LATEST GRADUATES TOTAL 815

DEGREES were conferred upon a record number of people by the Chancellor in the Great Hall in the three conferring ceremonies of Graduation Day 1987.

The Vice-Chancellor, speaking at the ceremonies, said the University was awarding 815 degrees. The record number was one of the many aspects that demonstrated the University's vigour, achievement and well-being.

The graduates included three citizens who received honorary degrees because they have made distinguished contributions to the University and seven graduates who were awarded University Medals.

Forty-eight PhD degrees were awarded. Moreover, fifty-eight people graduated with Honours Class I and seventeen Medicine graduates were awarded Honours.

The graduation ceremony on the evening of Friday, May 1, saw Father Peter Brock, Musical Director of the University Choir, being awarded an MA honoris causa. As part of what was a most enjoyable occasion, Father Brock conducted the Choir for Advantce Australia Fair and Gaudamus Igitur and sang a rousing solo during the latter performance.

The Hon. Justice Michael Kirby, President of the New South Wales Court of Appeal and a former Deputy Chancellor of this University, was awarded a DLitt honoris causa at this ceremony. He gave the occasional address, speaking about the failure of the law to keep up with the challenge to protect privacy and the failure of Parliament to provide effective protection against invasions of privacy.

Justice Kirby said: "The power of computers to collect unprecedented quantities of information about us all and to retrieve it with diminishing cost and increasing speed, continues to challenge our privacy, as did the growth of the cashless society", he said.

The occasional address at the Saturday morning graduation was delivered by the Vice-Chancellor, who apologised for the expected speaker Professor Eric Willmot, Professor of Education at James Cook University, who was indisposed.

Professor Morgan talked about the University now containing 'some 6,000 students', 'employing about 1,000 people' and having an annual budget 'amounting to $50 million'. "In terms which suit the purposes of the CTEC", he said, "we can note that this University represents something like three per cent of the total University provision; that in the past twelve years we have grown by about thirty-two per cent; and that our operating costs per student have been held to eighty-five per cent of those of the larger institutions".

- Ms Anne McNaughton received a BA degree. Her parents, the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Alderman John McNaughton, and the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Margaret McNaughton, shared Anne's enjoyment.

Inside: Women in Engineering
Mr Bryan Lewis Campbell, Principal Research Scientist, Australian Atomic Energy Commission, became one of a handful of people with no formal university qualifications who have received an honorary degree from the University. He was awarded an MSc honoris causa in recognition of his internationally recognised contributions to the study of soil movement in both natural and people-modified environments and his contribution to the Department of Geography.

Dr Allan Pattison, Director-General of the New South Wales Department of Technical and Further Education, (TAFE), gave the occasional address at the conferring of degrees ceremony in the afternoon.

Dr Pattison spoke of the changes that have been made in TAFE (enrolments have grown to 405,000, with the number of TAFE colleges now standing at 102) and the need to develop clearer relationships between programmes offered by each component of the tertiary education sector.

"I believe that the time has now arrived for changes to be made in the way TAFE's effort is perceived", he said. "For example, we should now move to establish formal links between TAFE and higher education in much the same way as the American Junior College networks interact with the university sector of that country. This could be a particularly valuable role for TAFE, especially if the present division of higher education into university and advance education sectors were to be abandoned in favour of a higher education system which was made up entirely of universities, including a state university system incorporating most, if not all, of our colleges of advanced education".

The Union, where many graduates and their families partook of tea and cakes and received congratulations, was also the venue for the last stage of Graduation '87.

This was the Graduation dinner-dance presented by Convocation. The Warden of Convocation, Father J. Bromley, proposed a toast to the new graduates present. The attendance was more than 400.

More graduation stories and photographs, inside pages.

UNION'S REACTION TO RSI POLICY

The Management Committee of the University's Sub-division of the PSA has joined with the other unions on campus in responding to the University's policy document on RSI among staff.

Reporting to the general meeting of the sub-division of May 6, Mr Lionel Farrell, the Chairperson of the Sub-division, said that a number of changes in the policy had been recommended, particularly in relation to work scheduling and retraining.

It was felt that the RSI policy should promote discussion between academic staff and non-academic staff on work scheduling in a department, or division, that may be contributing to RSI.

"Members of the academic staff may not always recognise how many demands are put on the keyboard staff in their department to get work done", he said. "Discussion between them can only be a good thing".

The policy should also place greater emphasis on the rehabilitation and retraining of RSI sufferers in alternative permanent career paths within the University, instead of putting them in 'fill-in' jobs.

Mr Farrell warned members against failing to follow guidelines and safety practices for their work systems now that the workers' compensation system is to be changed.

"Although we have not yet seen the Government's legislation, it is known that workers' rights and benefits are to be drastically curtailed".

He said members of the Sub-division remembered that the Vice-Chancellor was undertaking a review of the administrative structure of the University, to which end he had invited submissions from staff across the University. Council had appointed three members to help Professor Morgan.

