The Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee has expressed concern at the new $250 administrative fee to the Minister for Education, Senator Susan Ryan.

The AVCC was told during its last meeting that concern was expressed to the Minister at the likely impact of the imposition of the administration charge on participation and equity. The difficulties and problems which were likely to arise were also noted.

Subsequently, the CTEC and the AVCC have forwarded documents to universities interpreting the legislation and clarifying issues which had been troubling them; and the AVCC has been involved in discussions with the Government on the likely impact of the administrative charge on enrolments in 1987.

Strong representations were made to the Minister that overseas university postgraduate awardees should continue to be exempt from the overseas student charge. The AVCC advised that areas of research could be seriously curtailed if fewer overseas students accepted awards.

All universities will closely monitor and carefully document offers, acceptances and other matters concerned with the overseas student charge during 1987 so that representations can be made to the government to have university postgraduate awardees exempted from the charge in 1988 and subsequent years.

The AVCC was told that Government officials in Asian countries and officers in Australian missions in the region had expressed concern about the large numbers of visits to countries in Asia by representatives of Australian higher education institutions who were marketing education services. The AVCC has advised all Vice-Chancellors that, if possible, educational visits to Asian countries should be co-ordinated through the International Development Programme of Australian Universities and Colleges or Trade Fairs.

The Australian Government and the AVCC have invited the People's Republic of China to send five Chinese Presidents to visit Australian universities in the first half of 1987 for a period of two to three weeks.

It is understood that the Chinese Government wishes to host a visit by a group of Australian Vice-Chancellors to China in 1988.

The Flinders University of South Australia and the University of Newcastle are rostered to receive AVCC Visiting Fellows in 1987. Professor Hayato Hasekura, of Shinshu University of Medicine, Japan, will come to Newcastle.
Professor George admitted to Hon Degree

Newcastle University's retiring Vice-Chancellor, Professor Don George, received the honorary degree of Doctor of Engineering on November 28.

The citation for the degree was read at a special Congregation in the Great Hall by the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Professor Alan Roberts, and the Chancellor, Sir Bede Callaghan, admitted the Vice-Chancellor to the degree.

Professor Roberts referred to Professor George as a distinguished Australian, colleague and friend whose period of office as Vice-Chancellor had seen the University grow considerably in strength and stature in terms of its national and international standing in the various fields of research and scholarship over a wide range of disciplines embraced by the University.

'It is a period in which a number of innovations in course programmes have taken place and new academic disciplines established.'

Professor George said it was a very great privilege to be a graduate of this University. An honorary doctorate was a distinction few people gained and that it came from his colleagues in the Faculty of Engineering was very pleasing to him.

'I have been very proud to be an engineer in the high position the University appointed me to,' he said. 'I encourage young engineers to aspire to positions which allow them to give leadership.'

Chancellor pays tribute

The Chancellor, Sir Bede Callaghan, paying tribute to the retiring Vice-Chancellor and his wife, said that in a recent letter Bishop Holland had written:

"The University and Hunter Region owe a lot to Professor and Lorna George and the benefit of their stay among us will be felt for a long time."

The Chancellor said he agreed entirely.

The University had grown significantly during Professor George's term as Vice-Chancellor and all who had come in contact with him could only be impressed by his quiet and unassuming manner and his readiness to listen.

Both he and Mrs George could rightly look back with pleasure on their 12 years in Newcastle. They gave a lot, but they made many friends, Sir Bede said.

1987 TOCAl SUMMER SCHOOL

C.B. Alexander Agricultural College (near Paterson)
Practical instruction in
essential skills
for small-scale farming

- Building
- Painting & Decorating
- Plumbing & Heating

Arranged in association with Newcastle University Community Programmes
Ray Cattell seeks time to research and write

"You know, it's quite a privilege to be allowed to interview me," Professor Ray Cattell began, with a wry, mock serious smile.

"Words said in jest ...". I thought to myself. It is and was a very great privilege, indeed.

On 1 February, 1987 the man who both founded and forged a brand new Arts Department - Linguistics, officially retires. "Not", as he hurriedly corrects me, "into a life of leisure and sunsets, but rather so that I can use a slice of uninterrupted time to research and write".

