Lobby to look after students' interests

The Students' Representative Council played a leading role in the decision to form a state organisation to defend the interests of tertiary students.

A conference of delegates from universities and colleges held at the University on November 4 produced a provisional constitution, and the first meeting of the New South Wales State Union of Students.

In the words of Chris Craig, President of the SRC and Interim President of the NSWSUS, the importance of having an effective inter-campus organisation to promote the interests of students had been demonstrated by the many losses suffered since the demise of the Australian Union of Students and the Federal Government's firm refusal to deal with student unions separately.

The SRC and student bodies from the University of New England and the University of Wollongong have been working closely for some time to resolve the problems which have prevented students from showing a united front, including the position of radical Left campuses.

Chris Craig believes that most of the 27 tertiary institutions in New South Wales are interested and many will apply for membership of the NSWSUS. They are likely to attend the next meeting at the University of Sydney on December 6. He says informal discussions are also taking place about an offer of space for a central office for the Union in the City of Sydney.

A conference at the University of New South Wales last June failed to set up a state union. However, in September several campuses formed a co-operative group to fight the Federal Government over the new $250 administrative fee.

Chris Craig says that when notice was given of the meeting to set up the state union was given many campuses contacted the SRC and expressed a desire to attend. Moreover, unions of students from Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia offered to send representatives.

"Except for the Macquarie University delegation and one of the three delegates from the University of Sydney, every speaker was supportive. By May next year we expect to have the majority of the campuses in New South Wales, except for Macquarie and the Australian National University, as members of the NSW union", he says.

"I am convinced that if we had had such a national lobby when the wages and incomes accord was set up we would have defeated the Federal Government in the fight to introduce fees".

At a dinner during the conference which set up a state union of students: Paul Drinkwater (Newcastle CAE Students), Rob Ingui (Students' President, NSW Institute of Technology), Scott Gardiner (President, Newcastle CAE Students), the Vice-Chancellor, Professor George, Dave Brown (President, University of Wollongong Students), Aura Gain (President, University of New England SRC), Chris Craig, Danielle Fraser (hidden). Tracy Ellery (President, Victorian Students' Union), Wayne Rigney (SRC's Honorary Solicitor) and Brian Berkfield (SRC's Inter-campus Liaison Officer).

Inside: Submission to the Universities Council
University people to hear Pope John Paul

When His Holiness Pope John Paul speaks to people associated with tertiary education in Australia at the University of Sydney on November 26, this University will be well represented.

Those who will hear the Pope's address include the Chancellor, Sir Bode Callaghan, the Chairperson of the University's Sub-division of the PSA, Mr Lionel Farrell, the Vice President of the SRC, Mr Chris Tola, the Vice-Principal, Professor Ken Dutton, the Warden of Convocation, Father James Bromley and the Deputy Warden, Emeritus Professor Clif Eliyett.

Student, staff and graduate representatives from every tertiary institute in the country have been invited to hear the address. As well, representatives of those involved in planning and coordinating tertiary education on a State and Federal level have been invited as this is the only address of its kind being given by the Pope during his Australian tour.

Approximately 2,850 people have responded to invitations sent out by the Chancellor of the University of Sydney, Sir Hermann Black, to hear His Holiness speak in the Main Quad of the University.

Review of 2NUR-FM

The University Council has set about a review of Radio Station, 2NUR-FM, of which the University is the licence holder. The review committee consists of Professor Cyril Renwick, Professor Michael Carter and Dr. Peter Hendry.

The present Radio Station arrangements have been in train for over two years and it was thought timely for a review. There is concern at the extent of the University's funding, which is presently of the order of $170,000 per annum, and the review committee wants to explore how more resources can be gathered for the Station.

Comments about 2NUR-FM are being sought -- both favourable comments on what members of the University and the public like most about the Station; and criticisms (preferably constructive ones) on what 2NUR-FM could improve or attempt.

Please make your views known by writing to the 2NUR Review Committee's Secretary, Mr. P.H. Farley, Assistant Secretary, University of Newcastle, 2308.

Course transfer deplored

The Staff Association met on November 18 and voted to deplore the proposal for the Newcastle College of Advanced Education to assume full responsibility for pre-service teacher education in 1990.

The other main resolutions that emerged from the meeting:

- The Association deplores the lack of consultation with members of the academic staff most involved in the transfer of the Diploma in Education course to the CAE.
- The Association opposes the transfer of any pre-service teacher education from the University to the College.
- The Association requests the Council of the University to widen the Joint Committee on Co-operation and Rationalisation to include representatives nominated by the Executive of the Staff Association.
- The Association urges the University Administration, in the interests of efficiency, to install a new telephone system as a matter of urgency and when a new system is installed each academic staff member be given an unshared line.
- The Association deplores Council's commitment of $500,000 for a new Council Room at a time when the University is financially hard-pressed.

Motions in connection with legal advice obtained by the University and affiliation with Newcastle Trades Hall Council were deferred to allow investigation of points raised.

The texts of the motions:

- The Association requests the Council to inform the Association about the amount spent by the University on legal advice, the quality of the legal advice it receives and the possibility of engaging local solicitors in place of Minter Simpson.
- The Association affiliate with the Trades Hall Council.

