Further, she is a member of the NSW Higher Education Board and the Premier's Drug Review Committee, 1985.

Need advice about TEAS?

Ms Alison White and Mr Gary Khan regularly visit the University in their roles as the Commonwealth Department of Education's Newcastle TEAS representatives.

Ms White and Mr Khan provide and information and advisory service for students in their office in the Temporary Buildings. Alison is available on Wednesdays between 9am and 5pm and Gary on Thursdays between 1.30 and 5pm and Fridays between 1.30 and 5pm.

Apart from helping students who apply for financial assistance under TEAS, they provide information on several other study programmes such as Commonwealth Postgraduate Research and Course Awards.

From July 1 a new allowance of up to \$73.28 a week is available for students who cannot live at home for serious reasons, such as domestic violence or sexual abuse.

Alison has been living in Newcastle for 12 months and has been working as a tutor for CYSS. Before moving to Newcastle she worked for



Ms Alison White and Mr Gary Khan

several years at the Mitchell College of Advanced Education (Bathurst) in student services and publicity.

Gary has had extensive teaching experience. Before starting with TEAS

he taught for five years at Maitland Boys High School and several years at schools in Coffs Harbour and Balgowlah, in Sydney.

4 Eric Colhoun takes up Chair



Professor Eric Colhoun

The new Professor of Geography, Professor Eric A. Colhoun, comes to UN from the University of Tasmania where he was a Reader.

Professor Colhoun says he sees the Newcastle Region as a very cohesive community. "The cohesion is one of the most satisfying aspects of my brief association with Newcastle and is aptly expressed in the slogan 'Our Town'."

Professor Colhoun sees the Region's sense of purpose as very much modern geography in action. Specialists are making contributions from different angles and the future is being planned in a constructive way.

During his 14 years' attachment to the University of Tasmania he made contributions in teaching and research over a wide area. In recent years he has concentrated on understanding the evolution of landscapes during the Quaternary Period.

Professor Colhoun came to Australia from Ireland in 1972.

After gaining a BA Hons. First Class degree from Queens University, Belfast, in 1962 he obtained an MS from the University of Wisconsin. In 1964 he returned to Queens where he completed a PhD on the glacial geomorphology of the Sperrin Mountains and adjacent areas in County Tyrone, County Londonderry and County Donegal.

The Board of Trinity College, Dublin, awarded him the MA degree *de jure officio* in 1969 for services to the College, at which he was Lecturer in Geography from 1967 to 1972.

Professor Colhoun says he is encouraged by the fact that the staff in the Department of Geography are very enthusiastic for constructive change. "The main short-term change I envisage is a commitment to fieldwork as part of the teaching of Geography."

The Department's Geography I student numbers are reasonable, he says, but there is a problem with the flow-on to Geography II. "This may relate to the fact that the work done in First Year has been purely theoretical. To make the course balanced, we intend to introduce Geographic Methods, a practical course."

Professor Colhoun refers to a decline in the number of teachers being produced by Geography Departments at universities and notes that more and more students are finding jobs in management, the Public Service, private

enterprise and the environmental field.

"Postgraduate numbers are low although the count of honours students is reasonable. The explanation I think is that few academic positions are available for people holding PhDs.

"Probably much more can be gained if honours students go on and enrol in Master's degrees, from which they receive good research experience without having to spend a large amount of time. Master's students are neither too specialised nor too expensive and can go on and take up careers in management."

He sees the Department of Geography as a well-balanced research department, recognised as having considerable potential in several areas such as climatology, geomorphology, rain forest ecology, wetlands environments, human geography, South-East Asian social and historical geography. A staff member is also co-editing the *Australian Historical Atlas* as a Bicentennial project.

"My own burning interest is the Quaternary Period, the last two million years of the Earth's history.

"Currently there is a high level of interest in the changes in climate and vegetation in the period and views on what the future may bring.

"In considering the future we are helped by taking cognizance of the past and the changes can only be ascertained by studying the advance and retreat of ice sheets and glaciers, as well as the changes in vegetation." Eric Colhoun's wife, Ann, is a nurse and midwife. They have three sons.

LORCA DAY

Spanish food interspersed with two Spanish songs, a Flamenco dancer and short readings in Spanish and English of writings by Lorca.

The songs, the dancer and the readings, all taking place in the Staff House, are optional on Lorca Day on July 10.

The University's Language and Literature Board has invited scholars from other universities to assist in presenting a day of talks, readings, films and a production of a short Lorca play to introduce his work to all who are interested. This is not an academic conference; Lorca Day is for everyone.

10.45 am to 6 pm
Geography Lecture Room

Tickets and details from the Department of English - (Phone Ext. 219).

Full-time salaried persons \$3 (or \$12 including dinner).

Non-salaried persons \$2 (or \$8 including dinner).

