Off to New York Commemorative plate

Mary Hall, Senior Lecturer in Geography, will be included in an Australian delegation to attend a forthcoming United Nations Special Session. Mary will leave Newcastle on August 22 and spend two weeks in New York at the invitation of the Department of Foreign Affairs. She will be one of only three non-government advisors in the delegation of 10, which will be led by the Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Peacock).

The United Nations conference, called Development Strategies Decade III, is designed to identify the directions development strategies should take in the 1980s.

The Australian delegation's mandate is to try to identify the best possible Australian contributions in these areas, for example, food aid and attempts at reforming the international monetary system.

Mary Hall's contribution is based on her particular interest in world hunger under the aegis of the Australian Council for Overseas Aid.

News dates - reminder

**PUBLICAUTION DATE** | **DEADLINE**
---|---
No.15 September 4 | (August 29)
No.16 September 18 | (September 12)
No.17 October 2 | (September 26)
No.18 October 16 | (October 10)
No.19 October 30 | (October 24)
No.20 November 13 | (November 7)
No.21 November 27 | (November 21)

Send, or telephone, news items, forthcoming events, advertisements and other information to Mr. J.W. Armstrong (Extension 375) or call in to Room LG52 in the Arts/Administration Building.
Doctor of Science awarded

Newcastle University Council has awarded the degree of Doctor of Science to Charles Brian Belcher in recognition of his original contributions of distinguished merit in the Analysis and Characterisation of Economic Materials. Higher doctoral degrees are awarded on the basis of published work and this is only the second time that the degree of Doctor of Science has been awarded by the University.

After undergraduate studies at Newcastle, Dr. Belcher received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1955. He was for many years employed at the BHP Central Research Laboratories and most of the work recognised by the Doctor of Science degree was carried out there. Earlier this year he was appointed Minerals Marketing Manager with BHP in Tokyo, Japan.

The Doctor of Science degree is a higher doctorate which is awarded for especially meritorious achievements in a particular area of science.

In his role as Leader of the Analytical Section of the Central Research Laboratory, Dr. Belcher initiated and supervised research which involved many different instrumental techniques and materials of widely differing properties. His published works include articles on the chemical analysis and characterisation of coal; the application of atomic absorption spectroscopy to the analysis of ferrous and non-ferrous materials; the mineralogy of several systems; sample preparation; and mineral analysis using optical emission and X-ray spectroscopy.

While the emphasis in most cases has been practical, rather than theoretical, the various studies have tended to be pioneering and trend-setting and have laid the foundation for several procedures later adopted as Australian Standard Methods. He has been described as "one of those rather rare all-rounders", and his expertise in the different areas of knowledge has resulted in invitations to write at least four critical reviews for prestigious overseas journals.

Dr. Belcher’s high national standing has been recognised through invitations to contribute plenary lectures at several major scientific conferences.

The Doctor of Science degree will be conferred formally on Dr. Belcher at the graduation ceremonies in April next year.

Finances Review

The Reports of the two Working Groups set up to review all aspects of the University’s activities in the light of the serious financial problems facing the University have been published together as a 102-page Interim Report.

The Vice-Chancellor recalls the introduction that the Council, in September, 1979, requested a wide-ranging review of the use of all University funds, in particular the revenue accounts to the University. The review was intended to:

- Provide advice to Council on the priorities to be adopted in the allocation of funds for the remainder of the current triennium (1979-81) and
- Place the University in a better position to face the uncertainties of the 1982-84 triennium and beyond.

Two Working Groups were set up. Professor George stated the first to investigate academic activities and services and the second, student and staff services, including the administrative support of academic activities.

The task had proved exacting and time-consuming and he was most grateful to the two Chairmen of the Working Groups Professor Short and Professor Tweedie and the other members Professor Booth, Carter, Dutton, Hall and Mr. Edmonds for undertaking this enquiry for the Council.

STAFF Appointments

Dr. N.R. Bennett, Tutor, Department of English.

Mr. C.G. Daly, Visiting Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine (Histopathology).

Mrs. C.M. Hollis, Punch Machine Operator, Auchmuty Library.

Dr. A.J. Husband, Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine (Immunology).

Miss R.N. Smith, Clerk, Bursar’s Division.

Mr. C.A. Baker, Drama Theatre Technician, Drama Department.

Miss J.A. McDonald, Junior Laboratory Assistant, Biological Sciences.

Mr. R.S. O’Hara, Attendant, Edwars Hall.

Miss S.A. Townsend, Office Assistant/Typist, Bursar’s Division.