Any changes to follow the review would have implications for members of the Sub-division.

"The Vice-Chancellor has given us an assurance that there will be the fullest consultation on any proposals which might come forward."

Mrs J. Hoesli was elected a member of the Management Committee. She filled a vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr N. Keats.
Japanese visitor's interest in DNA fingerprints

Professors Boettcher and Fukushima with a model of DNA.

Professor Barry Boettcher, an expert on DNA fingerprints, has been joined in his laboratory by a Japanese researcher very interested in his testing methods and findings.

Professor Hirofumi (Hiro) Fukushima, of Shinshu University's School of Medicine, Matsumoto, Japan, has come to the University with support from the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science.

Professor Boettcher said DNA fingerprints offered enormous promise for improvement of methods in identification of people and testing for genetic relationships.

Investigation for paternity cases would be one of the first areas to benefit from the technique, he said, and he believed it would eventually be utilised widely by police in their work.

Professor Boettcher's research in DNA fingerprints is probably unique as far as Australian universities are concerned. Professor Hayato Hasekura, who heads a team at Shinshu University which also works in the area, arranged for Hiro to collaborate with him.

Research originally carried out by Dr Alex Jeffreys, of Leicester University in England, has shown that DNA, the chemical material in our cells, can be cut into fragments by enzymes; the fragments of DNA can be separated into different sizes by a technique called electrophoresis; segments of related DNA can then be identified by binding to a radioactive DNA 'probe', and the reactions then produce a pattern on an X-ray film, or a 'fingerprint'.

"Everybody's DNA fingerprints vary from everyone else's", Professor Boettcher said. "A DNA fingerprint on an X-ray film shows a series of bars, like the rungs on a ladder, which are unevenly spaced. These 'fingerprints' clearly indicate family relationships. For example, a father's and a mother's DNA characteristics are evident in the fingerprints of their children. Therefore, the technique offers very valuable assistance as far as paternity cases are concerned".

The technique was applicable in criminal investigations, he said. DNA fingerprints obtained from blood spilt at the scene of a crime obviously could be matched to the blood of the person who was guilty and, as well, sperm recovered from the victims of rape could be tested in an endeavour to find the person/s responsible.

DNA fingerprints could also make a contribution to the improvement of animal and human health, Professor Boettcher said, and to establishing whether people were carriers of diseases which made marriages unacceptable, such as cystic fibrosis.

Professor Boettcher said that although he was not aware of any police in Australia having included DNA fingerprinting in their forensic activities the British Home Office was currently looking at the possibility of using the method in criminal investigation.

As well as the great potential of the technique in the public area, at least one large private corporation, ICI, was carrying out DNA fingerprinting commercially. The fee for just one test was reported to be £200, or more than $A400.

Hiro Fukushima said the use of 'probes' to identify fragments of DNA was attracting attention from Japanese scientists. The technique was being experimented with at the University of Tokyo.

Hiro said he hoped to be able to work in this area when he returned to Shinshu University at the end of May.

According to Professor Boettcher, Professor Hasekura will see the research project himself shortly when he will be visiting this University, as well as a number of other Australian universities, as an AVCC Scholar.
The Chancellor welcomed three new members of Council when it met in the Council Room on April 24. Dr Robyn Cotton has been elected by members of the academic staff other than professors. Drs Diana Day and Noel Rutherford have been elected by members of Convocation.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Keith Morgan, reported to Council on the following matters:

Canberra Visit
Professor Morgan said he and Dr Doug Huxley, Principal of Newcastle CAE, had visited Canberra and informed the CTEC that the University and the CAE were operating in harmony and proceeding happily down the road to rationalisation.

As part of the rationalisation exercise, he said, a Micro Vax II computer would be jointly purchased by the institutions and installed in the Computing Centre to handle circulation for both libraries.

Professor Morgan said Professor D. McNicol, Chairman of the Universities Council, would visit the University in June.

Effect of High Enrolment
The Vice-Chancellor said that whilst the overall increase in student numbers this year amounted to seven per cent the increase in the number of full-time students was sixteen per cent.

The fact that students were required to pay the Federal Government's administration charge had contributed to the decrease in the number of part-time students, viz nine per cent.

He said that, with the growth, student and teaching facilities had become congested. While the staff were used to duplication, and even triplication, of lectures, he felt it would be necessary to investigate alternative ways of dealing with the situation, such as greater use of video facilities.

Convocation Medal
Professor Morgan said the Standing Committee of Convocation proposed to institute a new award, the Convocation Medal, for presentation to a UN graduate who achieved professional excellence. Standing Committee hoped the medal could be awarded annually.

Hunter Body Representative
The Vice-Chancellor has accepted an invitation to join a State Government Committee to foster the development of the Hunter Region's resources.

Council adopted a recommendation from the Senate to introduce in 1989 an academic year consisting of two semesters rather than three terms as at present.

