CHINESE PRESIDENTS VISIT "GARDEN UNIVERSITY"

THREE PRESIDENTS of universities in Beijing, capital of the People's Republic of China, recently visited the University.

Professor Shi Yuan Chun, of Beijing Agricultural University, Professor Wang Run, of Beijing University of Iron and Steel Technology, and Professor Qu Mianyu, of Beijing Medical University, met the Vice-Chancellor and senior officers of the University and visited a number of departments.

An exchange of visits between Chinese University Presidents and Australian Vice-Chancellors and College Principals was agreed last year between the Australian and Chinese Governments.

The Vice-Chancellor said the three Chinese University Presidents had visited this University to discuss ways of establishing student exchanges so that collective work can be done at postgraduate levels, in particular for PhD students.

Although the Australian Government provided some financial support, it was insufficient and the problem was finding funds to get an exchange programme going.

Professor Morgan said it was clear the Chinese Presidents' Institutions and this University had many areas of common interest and the discussions indicated that ways of working together must be found.

Beijing Medical, Beijing Agricultural and Beijing Iron and Steel Technology Universities are separate learning institutions, the Iron and Steel Technology being the largest with around 8,000 students.

After the discussions involving the three Chinese University Presidents and the visits to various departments, Professor Wang Run told the News: 'We are very appreciative of your warm welcome to your garden university.'

Pictured are: Mr Xu Ming, Consul of China in Sydney, Professor K. Morgan, Ms Wang Jiang-po, Interpreter, Professor Wang Run, Professor Qu Mianyu and Professor Shi Yuan Chun.

Tax Benefits from R&D

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Keith Morgan, has issued invitations to a discussion on the possibilities available to people who might wish to take advantage of the 150 per cent tax deduction for expenditure on research and development.

The University's potential to undertake work will be briefly presented and Dr Wallischutzy will outline the relevant income tax legislation.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Frank Clarke (Professor of Accounting), and Mr Murray Falconer (Acting Bursar) will be present.

The meeting will be held in the Staff House on Thursday, June 4, from 5.30 to 6.30 pm.

Interested persons are asked to telephone Extension 360 (68 3360 from outside the University).

Inside: BHP SUPPORTS HEART RESEARCH
FROM the number of reports on matters of significance for the future of higher education it would be possible to suggest that there is both recognition of and interest in its proper development. Unfortunately this view is not uniformly supported by the facts.

We look forward in the immediate future to the publication of Volume 1 of the advice by CTEC to Government on the funding of higher education in the next triennium. This will be followed by major reports on engineering, law and medicine.

The Hudson Report on Efficiency and Effectiveness in Higher Education published late last year identified under-funding as a major problem facing universities and colleges: this was evident in lack of finance for equipment, buildings, appointments and salaries. It is accordingly difficult to reconcile this with the recent statement of the Minister for Education that the reduction in funding announced in the May statement for the financial year 1987-88 of $12 million and in a full year of $24 million can be accommodated by higher efficiency in universities and colleges. Of course at this stage it is not known the base on which the reduction in funding for 1988 and the subsequent year is to be calculated.

The publication of the latest ASTEC Report draws attention to the provision for research and development work in Australia. The background is of key importance to an appreciation of this report. Information on national expenditure on R&D is necessarily dated but the latest figures (1984) show that university research represented thirty-three per cent of the total national expenditure on R&D. By international standards this is a high proportion, not because university research here is funded unusually well (hardly although the level is similar in many other countries), but rather that other sources of R&D operate at remarkably low levels. The proportion of GDP spent nationally on R&D in Australia is about one per cent; amongst the other OECD countries only Iceland, Ireland, Greece and Portugal spend less.

The low spending in Australia is largely due to a failure of business and commerce to make the necessary investment.

Largely because of this it is seen to be of high importance that universities take a major responsibility for providing a national R&D resource. Hence the title of the ASTEC Report, Improving the research performance of Australia's universities and other higher education institutions. Despite the title, this report gives due recognition to the high standing achieved by research in the universities. Indeed implicit in the report is the assumption that the most effective way forward is to route additional government research support through universities, directing the extra funding largely to mission-oriented work. The combination of this with better and more effective links with industry and commerce is seen as offering a desirable combination. It is possible to welcome this approach and accept the consequences of the implied responsibility while retaining some doubts about implementation. Such doubts might include concern about the criteria for selection of appropriate R&D missions and the time and scale of commitment necessary for commercial achievement.

Of course despite recognition of the success of university research the ASTEC Report expresses strong views about measures we need to take to achieve a full return on a national investment in R&D. These are chiefly in the requirements for selectivity, concentration of work, and more effective research management strategies. It is argued that "not every institution, faculty and department, and not every academic staff member should be expected to maintain the same involvement in research, and that staff/student ratios could vary more widely from one area to another." To this end it recommends that each university develop and implement a research management strategy which shall determine internal distribution of research, general recurrent, equipment and special research funds in order to improve effectiveness and productivity of the overall research activity. A closely similar recommendation was put forward in the Hudson Report and has been accepted by Government: CTEC is now required by the Government to report on the measures taken by universities to achieve these ends. Such measures do not seem to cause fundamental problems provided two basic assumptions can be recognised and accepted.

