Geared up for Coal Technology

From July 28, the University will be the main venue for the first coal technology training course for personnel from developing countries.

Representatives of at least 13 countries which are contemplating the installation of coal-fired power stations will participate in the course.

Lasting eight weeks, the course - and two similar courses to be held each year from now on - will be sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme.

The Federal and State Ministers responsible for resources and energy, Senator Evans and Mr Cox respectively, are expected to come to the University during the course to meet the participants.

Other distinguished visitors will include Consuls for the participants' countries, who have been asked to be present on September 28, the final day, so they can see project material.

The countries new to coal-fired power stations which will send participants are Turkey, The Philippines, Burma, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Morocco, Pakistan, Thailand, Indonesia, China, Malaysia and Malaya. Nominees from India, Bangladesh and Mauritius may also attend.

For six of the eight weeks spent in Newcastle, the participants will be stationed here at the University. The remaining two weeks will be spent at the Electricity Commission's Staff training centre at Wangi Power Station.

Visits will be made to underground and open cut coal mines, transport systems, ship loaders and power stations in the Hunter Valley, as well as a coal testing plant interstate.

The Institute of Coal Research, which combines the University's facilities pertaining to coal, is collaborating with the Joint Coal Board and the Electricity Commission to organise the coal technology course.

The programme and arrangements for the course have been organised by Assoc. Professor Terry Wall, of the Institute of Coal Research, and Dr John Sligar, of the Electricity Commission, who is a graduate of this University.

Professor Wall said the objectives of the course were:

- Introduce fundamentals of coal technology,
- Demonstrate that appropriate technology is available and adequate for effective coal utilisation,
- Demonstrate the operating and maintenance requirements of power stations burning coal, and
- Act as a reference organisation if participant countries require investigation of specific coal associated problems.

Professor Wall said the costs associated with the course amounted to about $150,000, half of which was for air fares and accommodation.

INSIDE: Concern at CTEC's action
The Editor

I write this letter before the memory of the freezing conditions and lack of comfort endured by staff and students during the long, cold second term at this University is erased, (till next time) with the coming of Spring. Most of the University's teaching occurs in the long winter term, and while the large lecture theatres in some buildings have some form of heating, (so I needed to be informed as I hadn't really noticed) much of the teaching and learning goes on in cold, often unsuitably furnished lecture and tutorial rooms.

There are some good quality tutorial rooms, heated, carpeted and with comfortable and appropriate furniture in the Faculty of Medicine, as one would expect in the most recently-completed building. Far from 'beggarding' Medicine these good facilities, we should be insisting on this standard for all members of the University. Similarly, the recent carpeting, refurbishment, and heating of the administrative section should be welcomed. Clerical staff have for too long worked in crowded, uncomfortable conditions.

Academics should nevertheless take a good hard look at the offices most of us occupy - cold, grey-walled cells, heated, if that is the word, with 20-year old in many cases, single-bar radiators, expensive and dangerous, and office furniture unacceptable in the business world. I would imagine, on both aesthetic and health grounds.

With our students, many of us endure the long cold hours of lectures and tutorials, in unheated rooms and with uncomfortable and inappropriate furniture (a recent Council decision to replace the last of the 700 metal chairs in Maths, so disastrous for backs and backsides, is welcome).

It is unreasonable to expect staff and students to endure conditions like this - uncomfortable during the day and excoriating at night. Students, I suspect, vote with their seats - stay away or drop out rather than endure the sub-arctic spartan conditions. Does learning have to be that painful?

The problem seems to be that decisions on staff and student comfort are made by administrators, who, for the most part, work 9 am - 5 pm in comfortable offices, and do not have to endure the conditions suffered by academics and students; and Council members, many of whose contacts with the University are limited. Their chairs are uncomfortable, too, but they are about to be replaced.

The argument advanced that we cannot afford to spend money on making working conditions comfortable seems to me to be spurious. We are the only educational institution without some form of adequate heating. Schools are heated, all teaching areas at the Newcastle College of Advanced Education are heated (plans are, I believe, under consideration to air-condition the remaining unheated lecture theatres). Even TAFE, the so-called poor relation, is heated.

The Occupational Health and Safety Act requires that an employer promote and occupational environment for persons at work which is adapted to their physiological and psychological needs. The conditions endured by staff and students at this University in a number of areas, do not, I believe, meet these requirements. I would hope, in the first instance, that the Occupational Health and Safety Committee would urge the Vice-Chancellor to make the necessary funds available to secure adequate working conditions for the staff and students of this University as a top priority.