The Finance and Personnel Committee reported that after a transfer of $1,360,000 from the Vice-Chancellor's Discretionary Fund a balanced budget for the University was projected.

The Vice-Chancellor informed the Committee that it was his intention that in the longer term recurrent fund expenditure should not have to rely upon large sums transferred from the Vice-Chancellor's Discretionary Fund and that a better balance between the recurrent grant and expenditure needed to be achieved. He further said that he wished to use the Discretionary Fund to launch new and developing activities.

Council approved the Recurrent Fund Budget for 1987.

The Council approved the Vice-Chancellor's submission on the introduction of an aviation course at this University.

The approval covers the introduction of a diploma course, the establishment of an Institute of Aviation and entering into an agreement with the Civil Air Training Academy in Cessnock to cover the provision of the opportunity for students enrolling in the course to undertake flight training.

Professor Morgan reminded Council that a submission in support of the introduction of an aviation course was presented to the CTEC and the University's wish to become a national centre for aviation teaching and research was included in the submission to the CTEC for the 1988-90 Triennium. The proposal was considered by an assessment panel established by the CTEC and, as a result of the panel's findings, the commission was prepared to consider the introduction of a diploma course in aviation.

"Planning is proceeding with the commission's position in mind, but with the concept of ultimately a degree course. This would seem to be consistent with the CTEC's philosophy of a cautious entry on the part of higher education institutions in Australia into the area of aviation training".

Some members of Council asked for more consultation to be held on the proposal and said they feared it might ultimately involve an associate diploma course rather than a degree course.

Mr C. Craig, a student member of the Council, said the SRC had reservations about courses which had fee payment as a component and was concerned at the impact of a resultant reduction in government funds to the University on the departments of the University.

Professor L. Short said the submission was very vague and Council should not consider it without advice from Senate. He found it difficult to reconcile the proposal with the argument that the Diploma in Education course had to be transferred to the CAE to placate "our masters in Canberra".

Professor R. MacDonald said there was no intention to introduce an associate diploma in aviation. It would be a diploma, which would form two years of a degree course.

A motion that it be referred to the Faculty of Science and Senate and that Professor Morgan bring a defined proposal to the Council was lost.

The Vice-Chancellor reported on the academic planning review and the review of the structure of the University's administration.

He said the Planning Committee was 'groaning' under the weight of a huge quantity of information supplied by departments.

He said he wanted to be given a working party to assist him with the administration review. Council appointed the Deputy Chancellor, Dr A. Forsythe, Professor C. Renwick and Professor Short to help Professor Morgan.
WOMEN IN ENGINEERING

The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering has launched a staff/student effort to help overcome the cultural barriers which sometimes exist between women and the technological disciplines.

Among these initiatives are:

- promotion of non-sexist language in teaching;
- practical support of a group for women engineering students;
- encouragement of a realistic appreciation of engineering as a career alternative for women school students; and
- advocacy of bridging courses where necessary to enable entry into technical fields of study.

Recently the Commonwealth Minister for Education, Senator Susan Ryan, said Australia was handicapped in its ability to become a more productive nation as so few of its women are engineers.

Senator Ryan’s statement followed the appointment of Dr Branka Vucetic, one of the first women to lecture in engineering in an Australian tertiary institution. Dr Vucetic, of Sydney University, believes that the reasons for the lack of women in engineering are traditional and cultural.

It has been concerns such as these which have led Mr Bruce Penfold, of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Ms Rose Vivian, Stage IV Electrical Engineering student and SRC Faculty Representative, to decide to invite women students in the Faculty to meet and discuss their needs.

This meeting had led to the formation of the Women in Engineering Group. The Group’s intentions are to:

- provide a medium for women students to meet and talk with those women already working as professional engineers;
- develop a liaison with the Women’s Division of the Institution of Engineers;
- organise field trips to local engineering establishments to show 'in the field' applications of their studies; and
- to provide a chance to meet on a social basis other women studying in the Faculty.

Following the success of the Group’s first few meetings, arrangements are in hand to hold a forum in the Union early in Second Term to allow current students to meet women who are practising recent graduates.

"Despite the cultural bias which discourages women entering the engineering profession, this year has seen a significant increase in the number of women being taught by the Faculty", Mr Penfold said.

Even acknowledging this year’s increase in enrolments, the proportion of women students in the Engineering Faculty remains low by contrast with other disciplines.

"As individuals belonging to a minority group within the Faculty women students can feel very isolated", Ms Vivian said.

If this problem alone can be redressed, the group will have gone a long way towards achieving its objectives.

Call for Delegates

The University of Newcastle Staff Association has recently affiliated with the Newcastle Trades Hall Council. The Staff Association is entitled to send four delegates to Newcastle Trades Hall Council meetings.

Anyone interested in attending these meetings, which are held fortnightly (Thursday evenings), on behalf of the Staff Association should contact Pran Chopra, Ext. 641 or Warren Wood, Ext. 608.
A public forum at the University on April 30 speculated on the intentions behind a company's nicely illustrated annual report.