(i) The primary requirement for universities to provide facilities for learning, teaching, scholarship and research. Without these facilities, universities as we know them would not exist. None of them is a free good: in particular scholarship demands time and resources without which the knowledge and culture base of our society would become irreversibly eroded.

(ii) University policies for internal selective funding of research must make provision for sustaining a research floor across a wide range of subjects and disciplines. Without this, the ability to respond to new and developing areas is destroyed; and even the basic skills and competence for introduction of new technology do not exist.

There are indeed other recommendations in the ASTEC Report. Some, such as support for...
F. Hoffman-La Roche & Co., of the USA, the company with the rights to produce Rimantadine, has provided the grant to a research team from the Faculty of Medicine.

The Rimantadine team (Associate Professors Greg Tannock, Sandy Reid, Richard Barry and Michael Hensley, Professor Nick Saunders and Dr Richard Henry) has embarked upon recruiting volunteers to participate in an extensive clinical study of the antibiotic's abilities to fight influenza.

The most interesting features of the study will be that a large number of volunteers will be used (approximately 450) and everyone of them will have to keep a daily record of any symptoms experienced.

Apart from financing the trials, the grant will allow the researchers to purchase an extremely useful piece of equipment, a fluorometer, which can carry out tests for viral diseases very rapidly. In the past research in this area has been hampered by delays in obtaining diagnoses when they made these studies.

The team will enrol the volunteers it needs from people in Newcastle aged eighteen to fifty-five. The volunteers will be paid $150 for participating.

The Rimantadine will be administered as tablets in differing doses and some of the participants will take placebos.

Commencement of the study is scheduled for July 20, a point in winter when, based on past experience, many Newcastle people should be suffering from influenza.

Professor Tannock said: 'We should find out whether Rimantadine makes any difference when it is taken to prevent influenza. We should also be able to see if there are any side-effects. Moreover, we will have a profile of the various "nasties" which are around in Newcastle in winter.

'Newcastle is ideal for this kind of clinical study, because it is moderately sized and moderately stable and our Medical School is conducive to a lot of collaborative research, unlike most traditionally structured Medical Schools.'

Professor Tannock said every volunteer would be assigned to a centre at which the trials would take place. The centres would be located in Newcastle (the Presbyterian Church in Watt Street), Charlestown (the Youth Centre opposite Wallsend Library in Smart Street) and Wallsend (Wallsend Hospital). Each volunteer would be requested to visit his or her clinic weekly for sampling and a supply of tablets.

Further $10,000 for Supernova from Businessmen

NEWCASTLE Business Men's Club is to provide $10,000 to Supernova, the "hands on" science centre which will be set up permanently in the new Newcastle Regional Museum.

This is planned to open in the old Castlemaine Brewery building in Hunter Street West, Newcastle, next year.

The Business Men's Club will make the contribution to Supernova as the club's bicentenary project. The donation will be applied initially to financing a major display to be placed in the vestibule area to be placed in the front of the new museum building.

The Director of Supernova, Dr Tim Roberts, has announced that, as a result of an application made by the Friends of Supernova for a grant under the Community Employment Programme, four full-time employees would commence working for Supernova in June. The grant was valued at $87,000 and would give Supernova workers a chance to refurbish some existing modules in Supernova as well as build new ones for transfer to the Regional Museum.

The Premier, Mr Barry Unsworth, presented Newcastle City Council with a cheque for $250,000, the first instalment of the State Government's contribution to the Regional Museum development, on May 21.

The State Government has pledged $1 million to the project over the next twelve months. The museum, costing a total of $4.6 million, should be open in September, 1988.

The Premier presented the cheque to Alderman John McNaughton, Lord Mayor of Newcastle, at the site of the museum.

LARGE GRANT FROM DRUG COMPANY

The evaluation of the effectiveness of Rimantadine as a drug to fight influenza — be made in Newcastle during the coming winter — is being funded by one of this University's largest-ever research grants.

The University has been awarded a total of $430,000 for the project.

- Professor Greg Tannock

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Risk of becoming a third-world economy

"Again, one can only cry out: Australia, are you listening? One is forced to wonder, however, whether Australia is prepared to listen."

In this report of Sir Bede Callaghan's address to the dinner held recently during the conference to encourage export growth, the Chancellor, who is Chairman of the Foreign Investment Review Board, says that Australians had to solve their country's economic problems themselves.

Why is the Australian economy where it is today? And why do we need to have a conference on Development of Our Export Potential?

To the question What has happened to Australia? should we ask Will we ever learn?