Resignations

Mr. M.J. Byrnes, Teaching Assistant, Commerce Department.

Mr. J. Drzyzga, Clerk, Bursar’s Division.

Mr. M.L. Hadlow, Acting Statistician, 2NUR-FM.

Mr. W.J. Kearney, Analyst/Programmer, Secretary’s Division.

Dr. N. Phan-Thien, Lecturer, Mechanical Engineering.

Mrs. I.C. Rudolph, Stenographer, Medical Faculty.

Mr. B.J. Watts, Senior Technical Officer, Physics Department.

Mrs. M.W. Wright, Office Assistant/Typist, Bursar’s Division.

Dr. N.H. Clouton, Senior Lecturer, Architecture.
The Arts/Administration Building has been re-named The McMullin Building and the Special Functions Room in the Great Hall has been re-named The Purdue Room. The Council paid tribute in this way to the man who was the University's first Chancellor, Sir Allister McMullin, and the member of Council who chaired the Buildings and Grounds Committee since 1966, Dr. Frank Purdue.

During 1977 ill-health forced Sir Allister to retire. He was appointed as a member of the Council by the Governor and elected Chancellor in 1966, the year in which the University moved to the Shortland site. He was continuously re-elected Chancellor till he retired.

Sir Allister, a grazier from St. Aubins, Scone, became a Senator in 1951 and was elected Senate President in 1953. He served a record term of 18 years as President of the Senate. He has closely associated with the planning of the National Library of Australia and as Chairman of the Special Parliamentary Joint Select Committee was also involved in the planning of the new Parliament House in Canberra.

Dr. Purdue was an Alderman of the Newcastle City Council for 30 years and Lord Mayor on 13 occasions between 1951 and 1965. He was Chairman of the Lord Mayor's Committee for the Establishment of an Autonomous University of Newcastle and Chairman of the Lord Mayor's Great Hall Appeal Committee. He was continuously re-elected Chancellor in 1977-78.

Following advice that requests had been received from Departments or student groups for permission to install drinking machines in various academic buildings, the Council authorised the Vice-Chancellor to approve such requests subject to certain conditions. The Vice-Chancellor should be satisfied that the request is supported by the Head of the Department concerned and he should have received advice from the Planner that the machines will not interfere with the movement of persons.

The Chancellor welcomed Professor G.J. Jamieson, Professor G.M. Kellerman, Mrs. M.E. Rabbitt, Mrs. E. Morrison, the Very Reverend Robert Beal, Dr. P. Hendry, Emeritus Professor C. Ellyett and Mr. B. O' Shea - new members elected to Council in the recent elections.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Michael Kirby was re-elected for a further term as Deputy Chancellor.

ESSO Scholarship

Mr. A.F. Strahan, Administration Manager of the Exploration Department of Esso Australia Ltd. recently advised the University that the 1980 Esso Scholarship had been awarded to Mr. Chris Tobin, an honours student in the Department of Geology. The annual prize of $1,000 is presented to a meritorious student who is completing an honours degree or an approved postgraduate course in Geology at the University of Newcastle.

Following a recommendation from the Finance and Personnel Committee, Council stood over consideration of the proposed agreement on conditions of employment for academic staff of the University until further discussions are held between representatives of the University and the University Academic Staff Association. The Finance and Personnel Committee, having considered advice from the University's Solicitors on the legal implications of the agreement, told the Council it was not in favour of entering into an agreement with USA.

The Council was told no proposals to amalgamate the University and Newcastle College of Advanced Education had been made at a meeting on July 22 attended by representatives of the New South Wales Higher Education Board, the CAE and the University.

Mr. R. Parry, the Chairman of the Higher Education Board, had stated after the meeting that the meeting had reviewed the financial prospects for the University and the CAE in the light of what was known at present about the likely level of funds for Higher Education in the 1982-84 triennium.

Mr. Tobin is currently very active in his honours thesis project, which field investigation of the Geology of the Liddell-Bayswater region near Muswellbrook. He will complete his degree this year and will then take up employment with one of the many exploration companies which are urgently seeking the services of honours graduates in Geology.

Asso. Prof. B.A. Engel, Head of the Department of Geology, is shown presenting the $1,000 cheque to Chris Tobin.

He said both institutions faced difficulties because of the decline in enrolments in recent years and the consequent fall in the level of funds to be allocated to both.

The meeting had noted that following significant reductions in intakes to teacher education courses over the last three or four years further severe reductions were not anticipated in the future.