Born in Sydney in 1928, the son of teaching parents, he describes his childhood in the city as "pretty normal" and growing up the middle child between two sisters as an experience somewhat akin to the proverbial 'ham-between-the-sandwich'. His single most vivid memory of schooldays is of sixth-grade grammar lessons conducted to the tune of the hickory-stick, defaulting parsers learning their lessons well with this old-fashioned tactile teaching aid. Having no memory of it being used on him, he concludes his love of grammar and his later career in the twin disciplines of literature and linguistics pay no homage to this instance of negative re-inforcement.

It is wickedly tempting, though, to speculate that his almost passionate opposition to behaviourist psychology (and at this point of confession, he begs, "but please don't say that - some of my best friends are behavioural psychologists") may have had its roots in a small boy's indelible memory of what could be seen, by today's standards, as sadistic educational practices.

Certainly, as an administrator and lecturer, his style is unmistakably stamped by the absence of autocratic gestures or self-aggrandisement. On power, he fondly quotes Noam Chomsky's adage, "No man is good enough to be another man's boss".

Ray Cattell was appointed in 1962 to the English Department of the University of New South Wales and subsequently in 1965, to the English Department of this University. His abiding interest in matters linguistic was fostered initially by the late Gus Cross (Head of the English Department) and further fuelled by postgraduate study, under the influence of Noam Chomsky, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Boston, USA).

In 1973 he was appointed as the first head of the then labelled Sub-Department of Linguistics and, as student interest and numbers rapidly grew, he was again at the helm for the inauguration of the fully fledged Department of Linguistics.

In its relatively short history, Ray Cattell has created a University department of such fine reputation that it attracts postgraduate students from as far away as Brazil and India, prompts internationally acclaimed journals to request his personal editorship, and engenders a fierce brand of loyalty amongst its undergraduate students that I have only previously encountered in small children from one-teacher schools in the bush.

His high personal academic standards in both teaching and research are not unique to this University, but his particular mix of extraordinary patience and gentleness, wry down-to-earth humour and, above all, his sheer energy and enthusiasm, which can only reflect an insatiable appetite for knowledge, make Professor Ray Cattell's retirement a bonus for his family and the publishing world, but, for this University, an event which constitutes an irreplaceable loss.

Rosemary O'Shaugnessy

AUSTUDY

Next year will bring significant changes in the arrangements for students to obtain financial assistance from the Commonwealth Government.

As from 1 January TEAS (Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme), ASEAS (Adult Secondary Education Assistance Scheme) and SAS Secondary Allowance Scheme will be replaced by a single, age-related scheme called AUSTUDY.

AUSTUDY will provide a range of allowances for full-time secondary and tertiary students who meet certain previous study and income test provisions.

Benefits under AUSTUDY will be available to students aged sixteen and over, or, in the case of homeless students, above minimum school leaving age. Students become eligible on their sixteenth birthday, with higher rates payable when they turn eighteen.

Students who qualify for a living allowance under AUSTUDY and who are required to pay the $250 administration charge will be paid an additional $250 to cover the charge. The additional allowance is paid in full with their first payment of living allowance.

Full details of the AUSTUDY scheme are available from Alison White and Gary Khan, Newcastle TEAS (soon to be AUSTUDY) Representatives, at 68 3602 or 69 6703.

The offices at this University (adjacent to the Maths Building), Newcastle Tech. (in the Course Information Office) and Newcastle CAE (in the Student Union Building) are staffed on a scheduled basis. Alison and Gary can also be available to talk with larger groups of students outside scheduled hours provided they receive reasonable notice.

The offices are closed from December 18 to January 3.

For comment on AUSTUDY by the Federal Minister for Education, Senator Susan Ryan, see Page 11.

In order to minimize delays in receiving AUSTUDY benefits in 1987, early lodgement of applications is essential.

Continuing students should submit their forms as soon as their 1986 results are known (the results must be entered on the form).

New students should lodge their applications as soon as possible after enrolment.

All students should lodge their forms before March 1987.

Students undertaking courses of thirty weeks duration or less should lodge their forms no later than four weeks after the start of the course.
The Australian Research Grants Committee was lucky to receive its allocation from the Federal Government before the economy went "bad", according to Professor Don Aitkin, Chairman of the ARGC.

'It has been a tumultuous year for the committee, which was threatened with a fifty per cent cut in Government support', Professor Aitkin said.