Desirable, but not essential, prior reading: one or more of Lorca's *Three Tragedies* (Penguin paperback, available University Bookshop).

Decision-making

All members of staff are invited to attend a Lunchtime Forum titled Paths to Decision-making in the Godfrey Tanner Room in the Union on July 16 from 12.30 pm to 2 pm.

Speakers will be Clare Burton, Senior Lecturer at Kuringai CAE, and author of *Subordination*, Robyn Wallace, Senior Lecturer in English, an experienced member of committees for many years, and Peter Bamford, Senior University Counsellor, whose areas of expertise include Encouraging Personal Growth.

The forum has been jointly arranged by AWEUN and the EEO Unit.

Privatisation

The H.V. Evatt Memorial Foundation will conduct a conference covering both sides of Privatisation at International House in Sydney on July 19. Mr Roy Hattersley, Deputy Leader of the UK Labour Party, and Mr Bob Carr, Minister for Planning and the Environment in NSW, and other speakers will be heard. Registration forms for the conference are available from the SRC Office.

Professionalism

Kintaiba and The Department of Community Programmes are working together on a one-day seminar which will focus on Professionalism In Early Childhood Services.

The seminar in the Medical Sciences Lecture Theatre on July 12 will provide an opportunity for people working in children's services, including members of management

committees, to come together and talk about some of the fundamental issues dominating their working day.

One of the speakers is Anne Stonehouse, formerly of the Lady Gowrie Centre, Melbourne and presently senior lecturer at the Darwin Institute of Technology. In addition to presenting a paper on Working With Under 3s, she will discuss the need for inservice.

The three major unions covering workers in community-based child care will have representatives on a panel discussing industrial matters.

The Office of Child Care and the Department of Youth and Community Services have been invited to send speakers to the seminar.

For further information get in touch with Mr R. Baxter on 67 3475.

Shareholders

Recently, at the Sydney University Branch of the Co-op Bookshop, Margaret Jones, a mature-age student

was pleasantly surprised to be presented with a Co-op Bookshop gift voucher for \$100. The gift was to celebrate the \$1,000,000 shareholder discount mark, which, the Bookshop says, indicates the positive reaction of shareholders to the current discount figure rate and their appreciation of the books and services provided by the Bookshop.

At Sydney University the idea and foundation of the University Co-op Bookshop limited occurred in 1957. In the first year of operation the total number of shareholders was 1,897. The figure now stand at 350,000.

Women's Role

The Australian Federation of University Women, NSW, is offering a one-day seminar on The Peace and Role of the Graduate Woman in Today's Society at Challis House, Martin Place, Sydney, on July 12. The cost is members \$7.50 and visitors \$10. For more information telephone (02) 232 5629.

The University's governors



At its meeting on June 20, the Council welcomed some members, farewelled some members and was informed that the Minister for Education had made his new appointments. The opportunity to photograph the authority at this time was taken by the University News.

The photo shows: Back row Professor M. Carter, Mr T. Askie, Professor R. MacDonald, Dr D. Kay, Mr C. Craig, Mr J. Sutton, Emeritus Professor L. Short, Mr T. Waring, the Hon. R. Dyer, MLC, Dr P. Hendry, Mr C. Boyd and Professor G. Tanner; seated, front row, Mrs M. Henry, Dr D. Huxley, Mrs E. Morrison, The Chancellor, Sir Bede Callaghan, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor D. George, Mrs. G. Mills-Evers, Dr K. Lyne-Smith, Mrs M. Bowman and Professor C. Renwick.

Dr A. Forsythe, the Hon. K. Booth, MLA, Dr T. Osborn, Mr J. Price, MLA, are also members of the Council. In the recent Council elections, Dr D. Wright and Mr P. Chopra were elected to the Council.

JUNE COUNCIL

New members welcomed

The Chancellor, Sir Bede Callaghan, welcomed Chris Craig and John Sutton to Council. They had been elected by students of the University.

Council also thanked the previous student members Mr M. Yates, Ms P. Kilby; and Mrs M. Henry, Dr K. Lyne-Smith and Mrs G. Mills-Evers, who were attending this last meeting, for their contribution to the work of Council.

Members reappointed

The Minister for Education, Hon. R. Cavalier, has reappointed Hon. K. Booth, MP, Mrs M. Bowman, Dr D. Huxley and Professor C. Renwick to Council.

The Minister's other appointee is Dr A. Forsythe, the Deputy Chancellor, who was previously elected by members of the Council themselves, a category of membership which is to be discontinued under the provisions of the recent Act amending the University's Act of Incorporation.

The Vice-Chancellor reported to Council that Mr A. Beard, who continues as a member of the NCAE Council, but whose term of office on the University Council concluded, had written saying how much he had enjoyed his association.

The role of the visitor

Council accepted a proposal to modify the role of the Governor as Visitor to the University.