Is it trying to legitimise its recent actions by presenting them in the best possible light?

Or is it, on the contrary, trying to shape the agenda for coming public debate about social and business events?

Professor Lee Parker, of Griffith University, main speaker at the forum, reported on a study made by himself and Mr. James Guthrie, of the University of New South Wales, of the annual reports of the BHP.

Professor Parker said it looked as though the Big Australian had not always explained its decisions, and had concentrated on the items that top management felt were suitable for public discussion.

Together Professor Parker and Mr Guthrie had aligned statements from BHP annual reports over 100 years with known major contemporary events in the history of the company, the communities where its works had been sited, the unions which had had dealings with it and the nation at large.

"In general, little correspondence was found between peaks of BHP's corporate social accounting and reporting disclosures and key socio-economic events affecting BHP during its operating history", he said.

"Indeed, numbers of significant events were not reported and at other times reporting occurred when no extraordinary socio-economic events appear to have occurred".

Mr Guthrie told the forum that BHP's statements from the 1890s contained considerable comment on employees and the community at large. "But as the years pass the kind of information comes in a random fashion, with comment on the environment being held back until the 1970s". Mr Guthrie said that when the company talked about employees today the message was that it was a good corporate citizen because it paid high taxes.

Mr A. Smith, from the BHP's works in Newcastle, said the annual reports were oriented towards shareholders. "What we talk about is more in the area of public relations than social accounting".

Mr W. Wallace, from Price Waterhouse, said a company usually regarded an annual report as a marketing tool.

Mr R. Adamson, from the Met. Workers' Union, said he was surprised by the extent of the BHP's social disclosures 100 years ago. "In the days of the barons of industry I would have thought they would have treated the public with more contempt".

Professor Parker is Professor of Accounting at Griffith University.

The speakers were introduced by Professor Frank Oarke, Professor of Accounting at this University.

The public forum, which attracted students and staff of the Department of Commerce and members of the local accounting profession and the trade union movement, was arranged by the Department of Commerce.
Sir Bede Callaghan presents an honorary degree to Father Peter Brock.

Thanks for the understanding of families

At the conferring of degrees ceremonies on May 1 and 2, spokespersons for the 800-odd new graduates thanked their families, relatives and friends for their encouragement and support.

They made several points about the challenges and pleasures of their University experiences.

In the words of Mr David Lee, BA (history, Honours Class I), who spoke at the Friday evening ceremony: "The University has, I believe, given us three things to be grateful for. Starting at the bottom, it has given us credentials. More importantly, it has fostered in us a rational, critical disposition. And, above all, it has given us the friendships we have made over recent years".

Mr Richard Cooper, BMath (Honours Class I and University Medal), responding at the morning ceremony on Saturday, offered the view that students could walk around some universities in Sydney all day without recognising a soul. "At this University, almost every second person is familiar, and many of those are friends, although, even after four years here, there are some people I regret not getting to know better".

Mr Cooper referred to the higher education administration fee and suggested "as a sensible alternative" fees for students resitting their courses. "Such a system would provide further incentive for students to pass their courses, or get out of the University system altogether — incentive which, unfortunately in some students, appears to be lacking".

Mr Brett Ninness, BE (Honours Class I in Electrical Engineering), commented on the fast pace of modern progress.

A degree that merely represented the attainment of a set amount of knowledge, whilst being immediately useful to its holder, would quickly lose that usefulness as the knowledge became out of date.

"A degree such as ours, however, where the emphasis has been not so much on knowledge-cramming, but on self discipline of mind and acquiring problem-solving skills and clear rational methods of thought, is much more valuable, because these skills never become redundant", Mr Ninness said, "no matter how much or how quickly current knowledge may change".

Informal AWEUN Meeting

The Association of Women Employees at the University of Newcastle (AWEUN) invites all members of AWEUN and any interested women staff to an informal lunchtime discussion on Friday, May 15, from 12.30 to 1.30 pm in the Auchmuty Room, University Union. Bring your own lunch.

Arrivals & Departures

Appointments

Dr Teriuchan S. Bhatti, Post Doctoral Research Fellow, Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering.

Mr Manjit S. Gilhotra, Lecturer, Department of Linguistics.

Dr David G. Lytton, Fellow, Faculty of Medicine.

Mr Michael J. Newton, Laboratory Craftsman, Department of Psychology.

Mr John A. Sayers, Manager, Edwards Hall.

Miss Karen M. Thompson, Stenographer, Secretary's Division.

Resignations

Dr Robert J. Burke, Director, Health Service.

Mrs Machelle J. Bivard, Stenographer, Department of Community Programmes.

Mr Anton Donker, Station Manager, Radio 2NUR-FM.
University Medals were won by seven graduates. Mr Garry Buckland, BMed, Mr Richard Cooper, BMath and Mr Andrew Sindone, BMed were amongst those who achieved outstanding results while students.

