Professor Don Parkes, Assoc. Professor in Geography, has been invited to present a paper to the Seventh International Commonwealth Conference on Human Ecology and Development. The conference will be held in Darwin, Alice Springs and Armidale from January 29 to February 12 next year.

The regional focus is the Northern Territory and invited papers on human behaviour in relation to settlements, land use, mining, tourism and communication, as well as human and animal health and disease, will be presented as "current position" papers and "futures" papers.

The conference is organised by The Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (London), The University of New England and The University of Northern Territory Planning Authority. Field studies and workshops, as well as papers will be offered. Delegates from a number of Commonwealth Countries are expected to attend. The conference demonstrates the growing convergence of interdisciplinary research related to human behaviour and regional sciences.

Don Parkes has also been invited to contribute to two sessions of a workshop on International Development of Environmental Perception Research and Applications, the first at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, United States of America and the second at the University of Colorado, Denver, in April, 1983. The objective is to "gather together representatives from a number of different countries to discuss the level of development of research in this field in their country and throughout the world".

Apart from a general review of contributions related to Australian research, Don Parkes will be discussing research developments with special reference to the role of time in environmental perception studies and in particular their relation to human behaviour in remote arid regions of Australia.

Don Parkes told the NEWS that the Academic Plan initiative to consider introduction of interdisciplinary research institutes as centres at the University of Newcastle would go a long way to facilitating advances in behavioural and regional science research of this sort, for which there was quite clearly an international domain of interest and to which a number of disciplines, including psychology, medicine, architecture and mathematics, could contribute in particular.

After Architecture IC students made their balloons they were launched at University No. 2 Oval. The survival rate was very satisfactory and a few travelled long distances. One of the balloons, however, disappeared. Another went as far as Cardiff. The object of the balloon project was to indicate that form follows function (namely flight) and to obtain an immediate assessment of the success of a design. Mr. R. Donaldson, Lecturer in Architecture, was the supervisor of the project.
The University will host two major engineering conferences, one on the Mechanics of Structures and Materials and one on Control and Computational Systems. The conferences will involve about 200 delegates from Australia and overseas.

The Eighth Australasian Conference on the Mechanics of Structures and Materials will run from August 23 to 25; the Second Conference on Control Engineering will be held from August 25 to 27.

The Conference on the Mechanics of Structures and Materials will bring to Newcastle about 50 engineers, academics and consultants representing universities, the CSIRO, the Faculty of Military Studies, Duntroon, consulting engineering firms and research institutes.

Professor N. Trahair, of the University of Sydney, will discuss the communication of research findings to practising engineers in his invited address at 9.45 am.

The Control Engineering Conference has been organised by the National Committee on Control and Computational Systems of The Institute of Engineers, Australia.

It will be a gathering of about 150 engineers, scientists and technologists who are interested in current developments in industrial automation.

Mr. Greg Shinsky, from Foxboro, Massachusetts, United States of America, an authority on process control and energy systems, will deliver the keynote address on August 25 at 10.50 am in the Engineering Lecture Theatre.

The Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee is mounting a campaign to dissuade the Federal Government from making more cuts in research funding.

The Committee, which represents Australia's 19 universities, has released a booklet aimed at stimulating interest — and support for — research in universities.

The 52-page publication describes a number of recent and current research projects in 11 universities, and makes a plea for the reinvigoration of the nation's research program.

Mr. Frank Hambly, Secretary of the AVCC, said that the AVCC was moved to produce the booklet because of deepening concern over the state of research funding in Australia today.

"Our case is directed to both governments and private enterprise", Mr. Hambly said. "There is no question that research in Australia today is at risk. The booklet sets out to identify the problem, and to encourage collaborative effort to remedy it."

Topics covered in the booklet include counter the box-jellyfish menace in the far north, to a fertilisation program in Melbourne, to comparative studies of the memory skills of desert Aborigines and white children in Western Australia.

Mr. Hambly said the topics were chosen by a sub-committee of the AVCC from among hundreds suggested by the universities.

"They could hardly be said to be 'representative' of the vast range of research projects going on around the country today", he said. "But they do serve to illustrate something of the nature and breadth of the work being done — work that in all respects compares favourably with research carried out in comparable overseas universities."

The booklet, entitled University Research 1982, has been sent to all parliamentarians, Commonwealth and State to members of the governing bodies of all universities, to the media, and to influential groups and individuals throughout the country.

A copy is held by the Publicity Office, Room G60 in the McMullin Building.

**Film Festival returns**

The Travelling Film Festival, now in its eighth year, will return to Newcastle in September to provide audiences with a selection of films from this year's Sydney Film Festival.

The festival will offer a variety of films from several countries which would not usually be screened in non-metropolitan centres.