Dr Feletti has Harvard post

Dr. Graham Feletti, who came to the Faculty of Medicine early in its history, has taken up duties at Harvard University as Director of Curriculum Development in the New Pathway Project.

The latest Joint Medical Newsletter, reporting Dr. Feletti's move to Harvard, says he has a three-year appointment and will return to Australia each year, when he will spend a year at the Newcastle Medical School.

Dr. Feletti came to this University initially as a research fellow funded by a Kellogg grant, and then, as a lecturer in Medical Education. He was the first Lecturer in Medicine to achieve promotion to senior lecturer, a position which he held until his departure.

Grahame was involved in admission and assessment procedures as well as the monitoring and evaluation of the curriculum.

Dr Feletti
Students for study in Germany

Four students of German have been selected as participants in German studies courses in West Germany.

Catherine Hain was due to leave for Staufen, South Germany, shortly after the News went to press. She has won a Goethe Institute scholarship until early February, 1987, and will work at the Goethe Institute to perfect her German. An Arts graduate, Catherine expects to receive a Diploma in Education. She will work in a secondary school as a modern languages teacher.

Anne McNaughton, Judith Heyworth and Toni Hyde have been selected as recipients of Deutscher Akademischer Austausch dienst (German Academic Exchange Service) scholarships for students interested in improving their language skills and their understanding of contemporary German affairs.

The awards are available to Australian students who have completed at least two years of study at a university and who have some knowledge of German.

The scholarships, to be held at the University of Freiburg, in Baden-Wurttemberg, last for six weeks (January 5 to February 19) and involve 20 hours per week of language instruction and another five hours per week of background studies to modern Germany.

Anne McNaughton expects to graduate soon and plans to enrol at the University of New South Wales as a Law student.

Toni Hyde and Judith Heyworth were German II students this year.

The girls asked the News to thank the German Section, and Dr. A. Barthofer in particular, on their behalf for the support given to them in applying for the scholarships.

Honorary degree for Vice-Chancellor

The Chancellor, Sir Bede Callaghan, has announced that an honorary degree will be conferred on the Vice-Chancellor at a special Graduation Ceremony in the Purdue Room in the Great Hall on Friday, November 28, at 4.30pm.

Judged by the acceptances received the congregation will form a broad representation of "town and gown", with members of staff, representatives of students, Convocation, and public and private organisation present to honour the University's second Vice-Chancellor, who will retire on December 31.

The Lord Mayor, Ald. John McNaughton, and Mrs McNaughton will be among the distinguished guests.

Professor George will be presented with an honorary degree of Doctor of Engineering by Sir Bede. He has been Vice Chancellor for 12 years.

Professor George
Outreach and new buildings suggested in 1988 - 1990

A number of specific initiatives and proposals for major new buildings have been included in the University's submission to the Universities Council for the 1988-1990 Triennium.

The submission, which was adopted by the Council at its last meeting, seeks, among other things:

- The development of an Outreach Programme by the University and Newcastle CAE to encourage deprived people to gain access to higher education,
- The construction of a Computing and General Purpose building, an extension to the Architecture building and new accommodation for student services, and
- The funding of a number of non-teaching developments aimed at achieving rationalisation of the University's and the CAE's activities.

The submission also proposes that the University's postgraduate Diploma in Education be phased out, with the CAE assuming full responsibility for pre-service teacher education in 1990, and that the University be responsible for all postgraduate degrees in the field of Education.

The Hunter Region is disadvantaged as far as places in tertiary education are concerned, university places for 1,000 people being 90 per cent of state and 83 per cent of national averages. The submission says that there is a strong unsatisfied demand for tertiary education among young people.

The task of the University is to encourage students to aspire to higher education, to recognise the institution as the University of first choice and to continue to introduce developments in the University which answer the needs of the Region.

Projections for student numbers into the next triennium based on our knowledge of demographic trends in the region and our understanding of Government policy in respect of overseas students are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Enrolments</th>
<th>EFTSU</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>6240</td>
<td>4870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>6560</td>
<td>5140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>6870</td>
<td>5380</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The submission says that the University's proposals for new academic developments in 1988-90 are modest in number, but imaginative and relevant in scope and objectives.

Specific initiatives recommended include a Building Degree and Masters Programme in Town Planning and Urban Design in the Faculty of Architecture, an innovative Law School and a substantial development in Molecular Genetics in Medicine.

Major accommodation problems exist in a number of areas, including Economics and Commerce, Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science, and in the McMullin Building in the Computing Centre and a number of departments of the Faculty of Arts. The Faculty of Architecture has also experienced serious constraints.

A number of the University's student services units continue to be housed in stud-framed temporary buildings constructed in the late sixties.

Student residential accommodation remains a major need and the University continues to have one of the lowest ratios of residential beds to student population of any university in Australia.

These deficiencies will be taken up by the new Computing and General Purpose building, the extension to the Architecture Building and the new accommodation for students services.

The Submission says that the University and the CAE had established a Joint Committee to conduct a wide-ranging review of the provision of higher education in the Hunter Region and the rationalisation that could be planned by the two institutions.