In informing the Council of his intention to submit amending legislation to Parliament in the forthcoming session, Mr Cavalier pointed out that the University may wish to submit advice on the wording of the amendment of the University's Act.

Following a recommendation from the By-Laws and Constitutions Committee, Council asked the Vice-Chancellor to advise Mr Cavalier that it would be acceptable to the University if the Visitor were empowered to delegate his dispute settling role to a judicial officer such as a present or retired Supreme Court Judge.

New VC's visit

Professor Keith Morgan, who will take up the Vice-Chancellorship in January, 1987, has informed the Vice-Chancellor that he and his wife will visit Newcastle at the end of August or early in September.

Professor George told Council that this would allow Professor Morgan to contribute to the Triennial Plan, due at the end of September.

University/CAE meeting

The University and CAE Joint Committee on Cooperation and Rationalisation held its first meeting on June 10. Members of the Committee are: University, Professor C. Renwick and Professor D. George - Council, Professor M. Carter and Professor R. MacDonald - Senate; CAE, Mrs M. Bowman and Dr D. Huxley - Council, Mr R. Hodgins and Dr A. Taylor - Academic Board.

International house

Council was informed of the latest developments with the proposal for a Newcastle International House to serve both the University and the CAE.

The Chair of the Steering Committee, the Rev. J. Crane, in a letter, said the Committee believes the best form of management structure for an International House was through a company limited by guarantee. Using the model of the University of New South Wales International House Company, a draft Memorandum and Articles of Association was drawn up and approved by the committee as a basis of future operations.

Rev. Crane said discussions were held with the University Planner concerning an appropriate site. Tentatively allotted to the project, subject to Council approval was a site on University land adjacent to Rankin Drive and between the CAE entrance road and Edwards Hall. He said the essential parts of preliminary plans prepared so far were: a central dining/meeting facility incorporating tutorial rooms and offices; a series of modular residential units to accommodate five students each with common room and kitchen; and a Warden's House.

The Vice-Chancellor advised Rev. Crane that the Buildings and Grounds Committee would need to look at the siting and the plans and By-Laws and Constitutions Committee should advise the Council on the Memorandum and Articles of Association. It would be the August meeting of Council before any decision in principle could be given.

Singapore ceremony

The Vice-Chancellor said that Convocation's proposal for the mounting of a simple ceremony for the presentation of Testamurs in Singapore was being considered as an initiative for 1987.

Professor George said that the Secretary was investigating the feasibility of holding such a ceremony and the costs which would be involved.

The Vice-Chancellors presented a list of overseas students expected to graduate next year. It revealed that out of a total of 172 students, the largest group (56) came from Singapore and the second largest group (44) came from Malaysia.

Allegations of Censorship

Council asked the Vice-Chancellor to investigate allegations of censorship of *University News* and submit a report the next meeting.

Minister's Meeting with Council

In thanking members of Council for their work for the University and education in New South Wales, the Minister for Education, requested the members "to try to see us through the difficult years ahead."

The Minister, the Hon. R. Cavalier, MP, briefly attended the Council's last ordinary meeting. He was making his second visit to the University in less than two months, having come to give an Occasional Address at the last Graduation Ceremonies.

The following is a resume of what he said at the Council meeting:

Mr Cavalier referred to the Prime Minister's recent national address. Although Mr Hawke said there would have to be a squeeze on funding, he could not see how universities and colleges could be asked to carry out further economies.

He said if people grumbled about their tax burdens consistently enough they must eventually make an impression. Although a vital public sector was very important in a democracy, all political parties in Australia seemed to have become committed to reducing Government spending.

He said he was grateful to members of the Council. They were not employed by the University. Their time was valuable and they gave it according to their perception of the University's place in the Hunter community.

Regulations Amended

Following the recommendation of the University Government Review Committee, Council approved the amendments to the regulations governing departments providing for:

- Candidature for Department nominee as Head to include not only Professor and Assoc. Professor but also Senior Lecturers
- Membership of Departmental Boards to be enlarged to include all Professional Officers in the Department, and,
- One member elected annually by and from the full-time general staff of the Department.

This means that non-academic staff can now participate in the consultative processes in Departments and have voices on Departmental Boards.

Council also approved further amendments to the regulations giving effect to its decision in relation to the election of Deans. In future, a Dean can be elected by a Faculty Board from its Professors, Assoc. Professors, and Senior Lecturers. Previously only Professor were eligible to be Deans.

Council 1986 - 1988

Following the elections for the Council of the University, Mr Pran Chopra and Dr Don Wright have returned to the Council.

In the three elections held less interest was elicited judging by the votes cast than in the elections of 1984 and 1982.