Referring to Will She Be Right? - The Future of Australia, a book written by Herman Kahn and Thomas Pepper, of the Hudson Institute of New York — a "think tank" formed after World War II for the study of the future of the various economies of the world — he said that Kahn and Pepper came to the conclusion that, such were Australian attitudes, Australia would continue with a "business-as-usual" attitude.

A "business-as-usual" Australia would continue to be relatively empty, rich, urban, sports-loving, and unionised, as well as predominantly Caucasian; it would also be increasingly inefficient, uncompetitive, and isolated, except in certain sections of the economy with strong links to other countries or to multinational companies or other transnational phenomena .... Will a "business-as-usual" alternative enable Australia to remain as comfortable and agreeable — compared with other developed countries — when it enters the twenty-first century a scant two decades from now?

Having asked what had happened since the book by Kahn and Pepper was published in 1980 — "has Australia continued the downward slide?" — Sir Bede recapped on the consumer price index, the country's external debt, the current account balance, social security and welfare outlays, increases in earnings and labour costs, unemployment and the average work hours.

He quoted from David Clark, in the Financial Review: 'The average Australian employee gets paid for fifty-seven days a year they (sic) are not at work; the average United States employee for only nineteen! Australians work only about seventy-five per cent of the average hours worked by persons in most other industrial countries. The Swiss, in a recent referendum, rejected a proposal that their working week be reduced from forty-two to thirty-eight hours.'

"Can anybody imagine that sort of thing happening in Australia?" Sir Bede said.

However one looks at it, it is not a pretty picture! and that picture is reflected in the changes in the value of the Australian currency.

Sir Bede referred to the views of American economic expert Peter Drucker. Among the Drucker quotes he used: "From now on any country ... that wants to prosper will have to accept that it is the world economy that leads and that domestic economic policies will succeed only if they strengthen, or at least do not impair, the country's international competitive position. This may be the most important — it surely is the most striking — feature of the changed world economy."

Further, he said, The Sydney Morning Herald's political commentator, Peter Bowers, wrote: 'Australia is a damned awkward country to govern. Its politicians can't see beyond the next election, its media can't see beyond the next story, and its people can't see beyond the next handout.'

Sir Bede asked: 'How do I sum up what is mostly a litany of unhappy results and consequences?' Recalling Bowers, he pointed to the grave responsibility of politicians and the media to do a big educational job — to get the message across to the people in terms such as "Australians Awake", because, as The London Economist said, 'Australia, a third-world economy with a first-world standard of living, risks becoming a third-world economy with a third-world standard of living.'

![The Department of Commerce staff felt that the break between academic terms was a chance to mix together socially. Pictured are Mr Brian O'Shea, Mrs Judy Henry, Miss Angela Disanto and Mr Roger Motyka at a barbecue at the Sports Pavilion.](image-url)
Computer research could reduce errors

A DEPARTMENT of Computer Science research project could lead to ways of reducing computer error.

Mr Peter Brössler, Visiting Research Fellow in the Department, said while computers were an accepted part of the working scene in most countries and many offices these days had one, it was a worrying fact that little had been done to make them more reliable. For example, keyboard operators were leaving themselves exposed to loss of work because of computer "crashes".

The project involves Professor Les Keedy, Foundation Professor of Computer Science, and Mr Brössler working together for ten months. It is being backed by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), which provided Mr Brössler with a scholarship.

Professor Keedy had a Chair at the Technical University of Darmstadt in Hessen, West Germany, before moving to Newcastle. Mr Brössler was one of his students at Darmstadt.

Mr Brössler said Professor Keedy's team of researchers had designed and built an outstanding new computer, the MONADS-PC, which comprised some "very interesting architecture". The computer could be developed to investigate several fields of computer science, such as improving the reliability of computer systems.

"Better techniques for reducing computer error are urgently required, for example, to prevent keyboard operators having to lose work because of misuse, or failure to "back up." "

"Further, most power supply systems are now computer-controlled. 'If power supply is interrupted, industry can suffer disastrously. So, we are looking at developing new techniques for improving the reliability of the power supply control systems.'

Mr Brössler said the current answer to keyboard operators losing work and wasting time was to copy each file every two pages or so and the whole file after the job had been completed.

However, it should not be necessary for a keyboard operator to have to think about doing this; a mechanism to prevent work from being lost should be evolved and built into the computers.

The truth was, Mr Brössler said, that it would never be possible to improve reliability to a stage where computers were 100 per cent "safe." "All we can do is work on all possible ways of reducing probability of error."

He said this was why he believed computers should never be relied upon absolutely to control operations at nuclear power stations and manage the US's SDI (Strategic Defence Initiative) system.

Peter will be joined shortly by his girlfriend, Uta. They intend to take time to enjoy the Australian outdoors together and visit, among other places, the Barrier Reef and the Northern Territory.

This year's Schools Visit Day on May 21 attracted approximately 3,000 Year 12 school students.