However, he said, the situation was saved after months of agony. The ARGC funding for research in Australia be increased by about $10 million a year. According to Professor Don Aitkin, the committee had recommended to the government that $3 million towards equipment this year and after three years we will have $9 million.'

After it was stated that the assessors were probably used to reading high quality applications mention was made of the advantage large universities had of having administrative offices to prepare the actual proposals. Professor Goodwin said he was willing to give assistance to applicants for research grants as he was able and as he had done in the past.

ANOTHER FIRST FOR NEWCASTLE

More than 500 scientists from Australia and overseas attended the annual meeting of the Australian Society for Immunology at Newmed I from 3 to 5 December. It was the first time that the Society had met outside a capital city in its sixteen year history. Newcastle's success was due to the strong immunology research groups in the Faculties of Science and Medicine at the University and the Royal Newcastle and the Mater Hospitals.

Topics for discussion included basic immunology and its clinical application, mechanisms of immunosuppression in AIDS, transplantation of organs and tissues, tumour immunology, the new field of neuroimmunology where the brain controls resistance to disease, mucosal immunology and genetic engineering.

Professor Sir Gustav Nossal presented the inaugural Sir Macfarlane Burnet Oration. Social activities included a get-together at the Art Gallery and a dinner at Rothbury Estate, where Sir James Killen was the guest speaker.
Professor John Keats retires

Asked to reflect on his twenty-one and a half years as Professor of Psychology, Professor John Keats says he was fortunate to be involved with a growing department in a growing university.

John Keats admits his greatest satisfaction stems from the successes achieved by some of his students, in particular doctoral students.

He will retire on December 31 after having served as Dean of the Faculties of Arts, Science and Mathematics and Chairperson of the Institute of Behavioral Sciences (Newcastle). For about thirteen years he was Head of the Department of Psychology.

Since the early days of the University Professor Keats has pursued research into mathematical psychology and cognitive psychology. He has spent periods of study leave at Princeton University, the University of Missouri, the National University of Malaysia and the Institute of Psychology in Beijing, China.

During his time with the University he has assisted the Department of Psychology to develop academically to the present point where it is widely recognized. "The Department stretches back to the time of Don Martin's appointment to the staff of the old Newcastle University College. When the Department became independent in 1965 we had just a few postgraduate students. However, 1969 saw our first PhD students and 1976 our first professional Masters courses."

The Foundation Professor says he is concerned at the tendency of bureaucrats to interfere in universities. The CTETC, Equal Employment Opportunity, the Anti-Discrimination Board and the University Administrations are all imposing themselves on academia to a worrying and unreasonable degree.

However, a pleasing feature of universities at the present time, he says, is the increased grants being made for research programmes, together with the greater attention being paid by the Federal Government to work in science.

Born in Port Pirie, South Australia, John Keats received his Bachelor of Science from the University of Adelaide. Subsequently, he was attached to the Australian Council for Educational Research in Melbourne, where he met his wife, Daphne Keats, an Associate Professor in Psychology at this University. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Melbourne and a PhD from Princeton University. He took up a lecturing position at the University of Queensland in 1956 and moved to this University in 1965. He has been elected to Fellowship of the British and Australian Psychological Societies and of the Academy of Social Sciences.

He remembers several outstanding students who have been through the Department of Psychology since then. There were Professor Terry Caelli, now Killam Professor at the University of Alberta, Canada and Dr Graeme Halford, Reader in Psychology at the University of Queensland among many others.

The Department's student numbers are almost equal at present to the peaks of 1977 and 1978 and the proportion of postgraduates to undergraduates is increasing.

Professor Keats' retirement programme promises to be only partial. He and Dr Richard Heath have received an ARC grant for a project in connection with the use of computer networks in psychological testing. He will edit and contribute to a book on mathematical contributions to psychological theory in the series of the Annals of Theoretical Psychology. Apart from that he plans to devote some time to his long-standing interest in tennis.

University at Shortland, will retire in January.

Noel Rutherford was a secondary school teacher in Newcastle who transferred from correspondence studies with the University of New England to the Newcastle University College at Tihge's Hill in 1959. He gained a BA with first-class honours in History and was the first part-time student of the College to achieve this result.

He enrolled at the Australian National University and was awarded a PhD in 1965, his research being in Tongan history.