Included in the submission are the committee's proposals for the Outreach Programme, a community health surveillance and intervention service for Paediatric care, cooperation in the field of Occupational Medicine and a Chair in Social Work.

The submission suggests new developments to achieve progress in rationalisation of the non-teaching activities of the University and the CAE - the installation of a Micom facility for linking the computing facilities of the two institutions, the integration of computerised Library systems, the provision of a central student services building, and the construction of a central store to serve both campuses.

Over the last few years the University and the College have been subjected to considerable and on-going pressure to amalgamate. Such begins the comment in the University's submission about amalgamation.

The current climate is one in which so much pressure is placed upon the University and CAE that they will finally relent and "voluntarily" amalgamate, the submission suggests.

"The educational charter of each sector differs significantly," the report says. "The charter of a university is to mount courses which permit the investigation of disciplinary problems in such a way that human knowledge is conserved, disseminated and advanced. Where universities offer professional courses, it is always with proper deference to disciplines to produce vocationally specific experts. There is, or at least there should be, a world of difference between designing courses on a disciplinary base and designing courses on a vocational base."

Over the last few years the University and the College have been subjected to considerable and on-going pressure to amalgamate. Such begins the comment in the University's submission about amalgamation.

The current climate is one in which so much pressure is placed upon the University and CAE that they will finally relent and "voluntarily" amalgamate, the submission suggests. It is argued that on grounds of quantity and in qualitative terms of community demands and expectations amalgamation is not an appropriate strategy whether measured in regional, state or national terms. This is true, one looks three years ahead - if one takes a longer view of say 10 or 20 years, the proposal to amalgamate seems short-sighted indeed.

The University continues to be surprised at the claim that there is no real difference between university education and advanced education.

"The educational charter of each sector differs significantly," the report says. "The charter of a university is to mount courses which permit the investigation of disciplinary problems in such a way that human knowledge is conserved, disseminated and advanced. Where universities offer professional courses, it is always with proper deference to disciplines to produce vocationally specific experts. There is, or at least there should be, a world of difference between designing courses on a disciplinary base and designing courses on a vocational base."

PSA AGM
November 26
12.30pm
Arts Drama Theatre
Speaker:
Linda Carruthers,
Association Industrial Organiser
Inaugural award to student

Brett Simm, a Biology honours student, has won the inaugural Donald Angus Memorial Prize.

The award was established following the untimely death of Dr Angus, who was a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Biological Sciences.

The Memorial Fund was established in late 1985. Donations were received from Don's friends amongst the academic community and people who had contact with him through his activities as a member of the University Choir and Friends of the University.

A large donation was also received from Parkville Piggeries, a property of Allied Feeds, who had received considerable advice from Don on how to improve their herd production by selecting for genetically desirable characteristics.

The Memorial Prize is for the student in Biology III who attains the highest standard in the topic Cell and Molecular Biology. It will normally be valued at $200.

Cell and Molecular Biology was one of Don's teaching interests and one of the fields of research in which he was most actively engaged at the time of his death.

The Award to Brett Simm is for his performance in 1985. It has only just been awarded because of a delay in the administrative activities involved in establishing the Fund.

Brett also recently won a $300 award sponsored by the Apex Foundation in connection with his honours project on mechanisms through which alcohol ingestion during pregnancy may lead to the foetal alcohol syndrome.

Improvement of centre's services

Kintaiba, the University's Community Child Care Centre, is available as a venue for research relevant to young children in child care. Particularly welcome is any project likely to lead to the enhancement or improvement of the services.

In New South Wales alone there are more than 2,600 early childhood centres. It is generally recognised, by professionals associated with these centres, that there is very little meaningful research available for use in this area. It is a field wide open for development within Education, Psychology, Sociology, Linguistics, Medicine, Architecture, Business Administration, Computer Studies and other associated disciplines.

At Kintaiba up to 60 children, between the ages of three months and five years, attend each day. More than 30 are enrolled five days a week, 48 weeks a year, and stay up to 10 hours each day. The remaining children are enrolled for between one and four days each week, providing a varied population in a stable environment. Currently, of the 84 children enrolled each week, 15 per cent are children of students, 30 per cent staff and 55 per cent from families not associated with the University or NCAE. They represent a wide socio-economic spectrum with 11 children from homes where a language other than English is spoken and 12 from different cultural backgrounds. Approximately 14 children are on special diets or are subject to diet restrictions.

The Care and Education programmes are constructed and supervised by 10 full-time staff comprising a Director, two teachers, three nurses and four assistants. A cook prepares morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea, for the children, in the Centre's own kitchen. It is, therefore, a relatively controlled environment.

Kintaiba is equipped with enclosed overhead observation decks in each of the four playrooms. Unobtrusive observations may be made through any of the 14 windows and conditional use of video and/or audio equipment is permitted.

The Centre is particularly keen to encourage research into many areas including language development, peer group interactions, space and equipment and the long-term effects of child care on growth and development. Staff at the Centre are already working on curriculum development, methods of assessment, developmental grouping and computerised administration programmes.

Enquiries, addressed to the Director, are welcome from University staff and postgraduates wishing to undertake any work relevant to this Centre's operation. The aim is to initiate a wide ranging research programme that will bring kudos to the researchers and University and useful knowledge to the Early Childhood field. For further information do not hesitate to contact Roger Baxter at Kintaiba at 67 3475.
"A massive increase in private sector investment in research is still required, while the higher education sector is likely to show no significant increase for some time."