In the ballot to decide who would fill the two vacancies for non-academic members, Mr Trevor Askie and Dr David Kay were elected. In the distribution of the 274 votes cast, Mr Askie received 113 votes, Dr Kay 102 and Mr Roger Baxter 59. This gave Mr

Askie a quota and in the second distribution Dr Kay accrued 114 votes to also be elected.

In the ballot to decide who would fill the two vacancies for academic staff other than professors, Dr Wright and Mr Chopra were the successful candidates.

A total of 199 votes were cast, Dr Wright receiving 84, Mr Chopra 61, Mrs Margaret Henry 32 and Dr David Watt 22. Dr Wright received a quota and in the second pass Mr Chopra received 69.9, exceeding the quota.

The successful candidates in the ballot for the professorial members of council were Professor Godfrey Tanner and Professor Ronald MacDonald.

Out of the 199 votes cast in the election Professor Tanner attracted 72, Professor MacDonald 69 and Professor John Burrows 58. Professor Tanner had a quota and in the second distribution Professor MacDonald was allotted 72.2 votes sufficient to be elected.

Mr Askie, Dr Kay, Professor MacDonald and Professor Tanner were members of the previous Council.

Additional elections will be held to fill two new seats on Council as a result of the amendment of the University's Act. The sub-professorial and Convocation memberships of Council have been increased by one each.

The three positions on the Council previously held by members elected by members of the Council themselves have been abolished.

The terms of office of the previous staff members of Council expired on June 30. The persons elected to replace them will hold their seats until June 30, 1988.

However, the two student members of the Council Mr Chris Craig and Mr John Sutton who were also recently voted onto the Council have terms of office lasting until June, 1987.

Auchmuty Library extensions

Council was advised that tenders for the Stage IIB extension of the Auchmuty Library would be called in July, with a view to construction commencing on site by the end of August. It is hoped that, subject to the receipt of satisfactory tenders, the 3,500 square metre extension will be ready for occupation early in the 1988 academic year.

Roof insulation material

Council also noted a report prepared by external consultants on the condition of insulation material containing asbestos which was sprayed on the underside of the roof sheeting of part of the first stage of the Library when it was built in 1967.

The insulation material within the roof space is isolated from the occupied areas of the Library by the ceiling, and regular air sampling in the Reading Room below has shown that no health hazard currently exists in the occupied areas of the Library.

However, the Consultant has strongly recommended the removal of this insulation because of its deteriorated condition and poor adhesion to the roof sheeting.

Because of the disruption and cost involved in removal of the material from the roof and ceiling area, which will necessitate closure of the Reading Room for three or more months and removal of 20,000 books, shelving and other furniture, Council resolved that this work be programmed to be carried out as soon as possible after completion of the Stage IIB extension when space would become available to rehouse the collection. The University will also seek additional minor works funds to meet the cost of this work.

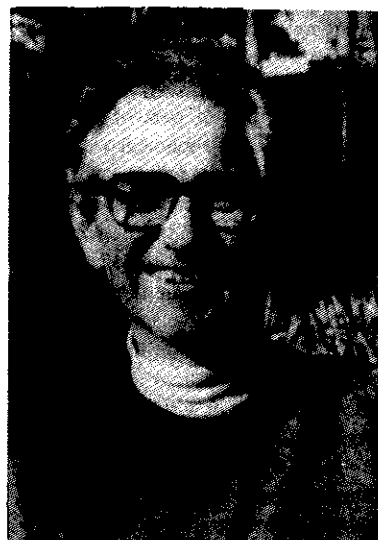
A copy of the Consultants report has been referred to the University Safety Committee and Council resolved to advise staff wishing to peruse the Consultant's report that a copy of the report is held in the office of the Manager, Buildings and Grounds.

State Highway 23

It was reported to Council that advice received from the Department of Main Roads indicates that relocation of services by major Public Utilities will commence later in 1986 in order to enable road work to proceed when tenders are recalled.

The construction of State Highway 23, which involves, among other things, the construction of a roundabout at the University entrance, should in the long term provide the University with improved and safer entry and egress onto Rankin Drive. Undergrounding and relocation of services across the University entrance will probably commence in late November.

Dennis was behind Student Players



Professor Dennis Biggins

The current longest-serving member of the Department of English, Associate Professor Dennis B. O'D. Biggins, retired on July 1 - 30 years after his appointment.

Although formally retired, Professor Biggins is still taking some classes and doing research, consequent upon his appointment as an Honorary Associate for two years.

An authority on Later Mediaeval and Renaissance Literature, including Chaucer and Shakespeare, he has done research at Cambridge, Leeds and London Universities, where he has spent periods of study leave. He has published articles and reviews in European, American and Australian journals, besides reading papers at Australian and overseas academic conferences.

Professor Biggins came from Norwich City College in East Anglia (a graduate of the University of London, he had taken an MA at Southampton University) to Newcastle University College's Department of Arts in May, 1956. The Agent-General for New South Wales had offered him a lectureship on a salary of £1,360 per annum. In addition, an allowance of 10/- a day was provided to cover the voyage to Australia on the *Orsova*.

