IMPORTANT VISITORS FOR A.I.E. CONFERENCE

In the week February 5 to 9 next year the University of Newcastle is to be the venue for the first national conference of the Australian Institute of Energy. About 400 AIE members and distinguished guests will attend. Participants in the conference are virtually the Who's Who of energy usage and research in Australia at the present time.

In addition to academic and industrial members of the Australian Institute of Energy, several senior government, C.S.I.R.O. and embassy representatives will attend. The conference will allow participants to focus their attention on a broad range of topics connected with energy sources and Australia's needs. They will discuss these main areas:

1. New developments, sources of energy, harnessing energy.
2. Utilisation of energy, consequences of energy use and education in energy.
3. Highlights of the A.I.E.'s first national conference will be appearances by leading political figures.
4. The Institute will announce shortly the name of the dignitary of high rank who will open the conference on February 5.
5. The guest speaker at the luncheon to follow the opening ceremony will be the Lord Mayor of Newcastle (Ald. J. Cummings).
6. The Leader of the Federal opposition (Mr. Hayden) will be guest speaker at a luncheon on February 6.
7. At the luncheon on February 7, the guest speaker will be the Premier of N.S.W. (The Honourable Mr. N. Wran).
8. The first A.I.E. Lecture will be delivered by the Minister for National Development (Mr. Newman) in the Great Hall.

Looking back on the year that is nearly over, it is clear that 1978 has been a time of mixed fortunes for the University. For the first time since 1967, and despite the first intake of undergraduate medical students, the student population dropped below that of the previous year. The long term implications of this trend in student enrolments have yet to be fully assessed and understood, but it is clear that some of our academic objectives will be delayed in their achievement and that our building programmes have been set back several years.

At the same time it is important to recognise that in this we are not unique - nor, I believe, should we allow these facts to depress us unduly. There have been several new initiatives undertaken (3NUR-FM being just one example), the contributions in research and scholarship of our staff and students have flourished, and there is much evidence of a real determination to overcome the present budgetary restrictions. Learning to live in a "steady state" is a new experience for us in Newcastle and a painful exercise, but the warm cooperation of Heads of Departments and all staff has made it far less traumatic than it might otherwise have been.

For this, I thank everyone and seek to enlist your continued support in 1979 to work together towards our primary objectives. All suggestions and ideas on how to optimize our activities within the current restraints will be most welcome. I hope 1978 has been personally rewarding for you and that 1979 will be an even better year. On behalf of the University may I thank everyone for the dedicated work you have accomplished and wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

D.W. GEORGE.
on February 7. At the conference dinner on the same evening the speaker will be the Chairman of the Law Reform Commission of Australia and the Director of the University (Mr. Justice M. Kirby).

Mr. J.B. Kirkwood, Chairman of the National Energy Research Development and Demonstration Council, will give an address on February 8.

On the final day, February 9, the guest speaker will be the Chairman of the National Pipeline Authority and Chairman of the A.B.C. (Mr. J.D. Norgard).

Distinguished academics who will address the conference include Professor Emeritus S.W. Carey (University of Tasmania), who will speak on the best way of harnessing energy. Professor R.E. Luxton (University of Adelaide), who will advise participants about the utilization of energy resources in Australia and Professor Stuart Harris (ANU), who will speak on Australia's policies concerning the export of energy resources. Leaders from mining and industrial circles who will speak include Mr. K. Richards (Esso Australia), Mr. B. McKensey (Coal and Allied) and Mr. R. Charlton (Shell Australia).

Professor H. Worner (CSIRO) will speak on the best way of harnessing energy. Information on how motorists can achieve savings in fuel costs will be reported by Mr. W.S. Gaffrey (NRMA) and Professor A.E. Ringwood (ANU) will explore the problem of disposing of nuclear wastes.

The liquor trading activities showed an improvement of about $4,000 on the previous year's transactions. This is partly due to the improved facilities in the bar area and the service provided by the Bar Supervisor.

On behalf of members, the Committee wished to record appreciation and thanks to the Club's contract caterer, Mrs. L. Tredgold, and her band of lady helpers, and to the Club's Bar Supervisor, Mr. Bill Kelly, for a job well done under difficult circumstances.