Dr Jean Talbot was awarded a PhD degree, while her son Mr Nick Talbot graduated with a BA degree. Associate Professor Norman Talbot came to see them graduate and Jean showed a picture of another member of the family, Mrs Clare Fennessy, who also graduated but could not attend.

Dr Trish Vilkinas and Ms Wendy Pilkington, MBA, who graduated at the same ceremony, belong to a group which is helping to implement People Link, which arranges for people to give their time voluntarily to community organisations. Trish is a Lecturer in Management and Wendy is Area Co-ordinator of Community Health for the Cessnock Area Health Service. Wendy's research, which was supervised by Trish, was in connection with the motivations of people who become voluntary community workers. She compared volunteers and paid workers in three occupations: acting, radio announcing and fire fighting. Ms Pilkington found that the most important aspect of work as far as most volunteers are concerned is self-development and not altruism.
• Peter Bartlett was awarded a Bachelor of Surveying with Honours Class I. He also received prizes from the Board of Surveyors, NSW, and the Association of Consulting Surveyors and the Australian Photogrammetric and Remote Sensing Society. Dr Frank Clarke, Senior Lecturer in Surveying, extends his congratulations.

• Two women who have had similar study and career paths were awarded PhD degrees. Dr Ellen Jordan, who gave the Department of Sociology its 'first ever' doctorate, and Dr Ruth Lunney a student in the Department of English, are school teachers who studied for many years as part-timers.

• One of the University's best-known students, David Whitson, magician and now holder of a BA degree.

• Justin Gordon, BA, and Christopher Lambert, BMath, received felicitations from their parents. Both families come from Helen Street, Merewether. Keen surfers, Justin and Christopher are competing in the current IV Surfriders' contest. Dr Moira Gordon, Justin's mother, took out her PhD at the graduation. From left: Professor Barry Gordon, Dr Gordon, Justin, Christopher, Mrs Frances Lambert and Mr John Lambert.
Above: Ms Nicole Ue Connon, BA, was congratulated by her father, Mr Michael Connon, Lecturer in French.

Graduation was a personal achievement for several members of staff. They had to manage their academic studies while they were involved in University duties. Below back: Ms Vicki Petersen, BA, Dr Peter Bamford, Dr Bethia Penglase, Dr Jean Talbot, Ms Elvira Sprogis, BA with Honours; front, Mr Richard Murray, BA and Mr Denis Rowe, MA.

Above: Ms Elise Hedgman and Mr Les Caldwell are colleagues in the Bursar's Division. Ms Hedgman received a BCom degree, while Mr Caldwell, Deputy Bursar, graduated with an MBA.

Left: Alison Clark, BA, secretary in Psychology, receives congratulations from Professor M. King, Professor of Psychology.
EIGHT UNIVERSITIES IN IV GOLF

Monday, May 11, will see the commencement of this year's Australian Intervarsity Golf Contest. This University is the host.

University Golf Club has received great assistance from the Newcastle District Golf Association, and Nelson Bay, Newcastle, Muree, Toukley and Belmont Golf Clubs.

The Onya Clothing Company and Golf City Discounts have also been generous in assisting the running of the competition.

According to Mr Tony Southward, Convenor, teams are expected from Sydney, NSW, Macquarie, Melbourne, Wollongong, New England and Adelaide Universities.

Representing the University of Newcastle will be:

Rhett Cleal (Captain), Phil Bowden, Craig Ninness, Steve Hemsworth, Ross Barry, David Martin, Paul Rippon, Joel Barry (Reserve), Brett Ninness (Reserve) and Les Gibson (Manager).

Anyone interested in joining the Golf Club can ring Paul Rippon (21379) or Rhett Cleal (71 2360) for more information.

The annual staff v-students golf match has been postponed until second term.

The Golf Club held another successful competition on Sunday, April 26, at Newcastle Golf Club. The best scores were Steve Hemsworth, 79, and Craig Ninness, 82.

Guest speaker's advice to new surveyors

The need for continuing education was stressed to Surveying new graduates at a dinner in the Union on April 30.

Professor Fritz Brunner, who recently took up his appointment as Professor of Surveying at the University of New South Wales, was after-dinner speaker at the dinner, the sixth annual Surveying Graduates' dinner organised by the Department of Civil Engineering and Surveying. The function provided a chance for the new graduates to meet graduates from earlier years, staff and prominent members of the profession in a relaxed atmosphere.

Professor Brunner said continuing education was important for surveyors, especially, he said "as fifty per cent of our current technical knowledge will be outdated inside five years".

Professor John Fryer, Associate Professor and Director of Surveying Studies, welcomed the guests and new graduates. Prominent members of the profession present included the Surveyor General (Acting) Mr Adrian Packham, the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Ald John McNaughton, and Professor Brunner.