Originating from high schools in Newcastle, centres in the Hunter Region, the North Shore of Sydney, the North Coast as far as Kempsey, the North West to Narrabri and interposed areas, the students were introduced to activities on the campus and were informed about courses by means of a programme of lectures, films and demonstrations.

Our photograph shows Dr Roger Neill and Mrs Anne Quayle using a "wired" Teddy Bear to demonstrate electrophysiological techniques to a group of Raymond Terrace High School students in the Department of Psychology.

3,000 visitors
Senator Gareth Evans, Minister for Resources and Energy (second from left), launched the book series on resource development and environmental planning in the Hunter Region. He is with authors of some volumes, Dr Diana Day, Dr Rod Simpson, Mr Paul Parker and Dr John Formby.

RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT GAINS NOT SHARED

The nation and the Hunter Region's population of half-a-million people have much to gain from regional resources development. However, due regard must be given to balance the distribution of costs and benefits so as to maximise benefits and employment opportunities, sustain social well-being and conserve and enhance the environmental qualities of air, water and land.

These are the findings of a major interdisciplinary study recently completed by the Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies at the Australian National University.

The study, commenced in 1981, examines the effects of industrial development on the biophysical, economic, social and organisational environment of the Hunter Valley.

The study, which forms eight books, is the first major study undertaken in Australia of regional industrialisation and its environmental effects and how government dealt with the problems.

In the Hunter Region, accelerated industrial growth through coal mining and power generation expansion has posed numerous pressures on regional populations, the physical environment and local and state governments faced with managing a resource boom and its consequences.

Policy recommendations made in the study include:

- a stronger voice for the region in decisions affecting it.
- better co-ordination of activities of government agencies.
- a different style of regional planning.
- improved government policies on provision and use of infrastructure.
- identification of the wider range of water requirements and usage conflicts in the region.
- protection of environmental water flows for recreation, wetlands, ecosystems maintenance and water quality preservation.
- closer identification of point and non-point sources of water quality deterioration.
- planning for new land uses over mined areas.
- improved meteorological monitoring networks.
- provision of incentives for air polluters to reduce emission loads.

The project volumes will be of interest to public sector policy makers at Commonwealth, state and local government levels, statutory bodies, industry, tertiary educators, farmers, unions, welfare organisations, environmental groups and the general public.

The CRES Hunter region study has made a major contribution in evaluating the numerous environmental effects of rapid and cumulative industrialisation and further providing a suite of policy options for ongoing regional environmental management.

The volumes vary in size and sell for prices ranging from $6.95 to $19.95. They can be ordered from the CRES in Canberra or through booksellers.
Record number enrol for University

A record number of 5,766 students are enrolled at the University of Newcastle — 348 more than in 1986.

A summary of the University's enrolment statistics as at April 30 showed that the trend towards full-time undergraduate enrolment, which paused last year, had continued.

Full-time enrolments for recent years were: 1984, 61 per cent; 1985, 63 per cent; 1986, 62 per cent and this year 66 per cent.

This continuing pattern is largely due to a marked increase in the number of new full-time undergraduates — 1,311 of 1,646 (80 per cent), compared with 1,036 of 1,411 (73 per cent) last year.

Male students this year number 3,507 (61 per cent) and female 2,259 (39 per cent), a marginal decrease from the male:female ratio of 1986 (62 per cent:38 per cent).

The greater number of students who came from overseas, 657 compared with 700 in 1986, are from Malaysia (373), Singapore (84), Indonesia (44), Hong Kong (35), China (22), Fiji (19), India (16) and Thailand (13).

VISITOR REPORTS

The Governor, Sir James Rowland, has exercised his jurisdiction as the University's Visitor, and declared that the Doctoral Degree Committee of the Faculty of Arts failed to comply with a regulation of the University.

The Visitor declared that the Committee failed to discharge its responsibility under the regulation by not considering a 1984 annual report on a PhD student's progress produced by his supervisor.

Further the Governor ordered that the University and the Doctoral Degree Committee take no steps to have the students thesis examined until or unless the supervisor's report is considered by the Committee in accordance with a provision of the Doctoral Degree regulations.

Associate Professor D.N. Parkes, of the Department of Geography, petitioned the Visitor in March, 1986, alleging that the University had failed to act on matters raised by him in respect of the conduct and candidature of a research student.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrolments</th>
<th>1986</th>
<th>1987</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Masters</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coursework Masters</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate Diplomas</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelors —</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honours</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>4427</td>
<td>4765*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td>5418</td>
<td>5766*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It will be noted that the increase in total enrolments compared with 1986 (348) and the increase in Bachelors — Pass (338) reflect the increase in new undergraduates (341).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Undergraduates</th>
<th>Full-time</th>
<th>Part-time</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>2628</td>
<td>1395</td>
<td>4023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(65%)</td>
<td>(35%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>2979</td>
<td>1426</td>
<td>4405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(68%)</td>
<td>(32%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>2967</td>
<td>1547</td>
<td>4514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(66%)</td>
<td>(34%)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>3421</td>
<td>1449</td>
<td>4870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(70%)</td>
<td>(30%)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Undergraduates</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>1034</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>1385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(75%)</td>
<td>(25%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>1167</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>1538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(76%)</td>
<td>(24%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>970</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>1305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(74%)</td>
<td>(26%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>1311</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>1646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(80%)</td>
<td>(20%)</td>
<td></td>
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Christian Video Club

Tired of the same old videos and the same old faces?