The feature films to be screened at the Civic Theatre on September 24, 25 and 26:

- **BLOOD WEDDING** (Carlos Saura) (Carlos Saura) Spain.
- **BYE BYE BRAZIL** (Carlos Diegues) Brazil/France.
- **MUDDY RIVER** (Kohei Oguri) Japan
- **TICKET TO HEAVEN** (Ralph L. Thomas) Canada.
- **VERONIKA VOSS** (Rainer Werner Fassbinder) Federal Republic of Germany.
The University Planner, Mr. Don Morris, the Director of the Computing Centre, Mr. John Lambert, and Assistant Planner, Mr. Bob Cowdroy, take advantage of the wager. Photo: Arthur Johnston.

The wager between the Property Division and the Computing Centre over the date of completion of extensions to the Computing Centre was worth a bottle of champagne.

The Property Division lost and bought the champagne, but had no regrets because the margin of time was very close.

Moving日 was Friday, August 13. The University's main computer was transferred into the new accommodation provided adjacent to the Computing Centre in the McMullin Building.

It is proposed to make a start very soon on remodelling the space vacated, that is, removing the ceiling, installing new air-conditioning equipment and putting in a false floor as has been done in the new Computer Room.

A two-storey extension to the McMullin Building, providing a plant room on the lower ground floor and the enlarged Computer Room on the Ground Floor, when completed is anticipated to cost approximately $140,000.

The overall project was necessary to establish in the Computing Centre a dust-free operating environment and stable temperature and humidity conditions and to give space for the second VAX11/780 computer to be delivered in December.

The Deputy Chairman reported that the Committee of Chairmen of Professorial Boards or their equivalents from New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory had recognised the need to do something about the lack of supplementing of funding. It believed that the public must be informed, and that the effects went far beyond what was intended.

On 1982 admissions to universities, the Deputy Chairman said the number of new students was generally up to expectation and, insofar as quality could be measured, there was a distinct improvement in the calibre of students. There was a higher proportion of females. Generally the intellectual orientation of Years 11 and 12 appeared higher than for some years past.

From a recent article in a careers publication, Focus, there were clear indications, he said, of an increase in the demand for teachers. This trend could affect the intake into Diploma in Education courses.

Professor J. Biggs spoke supporting the view that the demand for teachers was increasing. The cutbacks in the last few years had been so drastic that there would soon be gross shortages of trained teachers.
The new Director of Kintaiba Community Child Care Centre reads to some of the children.

NEW DIRECTOR

Mrs. Lilian Martin will take up her appointment as Director of Kintaiba Community Child Care Centre within the University early in September. The appointment of Mrs. Martin was announced by Dr. E.J. Braggett, Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Centre.

Mrs. Martin was educated in Scotland, where she received the degree of Master of Arts from Aberdeen University. She later attended Aberdeen College of Education, where she was awarded a Diploma of Teaching, specialising in infant education.

Between 1969 and 1974 Mrs. Martin was employed by the Inner London Education Authority, first as an assistant teacher, and later as Head of a centre for children with reading and mathematics problems. When she arrived in Australia, Mrs. Martin was employed by the New South Wales Department of Education as an infants teacher. In 1977 and 1978 she was a Resource Teacher with the Department of Education, specialising in programme development and classroom organisation. Mrs. Martin has had wide experience in the areas of reading and mathematics in early childhood education.

She was appointed to the Nursery School Teachers' College in Newtown in 1979, a post which she held until 1981. The College specialises in the preparation of teachers for children two to eight years of age.

The Kintaiba Community Child Care Centre was opened in February, 1977. It provides places for 60 children, the age range being from 12 months to five years. Preference is given to the children of parents who have special needs. The Centre is open for 48 weeks each year and accepts children on a full day or part-time basis. The Centre employs eight teachers together with part-time assistants.

Mt. Victoria

Mr. Neville Graham, a presenter on 2NUR-FM, recently received a letter from a resident of Mt. Victoria in the Blue Mountains, which is well outside the radio station's normal listening area.

The Mt. Victoria resident, Mr. Poppit, said: "I have been listening to your programme [Saturday And All That Jazz, Saturdays, 5pm] for several months. Your programme is excellent."

"We have recently moved to Mt. Victoria from Sydney and living on 'the roof of the world' enables us to tune to 2NUR-FM. Our pleasure in accidentally finding your programme is enormous".

2NUR-FM's listening area, according to the monthly programme guide, stretches from Forster in the North to Wyong in the South. Although the station has reports of its broadcasts having been picked up by a few people who live on the North Shore (Sydney), Mr. Poppit's letter is the first indication of a wider contact with the University's station.
The University will host the Australian Universities Sports Association's Surfriders' Inter-Varsity Contest this year. The contest will be conducted in the third week of the vacation from August 22 to 27. The following universities have indicated that they will attend: Adelaide, Deakin, Flinders, Melbourne, Macquarie, Monash, New England, New South Wales, Queensland, Sydney and Wollongong.