Mr Peter Bartlett, who graduated on May 3 with First Class Honours, received prizes of a gold medallion from the Board of Surveyors, New South Wales, and certificates and cheques from the Association of Consulting Surveyors and the Australian Photogrammetric and Remote Sensing Society. Mr Bartlett had an outstanding undergraduate record. He was enrolled in a Master of Surveying degree.

Grant in connection with medication

KINTAIBA, the Community Child Care Centre at the University, has been awarded its first research grant.

The latest The Kintaiba File, the newsletter of the centre, says Kintaiba had undertaken preliminary investigation into the medication of young children in child care centres funded through the Promotion of Action in Community Education (PACE) Project.

Mr R. Baxter, Director of Kintaiba, said: "We have been able to analyse some patterns in the prescription of drugs and medication for children under five. Considerably more analysis has yet to be done on the data so far gathered.

The main object of the exercise is to validate the centre's procedures for authorising and recording details of medication", he said. "When you consider that we have administered in excess of 1,200 doses of medication over the past two years you can see it is quite an important area. So important, in fact, that we have been asked to present our findings and talk about our methods of recording and controlling medication for the benefit of other centres and health personnel".

In the longer term, Mr Baxter said, the centre should be able to attract additional research money to widen the study and eventually produce an 'Education Package' for Children's Services Personnel and Parents.

UNION'S GOVERNORS

Mr Chris Tola has been re-elected President of the Union's Brand of Management.

Other officers of the Board for the coming year:

Vice President, Mr David Yeo; Treasurer, Mr Brian Penfold; Council Representative, Mr Pran Chopra; SRC Representatives, Mr Chris Craig and Mr Glen Beatty; Graduate Representatives, Mr Mark Del'amicco and Mr Craig Copeland; Staff Representative, Mrs Ada Staader; Sports Union Representative; Professor G. Tanner; Secretary/Manager, Mr John Broughton; Student Members, Ms Rose Vivian, Ms Linda Cooper, Jenny Gibson, Mr Craig Day, Mr Simon Walker and Mr Brian Berkfield.

New Orleans Night

The Staff House Committee has booked a band, for Friday, June 19, for a 'New Orleans Night'. Members: watch your mail for details, put the date aside, get a group together, 5.30 to 9.30 pm, New Orleans music, New Orleans cuisine.
SIXTY CONFERENCE VISITORS WELCOMED BY VICE-CHANCELLOR

The Vice-Chancellor was on hand on the first morning of the two-day conference to encourage export growth to welcome the sixty participants to the University.

Professor Keith Morgan said that the manner in which the Hunter Valley Research Foundation and the University's Institute of Industrial Economics joined forces to organise the conference provided an excellent example of 'Town and Gown' co-operation.

Professor Morgan also drew attention to the importance of the subject on the conference, Development of Our Export Potential, in the context of Australia's current trade difficulties.

Speakers representing the Confederation of Australian Industry, AUSTRADE, the Westpac Banking Corporation, the Hunter Development Board, the Hunter Valley Research Foundation and the Hunter Technology Centre discussed both the extent of the balance of payments problem and the range of assistance available to exporters.

Researchers from the Bureau of Industry Economics and the Universities of New South Wales and Newcastle presented reports of their investigations of overseas marketing and export performance in both the manufacturing and service sectors.

Exporters with recent experience in overseas markets gave interesting accounts of the problems which they had faced and the peculiarities of particular markets. They outlined the sometimes novel methods they had used to deal with these situations.

Examples of successful penetration of overseas markets were presented by speakers involved in the export of power station technology, computer software, steel products, wine and in the tourist industry.

It became apparent that a high level of commitment and a great deal of adaptability and initiative are necessary requirements for success.

One of the highlights was the presentation given by the recently appointed Swedish Trade Commissioner in Australia, Mr. Rutger Engsall. In view of the success of Sweden, a small developed economy, in improving its position in major world markets in recent years, his contribution was most pertinent.

RESEARCH INDUSTRY INTERACTION

A seminar in Sydney being offered by the Department of Industry, Technology and Commerce aims at promoting interaction between researchers in higher education institutions and industry.

The Department intends to use the seminar to explain the latest developments in government industry policy, discuss its programmes for encouraging innovation and outline opportunities for researchers in universities.

The innovation assistance programmes include a 150 per cent tax deduction for R&D, grants for industry research and development, a teaching company scheme, the Australian Government Offsets Programme and the National Industry Extension Service.

The main details of the seminar:

Thursday, 28 May; 1 pm to 5 pm; in the The Masonic Centre, Cnr. Goulburn and Castlereagh Streets, Sydney.

The seminar is free, but places are limited. Persons who wish to attend should register by May 19 on (02) 218 7974.

Dr Gore on Videotape

The Central Audio Visual Services Unit (CAVSU) made a videotape of Dr Michael Gore delivering a lecture in the Drama Theatre on April 15.

During the lecture, Dr Gore, Director of the National Science and Technology Centre in Canberra, demonstrated his personal methods of science education.