At Newcastle Station the Bigginses were met by the (then) Deputy Warden of the College, Professor James Auchmuty, the (then) Head of the English Department, Mr Doug Muecke, and Professor Alan Tweedie. "The Department comprised Doug, Irishman Bernard Share, and me, and soon afterwards Robyn Wallace joined us," Professor Biggins said.

Lecturers in the Arts Department had some strange tasks in those days. For example, they were responsible for teaching Humanities, a low-octane blend of history and literature, to reluctant trainee engineers and scientists.

Professor Biggins remembers the College's first cabarets at the old Palais in Newcastle West, and the strange custom of having "loges" (people forming groups and putting their beer bottles and wine flagons on the tables).

Dennis directed the Student Players' first production, *Noah*, by André Obey, with Brin Newton-John, (then) Associate Professor of German, playing the lead and in the absence of a suitable theatre at the College they availed themselves of the old Roxy in Hamilton. "The sets were built in our garage in Tooke Street by Gavin Betts, a Lecturer in Classics," he recalls.

He has happy recollections of the years spent running Student Players and of the College's achievements with student revues. Barry Gordon put on the first revue in 1957 or 1958 and Marjorie subsequently became closely involved with the shows.

In 1965 the University gained its autonomy and moved from Tighes Hill to Shortland, where, initially, there were no facilities for stage productions. The Student Players withered on the vine, Professor Biggins says. But the arrival of the Department of Drama proved very beneficial for campus theatre.

The Biggins name is well-known in Newcastle. Marjorie is a graduate of this University and Arts Correspondent on ABC radio. Dennis' and Marjorie's eldest child, Penelope, is a musical comedienne, currently with the Castanet Club in Sydney. Jonathan Biggins, a graduate of this University, is a professional actor. The youngest, Felicity, is a journalist who holds a BA with Honours in this University and an MA in Theatre Studies from the University of Leeds.

Dennis and Felicity are collaborating on an introduction to the work of Newcastle playwright John O'Donoghue.

He has always been willing to take a part in University affairs, having served as Arts Faculty Board Representative on Senate and as Acting Head of the Department of English. In 1979 he was Acting Head of the Department of Drama. He currently is

President of the Newcastle Film Society, which has a membership of more than 400.

Dennis remembers living in Norwich and seeing the job at Newcastle University College advertised in the *Times Educational Supplement*. He applied for it, and soon after the family went to Bournemouth for the 1955 Christmas holidays. "We drove back to Norwich in our unheated 1934 Austin, through an all-day freezing fog. It took us 12 hours to do some 130 miles. The letter from the Agent-General was lying on our front-door mat when we arrived. We sailed from Tilbury in April, 1956."

Dennis Benjamin O'Dell Biggins said he and Marjorie have never regretted making the transition to this country, and believe they have become real Australophiles. They were naturalised a few years ago.

The future of the University

On July 17 at the annual general meeting of Convocation, Professor Cyril Renwick will speak on *The Future of the University*. Cyril Renwick's name is very familiar to graduates and staff of the University. Thirty years ago he offered the first Economics courses at Newcastle University College. Today he is a member of the University Council and a Visiting Professor in Economics.

Nominations have been called for the election of Warden of Convocation and the Deputy Warden and to fill four vacancies on Standing Committee. The terms of the Warden, Father James Bromley, the Deputy Warden, Professor C. Ellyett, and Mr W. Crook, Mr V. Levi and Mr W. Schultz expire at the AGM. There is also a vacancy on Standing Committee.

Assignment for communicator



Mr Adrian Daniel

Because of its geographic position, Australia is behind North America and the UK in the development of new communications media technologies, according to Mr Adrian Daniel, of the Faculty of Medicine.

Mr Daniel has been granted a Special Project Assignment to visit American, Canadian and English centres of medical communications, computer-graphics and health science education, where he says the use of modern media technologies is very well-advanced.

The Vice-Chancellor has reminded members of the professional general staff that under the University's scheme of Special Project Assignments they have an opportunity to obtain information about university systems

and acquire new skills overseas. He said that where the Council approves a Special Project Assignment, a grant for air fares and an allowance for expenses is awarded. Since the Assignments were introduced in 1982, there have been four such Assignments approved by the Council.

Mr Daniel said: "North America leads the world as regards educational media technologies. The UK is close behind. We are in a period of great change, which presents new challenges to become informed and improve our service. Observing the new technologies will be of benefit not only to the Medical Communication Unit but also the general University Community."

He has worked at the University as Director for Educational Technology for nine years and in that time has received a second area of responsibility. He is also Director of the Regional Medical Communication Unit in the David Maddison Clinical Sciences Building at the Royal Newcastle Hospital. The MCU was established in 1981 to serve the requirements of the Faculty of Medicine, the RNH and the Department of Health, Hunter Region.