Dr Rutherford has taken a prominent part in campus affairs at Newcastle University. He was Acting Warden of Edwards Hall in 1975 to 1976 and 1985. He also served as staff member of the Council and as the Vice-Chancellor's representative on the Students' Representative Council.

Although he will leave this campus, Dr Rutherford will continue to work with university students. He has accepted a part-time appointment as Warden of Bruce Hall at the Australian National University.

He was born in Weston and says he plans to return to Newcastle after a few years. He hopes to keep a close association with this University.

Retiring Historian

Dr Rutherford

Dr Noel Rutherford, who joined the staff of the Department of History early in 1966 when teaching commenced in the new

Dip Ed Decision unchanged

At a special meeting on November 21, Council decided not to rescind its decision of October 17 to recommend the phasing out of the postgraduate Diploma in Education.

The special meeting was convened following a written request from five members as is required by the By-laws.

The voting was ten to nine against the rescission motion.

The previous Council meeting voted eleven to nine in favour of approving the Submission to the Universities Council which included the proposal that Newcastle CAE assume full responsibility for pre-service teacher education in 1990 and the University be responsible for all post-graduate degrees in Education.
The University and Newcastle CAE, the permanency and part-time work issue, relations with the Public Service Association and RSI are some of the chief issues the University Sub-division of the PSA has been dealing with.

Mr Lionel Farrell, Chairperson of the Sub-division, presented "an overview of the year" at the annual general meeting on November 26.

He told members that 1986 was ending in a blaze of publicity and internal University dissension following the proposal to transfer the Diploma in Education to the College.

"In between times members of the Management Committee met first with the Chairman of the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission and then the Higher Education Board in July to offer comment on future developments concerning the University.

"Among the topics we singled out" Mr Farrell said, "was the working party comprising the two Bursars and the two Secretaries of the University and the College which is currently examining areas for co-operation and rationalisation in non-teaching activities.

"The point was made and readily acknowledged that whatever proposals the working party comes up with should receive the closest scrutiny to give full working party comes up with should receive the closest scrutiny to give full weight to their industrial implications and their effect on general staff.

"The Management Committee gives fair warning that it will not accept a lack of consultation like that which has marked the Diploma in Education transfer. It has written to the Vice-Chancellor asking for these consultations and for membership of the Joint Committee on Cooperation and Rationalisation. A response is awaited."

Mr Farrell remembered that the Sub-division was involved in a stop work meeting called by the association on the permanency and part-time work issue. A day's strike (and another general meeting of the association) took place.

The support given by members of the Sub-division to these actions was, to say the least, not comprehensive. Members who did not take part in the strike were asked to contribute a day's pay to the campaign. Few did.

"Clearly the question of a refusal to comply with the Association's decisions is one that needs the further examination which the Association is giving to the matter. Membership of a union means supporting your colleagues at all times, not only when it suits."

The Chairperson mentioned that the Vice-Chancellor had still not produced a restatement of university policy on the return to the workforce of PSA members suffering from work-related RSI.

He said the policy contained a number of features which were unacceptable, not least the option under which termination of service was to be considered if the member concerned was unable to resume duties after six months.

All the industrial associations had argued for a policy which placed greater emphasis on rehabilitation, retraining and the education of staff, not least supervisory staff, on the avoidance of RSI. The Management Committee had written to Professor George again drawing its views to his attention.

Mr Farrell pointed out that the Vice-Chancellor was retiring. Professor George had served the University for twelve years bringing to the office a style which had marked the Diploma in Education transfer. It has written to the Vice-Chancellor asking for these consultations and for membership of the Joint Committee on Cooperation and Rationalisation. A response is awaited.

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Chance plays a part

Teacher, historian and associate professor in Education, Alan Barcan, who retires on December 31, feels that he has had a fortunate life.

When he was a youth, Australia was anchored in the Depression. It was his luck to have supportive parents, to have been educated at Sydney Boys' High School, to have become a student at the University of Sydney in the post war period and to have participated in formative operations at both the Teachers' College and the University College in Newcastle.

Alan, full-time lecturer and friend to Education students since 1968, says one of his greatest rewards has been working in a small university. Another has been to live at a time of remarkable change in education.

Born and educated in Sydney, he returned from war service in 1945 to continue studies at Sydney University. "These were stimulating years for our pioneering staff, we discovered our way together and learnt from each other."

Dr Barcan was given four years leave by the NSW Department of Education. He taught in England for one year and then completed his PhD at the Australian National University.