With these and other comments, Professor Ron MacDonald gave a report on the annual conference of Australian Deans of Science in Canberra.

Professor MacDonald and Professor Tony Guttmann attended and Professor MacDonald was Chairman of the meeting.

Speakers emphasized that Australia's effort in research in the educational sector was about average for its peers in the OECD countries, but private sector investment in research and development was way below that expected of Australia.

Since the introduction of the tax incentive, investment by the private sector had increased by 45 percent in the first year and a further 19 percent in the second year, but has only just reached the same level as that in the mid-70's, when expressed as a proportion of GNP.

Professor MacDonald commented that there were several suggestions that the higher education sector was likely to earn increased grants only if it could show that it was managing existing funds with maximum efficiency.

"Thus, we hear many suggestions of increased specialisation, of concentration of effort in areas of established experience and of increased control on the distribution of research funds," he said. "Universities should be aware however, of three similar suggestions which could have important consequences for University research.

"There is the suggestion of the Department of Science that a National Research Council be established incorporating ARGS, National Research Fellowships (plus QEII), the Marine Science Research Grants and one percent of the University recurrent grant. These funds would be distributed competitively, with priority areas for funding defined for extra support.

"Then there is the proposal contained within the CTEC report on efficiency and effectiveness which requires Universities to develop strategic research plans and which is said to contain a suggestion that one percent of recurrent expenditure should be withheld until the University produces such a plan to the satisfaction of CTEC.

"Futhermore there is the report commissioned from ASTEC on research funding in higher education, which is due for presentation shortly and which contains recommendations relating to both the above."

Professor MacDonald told the News that the Department of Education's representatives were questioned about the visa fee introduced for postgraduate students from 1987. The fee would add about $20,000 to the cost of an average Ph.D.

"Senator Ryan has undertaken to review this fee for the 1987-88 budget, if the Universities can demonstrate severe disadvantage as a result of its introduction," he said. "Several universities have decided not to offer any overseas scholarships in 1987."

It has been stressed, Professor MacDonald said, that resources in universities would not permit the increased demand for science and technology graduates expected in the next five to 10 years to be met.

In discussion at the conference of Deans of Science, it was suggested that it was essential for universities and Government to change the current educational system. It was agreed that more properly qualified teachers of science and mathematics were needed in the schools and the science and mathematics component of Years 7 to 10 must be revitalised.

Girls in particular must be made more science and technology oriented, since raising the number of girls entering science and engineering was one way of quickly increasing the number of such graduates.

The problem of supply of suitably qualified graduates was an important one, Professor MacDonald reported, which needed to be suitably solved if Australia was to gain any economic advantage from a revamped manufacturing sector. The Government was already starting to plan for immigration of suitably qualified people.

Organisers of the 1987 ANZAAS Congress in Townsville say that interest from intending participants is considerable.

The Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science (ANZAAS) is Australasia's leading scientific organisation. It is concerned with all aspects of pure and applied science, technology, social policy studies and aspects of the social sciences related to science and technology.

The Townsville ANZAAS Congress will be held from August 24 to 28. The theme of the Congress is Science and Life in the Tropics.

Townsville is ideally situated for visits to both the wet and dry tropics and to the Great Barrier Reef.

Amongst the more topical sections of the Congress will be symposia dealing with the economic problems and opportunities of the region in agriculture, tourism and trade relations with South-East Asia.

A symposium on the Crown-of-Thorns Starfish will provide a forum for discussion of the wealth of information being collected on that well-known predator of the Great Barrier Reef.

Other symposia will focus on tropical rainforests and on the archaeology and geology of northern Australia.

The people of the north will be very much in evidence in several sections of the Congress. Special problems associated with education, the place of women in isolated communities and the increasingly important technology of communications in northern Australia will each receive attention in special symposia. Even crime in the tropics is to be discussed.

At the international level, attention will be given to development in the Australian region. South-East Asia promises to be the trade crucible in the next century, and related developments in health, livestock production and economics will all affect Australia.
For the love of education

Theo MacDonald, an Assoc. Professor in the Department of Education, has had two books published this year.

The most recent, Thinking Mathematically, published by Shakespeare Head Press, is for early secondary to first year university students. The book aims at teaching students how to reason mathematically rather than relying on the use of formulae. Emphasis is placed on imagery. The arithmetic of fractions, calculus and elementary differential equations is covered in the text.

Theo has also had his book, Making a New People, released in the USA in January this year and in Australia in September. The book is the story of the literacy campaign in Cuba and shows how education can be successfully introduced in new nations. It is the story of how Cuba, a nation with a 75 per cent illiteracy rate, converted to a 94 per cent literacy rate in just 15 months and how this literacy rate has been maintained. This has been achieved mainly by giving social status to rates through political ideology. The book has been selling well in the USA and Theo is donating all royalties to the Cuban Ministry of Education.

Theo's interest in education in new nations is leading him on to another adventure. For the next 20 months he will be working in Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua to research the means of overcoming high failure rates of students in the first year of technical tertiary courses such as Medicine and Engineering.