Mr Daniel intends to visit particular schools of medicine and hospitals in Canada, the United States, England and Wales and hopes to examine a number of developments in the production and delivery of communication media for

higher education and health science education.

He said he will be looking at things which would be applicable to developments in the Hunter Region, such as the use of interactive television for distance learning based upon fibre-optic and microwave communications technology, similar to that in use at Charing Cross Hospital and Westminster Medical School in London:

"We are talking about the possibility of this kind of system linking the University, the RNH, the new teaching hospital at Rankin Park, the Mater Hospital, Wallsend Hospital and other hospitals in the region for communications purposes," Mr Daniel said.

Moreover, he will investigate new ideas in the field of computergraphics, an exciting process which uses computers to prepare slides, graphs and animation for educational and research purposes. This interest will be chiefly pursued at the University of Toronto in Canada.

He will make his visit overseas between October 10 and November 28. He said he was delighted to have received the Special Project Assignment, and was pleased the Council felt it was worthwhile to send a staff member overseas. The visit would prove valuable from the University's point of view and the point of view of health science users in the Region.

Arrivals and Departures

APPOINTMENTS

Dr P. Bowden, Senior Lecturer in Management.

Mr R. T. Bridges, Attendant Patrol in Property.

Professor E. A. Colhoun, Professor in Geography.

Mr J. D. Hendriks, Computer Programmer in the Computing Centre.

Mr R. Hill, Attendant Patrol in Property.

Mrs J. A. Keogh Office Assistant Typist in the Library.

Dr D. L. O'Connell, Lecturer in Medicine.

Dr L. G. Olson, Senior Lecturer in Medicine.

Miss D. G. Wilks, Office Assistant Typist in Secretary's Division.

RESIGNATIONS

Miss L. A. Woodcock, Clerk in the Bursar's Division.

Ms K. L. Pearson, Library Technician in the Library.

Mr W. F. Pembroke, Attendant Patrol in Property.

Mr A. D. Dunstan, Attendant Patrol in Property.

Dr E. J. Braggett, Senior Lecturer in Education.

Miss C. L. Shay, Library Technician in the Library.

SPORTING NEWS

This is a very active time of year for competition running. On June 14 a Uni Athletics Club team comprising David Lighfoot, Terry Farrell, Albert Nymeyer and Craig Beveridge was narrowly beaten by a Myers Park team in the 4 x 5000 metre branch road championships, held here at the University. Craig Beveridge is the newest addition to the Uni Club, and, fresh from the junior ranks, shows great potential.

On June 21 Terry Farrell won the King of the Mountains 25-Kilometre road race in record time, a brilliant performance. Arthur Kingsland and Craig Hansford, both returning to racing after periods of lay-off, also ran well.

Three days later, Terry Farrell left for Norway to compete in the first leg of the World Cup for orienteering. The World Cup will provide much needed international competition for Terry in his preparation for the World Orienteering Championships to be held in France in 1987.

On June 28, David Lightfoot lead a Newcastle Branch team competing in the State 15 kilometer road championships.

Who's for croquet?

Wanted. People interested in trying croquet, the game in which wooden balls are driven with mallets through hoops.

A questionnaire seeking responses to a proposal that the University from a Croquet Club has been distributed around by Assoc. Professor N. Talbot, of the Department of English.

Professor Talbot told the *News* that the club would be for undergraduate and graduate members of the University as well as members of staff.

"This splendid game, in which victory goes to the coolest, is not widely played in the Hunter," he said. "It is pitiless and wounding in the extreme, yet simultaneously charming and intriguing."

Since the provision of gear and a lawn might take a little time and money, the Croquet Club would not start immediately. However, coaching and games on one of the local lawns might be arranged soon.

You can obtain a questionnaire, if interested, from Professor Talbot, Ext. 536.

Returned to Council



In the recent election to fill the positions on the Council for academic staff other than professors, Dr Don Wright, a Senior Lecturer in History (above) and Mr Pran Chopra, Senior Lecturer in Education (below) were successful.



Obituary

Brian Tomson



Brian Tomson of the English Department died in Royal Newcastle Hospital on June 20 after a long illness. He was 44. He left no relatives in Australia, but the large

attendance at his funeral showed how widely he was valued.

After graduating MA in English and French at Trinity College, Dublin, Brian Tomson took up post-graduate research on Malory at Brasenose College, Oxford and gained his BPhil. He came to the University of Newcastle in March, 1968, as a Lecturer in English and continued to work towards an Oxford DPhil in medieval literature.

In his earlier years in Newcastle, he was able to carry out all his teaching in the fields of Old and Middle English. As the heavy staff-losses of recent years reduced the Department's range of courses, he turned his attention to the teaching of more recent literature. But, the older work remained his real love and students who shared that interest with him saw the best of his high abilities.