After returning to Newcastle, he commenced part-time lecturing at the University College at night at Tighes Hill in 1963.

Alan Barcan is a prolific writer in the field of educational history. Some of his books are A Short History of Education in New South Wales (1965), Social Science History and the New Curriculum (1971) and History of Australian Education (1980). A revised and enlarged version of the 1965 book is currently in the press. His tally of scholarly articles exceeds 50. He is a sponsor of the Australian Council of Educational Standards and for the past nine years has edited the ACES Review, a journal dealing with educational news and comment.

"Having been a student at Sydney University when it was small and a lecturer at Newcastle Teachers' College, I appreciate the benefits of small educational institutions. This University has reached a size which is still small enough for lecturers to maintain effective contact with students."

Alan will not sever all his links with the University when he retires. He will continue to write and edit and will serve the Department of Education as an Honorary Associate.

Another fortunate episode for Dr Barcan began recently. He remarried. His wife was a student in the pioneer session of Newcastle Teachers' College - Editor.

Comment on History Appointment

Dr Alan Ward's appointment to the Chair of History at this University has been reported in the latest Bulletin of La Trobe University. (Dr Ward is a Reader in History at La Trobe).

The Bulletin says, among other things, Dr Ward's area of specialisation which is Pacific History is concerned with the advent into the South Pacific of European settlements, with economies based on industry and capital, and organised on the principle of the nation state with centralised government and law, and the interaction of these with the indigenous societies already there.

His work has focussed mainly on New Zealand, New Caledonia, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea. Land tenure and land law are a central feature of his studies, which have led to official appointments in Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu, where a range of problems at independence and policy choices were being made and implemented by the independent governments seeking to promote economic development upon a base of customary institutions.

The University of Newcastle's History Department teaches mainly European, Australian, American and East Asian history from undergraduate to postgraduate levels.

Newcastle's beautiful climate and beaches, and the resources of the Hunter Valley are among the attractions of Newcastle (and Alan certainly expects many La Trobe visitors!).

There is, of course, also the resources of the Mitchell Library in Sydney for sources on Australian involvement with the Southwest Pacific.

BOOKS FROM EAST GERMANY

The Ambassador for the German Democratic Republic, His Excellency Mr Joachim Elm, and Mrs Elm gave a collection of books and pamphlets to the University when they visited the German Section of the Department of Modern Languages on 20 November.

About twenty-eight books from the large donation have been placed in the Auchmuty Library and the remaining items have been added to the German Section's collection.

Our picture shows Mr and Mrs Elm meeting the Vice-Chancellor and (right) the Head of the German Section, Mr John Siowell.
Tanner assists in study of Ancient Arabia

A Sydney University research team is gaining insight into ancient North Arabian culture by consulting Professor Godfrey Tanner, of the Department of Classics.

Led by Dr Bill Jobling, the team is working in the Aqaba-Ma'in region of Jordan on ancient graffiti.

Mr Richard Morgan, Director of the Newcastle Regional Museum, who is an archaeology graduate of the University of Sydney, has made excursions to Jordan with the team as photographer over a six-year period.

The team's studies have been rewarded by the discovery of a most important Greek inscription. The area covered is about 2,700sq kms of rough stony desert, where the team has found and photographed more than 5,000 North Arabian inscriptions and panels of rock art, all some 2,000 years old.

The carvings are indicative of the trading, lifestyles and fauna of the once fertile lands of the South East Jordanian deserts.

The Greek inscription discovered by the team proves one of Dr Jobling's theories about the transition of cultures in this part of the Middle East. The text of the inscription was sent to Professor Tanner, who translated it to read:

Romans always celebrate with laurel.

1. Zeno, wrote 'Hail!'

Professor Tanner says the form of the script suggests 120 to 220 AD as the date and the Greek contains one Latinism. Zeno also is mentioned in old Arabic graffiti nearby and seems to have been a Roman frontier official, or commander.

Professor Tanner has been collaborating with Dr Jobling and other people from Sydney University for several years. For the last two years he has lectured to students in the University's religious studies course.

Dr Jobling, a student of the late Dr E.C.B. MacLamin, has received support for the Aqaba-Ma'in survey from the Australian Research Grants Committee, the Queen Elizabeth II Research Fund and the University of Sydney.