Then come and join a friendly group of people from various Christian denominations, who, each week, enjoy "sitting in the audience" of internationally acclaimed speakers.

Where: Geography Lecture Theatre (V10).
When: 12.30 to 1.15 pm, Thursdays.
Who: Anyone.
Second Term programme starts with two "specials" you can’t pass up.
June 4: Why Pray (part 1) with Yongi Cho.
June 11: Why Pray (part 2).
June 18: Why Pray (part 3).
To receive details of coming videos, please contact John Foster at Extension 475.
CONTRIBUTION
BY BHP TO
AID HEART
EDUCATION
WORK

HEART RESEARCH at the
University has received a major
boost with the BHP's donation of
$100,000 to the BHP-MONICA
heart health education project.

The BHP will contribute
$50,000 a year for two years to the
project.

The Chairman of BHP, Sir
James Balderstone, presented a
cheque for $50,000 to Professor
Annette Dobson, Professor of
Biostatistics, at a Lord Mayoral
reception to the Board in the City Hall on May 20.

Sir James said the
BHP-MONICA heart health
education project was investigating
heart disease in the Hunter Region
as part of a World Health
Organisation global programme.

'We know that the Hunter
Region has one of the highest rates
of heart disease in Australia and we
at BHP think it important to find out
why and to do something about it'.

Professor Dobson explained
that the MONICA Project had two
main components:

'First, it monitors all heart
attacks or suspected heart attacks,
including sudden deaths, among all
residents of the Lower Hunter Region
under seventy years.

'The purpose is to study the
characteristics of people who have
heart attacks,' she said. 'As well as
how quickly they get to hospital,
the treatment they receive and
whether they survive. This part of
the project involves nurses regularly
visiting hospitals and includes
routine surveillance of death
registrations.'

'Secondly, the project involves
periodic studies of heart disease risk
factor levels in the general
community. The first such study in
the Hunter Region was conducted in
1983 in conjunction with similar
capital city studies carried out by
the National Heart Foundation.'

Professor Dobson said that in
addition MONICA had established
various prevention projects aimed at
helping people at particular risk of
heart disease.

'BHP support is specific to the
employment of nurses and to heart
disease prevention,' she said.

Having completed initial
studies into the incidence of heart
disease in the Region, the project
organisers were extending activities
into a community education project.

'This phase of the project will
involve three nursing sisters engaged
full-time in a public education
programme aimed at reducing the
incidence of heart disease in the
Hunter Region.

The total cost of the project was
estimated at $325,000 over five
years.

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Uphill all
the Way?
Convict and
Colonial
Women

Dr Kay Daniels, historian and
Chairperson of the Committee to
Review Australian Studies in
Tertiary Education, will give a
public lecture in lecture theatre
K202 in the Medical Sciences
Building at 8 pm on Tuesday, June 9.

All are welcome to attend.

Radio dramas
to be ready for
production soon

The Radio Company of the
University now has three radio
drama productions underway.

The May copy of The NUR
Theatre, the newsletter of the Radio
Company, says recording of the
dialogue and studio sound effects for
the plays will be finalised shortly.

The 1987 season of plays will be
broadcast on 2NUR-FM in September
and October.

The poetically-titled Dear
St. Joseph and Dear St. Anne, May
Daddy a Tramme as Quick as You
Can, Lance Close's production of John
O'Donoghue's script, will be a world
premiere for NUR.

Alex Buzo's comedy/drama
Coralie Lansdowne Says No, will
be the second of the Radio Company's
Australian plays.

The Aspern Papers by Henry
James has been adapted and
dramatised for NUR by Peter Trist
and will be directed by Jane Goodall.

Merilyn Hey will direct
another premiere production for
NUR Theatre with her production of
Gordon Dryland's A Life of the
Mind.

Permission has been receiv
from the London agents of Shirley
Gee for NUR to produce her award
winning play Never In My Lifetime,
a compassionate drama which
examines the tragic Northern
Ireland situation.

Do you make use
of family day
care?

If so, would you be interested in
joining a parents' support group?

Come to our first meeting on
Wednesday, June 3, in the Staff
Conference Room in Education,
Room W347, 1-2 pm.

For more information please
contact Lee at Extension 503.
Enjoyable trip to Snowy Region

The Geography Department held a field excursion to the Snowy Mountains from May 10 to 13. Eleven Year III students and a Geography graduate were accompanied by the Head of the Department, glacial geomorphologist, Professor E. Colhoun, and a Lecturer in Climatology, Dr G. McIntyre.