The meeting acknowledged the desirability of co-operation between the two institutions in the planning and conducting of both their existing programmes and proposed new programmes with a view to ensuring optimum use of the available resources in meeting the needs of a regional community.

In order to effect such co-operation, Mr. Parry said, the University and the College would establish joint consultative machinery to prepare recommendations for the consideration of the Council of both institutions.

Council noted that further discussions between the University and the College of Advanced Education would be held.

Next conferring of degrees ceremonies have been scheduled for May 2 and May 9, 1981 successive Saturdays.
Three wins

The State Final of the 11th Annual Japanese Language Speech Contest was held in Sydney on August 10. The contest was sponsored by the Consulate-General of Japan in Sydney, in cooperation with Japan Air Lines, the Australia-Japan Foundation and the Japan Foundation. A total of 28 people entered the contest in three divisions - Junior, Senior and Open.

The University of Newcastle sent three students and each one of the three won a prize.

Ina Sibiriakov, Japanese IIA student, won first prize in the Open Division.

Anne Biroh, Japanese IIA student, took out third prize in the Open Division.

Bob Gibbon, Japanese IIA student, won second prize in the Senior Division.

Ina Sibiriakov will be flying to Melbourne on September 7 for the Australia-wide Grand Final. The first prize will be a return air ticket to Tokyo.

Professor Honoured

The Department of Geography will offer a symposium on the Hunter Valley on August 22 in honour of Professor Alan Tweedie, who will retire as Vice-Principal and Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the end of this year.

Professor Tweedie came to Newcastle as the first head of the Department of Geography in the University's early days in 1955, becoming the Foundation Professor of Geography 10 years later. He has researched in many fields of geography and is probably best known for his book `Water and the World', first published in 1966.

The physical geography of the Hunter Valley, encompassing some environmental problems and various approaches to their solution, is the central theme of the symposium.

Contributors to the symposium are members of staff in the Department of Geography and representatives of the Water Resources Commission of New South Wales, N.S.W. Department of Agriculture, N.S.W. Soil Conservation Service, the Australian Atomic Energy Commission and the N.S.W. Public Works Department.

Surveys the Hunter

At a ceremony at the United Service Club, Newcastle, on August 13, the Lord Mayor, Alderman Joy Cummings, launched a book by former Lecturer in Civil Engineering, Dr. J.G. Fryer.

The book is Surveying the Hunter published by the Hunter-Manning Group of the Institution of Surveyors, of which Dr. Fryer is Chairman.

Dr. Fryer revealed that compilation of a history of the group to recognise the 21st birthday had resulted in an 80-page story of surveyors and their work in exploring and developing New South Wales.

A guest at the launching was the President of the Institution of Surveyors, N.S.W. (Mr. Richard Lovegrove).

The Hunter has been literally illustrated with old photographs, maps and land sale lithos. There are sections on one-personers who worked in the period 1860 to 1960 and whose accomplishments, unlike Australia's explorer-surveyors, have not previously been documented. Other sections cover coal-mining, education, measurement, the uniting of the surveying profession, harbour surveys, and a collection of interesting letters, stories and memorabilia from the early days of the group.

The information has been gathered from a variety of unusual sources, records of survey firms and personal observations.

The book sells for $7.95 and can be purchased at the Co-operative Bookshop.

Historian's visit

Professor Manning Clark, the distinguished Australian historian, has accepted an invitation to be guest speaker at the Union Dinner in the Southern Cross Lounge on September 19.

Staff House News

The annual general meeting of the Staff House will be held in the Staff House on Tuesday, September 16, at 6 pm.

Nominations are invited for positions on the Management Committee and should be sent to David Finlay - the Department of Psychology.
Hunter Valley Shale Oil

Doubtless, many members of the University are aware of, and concerned about, the rising price of petrol. The extraction of oil from shale has been tried in the past, and is again being pursued, as a solution to the world's petrol needs.

That attempts were begun in the Hunter Valley to extract crude oil from shale almost 100 years ago is probably not well-known. These early attempts were made at Murrurundi - at the top end of the Valley. The evidence for Hunter Valley deposits comes from a small, but valuable, collection of papers and photographs recently deposited in the Archives in the Auchmuty Library by Mr. D. Ireland, of Murrurundi.

In 1886 "an influential concern, the Murrurundi Petroleum Oil Cannel Company" was formed, but it didn't succeed. About 1905, the Australian Shale Syndicate became interested in the Murrurundi shale deposits. Five years later the Syndicate sold its mine to the British Australian Oil Company, which poured a vast amount of money into operations. However, after many ups and downs during the World War I era, the works were closed down.