Dr Morgan has taken many photographs of the operations of Dr Jobling's team. However, he was not able to travel to Jordan this season due to his commitments with the Newcastle Regional Museum.

Professor Tanner says the expedition has provided important information about Roman operations in an area under the direct control of the Emperor Traian. The date is around 113AD. The ancient City of Bosra seems to have been the centre of the administration of the province. Rome governed the area until the conquest by Muhammad and his forces in the seventh century AD.

Professor Tanner says an interesting feature of the Greek inscription is the use of the Latin loan word. This practice became very general after the transfer of the capital from Nicomedia, in Asia Minor, to Constantinople around 330 AD. By the time of the Greek inscription, many men of Greek origin, and with Greek names, were not only Roman citizens but also high Roman officials.

Academic year 1987

First Term begins, Monday, February 23.


Second Term ends, Friday, August 14. End of term examinations, Monday, August 17 - Friday, August 21. AVCC Common Week, Monday, August 24 - Friday, August 28.

Third Term begins, Monday, September 7.
A Valediction Forbidding Mourning

I enter as Dennis, cool as Freud or Brauer,
steers home first lecture from a nerveless
binacle,
Itsen the subject and the style pure power.
He packed more into two concluding clinical
sentences than I would in the next hour.
Exit the Master Builder; enter the dabbler.
Now they'd had Gabler they could have their
gabler.

At least these dinners give my self-esteem a
boost; to read a decent poem I'll swear
for secret weeks carving ottava rima;
in a verse contest I'm a long-odds bet.
And on these nights I know no sight obscene
than Dennis writing on his serviette.
No spectacle makes do-or-metristis dourer
than publicly prosodic sprezzatura.

Were I to epitomize my feeling that
Dennis has mastered everything I know
I'd like to do, and done it with eclat,
one word would sum my feelings up: is Go.
clear out, arouse ye, vanish, here's your hat,
just leave the exam questions, please --
although
you also leave, by evening and by day, a
winding gray corridor so much the grayer.

The Department of English staged a dinner
and a seminar on November 24 to mark the
retirement of Dennis Biggin. In doing so
it made a foray into an area of the
University's past which has received
attention lately because of the large number
of retirements.
The dinner in honour of Dennis
produced a rare combination of "town" and
"gown". Ninety-four people attended and
they were all friends of Dennis and
Marjorie.
Dr Doug Muecke, of the University of
Adelaide, narrated events from the formative
years of the Department (the late 1950s)
when he was Head and Dennis was a new
lecturer.

Dr Christopher Pollnitz, of the
Department of English, had dashed off some
stanzas for Dennis, which he read at the
dinner:

The Playhouse Theatre in the city will be
the appropriate venue for a theatre
workshop to be presented by the Hunter
Valley Theatre Company and the
Department of Community Programmes.
The workshop will be conducted by
Sian Newey and enrolment is open (subject
to a limit of twenty people) to anyone who
is interested in plays and playing in the
theatre.

Sian Newey, who is a drama graduate of
this University, has worked in the theatre,
in Australia and the United Kingdom, for
over twenty years. She is known in
Newcastle as an actress and as a director
with the Hunter Valley Theatre Company,
Freewheels Theatre Company and the
Wood Street Theatre and also as a tutor
with the University Drama Department.
Recently she spent a year in Paris studying
with Monika Pagneux and Philippe
Gaulier.

The fee for the workshop is $30,
payable on enrolment.

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION
OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN -
N.S.W.

JAMIESON AWARDS

The Australian Federation of
University Women - NSW offers
annual awards of up to $100 each to
outstanding women students in any
of the universities within New South
Wales, completing final or honours
year in the following fields: one
award in the Faculty of Arts, one
award in the Faculty of Science, one
award in the Faculty of Medicine or
related field, one award in the
Faculties of Architecture or
Engineering or Agricultural Science
or other field. Prospective
candidates for the awards are
invited to write to the office of the
Australian Federation of the
University Women - NSW, Suite
919, Challis House, Martin Plaza,
Sydney, 2000 for application forms.
Completed application forms should
be returned by 12 December,
1986. Transcript of academic
records and written comments by
referees should be forwarded to the
office by not later than 12 February,
1987.
RICHARD HELLER'S INAUGURAL LECTURE

Clinical Epidemiology - wise men take to the hills? was the title of Professor Richard Heller's Inaugural Lecture, held on 26 November. The well attended lecture was both an amusing and informative overview of the exciting new movement within the medical discipline, which is clinical epidemiology.