Tertiary institutions in these four countries have reached an agreement whereby they have invited Theo to assist them in this area. Cuba has overcome this problem using its social system based on communist ideology. Theo will look at the degree to which this can be transferred to the extreme Right wing situation in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, and to Nicaragua, which is trying to maintain a non-communist government in the face of extreme pressure from the USA.

He will assess lecturing techniques, selection processes and pre-tertiary education.

For surveyors and students

Dr John Fryer and Mr Michael Ellick, of the Department of Civil Engineering and Surveying, have produced the first Australian surveying text book, Elementary Surveying, S.I. Adaption.

The project came about as a result of the publishers Harper and Row's expansion into Australia. The company decided to venture into the educational field and sent the American text, Elementary Surveying, by Russell C. Brinker and Paul R. Wolf, around for review. John and Mike were impressed by the presentation of the text. However they realised that it needed to be converted to S.I. units and be relieved of its jargon and practices specific to the US. Subsequently, Harper and Row requested that they write the book. Twenty new illustrations, more than 600 problems and four new chapters have been added to the revised text.

Until now English texts have dominated the surveying field. However, although thorough they are not as well presented as American texts. John and Mike have aimed at achieving both attributes and, already, advance orders have been received for their book from countries overseas, including England.

The book is aimed at both students who have to do surveying in their coursework and surveyors who need a reference book. John and Mike have presented two copies of their text to the Auchmuty Library.
Dear Sir,

The article "Why lecturing and exams don't teach" by M.W. Jackson and M.T. Prosser of Sydney University, reprinted in University News, Vol.12, No.19 was silly and rather naive. One might have hoped the university academics would have considered critically arguments for and against lecturing, and for and against examinations. Most of the article was a protagonist's view.

1. "Australia has one of the lowest rates of participation in higher education among the OECD countries" -- This over-used assertion has to be accepted cautiously. OECD figures are supplied by governments which use differing criteria. If you include part-time enrolments (including TAFE and apprenticeship) Australia's record in the education of 16-19 year olds (not necessarily higher education) isn't too bad -- 13th out of 18 countries for 16 year olds, 8th out of 17 countries for 19 year olds.

2. "30,000 qualified students can't find a place at one of our universities or colleges of advanced education". Another figure I have heard is 15,000. But in what sense are these students "qualified"? Merely by completing their secondary school?

3. "Any graduate will recall ... one hour (a week) of tutorials where the impatient tutor in fact lectured". True. And many will recall tutorials which were, indeed, tutorials.

4. "Lecturing enjoys an undeserved mystique. University teachers regard it as terribly difficult, taxing and responsible". Not all do. Many of us realise that the tutorial is far more demanding than the lecture. Some of us revise our lectures when we can.

5. "We lecture because it is all we know how to do". Let Jackson and Prosser speak for themselves! I have given lectures, taken tutorials, chaired seminars, set class tests, essays and formal exams -- a variety of teaching techniques.

6. "Lecturing gives the lecturer, though not always the student, the feeling that the ground is being covered". I believe this is an important feeling. Lecturers need to provide a synopsis of the course at the beginning of the year, present a series of coherent, structured lectures during the year and set an examination at the end of the year. One purpose of the examination is to keep the lecturer honest, by ensuring he teaches to the course.

7. "Though the university tells lecturers that teaching is important ... the only means of promotion lie in research or administration". I agree that the importance of research is often exaggerated. Universities have existed in the past without much research. They may well do so in the future. Independent research institutes might provide a new impetus. The principal purpose of a university is to provide higher education. The principal task of lecturers is to teach. Research can sometimes help lecturing, just as lecturing can help the presentation and publication of research.

8. "Lecturing developed as a means to disseminate information". Maybe it did. It is certainly one of the quickest ways of transmitting knowledge (not the same thing as "information"). But the lecturers I remember impressed my generation of undergraduates through their personalities, their minds, their values, their capacities.

I can still recall Waldock's gentleness and feeling for literature at Sydney University. He commenced his 11 am lecture on June 23, 1941 -- the day later Germany invaded Russia -- with a wistful sigh: "Well, ladies and gentlemen, I suppose we must proceed". I can still recall Maxwell reciting in his rich tones border ballads! I recall A.H. MacDonald's endearing manner as well as his over-frequent references to the innumerable invaders with "Asiatic affinities" pressing into ancient Egypt. I remember Butlin able to squeeze the whole sweep of Australian economic history in eight lectures at the end of the year. I remember La Nauze, a hesitant speaker, making the development of 19th century sewerage systems in England interesting -- and locking the lecture door at the commencement of his lecture (I was not late again). John Anderson arguing with K. Marx, fascinating if irritating, despite or because of his stammer; Ian Hogbin smoothly recounting life on Woggo (it was said his wife married him on condition that the 'g' in his name became silent); Mona Ravenscroft, also in anthropology, with her strong perfume and her revelation that "the knobs always live on the hill" .... Lecturing is, or should be, far more than the dissemination of information. Surely there are still lecturers with personalities and ideas!

"Though lecturers always say they do not want regurgitation, it is exactly what they want". Yet regurgitation is better than a blank page. And surely no student who simply regurgitates is likely to score a Credit, let alone a Distinction or High Distinction.