He was one of the finest chess players in the Hunter Region, playing with considerable success in the NSW and Australian championship tournaments. He did particularly well in 1984, the last year he was able to compete. He also acted as chess correspondent for the (then) *Newcastle Morning Herald* and was a regular contributor to chess journals.

Brian was a quiet but strong-minded man who warmed to a congenial conversation and had a shy but searching wit. His friendship was not lightly granted but his company will be greatly missed in the Department of English and beyond.

D.B.B. J.F.B.

ADVERTISEMENTS

For Sale

Typewriter - IBM Selectric III (electronic, golfball typewriter) as new, hardly ever used, with accessories. Price \$400 (new cost \$700-800). Please telephone Dr Parsons Ext. 669 (or leave message with secretary).

- Adler Model 1041 Electronic Typewriter with Floppy Disc Drive.
- Supershred Paper Shredder.
- Video Recorders, reel to reel, as new:-
 - 1 x JVC Model KV-350
 - 1 x NIVICO Model PV- 4500

- Electronic Argon Arc Welder "Miller Transtig" 250 AC/DC with Shunt Control.

For further information contact Mr P. Myers (685 372). Tenders should be forwarded in a sealed envelope marked Tender for Used Equipment, addressed to the Purchasing Officer. Tenders close at 11.30 am, July 16. The University reserves the rights to reject any or all tenders.

Toyota Corona 1981 liftback, 5 door, 2 litre, 5 speed manual, LDF 731, radio cassette, registered until 3/87, excellent condition \$7500. Please telephone Ext. 328 or 46 7272.

Grey, all-wool coat, fully lined, size 10/12, never worn. \$60 o.n.o. Please telephone Ext. 613477.

Gemini TE 1981, white, auto sedan, 69,500km 12 months registration, good condition, serviced regularly, very reliable, one owner, comes with sheepskin seat covers and four floor mats, \$4550 o.n.o., Please telephone 63 5392.

1914 telephone table, semi-circular with two shelves. Wrought iron (white) with black glass shelves. \$25. Phone 43 5306 before 7am or after 8pm or leave your name and number at Ext. 532.

PDP-11/10 Computer comprising:- PDP-11/10 Processor, 16K Words of Core Memory, 16K Words of Semi Conductor Memory, 1 x RK05 Removable Disk Drive, 1 x RK05F Fixed Dual Disk Drive, 1 x TU60 Dual Cassette Drive & Controller, 1 x Kennedy 2800 7 track Magnetic Tape Drive, and Controller (556 bpi), 1 x DL - 11 Console serial interface, 2 x 19" Rack Mounting Cabinets with power supplies and fans.

Model 630 Diablo Printer, with 35 Daisy Wheels and Sheet Feeder.

For further information contact Mr P. McNabb - Ext. 385.

Tenders should be forwarded in a sealed envelope marked "Tender for PDP", addressed to The Purchasing Office, University of Newcastle, N.S.W. 2308. Tenders close at 11.30 a.m. July 16, 1986.

Tutor

Wanted, tutor for H.S.C. Ancient History student, Ring Marilyn Graham 52 1548.

Typing Done

Ms Alex Campbell, of 30 Koorungal Close, Balmoral, 'phone 75 3336, is a word processor operator who will type theses, reports etc.

Leaders wanted

1st Cooks Hill Extension Scout Group incorporates handicapped scouts. It has a Scout Hall (in Albert Street, Wickham), but lacks Leaders for its Venturer Unit. Group Leader, Allan Richardson, told the *News* that it was very hard to keep the unit together without a leader. To alleviate the critical situation, students and members of staff might offer to be trained at Glenrock Scout Training Centre and become Leaders with 1st Cooks Hill. For more details, those interested should ring Mr Richardson on 571 571.

Medical School commended

A Professor from the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii was advised by her Dean not to miss the Newcastle Medical School during her visit to Australia.

Professor Marita Nelson, Professor of Anatomy and Reproductive Biology, said the School's reputation as an innovator and as a community-based medical school had made many people overseas aware of Newcastle University.

Professor Nelson saw several similarities between the John A. Burns School and the Newcastle Medical School, such as the size of the enrolment and the special admission scheme for Aboriginal applicants.

"My university has an intake of 56 students of medicine a year, including

eight minority students who come from islands in the Pacific Ocean.

"We are also community-oriented, our goal being the production of graduates who are essentially primary care family physicians. Because we are a fairly new school, we frequently review the curricula to produce better physicians."

Professor Nelson, who visited a number of Disciplines of the Medical School during the period June 16 to 20, in particular assessed the philosophy of the School's medical education programme and how it is implemented. "I am most interested in the integration of the basic sciences with the clinical sciences and the development of skills in medical problem-solving."