Various reasons have been given for the closure:

"Labour troubles, high cost of working the mine, out-of-date methods, American combines' threats to cut off foreign oil supplies ..."

While the shale mine was operating early this century a large crude works was built nearby, at Murrurundi, and a refinery covering 23 acres, was built in the Newcastle suburb of Hamilton. At the crude works the shale was retorted in the lines carried out in the Broxburn district of Scotland:

"The retorting of the shale is the distillation of the rock so as to obtain the volatile hydrocarbons which come off in a gas and ... are retrieved in the form of crude oil and ammonia water ... The crude oil ... is of a dark green or brownish colour. The average yield per ton is very rich, being 112 gallons, as against the worst (1913) yield from the Scottish oil companies' shales of 20 to 30 per ton."

The crude was then railed to the Hamilton refinery, where

"The crude oil is discharged into the receiving tanks, and is thence blown up by compressed air to charging tanks, built on towers, from which the oil may flow by gravity to the refinery stills where it is 'once run' ... It is first distilled to dryness, becoming coke and 'once run oil', the latter being treated ... The oil is then ready for the next operation, which is fractional separation ..."

In the initial stages of this development in 1911, the products were to have included sulphate of ammonia, motor spirit, naphtha, kerosene, heavier burning oils, gas and lubricating oils, greases, paraffin wax, coke and fuel oil.

At the end of World War I the Hamilton refinery was closed and its petroleum stocks were dumped in Throsby Creek. Somehow or other the oil caught fire as it drifted down Throsby Creek into Newcastle Harbour. Thus ended the first local experiment in shale oil refining: the whole creek to its full length was afire and huge patches of burning oils could be seen floating out to sea in Newcastle Harbour.
Workshop

Dr. James Heffernan (Syracuse University) and Dr. Lars Wilhelmsen (University of Bergen) will conduct a workshop that explores differences in students' learning styles, different motivations for and orientations to the learning process and how students' intellectual and value structures are affected by tertiary education. Research on age-related life changes, adults' learning needs and appropriate instructional strategies will also be presented.

The workshop will be non-residential and held at the Trade Union Training Centre, 24 Campbell Street, Sydney, from September 1 to 4. The fee is $165 and registration forms are available from Dr. Robert McCraig, Director Institute for Higher Education, University of New England, Armidale.

Centenary

On May 21, 1883, the Governor of New Zealand, Sir William Drummond Jervois, declared open the Auckland University College in a ceremony held in the city's Choral Hall. This marked the beginning of formal university education in the North Island.

The centenary of this event will be celebrated by the University over the weekend May 6 to 9, 1983. The programme will probably include a concert, an oration with the presentation of greetings from other universities, the conferment of honorary degrees, a banquet and a church service. Professor Keith Sinclair is writing a history of the University to be published in 1983. There will also be Departmental and Faculty functions. It is hoped to involve past and present students and staff as widely as possible and the University is also anxious to involve interested members of the public and of the university community in New Zealand and elsewhere, with the aim of making 1983 a memorable centennial year.

Anyone who would like further information, or who wishes to suggest possible centennial events, visiting speakers, etc., is invited to write to the Registrar, University of Auckland, Private Bag, Auckland.

Campus scamper

The 70 competitors starting off in the University Campus Scamper held on August 6.

The annual fun run was organised by the Amenities Office.

The long run over 6.2 kilometres was won by the Secretary/Manager of the Union (Mr. Stan Barwick), and Saima Morel, a student, was the first woman home.

Kim Stevenson, a Computer Operator in the Computing Centre, won the women's section of the short course run (over 4 kilometres). Richard Dear and Ray Price, also from the Computing Centre, won the men's section of the short course.

Pictured (above) the runners getting away and (below) Mr. Ken Gordon, Regional Manager of the Commonwealth Bank and Mrs. Lorna George, wife of the Vice-Chancellor, who both presented trophies, and the two long course winners.

SENATE NEWS

After a lengthy discussion, Senate decided to recommend the introduction of Japanese IIIB in 1981 under the conditions recommended by the Faculty Board, Faculty of Arts. The Faculty Board had considered the advisability of restricting the number of Japanese subjects which may be included in an Arts degree if Japanese IIIB were to be approved. The Faculty Board recommended that Senate endorse the proposal, but with the proviso that a candidate may not count more than three Japanese subjects towards the Bachelor of Arts degree.