The venue for each day's competition will be selected early in the morning, officials acting upon where the best surfing conditions are obtained.

You should listen to 2HD from the Monday to the Friday to establish where the action is taking place.

A hectic social programme has also been drawn up, culminating in the official IV Contest Dinner at Broadmeadow Police Boys' Club on August 27.

We wish our visitors well and trust that all will enjoy happy days and good sportsmanship.

A roll-up of about 100 people for a seminar on pole-framed houses on August 3 affirmed the interest of members of the local community in this unusual method of building. The seminar was held in the Department of Architecture.

Mr. R. Donaldson, Lecturer in Architecture, received a great number of requests for information about pole-framed houses. He had spoken about them during a broadcast on the ABC.

Mr. Donaldson, the ABC's Building Expert, spoke at the seminar about how, when the pole-framed method is used, the structure of the house could be easily and quickly fabricated on the site, thus making the method popular with owner-builders.

After a film about pole-framed house construction in New Zealand was screened, a discussion was held and questions were answered.

Mr. Donaldson gives building advice on Monday mornings on the ABC during the Libby Sanders' programme.

Dr. Bill Jonas, of the Department of Geography, has received a research grant of $1,000 from the Hunter Development Board. The grant will fund a market intelligence study in the Hunter Region. An examination will be made of current sources of timber within and outside the region, timber usage and product transportation to identify those areas of investment potential in the future.

Since timber is a renewable resource and most silvicultural activities are carried out by the New South Wales Forestry Commission, and because State forests provide a large component of timber used in the region, the study will also involve a detailed appraisal of current forest policy.

NIDA's graduates are prominent in film and television and in theatre. The talents of Judy Davis, Angela Punch McGregor, Jim Sharman, Garry McDonald, John Bargreaves, Wendy Hughes, Helen Morse and Mel Gibson are well-known, to give only a small sample of the artists NIDA produces. Some of the cast of The Crucible, NIDA's travelling production this year, are quite likely to achieve similar recognition. Pictured in a scene from the play are Rosey Jones as Abigail Williams, Anna Phillips as Susanna Walcott, Odile Le Clanio as Mary Warren and Madeleine Blackwell as Mercy Lewis.

NIDA will present The Crucible in the Drama Theatre from August 24 to 28.
PIG-MEAT INDUSTRY?

In Wild Pigs: Environmental Pest or Economic Resource?, just published by Pergamon Press, Professor Clem Tisdell estimates the level of the feral pig population in Australia to be between five and 10 million head.

The author, who is Professor of Economics, reckons that in theory two and a half million feral pigs could be harvested annually without depleting the population, given the rapid rate of increase of the pig population.

However, the maximum sustainable harvest of feral pigs in Australia is unlikely to be reached, Professor Tisdell argues. This is because colonies of pigs exist in inaccessible and remote places where harvest under any foreseeable economic conditions is likely to be unprofitable.

A commercial harvest of half a million feral pigs annually could be easily sustained (along with a sporting harvest of an equal amount) and, on current export prices, would yield feral pig meat valued at about $50 million annually.

The Tisdell book, which contains 445 pages and is the first comprehensive book on feral pigs in Australia, points out that wild pigs are harvested commercially for meat and other products in a number of countries. Countries exporting the meat on a commercial basis include China, New Zealand and more recently Australia. Presently the main importing countries appear to be France, West Germany, United States, Japan, The Netherlands and Sweden. The meat and other products of the wild pig are also traded within several other countries, for example in the USSR and in Malaysia.

In parts of Europe recreational hunting pressures are more than adequate to reduce wild pig populations to desired levels. But in Australia recreational hunting, has been insufficient, because of the low population density, to reduce wild pig populations to levels widely considered to be desirable. Despite the lack of official restrictions on the hunting of the Australian wild pig, it has remained a pest.

While some Australians see the commercial use of wild pigs as a means to control wild pig populations at little or no expense to the landholder, some authorities, such as the New South Wales Department of Agriculture, have been opposed to commercialisation on the grounds that it might result in wild pigs being preserved for a profit rather than being eradicated.

Among the damages that have been attributed to wild pigs in Australia are damage to agriculture (about $74 million loss of production in 1980), pastoral losses, spread of diseases injurious to animals and humans (pigs are high-risk animals because of their mobility), timber losses in Northern Queensland and the impact on flora and fauna.