As regards getting medical students actively involved in the community, the University of Hawaii, she said, availed itself of a Preceptorship Scheme, which permitted students to spend regular terms with Preceptors, viz community physicians. The students have gone considerable distances, even to refugee camps in Thailand.

Professor Nelson noted that in Newcastle students seemed to be less closely involved in community health surveys than in Hawaii, where there was a strong emphasis on "the preventive side and looking at health risk factors."

Dr John Heath, Acting Head of the Discipline of Anatomy in the Medical School, and other staff, collaborated with Professor Nelson during her stay.

DIARY OF EVENTS

Saturday July 5, 7.30pm

Third annual SPORTSMAN'S BALL (fancy dress) at the South Newcastle Leagues Club (upstairs). Entertainment by: *Hogan and the Becketts* plus *The Mess*. Members, \$3; non members, \$4.

Monday, July 7 to July 11

STUVAC and Examinations.

Thursday, July 10

GARCIA LORCA DAY activities. There will be a short play and a Spanish dinner. Information about activities and dinner booking can be made by telephoning the English Department at Ext. 219.

2.15pm

Department of Sociology seminar entitled: **PARASITISM AND EQUALITY; SOME REFLECTIONS ON PASTORAL NOMADISM AND LONG-DISTANCE TRADE**. Guest speaker: Dr. Ian Bedford (Anthropology, Macquarie). Room W326A (Sociology).

Friday July 11, 1pm

Film Buffs Club: **THE LEFT HANDED GUN**, Union Common Room. Admission: free.

Monday, July 14, 2pm

GAME OF MURDER commences. (Photos from 10am) Entry fee: \$1.50.

UNIVERSITY REVUE rehearsals.

7-9pm

S.U.N. Folk Dance, Union Common Room Admisison: \$1.

Tuesday, July 15, 1pm

Lunch-time concert in the Courtyard featuring: **TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS DANCE TROUPE**.

2pm

GAME OF MURDER continues

8pm

THE MAIDS begins. Drama Department's next production, until July 19.

Wednesday, July 16

Noon

German Feature Film entitled: **EINE SONDERBARE LIEBE** in Room A132, McMullin Building. Admission: free.

1pm.

Classical Lunch-time concert in the Southern Cross Lounge featuring: **THE HUNTER ENSEMBLE STRING QUARTET**. Admission: free.

2pm

GAME OF MURDER continues

7-10pm

Entertainment in the Bar featuring **U. J. NEILL**.

Thursday; July 17, Noon

Movie: **JAGGED EDGE** in the Common Room. Admission: 50c.

1pm

Sociology Film Preview: **FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE** (a film about an Aboriginal Community in Central Australia which is developing its own Media Production Centre). Room 326A, Sociology.

1.30pm

Department of Philosophy Seminar Guest Speaker: Professor Gonzalo: Munevar (University of Nebraska). Room A110, McMullin Building. All welcome.

2pm

GAME OF MURDER continues.

8pm

CONVOCATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING in the Staff House. Professor Cyril Renwick will be the guest speaker. Topic: *The Future of the University*.

Friday, July 18

AUTONOMY DAY: Silly Sports, Marble Racing with TAB, Tug of War, Billy Cart Races and Boat Races.

3pm

Conclusion of **MURDER GAME**

6pm

INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (Newcastle Group) will be holding a dinner meeting in the Staff House. Speaker: Dr John Fisher. Topic: *The Thatcher Years: A Preliminary Assessment*. Cost of dinner: \$10. Please advise Professor L. Fredman (Extension 364) if you wish to come for the Lecture only.

**WANTED
for
MURDER**

All Super Sleuths!
It's Back, It's Pointy, and It's Dangerous ...

The week beginning Monday 14th July is a week beginning the fun and games of Murder.
The aim is to track down and "MURDER" as many "VICTIMS" as you can during the week.
(Note inverted commas), viz ...

Every entrant in the game has a photograph taken to identify themselves. These photographs are then redistributed among the entrants at random. The person in the photograph then becomes your first "victim". By tracking down your "victim" and "killing" them, you are entitled to take over your "victim's" photograph and proceed to hunt your "victim's" "victim".

REWARD

Here on/or Heroine; Sleuth with MOST photographs of victims wins a selection of wine!!!

ALL ENTRANTS NOTE;

All entrants assemble in the foyer of the Union on Monday 14th July between 9 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. Your photograph will be taken and put into the "VICTIM'S BOX". All photographs will be distributed between 1.30 and 2 p.m. The game begins at 2 p.m. entry and ends on Friday July 18th at 3 p.m.

ENTRY FEE \$1.50
RULES OF THE GAME
WILL BE HANDED OUT WITH PHOTOS.

The poster for the Game of Murder, which will be played in the Union in the week concluding July 18.