I will not address myself to the complex matter of examinations. I haven't the time and I lack the heart.

Let me say this: If Jackson and Prosser are pushing for student self-instruction or group work ("learn independently ... in co-operation"), I concede the value of this. But this is not to discredit lectures.

"Instead of being told to be concise, organised, or analytic, students need to be shown what these things are ...". Surely. And that is why essays are set and (I assume) marked and commented on. Perhaps as in England they should be returned individually, to allow more effective teaching. But that, alas, is time-consuming. There is a whole literature assessing the strengths and weaknesses of progressive education.

Yes, some lecturers are inadequate! During the great expansion of the 1960s and early 1970s it was not always easy to recruit quality lecturers. But these problems can be tackled. And mindless denigration of lectures and examinations is not the way towards improvement.

Alan Barcan,
Associate Professor, Education.

Dear Sir,

The article headed as above, in your September 29 -- October 13, 1986, edition of News has been brought to my attention. While it was pleasing to see further publicity given to the initial results of the study, I wish to provide the following information to correct the original article.

a) The study was undertaken with a National Energy Research Development and Demonstration Council grant of $256,000 to the NSW State Pollution Control Commission for a conjoint study by:

- SPCC - R. Rothwell, (Principal Supervisor).
- University of Newcastle - Dr. H.A. Bridgman.
- Electricity Commission of NSW - Dr. P.H. Tio.
- CSIRO Division of Fossil Fuels - Dr. J.M. Carras.
b) Number of events collected and samples fully analysed during the study period was 48 with each event providing a maximum of 64 samples per event.

R. Rothwell,
Principal Supervisor,
NERD&D Project 690,
for Secretary.

Academic year 1987

First Term begins, Monday, February 23.

First Term ends, Friday, May 1. AVCC Common Week, Monday, May 11 - Friday, May 15. End of term examinations, Monday, May 18 - Friday May 22.


Third Term begins, Monday, September 7.


History Chair filled

The Vice-Chancellor has announced the appointment of Dr. Alan Ward to the Chair of History at the University.

Dr. Ward is currently Reader in History at La Trobe University. Born in New Zealand, Dr. Ward obtained his BA degree and his MA degree (with First Class Honours in History) from the Victoria University of Wellington in 1956 and 1958 respectively. His PhD was awarded by the Australian National University in 1968 for his thesis entitled towards one New Zealand, the Government and the Maori People, 1861-93. These studies were completed on an ANU Scholarship after some years as an assistant master in New Zealand schools and one year as a diplomatic trainee with the New Zealand Foreign Affairs Department. Dr. Ward was appointed a Lecturer in History at La Trobe University in 1967 and was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1970 and Reader in 1975.

Dr. Ward will be taking up his appointment in mid-1987.

Pilot research

The Third Annual Conference on Pilot Decision-making in Ottawa, Canada, in December will be addressed by Professor Ross Telfer, Associate Professor of Education. Dr. Telfer will be reporting on the pilot judgment training research he has been undertaking over the past three years in collaboration with Dr. Adrian Ashman.

Dr. Telfer and Ashman made a contribution to the international co-operative project on aviation safety. They developed training manuals for pilots and instructors and produced training videotapes, which were filmed and edited by Mr. Bede Jordon, of CAVSU.

The research undertaken in Australia has added a further important variable, time, to the subjects the North American studies had identified as vital: pilot factors, aircraft factors and environmental factors. The local research also revealed the hazard of pilot deference, in which pilots abdicate command responsibility when leader stress.

The conference in Ottawa will be sponsored by Transport Canada, the US Federal Aviation Administration and the French Direction Generale de l'Aviation.

Retirement dinner

Professor John Keats, the Foundation Professor of Psychology, will retire from his University position at the end of this year.

He was appointed in 1965 and served as Departmental Head for 13 years. He has served as Dean of the Faculties of Arts, Mathematics and Science and is Chairperson of the Institute of Behavioural Sciences (Newcastle).

To honour Professor Keats a dinner will be held in the Staff House on December 18 at 7 pm. People interested in attending should contact Professor M. King at Extension 322. Numbers are limited due to the size of the venue.
Education Enrolments

Students who are finishing their degree course this year may be thinking about applying to come into the University’s postgraduate Diploma in Education course in 1987.

The Faculty of Education announces that applications for this Diploma course (one year full-time) are now being received. It is not necessary to wait until you have your results for 1986 before applying. It is necessary for every student who wishes to start the course to make a specific application. An undergraduate re-enrolment form will not be sufficient.

Application forms are now available from the Student Administration Office on the ground floor of the McMullin Building A or from the Education Office, first floor, Building W and when completed should be returned as soon as possible to the Student Administration Office.

The Diploma includes one (or sometimes two) of the following methods.

- Primary
- Secondary
- English
- History
- Mathematics
- Modern Languages
- Science
- Social Science
- Economics
- Geography

Enquiries about this postgraduate Diploma may be directed in the first place to Mr Peter Day, Faculty Secretary for Education, who may be contacted through door G64 McMullin Building or at 68 5296.