During the last year, the report said, the committee had been primarily concerned with determining the future role of the Staff Club and the subsequent need to design adequate kitchen, bar and dining facilities.

As a result of many deliberations, substantial alterations would be made during the 1978/79 long vacation to Staff House premises. These alterations would involve the Club in a substantial financial commitment, the extent of which is unknown at this time.

The Committee had raised membership fees to $24.60 for the financial year 1979/80 and to $29.90 for the financial year 1980/81. This increase was required, the report said, so that the Club may take a loan to help contribute to the extensions.

Officers elected to the Committee of Management of the Staff House included: President, Professor Baetatchet, Vice-President, Mr. E.J. Burke, Honorary Secretary, Dr. R.W. Gibberd, Honorary Treasurer, Mr. Day, Committee, Mr. J.M. Falconer, Mr. R. Mackie, Dr. R.L.B. Neame and Miss M.E. Guilford.

The Great Hall of the University, in which special sessions of the Australian Institute of Fuel's Conference will be held.

The conference will also offer more than 30 poster papers by researchers in the energy field.

The Education in Energy forum on February 9 will be chaired by the Vice-Chancellor and Chairman of the Australian Atomic Energy Commission (Professor D.W. George).

It will consider the kind of University graduate needed today by energy-oriented industries and involve a debate between academics and industrialists.

In addition, there will be workshop meetings and an exhibition of machines, models and photographs, under the heading "The Energy Show." Several members of the University staff are assisting the organisers of the A.I.F. Conference. The conference organising committee consists of:

Chairman and Organising Secretary, Dr. K. Moelle, Advertising Officer, Mr. G. Smith (BHP Central Research Laboratory). Treasurer, Mr. J. Kobak (CRL), Travel displays from industry, Mr. K. Brown (Carbon Consulting International), Dinners and special functions, Associate Professor A.K. Johnston, Liaison with A.I.E. National Council, Mr. T. Campbell (CRL), Protocol and VIP speakers, Mr. W. Shannon (BHP Steel Works), Displays and accommodations, Dr. I. Wall, Publications and registration, Mr. G. White (CRL) and Publications and printing, Mr. P. White (CRL).
YULETIDE AND VACATION ARRANGEMENTS

This is the final edition of University News for 1978.

To those readers who are still with us: note the following holiday arrangements on the campus over the long vacation.

University News

The first edition of the New Year, 1979, is scheduled to appear on February 22.

The Auchmuty Library

During the long vacation the Library opens from 8.30 am, till 5 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and from 8.30 am to 7 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It is closed at weekend.

The Staff House

Because alterations and additions will be carried out at the Staff House during the long vacation, the normal catering services will not be available from Monday, December 18, until an indefinite date in March, 1979. Bar facilities will be available until December 22 and will not be available again until the building is reopened.

The Union

During the long vacation the building will be open from 9 am to 6.30 pm on weekdays. The shops will be open from 9 am to 5.30 pm and the bank agency from 9 am to 4 pm. Stan's Bar will supply drinks noon to 2 pm and from 4 to 6 pm.

The Cafetaria will be open from 10 am to 5.30 pm, with fast food services available from noon to 2 pm and from 4.30 pm to 5.30 pm.

The Credit Union

Apart from the period from Christmas to New Year, the Credit Union will stay open during the long vacation.

The Credit Union Office in the Temporary Buildings will be closed from Thursday, December 21 to Tuesday, January 2. On January 2 and 4 the office will only open from noon to 1 pm. Normal business will recommence on January 9.

Squash Pavilion, Auchmuty Sports Centre

The pavilion will be closed from December 23 at 6 pm until January 2 at 9 am. The Sports Centre will be closed from December 22 until January 8.

The annual Christmas to New Year holidays, during which the University will close, will be from Friday, December 22 to Tuesday January 2.

ADDITION TO ART COLLECTION

The ceramic sculpture by Krysten Walker, of Belmont, which the University has purchased and which will be housed in the Auchmuty Library. Photo: Gary Jones/Prank Zabran.

COMBINATORIAL MATHS BODY

A Combinatorial Mathematics Society of Australasia has been formed. The society will promote understanding of combinatorial mathematics and disseminate information about combinatorics and combinatorists, and conduct an annual conference.