Margaret Henry
Community Programmes

A critical comment

by Dorrit Nesmith

As an Arts II student, I expect to have my work evaluated and criticised by my lecturers. Before submitting an essay, though, I often show it to a family member, fellow student or friend, in the hope that weaknesses or unclarity will be pointed out to me, so the work can be improved.

Sometimes my work for Department A will be read by a friend who lectures in Department B. Just recently, in fact, he assured me I had written an HD level essay; the lecturer in Department A felt it deserved a lower grade, and his comments explained his reasons. Clearly, only Department A's opinion mattered, and I'll try to correct the deficiencies in my next submission. Friend B's evaluation had no influence on lecturer A's grade, nor should it have.

I've recently had the pleasure of reviewing Drama Department productions for the University News - a task which traditionally fulfils two functions. Ideally, a review generates interest among university staff and students, and by publicising the play, draws larger audiences. Second, it provides a Friend B viewpoint, which might prove helpful in subsequent productions.

Such reviews are a legitimate function of a university's newspaper and can only eventually be of benefit to its Drama Department, whether the reviews contain praise, constructive criticism or a measure of both.

I am, therefore, baffled by the Drama Department's request to "come and have a look at" its most recent production, "without reviewing it". We are told the play "is part of an on-going process of assessment" for a student, but I fail to see how this justifies a request that the play not be reviewed.

Surely the assessing lecturer won't be influenced by a critic's opinion. Nor should a student expect a critic's evaluation to outweigh a lecturer's. The only two things that can result from a review are an informed (and, therefore, perhaps larger) audience and one person's observations which may or may not help improve future work.

The Drama Department charges $4 and $6 per ticket. The paying public should have some notion of what it is paying for.

Give us a call

Your newspaper, University NEWS, is published regularly every fortnight.

The next issue will be published on Monday August 4, 1986.

The publication dates for the remainder of the year (with closing dates for contributions in brackets) are:

- August 18 (Aug. 8),
- September 1 (Aug. 22),
- September 15 (Sept. 5),
- September 29 (Sept. 19),
- October 13 (Oct. 3),
- October 27 (Oct. 17),
- November 10 (Oct. 31),
- November 24 (Nov. 14),
- December 8 (Nov. 28),
- December 19 (Dec. 9).

Students and members of staff can make use of the News by getting in touch with the Editor (Ext. 328) or sending letters to the Editor and notes about events, visitors, etc. and advertisements to the Publicity Office, C/F Rooms G58a or G60, McMullin Building.
The Settlement of the Paterson District has been written by Mr Cameron Archer, who graduated MEd from this University in 1985, and published by the Paterson Historical Society.

Mr Archer is Deputy Principal of the CB Alexander College, Tocal, Paterson.

In 1819, John Howe, Chief Constable at Windsor, and his party explored the country to the north of Windsor. They travelled northward through rugged bushland and reached the Hunter Valley in the vicinity of Jerry's Plains.

A second expedition in early 1820 met the Hunter River near Singleton and then travelled downstream to the Maitland area, where they came across convict cedar getters.

The Hunter Valley, henceforth, was no longer seen as being inaccessible by land from Sydney, losing its value as a secure convict settlement.

The land in the Hunter Valley became available for settlement by wealthy and/or well-connected individuals, who for various reasons had influence in Government circles to obtain land grants.

The story of The Settlement of Paterson District is of the first land grants in a region centred on the village of Paterson, which contained some very good farming land which was eagerly sought by free settlers.

The book covers the middle to lower reaches of the Paterson River and begins with one of the first land grants, Duninald, granted to Captain William Dun in 1821, when Newcastle was still a convict settlement.

In describing the settlement of part of Paterson's Plains up to the 1840s, Mr Archer includes Tocal, Bona Vista, Gostwyck, Cory Vale, Orange Grove and other estates, as well as giving impressions of the farming conditions, the daily routine on a property and life on the Paterson River and in Paterson Village.

He contends that the infrastructure of the Paterson district had developed in the first 20 years, probably the most exciting chapter of Paterson's history.

The Settlement of the Paterson District is available at the Coop Bookshop in the Union and sells for $6 a copy.

Dr. Fenelon Honoured

Dr B. Fenelon, an Honorary Associate in the Department of Psychology, has been made a Fellow of the International Academy for Research in Learning Disabilities (IARLD).