Due to mechanical problems with one of the transporting vehicles, the group did not reach its proposed destination, Perisher Valley, within the time designated by the Department. Mrs Norma and Dr Bob Galloway kindly provided overnight accommodation for the whole group at their Canberra residence.

Dr Galloway, from the CSIRO and a member of the Advisory Board of the Kosciusko National Park, joined the excursion and stayed with the group for two days. His field study, Dr Galloway pointed out, and provided commentary on, the topographical features and related them to the effects of ice-ages at the local, regional and global scales. He gave a seminar, in which he presented the variously conflicting traces of evidence that have led to controversial argument over the extent and timing of former glaciations in the area.

Exploratory investigations of the area allowed many of the presumed glacial features to be examined first-hand by the participating students. Problems of evidence, caused by the superimposition of the effects of successive ice-ages and weathering processes operating under the present conditions, incited constructive discussion about the past environments of the Kosciusko region. Difficulties of field research, which were not so easily ascertained by simply reading the relevant journal articles, were able to be more fully appreciated by the students once they were directly experienced.

Aspects of the present climate were recorded at various elevations on the slopes of Perisher Valley over a twenty-four hour period. It remains to be seen whether the measurements taken by the students fit the model of valley air drainage which had been proposed by Defant.

On the last day of the excursion, Dr Gurdip Singh, from the Research School of Pacific Studies of the Australian National University, spoke to the students about the microfossil content in core samples taken from the sediments of Lake Groege. The presence of pollen from various plant taxa implies changing climatic regimes. When correlated with evidence of fluctuations in the lake's water level and knowledge of global paleomagnetic reversals, it provides a chronological framework within which the possibility of successive glaciations may be considered.

The field excursion proved to be an enjoyable learning experience for the students, and students and staff felt that it was a great success.

Helen Jackson, Geography III.

Absurd style shared by five plays

Five of the seven lunchtime theatre pieces to be presented in the Green Room of the Great Hall by the Drama Department fall into the quixotic and nebulous category of Theatre of the Absurd.

If you missed the first two offerings, Pinter's A Slight Ache and Oakley's Witzenhausen, Where Are You, then be sure to catch the next two appearing at the end of May and June.

Monday, May 25, see the preview of Eugene Ionesco's The Chairs — a zany metaphysical farce demonstrating a preoccupation with "a universe encumbered with matter, empty of pretence".

Julie Hare directs, with actors Rebecca Branden, Kerrie Guy and Patrick Perlstone.

Tennessee Williams' The Latter Days of a Celebrated Soubrette is the famous playwright's only absurdist comedy.

Set on an imaginary island key off Florida, the action concerns the inmates of a hostel called 'The Big Dormitory'. Desperate characters include a former cabaret star fallen on very hard times, the gossip columnist, a blond blue-eyed Hollywood Indian, the hard-hearted owner, and vengeful aggressive birds called cocalooneys.

Peter Trist directs this Australian premiere season of Williams' play, with Bronwyn Hendry, Belinda Delaney, Helen Saltos, Mark Newland and Mark Crowley in the cast. The season will run from Monday, June 22, to Friday, June 26, in the Green Room.
INFORMATION OFFICERS EXCHANGE EXPERIENCES

Staff responsible for information services in nine Australian universities met on May 19 at this University.

As well as exchanging experiences about the special problems they share, the delegates heard addresses by Mr Richard Eckersley, Director of Information Services for the CSIRO, and Dr Hugh Preston, Assistant Secretary, Grants and Fellowships, for the Department of Science.

The agenda for the meeting was geared towards providing the government, the public and the media with a greater awareness of science, technology, and research and development at universities and finding ways of defending research at universities from cuts in funding.

Pictured are the Information Officers: standing Mr T. Murray (Queensland University), Ms I. Buschtedt (Macquarie), Mr G. Pickford (Wollongong), Mr I. Hawke (Griffith), Mr N. Petersen (Sydney); seated: Mr F. Harvey (Macquarie), Ms M. Barnett (Australian National), Mr J. Armstrong (Newcastle), Ms S. Coleby (Sydney), Ms S. Bearman (New England), Ms M. Baker (Wollongong) and Mr B. Goldie (New South Wales).

HVTC involvement

PROFESSOR VICTOR EMELJANOW, Professor of Drama, is Director of the Hunter Valley Theatre Company’s next dramatic production at the Playhouse — Master Class, by David Pownall. The play’s season will be nightly from June 3 to 27.

The setting of the play is an anteroom in the Kremlin during the winter of 1948. The illusion of 1944 — that the Soviet regime would become more liberal and life freer, after the war — soon evaporated.