It has been announced that the Academic Salaries Tribunal will conduct a full review of academic salaries in universities and colleges of advanced education and that the closing date for submissions is August 29.

The Faculty Board, the Faculty of Arts, reported to Senate that owing to a reduction in staff, it would be necessary to re-organise the subjects offered by the Department of History so that, during 1981, History IIC will not be offered.
Grant applications

The Internal Research Assessment Committee is again inviting applications for grants for research projects. Applications will be considered in two categories.

Research Grant Type A - Allocations to members of staff at junior academic level: are intended to support the research activities of members of staff at junior academic level to the point where support from outside agencies will be attracted.

Research Grant Type B - Allocations to Senior Research Investigators: are intended to provide support to persons of very high calibre who have completed research of a standard that most likely attracted support from outside agencies. Persons who have previously attracted or currently hold funds from outside bodies such as the Australian Research Grants Committee are eligible to apply.

Applications for grants to attend overseas conferences during 1981 are also invited. Further details and application forms are available from Mr. J.S. Boydell, Secretary's Division, Extension 341. The closing date for the submission of applications is OCTOBER 1, 1980.

Scholarship

University & Colleges in Great Britain - Overseas Research Students: Some 400-500 Fees Support Scheme Awards to be offered for overseas postgraduate research students for full-time study for a higher degree by research at a University in Great Britain. Further details are available from the Student Administration Office.

Photo: S.T. McInally

Eileen Doyle

Pat Bradshaw and Richard Stern are pictured in the University Co-operative Bookshop in the Union Building. Richard is the Manager of the Newcastle University and CAE branches of the Co-op and Pat handles text book ordering at the University. Since taking over from Ian Paterson (now managing Melbourne University Bookshop) in March, Richard has expanded the general (i.e. non-text) sections of the bookshop, drawing on experiences gleaned over several years book-selling in Australia and England. The staff of the Bookshop includes Judy McIlveigh, cashier, there for over four years.
FOR SALE
2 LED SONARA QUARTZ WATCHES (never been used).
1 SEIKO QUARTZ WATCH (conventional with hours, minutes and seconds hands with day and date).
1 SANTO JUICER and LIQUIDISER (almost new). Will accept any reasonable offers. Please contact 52 4957 or Extension 582.

HOME - BIRMINGHAM GARDENS
Weatherboard and tile three bedroom home. Elevated position, workshop and laundry under. Potential for roof under. Large lounge, separate dining, tiled bathroom, family room off modern kitchen and garage. Close to the University, schools, shopping centre. For appointment to inspect please telephone 51 2052 or 54 7984.

UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICE
The University Health Service will be running a LIFESTYLE AND WHAT WE EAT group, commencing Monday, September 8 at 5 pm. The group will meet in the Health Service Waiting Room for one hour a week over six weeks.

If you are interested in attending, please leave your name at the Health Service or telephone 695 763.

UNIVERSITY'S WOMEN'S GROUP
Mrs. Yvonne Grimes, of the Fragrant Nursery, Kotara, will be the guest speaker at this month's meeting of the University of Newcastle Women's Group. Her talk will be on the uses of herbs and how to grow them.

The date of the meeting is Thursday, August 21 and the time is 11.30 am and the place is the Special Functions Room of the Great Hall. The charge for the light luncheon will be $1.50.

New members and visitors will be welcome. But please book with Philippa Powis, C/- Dr. D. Powis, Faculty of Medicine, or telephone 33 2262 by Monday, August 18.

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE
Two bedroom house with large lounge room, kitchen, dining-room etc., with all furniture available for rent from mid November 1980 to end of June 1981. Owner going overseas. Please contact 52 4957 or Extension 582.

DO YOU READ HEBREW OR CHINESE?
The Australian Society of Genealogists (New South Wales) is recording the headstones of the Sandgate General Cemetery, which will be 100 years old in 1981. A team of volunteers is covering most denominations.

It would be appreciated if help could be provided with the Hebrew and Chinese graves, which are in relatively small areas. Anyone who would be willing to devote a few hours to this enterprise (unpaid, sorry) is asked to contact Mrs. O. Holmes - 57 3307, who is co-ordinating the project, or Mrs. E. Sheehan on Extension 699 who can outline the requirements.

WANTED TO RENT
One or two bedroom unfurnished flat or house with garden. Long lease preferred. Newcastle, Cook's Hill etc., anywhere considered. Please contact Richard Stern, Co-op Bookshop, Union Building or Extension 257.