The annual subscription is $4. The rate for students is $2. All membership subscriptions or enquires should be sent to: Professor W.D. Wallis, Department of Mathematics, University of Newcastle, New South Wales, 2308, Australia.
NEW PROFESSOR

Professor Ronald Laura, who has taken up his appointment to the Chair of Education.

SPORING NEWS

The early establishment of an Arts and Crafts Centre on campus or in the near vicinity is presently being considered. Painting, pottery, sculpting and weaving classes, supervised by qualified instructors, are included in the suggested programme. Interested students and staff should contact the Activities Organiser, Mr. Jock Armstrong, on Ext. 469.

An Inter-Faculty Cricket Tournament for students and staff will be organised early in First Term, 1979. It is considered that the most suitable arrangement for the Tournament will be along the existing lines of limited overs and afternoon sessions. Interested persons should contact Mr. Jock Armstrong.

Junior cricket coaching classes, conducted by Mr. Jack Walsh, were terminated on December 11.

Only one match between the Administrations of this University and the University of N.S.W. will be played this year. The visit of N.S.W., scheduled for a Sunday last month, was postponed due to the petrol strike in Sydney. The teams will now play at No. 1 Oval on March 18, 1979.

The N.S.W. Cricket Association will conduct an Under 17 Coaching Clinic at No. 2 Oval on December 18 and 19.

The Cricket Club of India's touring team will play a University XI at No. 1 Oval on January 11.

TENDER FOR HOLDEN

The University has the following used motor vehicle for disposal by tender:


Arrangements can be made to inspect the vehicle by telephoning Mr. H. Bradford on 685344 (after hours 681214). Tenders should be forwarded to the Purchasing Section, University of Newcastle, N.S.W. 2308, in a sealed envelope marked "Tender for Vehicle". The closing date is 11.30 a.m. 26th December, 1978. The University reserves the right to reject all tenders.

L.J. CALDWELL, Assistant Bursar.

TOUR WITH CRICKET SIDE

Mr. John Hay, of the Amenities Office, will tour New Zealand with the Newcastle District Cricket Association's Under 23 team in January. Mr. Hay has been appointed Assistant Manager of the team.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL
RESEARCH GRANTS

Dr. J.B. Myers, a postgraduate student in the Faculty of Medicine, has been awarded a grant of $10,745 by the National Health and Medical Research Council, in connection with projects called Arteriolar Control of Glomerular Filtration and Sodium, Renal Function and Hypertension.

Professor C.A. Tisdell, Head of the Department of Economics, is working on the economic aspects of the management of Australian Wildlife, concentrating on kangaroos and extending research on feral pigs. He has been awarded $5300 by the Reserve Bank of Australia in connection with the work. The Reserve Bank has made a grant of $1600 to Professor Tisdell to assist him with the publication of the proceedings of the Conference on The Economics of Structural Change and Adjustment held at the University on November 16 and 17.

The Reserve Bank has also made grants to the following members of staff attached to the Department of Economics:

- Dr. L. Atislabie, $1405 for a study of the sectoral impacts of selected policies affecting industry.
- Dr. R.R. Piggott, $1490 for a study of changes in the price responsiveness of aggregate Australian output overtime, and
- Dr. J.A. Doeleman, $330 for a study of the relationship, if any, between inflation in Australia in the seventies and the development of the Eurocurrency markets.

The Department of Education at the University has attracted $12,142 in awards from the Commonwealth Department of Education to support research and development in Education. Professor J.B. Biggs has been awarded $6000 in connection with the development of secondary and tertiary versions of a study process questionnaire.

The Department of Education, together with the Reserve Bank of Australia in connection with the work. The Reserve Bank has made a grant of $1600 to Professor Tisdell to assist him with the publication of the proceedings of the Conference on The Economics of Structural Change and Adjustment held at the University on November 16 and 17.

The Reserve Bank has also made grants to the following members of staff attached to the Department of Economics:

- Dr. L. Atislabie, $1405 for a study of the sectoral impacts of selected policies affecting industry.
- Dr. R.R. Piggott, $1490 for a study of changes in the price responsiveness of aggregate Australian output overtime, and
- Dr. J.A. Doeleman, $330 for a study of the relationship, if any, between inflation in Australia in the seventies and the development of the Eurocurrency markets.