The videotape can be borrowed by University departments. To make arrangements, please telephone CAVSU at Extensions 249 or 457.
REVIEW
by
DORRIT NESMITH

Power, a new play by Graham Flits being presented by the HVTC, attempts a cynical look at the evils of Australian industrial life, epitomised in a fictional public service powerhouse. While the socio-political bitterness motivating the story is genuine, it is expressed in comic-strip simplicity.

At the top of the structure is the government minister, interested only in publicity to enhance his Image. Below him are the doubletalking, acronym-obsessed managers who are completely out of touch with the realities of their responsibilities, primarily concerned with empire-building at the taxpayers' expense. Their lower echelon administrators busily prove that the most successful bludgers reap the greatest rewards, wheeling and dealing on office time for their own profit. They regularly warn their underlings to obey lest they be thrown out into the Real World.

Only those at the bottom of the pyramid have the conscience to 'grieve for Australia', to bemoan the 'death of mateship' and to occasionally (and gratuitously) toss in a bit of old-style union rhetoric. Commonsense suggestions from below are ignored because, say the bosses, 'instructions must always flow downward'. Their motto is 'When in doubt, reorganise'. Whether such an organisation is beneficial or not is immaterial; managers must be seen to be managing, even if it is only by decreasing the production of more meaningless paper for the workers to shuffle.

Those of us in the public service, of course, recognise this as sheer fantasy. Don't we?

The programme notes reveal that the play has gone through a metamorphosis from musical comedy to non-musical, from a focus on blue collar workers to one on office types. Its present rather ragged condition reveals unrelated remnants of its former self patchily integrated into the long declarations that pass for dialogue. Good actors struggle to overcome extraordinarily wooden staging by Brent McGregor. There are moments of humour, of humanity, of insight into the problems that both workers and managers face, but even a sympathetic audience must be bored (if not embarrassed) by the clumsy way these worthwhile observations are presented.

Power, which is an Art and Working Life Project of the Workers Cultural Action Committee, will be playing at the Civic Theatre Playhouse until May 16.

NEW ANTI-INFLUENZA DRUG TRIAL

Associate Professor Sandy Reid, Associate Professor Greg Tannock, Associate Professor Richard Barry, Professor Nick Saunders, Associate Professor Michael Hensley and Dr Richard Henry, all from the Medical Faculty, in conjunction with Hoffman la Roche (Swiss pharmaceutical company) are undertaking trials of a new treatment Rimantadine, for the prevention of influenza.

This anti-viral agent is chemically similar to a medicine, Symmetrel, currently available for the prevention and treatment of influenza A. Vaccination is also available but its effectiveness is limited for various reasons.

The objective of the trial is to compare the efficacy of the tablets in differing doses and it will be a double-blind, placebo controlled trial scheduled to coincide with a probable outbreak of influenza in the area.

Faculty members working on the trial are anxious for as many workers as possible between eighteen and fifty-five years. Payment will be made to all participants on completion of the trial.

Six hundred volunteers will be screened to enable 450 to take part in the trial. It will take place in three centres in the Newcastle area — Newcastle centre, Charlestown and Wallsend. Each volunteer will be assigned to one of these clinics for a weekly visit to see the nursing sister for sampling and a supply of tablets. The volunteer will be required to keep a daily record of any flu or cold symptoms experienced and report those to the sister.

A laboratory-based confirmation of the infection will be carried out by the Faculty and it is hoped to determine a complete profile of the viruses producing respiratory disease in Newcastle in the winter of 1987.

It is hoped that this valuable information will enable the researchers to determine the efficacy of Rimantadine as a therapeutic agent.

Anyone wishing to enrol or find out more about the trial should ring Associate Professor Greg Tannock or Pamela Lawrence, Monday to Friday on 266158.

APRIL SENATE

The Vice-Chancellor reported to Senate on April 29 that the number of Commonwealth Special Research Centres had been increased by three and $1,500,000 had been allotted to establish them. He would write to Faculties hoping that the opportunity to submit proposals for special research centres would not be lost by this University.

Research at the University is in a healthy state. According to the Vice-Chancellor, applications had been made by staff for $4,370,000 to be allocated to them for research next year.

Submissions worth $2,670,000 had been made by staff to the ARGS. They comprised twenty-four new projects (valued at $980,000), thirty-four continuing projects ($1,250,000) and two new programme grants ($440,000).

The NH&MRC had been requested to approve thirty-three research schemes worth $1,700,000. Professor Morgan said the figures were very good. He thanked staff for making applications, which must be maintained.
Co-operation between the University and the College

The Joint Committee on Co-operation and Rationalisation, established last year, has had its first meeting for 1987.

It was reported that agreement had been reached on the sharing of computing facilities between the two libraries. This will be achieved by the joint purchase of a Micro Vax II to be located in the Computing Centre and linked to the College by landline.

Each institution will contribute $25,000 to the cost of purchasing the computer and the College will provide the landline.