Stalin is now formulating his policy for the arts. He has summoned Shostakovich and Prokofiev, the leading Russian composers of the day, in order that he can discuss, with the aid of his cultural minister, Zhdanov, their place as artists in Soviet society. Both composers, although giants in the international music world, are accused of failing to glorify the great Russian victory.

Pictured at rehearsals are: Mervyn Drake (Zhdanov), David Berthold (Shostakovich), Mark Butler (Prokofiev) and Gary Files (Stalin).

Arrivals & Departures

Resignations

Mr Barry J. Alder, Senior Laboratory Craftsman, Department of Mechanical Engineering.

Mr James H. Johnston, General Library Assistant, Auchmuty Library.

Mr Albert Nymeyer, Computer Programmer, Department of Computer Science.

Appointments

Dr Lorna K.S. Chan, Lecturer, Department of Education.

Mr Trevor E. Cook, Lecturer, Department of Education.

Ms Karen E. Mate, Teaching Assistant, Department of Biological Sciences.

Mrs Elaine E. Meir, Word Processor Operator, Property Division.

Mrs Helen M. Putnis, Office Assistant/Typist, Property Division.

Ms Marie T. Reid, Office Assistant/Typist, Department of Chemistry.

Miss Susan J. Rowley, Office Assistant/Typist, Faculty of Medicine.

Ms Christine L. Wordsworth, Administrative Assistant, Secretary’s Division.
Universities must defend their interests in the Public Arena

DR HUGH PRESTON, a recent visitor from the Commonwealth Department of Science, in a talk to Information Officers from New South Wales universities, asserted that there was evidence of a direct link between cuts in the ARGs grants in the recent minibudget and the failure of universities to respond vigorously to Senator Michael Baume's attack via the coalition Waste Watch Committee.

The attack on allegedly wasteful expenditure on research was leaked exclusively to John Laws in March. Research workers and universities had no advance warning of the criticism. It was several days before details of the Waste Watch report were obtained and weeks before any public response was made. The form in which the report was made and the way in which it was leaked was apparently intended to prevent any quick response.

In addition, the attack was highly selective, picking out some fifty projects, almost exclusively in the humanities. Humanities projects at present receive only eight per cent of the funding provided by the ARGs. The implication of the Waste Watch report is that only research with potential economic application should be supported in the present economic climate.

It is possible that the Waste Watch Committee did no more than survey a list of titles, making totally uninformed judgments on the merits of the individual projects listed.

That they have been able to score political points so cheaply is a measure of the intellectual climate in Australia today. Media people themselves are commonly sceptical of the activities carried out in universities and find a ready audience for their criticisms among a section of the public. These attitudes will only be altered by a serious long-term commitment by academic staff and by university authorities to increasing public understanding and appreciation of their work.

In the recent Waste Watch case, senior Canberra politicians are reported as expressing disgust as the universities failure to defend themselves.

Next time they are looking at research budgets, they are likely to shave a bit more off, or perhaps they will conduct a review of the funding of all "non-productive" research.

Annual coal competition for high schools

The Collieries Division of the BHP Steel International Group, in association with the Geology Department of the University, has announced an inaugural Annual Schools Competition based on coal. Ansett will jointly sponsor this project.

The competition, for high school students in Years 7 to 10 and Years 11 to 12, will focus on different aspects of coal as one of Australia's most important resources. It will be open to students in the Lower Hunter, Lake Macquarie, Illawarra and Appin-Campbelltown areas.

Announcing the competition, General Manager of the BHP Collieries Division, Mr Rob Chenery, said his division was pleased to have the opportunity to participate in the project.

'As a major producer of coal in NSW, the Collieries Division is naturally enthusiastic about promoting knowledge of our industry,' he said. 'I see this as an excellent means of encouraging an active and healthy interest in coal and its impact throughout our community.'

Professor Ian Plimer, Head of the Department of Geology, developed the concept of the competition to emphasise the importance of resource industries in Australia.

The original aim was simply to promote an awareness of this industry which ultimately affects every single person,' he said. 'People are quite prepared to knock mining, often in error, through ignorance of its vast implications. Coal and energy are two basics that are firmly interwoven in our country and the more students and future leaders know about them, the better.'

The competition will involve students from the different year groups preparing an essay, poster presentation, or model on one of five subjects.

Winners of the two groups in each area, together with his or her science teacher, will visit an underground coal mine, a coal washery, a steel plant and a power station in either the Wollongong or Newcastle areas.

The groups will then fly to Central Queensland, courtesy of Ansett, to inspect a giant open cut coal mine and a coal loader.

Further information and entry forms will be made available to the fifty schools throughout the areas involved.

Entries will close on July 31. Judging by a panel of University and industry experts will take place in August and the winners will be announced in early September.

To-day's Youth — SM's view

The second term meeting of the Hunter Group, Australian College of Education, will be held in the Staff House on Wednesday, June 17.

The speaker will be Mr Warren Cook, local Children's Court Magistrate. His topic is entitled The Youth of Today — a Magistrate's Perspective.