Professor Heller, Professor of Community Medicine, described epidemiology as the science of studying groups of people - counting them, identifying those who have disease and what are their characteristics so we can discover about causation. Clinical medicine makes a diagnosis and suggests treatment for individual patients. Epidemiology tries to discover why the generality of such people develop disease.

As you can imagine the identification of disease in groups to discover causation soon leads to thoughts of prevention. The individual patient doctor wants to do the same but his horizons are limited by the size of his operation. In addition the clinician wants to care for and treat his patient. The epidemiologist can also contribute to this process. This contribution can be to individual patient care as well as to care of the community.

This brought Richard to have to define Community Medicine. The most important task is being able to distinguish between two aspects: first the care of individual patients in the community. Things like general practice, community health services such as well-baby clinics fall into this category. They do not use epidemiology as their basic science and are thus quite separate from the second aspect which does.

This second aspect which in Richard's opinion is what is proper for an academic department of discipline of Community Medicine to concern itself with and to do with studying disease, health, health care and prevention in the community as a whole. Epidemiology is its basic science. This is not to say that dealing with individuals in the community is not important - it is, but it is different. It is also not to say that epidemiology cannot contribute to clinical care in the community.

Prevention was what drew Richard to epidemiology. The field was cigarette smoking. (Our ability to suggest to people that they change their habits to prevent the onset of disease is limited and much health education is unsuccessful.)

Richard's clinical 'boss' whilst a lecturer in epidemiology at St. Mary's Hospital in London, Professor Stan Peart made the comment, "when the epidemiologist enters the field of clinical medicine, wise men take to the hills."

The problem is understandable. The clinician deals with individuals - what help can a knowledge of population groups provide for the doctor dealing with individual patients? Professor Peart was expressing the fear that a broad population perspective may be detrimental to the decisions needed on individual patients. I was too taken aback to answer as I would at least start to reply today: a study of groups is essential to help understand the individual patient depends on lessons learnt from groups of patients.

Epidemiology theory has been applied to the use and interpretation of diagnostic tests used in the clinical setting. For example I now know that a positive test result has completely different implications if the probability of the patient having the disease is high or low before doing the test. This idea, and many others, came from applying epidemiology in the clinical setting and is crucial to the proper practice of clinical medicine.

One of the reasons Richard came to Newcastle was to be included in the Rockefeller Foundation funded programme, the teaching of epidemiology to clinicians. The Rockefeller Foundation commissioned a report by Dr John Evans which identified the "unfortunate separation..."
THIRTY FIVE YEARS IN THE UNIVERSITY

Associate Professor Eric Betz, of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, will retire this month after having been a member of staff for all of the life of Newcastle University College and all of the existence of its successor, the University of Newcastle.

From an apprentice fitter and turner at Hexham Engineering Works in 1937, Eric Betz went to engineering draughting, design engineering, university lecturing and research and industrial consulting. He has also been involved in a broad spectrum of community and professional activities - the Institution of Engineers, Australia, the Australian Road Research Association and the Standards Association of Australia, among other organisations. An expert on viscoelastic materials and traffic noise, Dr Betz has carried out extensive research since 1951 into such matters as the erosion of Stockton Beach, structural failure in solid rocket propellants, thermal effects on large mill rollers in paper manufacture, stop-start traffic noise and the development of porous cement for false hip and knee joints.

Dr Betz and his wife, Joyce, have two children - Kay, a young mother, and Robert, a lecturer in Electrical and Computer Engineering at this University.

When he transferred from the BHP's main design office in Newcastle to the Newcastle University College of the NSW Institute of Technology in 1951, among his colleagues were a number of well-known personages - such as Geoff Curthoys, Tony Herzog, Kerr Johnston, Selby Alley, George Haggarty and others. His first job was to design research equipment for the Department of Mechanical Engineering. After he became a lecturer in 1953 he delivered lectures on fluid mechanics and the theory of the machine.

He says his career has always been fixed firmly to this district. And he has been interested in engineering since he was "a kid in short pants." Born in Kurri Kurri, his mother was one of a family of mine managers and his father an engine driver.