A senior high school

The third term meeting of the Australian College of Education’s regional group will be a visit to St Francis Xavier College at Hamilton.

Professor Alan Barcan told University News that the visit will be made on November 27 between 4.30 and 6 pm. It would be a unique opportunity to visit and hear about an educational reform in Newcastle. The Principal of St Francis Xavier College had agreed to conduct the tour and speak about the school’s development as a senior high school. (It is the only senior high school in the Hunter Region.)

Visitors are welcome. Further details from Professor Barcan (Ext. 282).

University Choir

The Newcastle University Choir and Orchestra will present Saul, an oratorio by Handel, in the Great Hall on November 29 at 8 pm. Peter Brock will be Conductor.

The bass, Grant Dickson, will sing the title role.

The tenor, David Hamilton, and the baritone, William Moxey, are members of the Song Company. Australia’s only full-time vocal ensemble. David will sing the part of Jonathan and William appears as Samuel.

The soprano, Karen Bashford, has the contrasting roles of Saul’s daughter, Merab, and the witch of Endor.

The role of Michal, Saul’s second daughter, is sung by Jennifer Bates.

Concert tickets will be on sale at the door of the Great Hall, and at Latham’s Garden City, Arthur Warner’s Bookshop, McDonald Bros., Maitland, the University Union Westpac Agency and the Civic Theatre Booking Office. Prices are $10 and $6 concession.

Sabbatical centre

The Dean and Chapter of Lincoln Minster invite scholars in any field to spend study leave in the new Sabbatical Centre they have established in a fine eighteenth century house in the yard of the Cathedral (built 1072-1280).

The Centre has an arrangement for courses of study or supervision of personal work with Lincoln Theological College, Bishop Grosseteste College of Higher Education (Lincoln) and Nottingham University (37 miles away). The Universities at Hull, Loughborough, Sheffield and Leicester are within 70 miles, but attachment to an organisation is not required of residents. There are library facilities in Lincoln and the magnificent collection in the Cathedral’s Wren Library may be available for specialist scholars.

The Information Office (Room G60, The McMullin Building) has brochures on the Centre. For bookings and other detailed inquiries please contact the Dean, the Deanery, Lincoln, LIN 1PX, UK, or telephone Lincoln (0522) 25608.

French exploration

A special international conference on French Journeys and Scientific Missions to Australia since 1756 will be held in Paris and Le Havre in December, 1987.

Offers of papers are called for on subjects connected with the discoveries and scientific observations of the French explorers, and the prospects they opened up. Later French scientific activity in Australia, including the social sciences, is also within the ambit of the conference.

Registration for the conference will cost 400 francs. Registration forms are available from: the French-Australian Research Centre, Faculty of Arts, University of New South Wales, PO Box 1, Kensington. 2033.

Biotechnology opportunities

The NSW Science and Technology Council has identified the State’s strengths in biotechnology.

A report just released provides information about 21 new biotechnology companies in New South Wales, including the nation’s leading companies in this new technology area.

The report also describes how traditional industries, including food brewing, chemicals, plant agriculture, animal husbandry and veterinary and pharmaceutical products, can benefit from applying biotechnology.

Together these industries contribute $10,000 million to the State’s manufacturing economy and employ 80,000 people.

The report describes the strong scientific and technological base for biotechnology in New South Wales.

It identifies over 140 biotechnology research and development (R&D) projects being carried out in tertiary and research institutions in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

Commenting on the report, Mr. David Eason, Director, NSW Department of Industrial Development and Decentralisation, and Executive Member, NSW Science and Technology Council, stated: "The purpose of the report is to raise awareness of the outstanding resources available in New South Wales to assist industry in the development and application of biotechnology products and processes".

The principal recommendation in the report is the establishment of a "Biotechnology Desk" to assist companies in the State in developing and applying biotechnology opportunities.

For further information, contact Mrs. Rosemary Howard, Acting Manager, NSW Science and Technology Council, (02) 250 6830.
Helping students to settle into Australia

The Australian Development Assistance Bureau has achieved success with its efforts to establish a co-ordinating committee to provide community services for overseas students.

The names of the members of the committee have been announced and notice of the inaugural meeting has been given.

ADAB, the part of the Department of Foreign Affairs that administers aid to overseas students in Australia, aims to set up Co-ordinating Committees to assist the students to settle into Australia, meet Australians and maximise their social opportunities. There are presently 16 such committees in Australia. Ms Kristin King, a Community Development Officer with the Australian Development Assistance Bureau (ADAB), was at the University several times this year seeing if a co-ordinating committee could be established.

Ms King said the following persons were offered to give their support had been appointed as members of the committee:

- President, Michael Sar; Overseas Student Vice President, Tang Siu Pun; Vice President, Community, Maureen Mead;
- Executive members from the Overseas Students' Community: Indonesian Students' Association, Bambang Leman; Hong Kong Students' Association, Simon Lo and Jeffrey Sin; Indian Subcontinent Students' Association, Subash Paranek; Malaysian Students' Association, Cheah S.H. and Ng K.G.; Singapore Students' Association, Sim Hong Heng and Lim Tho Liang; Chinese Students' Association, Luo Young Dong and Li Wei Ping.