Members of the University who would like to attend as guests should contact Dr A. Barcan of the Department of Education (by internal mail, or by telephoning Extensions 282 or 542).

The meeting, in the upstairs dining room of the Staff House is 6 for 6.30 pm. The speaker will address the meeting from 6.30 to 7.30 pm. A smorgasbord dinner (7.30 to 8.45 pm) is priced at $12 per person. Prior intention to attend should be given.
Diary of Events

Thursday, May 28, Noon
Movie: Vertigo (Alfred Hitchcock classic recently re-released) in the Common Room. Donation 50 cents.

Friday, May 29, 1 pm
Film Buffs' Club presents The Body Snatcher (the 1945 classic horror film starring Boris Karloff and Bela Lugosi) in the Common Room. Admission free.

Monday, June 1, 1 pm

Tuesday, June 2, 1 pm
Lunchtime concert in the Courtyard featuring The Skirts (Sydney band). Admission free.

Thursday, June 4, Noon
Movie: Cross Roads in the Common Room. Donation 50 cents.

5.30 to 6.30 pm
Taxation Benefits from Research and Development. Discussion of the possibilities now available to people who might wish to take advantage of the 150 per cent tax deduction for research and development expenditure. Venue: Staff House, University.

Friday, June 5, 1 pm
Film Buffs' Club presents The Day the Earth Stood Still (science fiction classic, 1951) in the Common Room. Admission free.

Tuesday, June 9, 12:50 pm
Lunchtime concert in the Courtyard featuring The Richardson Brothers. Admission free.

Advertisements

For Sale
The following items are offered for sale at Extension 256 or 51 6932: two ladies 10-speed bikes (almost like new), $140 or near offer. 1973 Holden Kingswood in good condition (Registered until April, 1988), $350. Telephone Katrina at Extension 673.

Pretty white taffeta wedding dress featuring hooped petticoat with pearl and fluted long veil, $250. Queen size pine waterbed, $190. AWA portable colour television set (twelve months), $350. Telephone Katrina at Extension 673.

House within walking distance of the University! (Birmingham Gardens). This house features: three bedrooms with large rumpus room (ideal for people associated with the University or has great potential as an investment in the rental market), $57,000. Telephone Bruce Penfold at Extension 318.

Wallsend Hardware and Disposal Centre (84 Nelson Street, Wallsend) gives student discounts on blankets, warm overcoats, parkas, wet weather gear, boots, balaclava and ex-army gear.

Yamaha A55N organ (hardly used), $1,280. Sony FH-115R hi-fi with wireless remote control (as new), $890. Telephone Paul at Extension 264 or 51 4921 after hours.

Accommodation Available
Three-bedroom furnished house in Wallsend to sublet for family during June 15 to August 22, 1987. Telephone Bjorn Wittenmark, Extension 256 or 51 6932.

Study Holidays at British Universities — 1987
Join a week long holiday at a British University. Forty-seven courses in the themes Countryside, Heritage, Arts and Literature, are offered over a period of ten weeks between July 4 and September 12, and are available at nine British universities.

The price of £169 includes:
- full board accommodation for seven days;
- all tuition fees;
- course related excursions;
- social events.

Facilities are excellent. Comfortable single bedrooms are provided, although some twin rooms are available to those who wish to share. A friend or spouse who wishes to attend without taking a course is very welcome at a special price of £138 (including everything except tuition and course-related excursions).

7-10 pm
Entertainment in the Bar featuring Flat Chat (local band). Admission free.

8-10 pm
Entertainment in the Bar featuring Not Drowning, Waving (superb Melbourne band on their national tour). Admission free.

Thursday, June 11, Noon
Movie: Short Circuit in the Common Room. Donation 50 cents.

Friday, June 12, 1 pm
Film Buffs' Club presents Homesdale (Peter Weir's first film, 1971) and Broken Blossoms (Lillian Gish, 1919).

8 pm
Edwards Hall Informal — Return to Transylvania Party, featuring The Screaming Tribesmen. Tickets are available at the Westpac Agency in the Union.

For further details, including a list of courses available, contact Kathleen Dacey, Accommodation Office, Extension 520.

Overseas Accommodation
Fully-furnished Montreal professor's house (available for rent in 1988, due to sabbatical year January to December). Location: "South Shore" (Sante-Julie), forty minutes drive from all four major universities in Montreal. Setting: wooded lot and street at the foot of Mount Bru.

Size: four bedrooms, living and family rooms, large play room in basement, fireplace, car port, etc. Rental: $600 per month (Canadian).

Enquiries: Professor Peter Foggin, 231 Bellevue, Sainte-Julie, Que. Canada. JOL 2SO.

Accommodation Wanted
Visiting lecturer, with wife and two small children is seeking furnished two to three bedroom accommodation for three months (September to November, 1987). If you are able to assist, please contact Kathleen Dacey, Accommodation Office, Extension 520.