Minister's comment on AUSTUDY

Senator Susan Ryan said in a press statement:

'AUSTUDY will provide a fortnightly living allowance of up to $90 for eligible secondary students and up to $160 for eligible tertiary students. Students will be able to have the money paid direct to a bank account.

'These rates will be increased again in 1988 to bring them up to the corresponding levels of unemployment benefit.

'They will then be indexed to ensure their value is not eroded by inflation.' Senator Ryan said the Government will be spending $488 million on AUSTUDY in 1987.

'The idea of the scheme is to pay benefits according to the age of the student and not according to the type of institution they attend, as at present', she said.

'Eighteen year olds for example, will get the same level of benefit whether in secondary or tertiary education.

'The goal is to eliminate the gap between the dole and the current level of student benefits.

'The incentive will then be to stay in school and get qualifications for employment and further education.'
ADVERTISEMENTS

For Sale

Wedding dress, cream Italian Silk, cocktail length, size 10 - $250. All interested persons are requested to telephone Ext. 536 or 57 5562.

Tapestry frames and stands made to order, $25 each. All interested persons are requested to telephone Ext. 700 or 63 7573.

Aluminium window with timber frame 3.5m x 1.6m, $150. 200 terra-cotta brown PGH roof tiles, $200. All interested persons are requested to telephone 43 6904 after 4 pm.

Hondo II electric guitar (as new condition). A real bargain at $150. All interested persons are requested to telephone Ext. 700 or 61 4987 after 7 pm.

Six-year-old three bedroom hardiplank and tile home in Ratlunines. Features include: built-ins, internal access from garage, big block, close to lake, shops and schools plus established gardens. Asking price: $59,000. All interested persons are requested to telephone 75 2288.

Apple Macintosh 512K/800 plus. Setup for professional typesetting and desk-top publishing. Desk-top publishing software also available. This computer is only two months old and is still under original warranty (price reduced). All interested persons are requested to telephone 26 5581.

RESIGNATIONS

Mr Kevin Nicholson, Lecturer in Law, will resign on January 31 to take up a lectureship in law at the University of Adelaide.

Mr Michael Errington, Lecturer in Law, proposes to take up full-time practice at the Bar in Newcastle. He intends to resign at the end of February.

SPORTING NEWS

The Croquet Club, the University's newest sporting body, meets at Wallsend Park, and plays with equipment kindly loaned by the BHA (Better Hearing Association) Newcastle Club.

Unusually, most of the present members are on the staff rather than from the student body, but all these things will change in 1987, thanks to the Sports Union help.

The CCUN's final meeting for 1986 will be QRISTMAS!, held on the Wallsend Park lawn. All those interested in playing or learning croquet are warmly invited, 1 pm on Sunday, December 14.

There's free champagne for members - including new members - who warn the Hon. Sec. (Norman Talbot, Ext. 536) they are coming to QRISTMAS!

Share House

Mature person 20-30 years to share house in the Hamilton area. Rental, $45 per week. All interested persons are requested to telephone 61 2432 after 5 pm.

From one happy little puppy

I'm pleased to report that I found a good home and I didn't end up you know where! Thanks for the offers.

AWEUN NEWS

Christmas Luncheon

All AWUEN members and their friends are invited to a Christmas get-together for lunch on Wednesday, December 17 between Noon and 2 pm in the Seashore Bistro (Southern Cross Lounge), University Union.

FAREWELL DINNER '87

The Singapore Students' Association hosted the Farewell Dinner for graduating students, University staff and friends recently. The venue was the West Leagues Club which was very spacious and overcame the crowding that was experienced last year.

The whole evening was extremely well organised and a great success. Speeches were made by Alderman Ron Robinson, of Newcastle City Council, Emeritus Professor Clif Elliott, Deputy Warden of Convocation, Mr Phillip Alexander, Secretary to the University, Mr Pat Buck, Race Relations Officer of the SRC, and John Lim, Chairman of the Organising Committee.

This was followed by a ten-course Chinese banquet, during which a variety of entertainment was presented. A disco dance followed the dinner.

Congratulations to the Organising Committee for a memorable night.

Staff House Christmas Party

The Committee has great pleasure in inviting you to a Party!!!

Monday 22nd December - 4.30 pm - 6.30 pm.

Come & Celebrate with your Colleagues

Beer - Wine - Snacks

And it's Free!