Fellowship of the Academy is limited internationally to 200 persons and Fellows are nominated by members of the Academy.

The goals of the Academy, of which the membership is multidisciplinary, include, among others:

- Stimulation of the international exchange of students in the area of learning disabilities between countries and facilities;
- Providing a four-yearly review highlighting developments in the field and;
- Bringing to the attention of governments those problems on which major attention should be directed.

Dr Fenelon was appointed an Honorary Associate when he retired last year after 26 years' service to the University.

Cookbook

If you want to know how Lorna George makes Spring Soup or why Don Morris loves his wife's Salmon Loaf, your answers can be answered in the University Women's Group's Cook Book. It can be purchased for the small sum of $3. Purchases can be made at the Publicity Office (G60 in the McMullin Building).
Minimising computer "crashes"

Dr Chan and Professor Cantoni in the laboratory at the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering has been awarded an $18,000 grant which recognises its strong interest in the field of highly reliable microprocessor systems.

The Australian Telecommunications and Electronics Research Board has made a grant to Professor A. Cantoni, Professor of Computer Engineering, and Dr S. W. Chan, Lecturer in the Department.

Professor Cantoni said the grant was for research into fault tolerant microprocessor systems which would cope with a number of "crashes" quickly without stopping, such as those systems used in industry.

He said the Department had pursued research in this field for some time, mainly due to the efforts of Assoc. Professor R. Evans.

"In real-time industrial application, microprocessor 'crashes' can be catastrophic, causing losses of production, so the development of highly reliable systems is a vital objective."

Young Homeless Allowance

Senator Ryan

The Commonwealth Government has introduced a new allowance to help young people stay in education if they have no family home or parental support.

The Commonwealth Education Minister, Senator Susan Ryan, said the Young Homeless Allowance Scheme began on July 1 and provides up to $73.28 a week to eligible secondary and tertiary students. "We have introduced the Young Homeless Allowance to ensure that young people in great need who are without parental or custodial support can continue in education," Senator Ryan said.

"The allowance is a further plank in the Priority One Strategy to establish a youth income support system to encourage and enable young people to participate in education and training."

Strict eligibility criteria will apply to ensure that only those with genuine needs receive the benefit, Senator Ryan said. Where appropriate, students will be asked to provide evidence of their family circumstances from people such as student counsellors, doctors or police officers.

Students likely to qualify for assistance are those with no parental home; such as orphans, wards and refugees without parents in Australia; and students whose family circumstances make it unreasonable to expect them to live at home.

"In an ideal situation young people remain at school and live with their parents," Senator Ryan said. "The facts are that for a variety of reasons some young people are forced out of the family home and can end up on the streets. "Young people finding themselves in this unfortunate situation should not also be denied any chance of completing their education."

The maximum Commonwealth assistance Year 11 and 12 secondary students can get at present is $35 a week under the Secondary Allowances Scheme.

The University Health Service offers a free blood pressure check in the Union Foyer from

12.30 to 1.30 pm
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday
July 22 to 24, 1986.

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Farewell to MBA students

Mr Wu Sup Ro, Mrs Joyce Chong, Professor Alan Williams and Mrs Marilyn Stegemeyer at the Get-together for the End of Semester 1 for Master of Business Administration students and staff in the Department of Management.

Mr Ro will shortly return to Seoul, Korea, to reoccupy his post with the Korean Board of Audit and Instruction after having completed his MBA studies.

Mrs Chong’s husband, Mr Chinai Chong, a former Tutor in Management, is a Lecturer at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. She will continue her MBA studies and join her husband.

Miss Whitlam to give Newcastle Lecture

Miss Whitlam has indicated that in the International Year for Peace she will most likely choose 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.
employment testing growth

The Institute of Behavioural Sciences at the University has increased the assistance it gives to companies when they select young workers.

After devising a common aptitude test for candidates for apprenticeships last year, the Institute has reviewed the test so it is now relevant to all young people seeking jobs.

Fourteen companies from the Hunter Region will use the information provided by the test to help them assess applicants for jobs or apprenticeships.

Approximately 3000 applicants for employment, mainly from Years 10, 11 or 12 at local high schools, will sit for the test in the Great Hall on four consecutive Saturday mornings beginning on July 26. The size of the response is an increase of 100 per cent on the turn-up for last year's apprenticeship employment test.

Dr P. Pfister and Dr D. Monro, of the Institute of Behavioural Sciences, who devised the test, ascribed part of the larger response to the effectiveness of the Chamber of Manufactures assistance with the dissemination of information to its members in the region.