The Department of Education at the University has attracted $12,142 in awards from the Commonwealth Department of Education to support research and development in Education. Professor J.B. Biggs has been awarded $6000 in connection with the development of secondary and tertiary versions of a study process questionnaire.

Dr. J. Kirby has received $2756 to study the availability of alternative strategies in reasoning tasks. Mr. P.J. Moore has been awarded $2424 in connection with a project titled Children's Reading Strategies: A Developmental Perspective. Dr. E.J. Braggott is the recipient of $960 to make a pilot study of parent involvement.

Professor S.L. Carney, of the Faculty of Medicine, has been awarded $11,700 in 1979 and $12,000 in 1980 from the Life Insurance Medical Research Fund for a project called Sodium, Renal Function and Hypertension.

WOOD CARVING AS AWARD

Pictured is a wood carving by John Morris, Newcastle Sculptor, which will be presented by Convocation to the 1980 winner of the Newton-John Award. Convocation proposes to make a presentation of the Newton-John Award, which will be awarded to a person selected on March 31, 1979. Named after the University's former Vice-Principal, the Newton-John Award recognises graduates of the University and Newcastle College who have made a substantial contribution by way of innovation or creativity in any field towards enhancing the quality of life in the community.

U.A.S.A. MAKES DECISION ON CONDITIONS

Newcastle Division of the University Academic Staff Association has decided to ask the University to approve an industrial agreement for academics. The decision was made by a narrow margin at a special meeting of the division on December 5.

One of the purposes behind the formation of the U.A.S.A. is to give academics the opportunity to take requests for changes in conditions of employment to the N.S.W. Industrial Commission.

A draft industrial agreement has been drawn up by the U.A.S.A. It makes no reference to salaries but contains 29 clauses, dealing with study leave, tenure, superannuation, long service leave and other matters.

The division also decided that following satisfactory negotiation the agreement be registered with the Industrial Commission.

EDWARDS HALL APPOINTMENTS

The Vice-Chancellor, on the recommendation of the Board of Trustees of Edwards Hall, has approved certain staff appointments at Edwards Hall for 1979.

Mr. Richard Dear and Mr. Chen Swee Eng have been appointed Deputy Wardens.

Miss Pamela Hazelwood, Mr. Jim Hung, Miss Carmel Mitchell and Mr. Terry O'Connor are to be Subwardens.
The following circular has been received from the N.S.W. State Superannuation Board.

"Circular No. 78/10 November 1st, 1978,

STATE SUPERANNUATION FUND

TAXATION OF COMMUTATION LUMP SUMS.

The State Superannuation Board has recently been advised by the New South Wales Deputy Commissioner of Taxation that it should now be assumed that 5% of a lump sum received on commutation of part pension payable from the Fund is subject to income taxation in terms of Section 26(d) of the Income Tax Assessment Act. This advice stems from a recent ruling of the Supreme Court of Queensland and subsequent advice from the Australian Taxation Office to the Board, that such lump sums were not tax free.

It is understood that taxation will be assessed, in accordance with this ruling, on 5% of a commutation lump sum received on or after 1st July, 1978, although confirmation of that date has not been given officially. Fund members who receive a lump sum from the Fund in commutation of part pension, should declare the amount when submitting their taxation returns for the year in which the lump sum is received. A taxation statement should accompany the taxation return setting out the type of pension commuted (e.g. normal retirement, breakdown retirement, widow’s), the date on which that pension became payable, the date on which the elections to commute part pension was made, and the date on which the lump sum was received.

The Deputy Commissioner has advised that it is open to a person who disagrees with the decision by the Taxation Office to submit with his/her tax return setting out the type of pension commuted (e.g. normal retirement, breakdown retirement, widow’s), the date on which that pension became payable, the date on which the elections to commute part pension was made, and the date on which the lump sum was received.

He has also advised that the taxation law places the onus on the taxpayer to prove that a lump sum received, on commutation of pension entitlement within an option period, was not received in consensative to retirement. The Board’s Advisory Service would be pleased to answer any enquiries Fund members may have as to the effect of the decision by the Taxation Office.