Australian Community Representatives, Professor D. W. George (Newcastle University), Dr Ray Moreland (Newcastle CAE), Mr Brian Relf (Community).

The committee will hold its first meeting at 12.30 pm on December 4 in the Macleay Room in the Union.

Ms King said the committee works to provide accommodation, information and recreational activities for overseas students as well as introducing them to Australians and assisting those who have short-term financial problems.

Sporting news

The annual Staff Bowls Event will be played at the Comsteel Bowling Club on Friday, December 5, at 12.30 pm. Existing participants should contact the Sport and Recreation Department at Ext. 469 by Monday, December 1, at the latest.

Blues Association - A meeting will be held on Friday, December 5, at 5.30 pm in the Union Tanner Room. All Blues are invited to attend.

Blues Only Dinner - Friday, December 5, Southern Cross Lounge, 7.30 for 8 pm. A large attendance of Blues is requested. Please telephone Sport and Recreation Department on extension 344 for further particulars if desired.

Neal J. Dickinson Memorial 'Outward Bound' Scholarships. The 1986 awards were David Blyth (Rugby Club) and Ian Medcalf (Water Ski Club).

Congratulations.

Subdivision's meeting

The University's Sub-Division of the Public Service Association of New South Wales will hold its annual meeting in the Drama Theatre on Wednesday, November 26, at 12.30 pm.

Business shown on the agenda includes discussion of the annual report of the Chairperson, Mr. Lionel Farrell, an election of officers for 1987, an election of two employee representatives on the Occupational Health and Safety Committee and an address by Ms Linda Carruthers, a PSA Industrial Officer.

Women Grads' meeting

The next meeting of the Hunter Valley Branch of the Australian Federation of University Women will be the Christmas Dinner. It will be held in the Staff House on November 26 at 6.30 pm.

Mrs. Lorna George, who has made the AFUW a close personal interest for several years, will be guest speaker.

Mrs. Gwen Hamilton is arranging places for the dinner. Her telephone number is 43 8825.

Farewell dinner

Graduating overseas students, friends and staff are invited to a 10-course Farewell Dinner organised by the Singapore Students' Association at West Leagues Club at 7.30 pm on November 26, 1986. Cost is $25 per head. Interested persons can contact Keng by telephoning 51 7181.

Staff matters

RESIGNATION

Mr. C. Warrewyn, Laboratory Craftsman in Psychology.

APPOINTMENTS

Mrs. S. Rye, Clerk in Bursar's Division.
Advertisements

For Sale

Tapestry frames and stands made to order, $25 each. All interested persons are requested to telephone Ext. 700 or 43 7573.

Heron Sailing Boat, varnished plywood hull, registered S.P.A.S.C. This boat has buoyancy tanks, oars, spare sails and rigging. All in top condition ready to sail, orrow or motor. On registered trailer (but buoyancy tanks, oars, spare sails and requested to telephone 486212 (after 6 row or motor. On registered trailer (but

1974 Manual Datsun 180B Sedan (cream/black hardtop) in good mechanical condition. This car is registered until July, 1987. Asking price: $1,300 o.n.o. All interested persons are requested to telephone Dave at Extension 751 or 732.

Three bedroom, bathroom, study, kitchen, dining, lounge upstairs. Guest room with bathroom, large playroom, second kitchen and double garage downstairs. Brick and tile dwelling backing onto reserve in a quiet street in Rankin Park. Please telephone after hours 52 4461.

Wanted to Buy

Eight foot Dingy, (without motor). If you are able to assist please telephone Ext. 82 1747.

Help

This is my last chance. I am a small female puppy, eight weeks old, fox terrier cross. If I don't get a home soon I'm destined for the RSPCA. Please telephone Sandra at Ext. 240 or 82 8783 after 6pm if you can give me a home.

10th birthday year

The year 1987 promises to be a very special time for the Newcastle University Choir.

On Good Friday, the Choir will perform J. S. Bach's St. Matthew Passion

In mid-1986, the University Choir's Greatest Hits, many of the choir's highlights of its first 10 years, will be presented.

In November Elgar’s masterpiece, Dream of Gerontius, will be presented with a choir of 100 voices, an orchestra of 60 and three of Australia's leading soloists.

McDonald's Family Restaurants have agreed to be the choir's major sponsor for the season. It is McDonald's first venture into sponsorship of the arts in this region.

The choir also has Associate Sponsors: Ernst and Whitney, Chartered Accountants, Tubemakers of Australia, the Parkroyal, Newcastle, Australian Airlines, and the Newcastle Herald.

1979 B1800 Mazda Aluminium Table Top Ute. Features include: drop sides, carry bars, mechanically A1, body and structure sound and is registered until October, 1987. Asking price: $4,300 or near offer. All interested persons are requested to telephone Extension 640 or 51 2576 (after hours).

The following household items are offered for sale: four chests of drawers, $80 each; pine desk with drawers, $80; office desk with drawers, $60; Westinghouse "Freezamate" fridge, $150; three piece pine lounge suite, $150; oval bathroom mirror (blue), $30; vertical grill, $20; round telephone table, $10; double bedspread (blue), $10; six rolls of new vinyl wallpaper at $6 per roll. All interested persons are requested to telephone 54 9438.