"Youth unemployment remains critically high," they said, "and companies receive hundreds of, and in some cases more than a thousand, applications for a handful of jobs. So, the companies will be grateful for the test results when they select their youth intake for 1986-1987."

"As for the applicants for youth employment, they will be saved the inconvenience which occurs when there is no co-ordination and they are forced to attend for interviews and tests in several different locations."

The overall aim of designing a common aptitude test was to obtain valid information about the candidates' abilities which would permit a short list to be drawn up of applicants suitable for interview purposes.

Dr Pfister and Dr Monro said that the basic information required for the establishing of the short list was related to general intellectual ability and basic skills. The information obtained was then processed by means of a complex computer-based model, which allowed for the ranking of the most suitable candidates for training.

The applicants from schools took in for the test through their School Careers Advisers, while others can make arrangements with the Commonwealth Employment Service.

The companies that have sponsored the 1986 youth and apprenticeship employment test are: Alcan Aust. Ltd., the BHP Steel International Group, Carrington Slipways Pty. Ltd., Comsteel Ltd, Electric Lamp Manufacturers Co. Pty. Ltd., Hexham Engineering Pty. Ltd., the Hunter District Water Board, NSW Chamber of Manufactures, Shortland County Council, Sulphide Corporation Pty. Ltd., Tomago Aluminium Co. Pty. Ltd., Tubemakers of Australia Ltd., Eastern Nitrogen and the Kooragang Coalloader.

Dr Monro has applied for a research grant in connection with an evaluation of the long range impact of the common aptitude test on those who sit for it. He said he wanted to follow-up the test with sampling to see if the school students obtained apprenticeships or other jobs, or returned to school or became unemployed.

Futhering Mathematics learning

It has been encouraging for members of staff of the Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science to see that their Department is popular with Year 10 school students for excursions.

Last year approximately 500 Year 10 mathematics students from schools throughout the Hunter Region participated in each of two Mathematics Days organised by the Department.

Arrangements for the eighth annual Year 10 Mathematics Days have been announced by the Organiser, Dr Bryan Bensted-Smith.

The days will be held on July 25 and August 19. An identical programme will be presented by the Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science on each of the days so high schools can select whichever day is the more convenient.

The programme features four 45-minute talks about various aspects of mathematics and computer science. There will also be an opportunity for students to see computer facilities, to use the visual display terminals, and to look around the Mathematics Department. Those who are interested can visit also the 2NUR-FM studios.
Insights into Disability work

The Working Party on Access for People with Disabilities is to conduct a seminar at the University on Thursday, July 24, to inform people about the latest university research in the area of disability.

Guest speakers will be Dr Lindsay Gething, Mr John Nothdurft and Professor Jim Ward.

Everybody is welcome to attend the seminar, which will be held in Room 202 in the Medical Sciences Building between noon and 2 pm.

The Working Party on Disability has been set up by the Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunity of Council.

Professor Ward, Professor of Education and Director of the Centre for Special Education at Macquarie University, is well-known for his work in improving opportunities for people with disabilities.

Macquarie University's efforts to break down barriers to academic success, which include a Students With Difficulties support group and a Liaison Officer, have earned it the praise of several organisations operating in the field, such as the Royal Blind Society.

Professor Ward will be accompanied to the University by some members of the support group and give an address on "the Macquarie University experience.”

Dr Gething, a research psychologist and Coordinator of Research and Statistics in the Office of the Director of Equal Opportunity in Public Employment, will speak on the role of attitudes to disability. He is particularly interested in community education and disability.

Mr Nothdurft, a Lecturer in Law at the University of Wollongong, will speak on the role of the academic. He has experienced being blind as a academic and as a student. His academic interests and publications are in the areas of the sociology of law, anti-discrimination, law and industrial relations.

Professor John Keats, Chairman of the Institute for Behavioural Sciences, will be Chairperson for the seminar.

Swansea Bridge Seminar

The bridge to be built to cross the entrance to Lake Macquarie at Swansea is the subject of a seminar to be convened in the Department of Civil Engineering on July 25.

Mr Greg Essex, Civil Engineering and Surveying student last year, will discuss his report on various proposals for the improvement of the estuary crossing.

The report concluded that the Department of Main Roads' proposal for the duplication of the Swansea Bridge with a low-level bridge is the only option that can be justified on a cost-benefit basis. (Work on this proposal is expected to begin soon following the calling of tenders, although a committee is fighting for an inquiry to be carried out into all the options, including a high-level bridge).