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT.

**BANK BRINGS $200,000 JOB ON CAMPUS TO FRUITION**

Extensions to the Commonwealth Bank on the campus, which were commenced last February, have been completed at a cost of almost $200,000.

Some delay was experienced due to heavy rains during the period.

Mr. Pat Matthews, Manager of the Commonwealth Bank’s Branch, said the end result was worth the inconvenience experienced during building operations. He took the opportunity to thank the Bank’s clients for their patience and understanding during construction.

A local builder carried out the work. Newcastle firms were employed on most sub-contracting work and fittings installation.

The size of the original floor area has been doubled. The new bank is fully carpeted and fully air conditioned.

Enhancements has added a counter 22 metres long to be provided - more than double the length of the original.

Six teller boxes are now available, compared to two in the former building.

NEW COLLECTION OF POEMS IN SERIES

V Hunter Valley Poets, another collection by local poets, is to be published by Nimrod Publications before Christmas.

The volume comprises 64 pages and is available for $2.50 at most local bookstores, including the University Cooperative Bookshop.

Norman Talbot edited V Hunter Valley Poets and previous volumes in the series being issued by Nimrod Publications - X1 Hunter Valley Poets, Plus VII, Hunter Valley Poets 1973 and IV Hunter Valley Poets.

There are also much larger storage facilities for the Banks’ records and stores. Completion of building works also brought about the introduction of “On-Line” computer equipment which links the branch direct to the Bank’s computer complex in Sydney. Liaison with the University’s Planning Division enabled the environment to be developed so that the enlarged bank is set in with the environment.

Noise from the air conditioning plant is a problem and steps have been taken to have the noise reduced.

Mr. Matthews stated that he was surprised because some people were still unaware of the bank’s extended hours.

The Savings Bank is open from Monday to Thursday from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm in Term and from 9.30 am to 3 pm outside Term, and on Friday from 9.30 am to 5 pm.

The Trading Bank opens from Monday to Thursday between 10 am and 3 pm and on Friday between 10 am and 5 pm.

V Hunter Valley Poets contains poems by:

Jean Talbot, Lecturer in Community Programmes, Tutor in English and postgraduate student of the University;

Christopher Pollinitz, Lecturer in English;

David McQuater, Year 11 Student at Lambton High School;

Jess Dyce, former member of Newcastle College of Advanced Education and postgraduate student of the University;

Tim McGee, Arts II student of the University.
RETIREE ME OF ERIC COX

Mr. Cox

C Laboratory craftsmen, Eric Cox, a well-known figure in the Electrical Engineering Workshop, will leave the University on December 18. Mr. Cox joined the University's staff in 1966 as an electrical fitter, having previously worked for 10 years at the B.H.P. Steel Works. In Electrical Engineering his immediate colleagues in the Workshop have been John Leis and John Gubbins and his supervisor, laboratory Manager, Ron Goodhew. On December 8 his friends and colleagues took the opportunity to wish him well at a barbecue in his honour on Scobie's Heath. The main items on his retirement agenda are fishing, building and caravaning. He says, although not necessarily in that order.

He has a stepson living in Kotara and a daughter residing in Surrey, British Columbia. Next July he intends to make a trip to Canada to see his daughter.

MR. BALFE'S APPOINTMENT

The Faculty Board, Faculty of Science at its meeting on December 12 appointed Mr. J.D. Balfe Sub-Dean of the Faculty for the year 1979.

ENCYCLOPAEDIA

A member of staff is interested in purchasing a second-hand set of the Encyclopaedia Britannica. He particularly desires a version in the original format, preferably the 1968 edition.

Ring Ext. 269.

Friday, December 15

2NUR-FM HIGHLIGHTS

9 pm HISTORY OF NEWCASTLE. Dr. John Turner from the Department of Community Programmes discusses photographs contained in a supplement published by the Newcastle Morning Herald on November 28. This programme deals with the people and places.

9.15 pm YOUR HEALTH. A weekly discussion on an issue of personal health. Tonight: Exercise - Is it worth the risk?