The decision will provide the two libraries with a considerably more powerful circulation system than either would have been able to afford independently. The provision of the landline will also allow the College access to Alleycat, the University's on-line public access catalogue. Alleycat was developed jointly by staff of the Auchmuty Library and the Computing Centre.

The Committee identified a number of possible academic activities for collaborative development. These included outreach programmes, various health professional training programmes, business studies and computing education.

The committee intends to consult widely in carrying out its deliberations and is expected to establish ad hoc working parties to develop detailed proposals.

It was reported that College staff have been making a substantial contribution to the teaching of University courses, particularly in Education, in recent years. Efforts were needed to involve University staff more in the teaching of College courses so that a balance could be achieved.

The new development in computing was an outcome of deliberations by an administrative working party set up last year to consider non-teaching and support services.

Letter to Editor

Dear Sir,

I refer to the letter from G.W. Fitzgerald in the University News 13-27.4.87 and whilst not wishing to use the News as a forum for debate, I feel incorrect statements should be set in perspective.

- The Union Board has for some time been considering a subsidy for clubs and societies and at its meeting of 27.4.87 resolved to provide substantial discount to clubs and societies holding dinners etc. in the Union.
- The sale of liquor to clubs and societies in the Union must be in accordance with the provisions of the Liquor Act, Pure Food Act, and Local Council health requirements.
- The entire Union is not licensed and the defined premises are clearly marked throughout the building.

The Union, by its Constitution, provides facilities and services to all members of the Union. To offer subsidised liquor to clubs and societies discriminates against the ordinary student who pays the going price.

Should Mr G. Fitzgerald have any further inquiries, I invite him to see either myself, a student representative on the Board, or the Secretary/Manager, who is the Licensee of the Union.

Chris Tola,
Union President.

RADIO COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

Since early in April the ABC's Radio National Breakfast (heard in the Hunter on 2NA) has presented an editorial comment every weekday at 8.45 am.

The ABC has offered staff of the University the chance to provide commentaries.

Mr Lindsay Smith, Producer for the programme, said that usually the comment was presented by specialists in various areas, e.g. media, law, science etc., but a weekly space had been reserved for universities to present points of view they felt should be communicated to the public.

"This may represent an overview of work they are currently undertaking, or it may be an educated critique of a current topic event, e.g. some legislation, a world event", he said.

"One could actually view it as a cross between the ABC's Notes On The News and Letters To The Editor."

For those interested in participating, Mr Smith's phone number in Adelaide is (08) 440 313.

HELP US TO HELP BREAST CANCER PATIENTS

We are developing a blood test for the early detection of breast cancer. Early detection improves treatment.

We need single donations of 5 ml of blood from:

- mothers of babies under three months old
- post-menopausal women.

These samples will be compared with samples from women with breast cancer.

If you can donate blood, please contact Dr Cheng Smart at 26 6168 or Kerry Rogers at 26 6859 at the Discipline of Surgical Science, Fourth Floor, David Maddison Building, Royal Newcastle Hospital, Corner of King and Watt Streets.

This study is funded by the NSW State Cancer Council and led by Professor Robert Burton and Dr Cheng Smart.
Advertisements

For Sale

Auction sale — farm equipment, furniture and sundries, Saturday, May 16, 10 am, Kupunda Downs, Congewai Road, Paxton. Bookings and details are available from Sue Beckett at 98 1427 or from Donna at Ext. 329.

Three Rover SDI car handbooks, $30. One Sony reel-to-reel tape recorder, $70. Telephone 52 7441.

Stereo, AGS model A-109, comprising Amplifier (25 watts each channel), automatic turntable and two 8x3 speakers in good working order, $80 or near offer. Telephone 21 867 after 6 pm.

December 1981 Ford Fairmont Sedan (Hermitage Red in colour). This car is in A1 mechanical condition and has been meticulously maintained. Features include: soft grey velour interior, air-conditioning and radio/cassette player. This car would suit career oriented person. Telephone 59 1749.

Two bedroom fully furnished home in the Jesmond area. Rental: $100 per week. Telephone 67 5733.

Accommodation Wanted

Newly-appointed lecturer is seeking temporary accommodation for three to six months. Will negotiate with persons intending to go on study leave in the latter half of 1987. For further information please telephone 87 2983 after 6 pm.

Wanted to Buy

Pine or Cedar old furniture also bric-a-brac. Cash buyer will call to inspect. Telephone 59 2319.

German Feature Films

German feature films, newsreels and documentaries will be screened again every second Wednesday from Noon until 2 pm in the Audio Visual Room, A132, McMullin Building.

Anybody interested in German films is most welcome to attend. Admission is free. If there is enough interest, the films will also be screened in the evening at a mutually convenient time.

Name Change

Vicki Lloyd, Radio Producer at 2NUR-FM and President of the Association of Women Employees at the University, now wishes to be known by her own name, Vicki Petersen.