The seminar will be held in Room EAG01 in the Engineering Faculty building between 2 and 3.30pm.

New group’s seminar

A newly established group calling itself the AIDS Statistical Society is planning a seminar on the testing and screening for AIDS.

Mr Erik Olaf Eriksen, a Diploma in Medical Statistics student, told the News that he is Secretary of the Society, which consists of a small number of people whose objective is to promote greater scientific rigorism and greater humanitarianism in the study of AIDS.

The seminar, to which everybody is welcome, will be held in Room 206 in the David Maddison Building at Royal Newcastle Hospital on July 22 at 1 pm.

Like to visit Indonesia?

The Department of Foreign Affairs has provided information about the 1986 Australian/Indonesian Youth Exchange Programme in which 20 young Australians will be selected to visit Indonesia from October 26 to December 21.

Applications are invited from people aged between 17 and 30 of all backgrounds who are interested in participating in the programme which is arranged and financed by the Australian and Indonesian Governments. Those participating are expected to be experienced in youth affairs and community activities and to have a basic knowledge of the Indonesian language and culture. The two month programme in Indonesia will involve cultural and community work such as water supply, health and nutrition education and writing a proposal for grants to be made available for village projects.

All airfares and living expenses will be met by the Australian and Indonesian Governments.

Further information and application forms are available from: The Advisory Committee, Australian/Indonesian Youth Exchange Programme, Information and Cultural Relations Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs, Administrative Building, PARKES A.C.T. 2601. Telephone: (062) 73 3311, Ext. 285 - Ms Averil Stuart.

Vacancy in China for teacher

Under an agreement between the Australian and Chinese Governments, a vacancy exists for an Australian teacher of English as a foreign language to take up a tertiary appointment in Shanghai, China, from September, 1987, until July, 1988.

Applicants for this position must be Australian citizens, qualified and experienced in the teaching of English as a foreign language, preferably at tertiary level.

Application forms and information about benefits may be obtained from: The Secretary, Department of Education, (Australian/China Teacher Exchange), P.O. Box 826, WODEN, A.C.T. 2606.

The closing date for application is September 12. Enquiries Del Froume (062) 83 7638.
DIARY OF EVENTS

Monday, July 21, 7-9 pm
SUN DANCE: Folk Dancing, Union Common Room. Admission $1.

Tuesday, July 22, 12.30 pm
Neuroscience Seminar: ALCOHOL AND THE DEVELOPING BRAIN. Speaker, Dr A Pettigrew. Venue: Committee Room, MSB.
12.50 pm
Lunchtime concert in the Courtyard featuring FLYING EMUS. Admission, free.

Wednesday, July 23, 7-10 pm
Entertainment in the Bar featuring JENNIFER SWEENY. Admission, free.

Thursday, July 24, Noon
Movie: BACK TO THE FUTURE, Union Common Room. Admission, 50¢.
1.30 pm
Department of Philosophy seminar to be presented by Dr Malcolm Forster (Mathematics, Monash).
2.15 pm
Department of Sociology Seminar entitled: PARASITISM AND EQUALITY: SOME REFLECTIONS ON PASTORAL NOMADISM AND LONG-DISTANCE TRADE. Guest speaker: Dr Ian Bedford (Anthropology, Macquarie).

Friday, July 25, 1 pm
Film Buffs Club: THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL, Union Common Room. Admission, free.

Monday, July 28, 7-9 pm
SUN DANCE: Folk Dancing, Union Common Room. Admission, $1.

Tuesday, July 29, 12.50 pm
Lunchtime Concert in the Courtyard featuring HAT TRICK. Admission, free.

Wednesday, July 30, Noon
Department of Philosophy seminar to be presented by Dr Malcolm Forster (Mathematics, Monash).
2.15 pm

Friday August 1, 1 pm
Film Buffs Club: STEAMBOAT BILL JNR and SHERLOCK JNR., Union Common Room. Admission, free.

ADVERTISEMENTS

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Ford XE, station wagon, '83 model, air conditioned, excellent condition, $9,000. Please telephone Ext. 328 or a.h. 51 7451.

Toyota Corona 1981 liftback, 5 door, 2 litre, 5 speed manual, LDF 731, radio cassette, registered until 3/87, excellent condition $7,000. Please telephone Ext. 328 or 46 7272.

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