Monday, December 18

5 pm CHRISTMAS SPECIAL. Simon presents Johann Sebastian Bach's CHRISTMAS ORATORIO (Part 1 today). Written in 1734, the Christmas Oratorio is a musical setting of the nativity story as told in the second chapters of Luke's and Matthew's gospels. Presented in six parts - continued daily at this time.

9 pm THE WORD THIS WEEK. Reviews, poetry and prose in a programme organised by the University of Newcastle's Department of English. Tonight - Comedy for Christmas.

Wednesday, December 20

9 pm CHRISTMAS COMES.... A story about little people and the things they do on the night before Christmas. An original production by third year Drama students from the University.

10.30 pm CHRISTMAS INTERNATIONAL. A look at the joy and happiness of Christmas celebrations in other parts of the world. (2NUR-FM).

Thursday, December 21

7 pm ETHNIC RADIO (German). A Christmas programme featuring Newcastle school children singing German carols.


Friday, December 22

7.30 pm EASY CLASSICS with Simon. CHRISTMAS SPECIAL. Britten: A ceremony of carols. Charpentier: A Christmas midnight mass. Samuel-Rousseau: Pastoral variations on a Christmas carol. This programme is interspersed with some quasi-classical Christmas carols and songs.

Sunday, December 24

7 - 11.30 pm A CHRISTMAS SHOW. A special programme presented by Ron Andersen.

Sunday, December 31

7 - 11.30 pm THE LAST 1978 SHOW. A special programme presented by Ron Andersen to end the old year and usher in the new.
NEWCASTLE GRADUATE OBTAINS CHAIR IN N.Z.

A former student of the University has been appointed to a Chair of Classics at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand. He is Dr. Kevin Lee, former president of Toronto and ex-student of Marist Brothers High School, Hamilton. He was a B.A. student at Newcastle University College and graduated, with First Class Honours in Classics, in 1964. From Newcastle he went to the University of N. England. At that University, he joined the academic staff in 1966.

VACATION CONTACT GROUP

For some students, the period between the end of examinations in November and the beginning of next year's hard labour in March can be rather a lonely one. The Counselling Service discussed this situation and decided it would like to provide a venue for a 'contact group' over the vacation. There'll be an initial meeting of the contact-group in Room LG09 (the Counselling Service Theatre) on December 14 at 10 am to discuss how it might operate. A contact group's activities may range from simply meeting once a week for coffee-and-chat-chat...to arranging theatre parties...to setting up a revolutionary committee dedicated to the overthrow of anything and everything! Whatever the group does, it will certainly provide a meeting place for people during what can be a pretty barren time.

If you're interested, please ring 685 255.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Churchill Trust invites applications for Churchill Fellowships from Australians who wish to undertake overseas study during 1980. There are no prescribed qualifications. Benefits include a return economy class air ticket, an overseas living allowance and supplementary payments. Application materials must reach the Churchill Trust by 28th February, 1979.

As part of the celebration of Earth Week, the writer, director or founder of a feature on the physical environment (natural or man-made) will be eligible for the Sir William McKell Award. This will be made by the New South Wales Government in three categories: PRINTED MEDIA, RADIO and TELEVISION. If a particular entry in any category is considered outstanding, an overall winner will be awarded. In each category, the winning commendation will include an illuminated scroll and a cash award of $100. The overall commendation will include a cash award of $1,000.

The Australian National University and The Harvard Club of Australia invites applications for the Robert Gordon Menzies Scholarship for study at any graduate school at Harvard University during the 1979/80 academic year. The Scholarship may provide a monetary sum of up to $55,000. It is not intended to meet the whole cost of a year at Harvard. Applicants for the Harvard Business School may be eligible to participate in the Harvard Club's loan finance arrangements with the Commercial Bank of Australia. Applications close on 31st December, 1978.

Further information relating to overseas scholarships may be obtained from Mr. T.H. Reid, Student Administration, Ext. 302.

STAFF

APPOINTMENTS

Miss S.G. Cavanagh, Lab. Asst. Faculty of Medicine.
Miss M.L. Steers, Jrn. Animal House Attendant, Faculty of Medicine.

RESIGNATIONS

Mr. G.J. Eyre, Computer Operator, Computing Centre.

Printed in the Secretary's Division, the University of Newcastle for The Editor, The Secretary, The University of Newcastle, N.S.W. 2300.