Professor Tisdell concludes that while the wild or feral pig is an environmental pest when it occurs in large numbers, it can also be a useful resource. It is an important asset for amateur or recreational hunters in many countries, including Australia. If its population is sufficient, it can help support a game-meat industry, as in New Zealand, and as is now occurring in Australia.

Its advantages have to be offset against its disadvantages. A clearcut case has not been made for eradicating it in Australia.

To embark on a national eradication campaign before adequately studying such matters as managing wild pigs and examining alternatives could be a costly folly.
Advertisements

Wanted

Postgraduate student requires live-in employment — like gardening, painting, clearing of rubbish, lawn mowing — no job too small. Please telephone Extension 742 and ask for Alex.

The following persons would like to type theses, reports, occasional papers etc.

- Johann Marsden 68 5650
- Patricia Benzan 33 4834
- Janette Genette 68 5720
- Sue Maloney 51 3814
- Michelle Purser 23 735
- Ruth Fay 52 6980
- Debbie Potts 43 9751

TWO houses are required for visiting Faculty. One immediately for one year — married couple with no children — starting in September for one year — married couple with three small children. Please contact Graham Goodwin at Extension 591.

Dr. John Gerkens (attached to the Faculty of Medicine) would like to rent a home in the MERE WETHER area. The home must have three bedrooms. Dr. Gerkens would like to rent as soon as possible for about six months. If you are able to please telephone him at 58111 Extension 190 or 63 2496.

Any edition of a Steven T. Avington translation of Max Lerner's The Ego and His Own. If you are able to help please telephone Bill Warren at Extension 271.

FOR SALE

MAN'S GREY CHECK SPORTS COAT — medium size, brand new, never been worn — $45. Please telephone Gloria at extension 240.


FRUIT CAKES for all occasions. Please telephone 43 5197.

BOY'S 24" THREE-SPEED RACING BIKE — English Raleigh make, good condition — $70. Please telephone 59 3833.

BREVILLE DAIRY BAR — Brand New (12 months guarantee) — $15. Please telephone 54 9060.

Large two bedroom brick home fully furnished. Quiet area (flat ground) with unsurpassed views of Lake Macquarie from both front and rear verandas. Double garage, telephone connected, close to school and transport (15 km from Newcastle to University). $99,500. Please telephone 46 8699.

PERMANENT PANTRY lifetime membership. less than half price, genuine reason for sale. Only asking $350. Please telephone Extension 328 and ask for Linda.

TO LET

Spacious accommodation available from September for six months lease. Large rooms, well appointed for summer living, inside and out. Lovely garden, suit garden lover, full rockery and no mowing. Rent negotiable, close to bus and Kotara Station. Please telephone Win Thompson at 57 2166.

Ski enthusiasts

Vacancies exist for people wishing to stay in Jindabyne for one week, August 28 until September 4, in unit-style accommodation. The cost is approximately $85 for food and accommodation. If you wish to take up this offer you will be required to provide your own transport. For further information please telephone Kim at Extension 211 or telephone 53 1021 after hours.

Oops

In the last issue we listed We Gill University in the wrong country: it is in Canada (Montreal, to be specific), not the United States of America. The reference was in the article concerning Assoc. Prof. R. G. Goodwin, who had been an IEEE, USA, prize with two other researchers, including one from McGill.

FILM SOCIETY NEWS

Newcastle Film Society, which uses Lecture Theatre BO1 for its film screenings, is well on the way to establishing a secure financial basis for the future. According to the President, Mr. Robert Mackie, the committee took office last September at a time when the immediate future of the Society looked decidedly bleak. Happily, with both hard work and generous support from members, that situation had substantially improved.

The committee had decided to maintain membership at $20 per person and endeavour to increase members via a comprehensive publicity drive, Mr. Mackie told the NFS's annual meeting on August 1. This had proved very successful and more than 300 members had subscribed — the highest-ever membership. In addition a policy of providing two guest tickets will be issued to every member. "The committee has invested some funds in a short-term fixed deposit with the intent of accruing further money for next year", Mr. Mackie said. "This should ensure that $20 remains the basic subscription. Even if members do not see all of the 30 or so films we screen in a year that still represents excellent value for money."

With regard to the films screened this year a wide range of filmic genres, traditions and tastes had been exhibited, he said. "As always, it is our policy to show worthwhile films that would not generally gain commercial release in this region".

One feature this year had been the inauguration of a mini-festival highlighting the career of Greta Garbo. This was a worthwhile innovation and more were anticipated.

The President thanked many people for their efforts, in particular committee members, Sheila Brown (the Secretary) and Gerry McCalden (the Treasurer). The projectoman, Peter Campbell, performs miracles with worn prints and troublesome equipment. The Society is very grateful to Newcastle University for the use of Lecture Theatre BO1. The film notes which members receive are compiled by Paul Fogo.
HELP SAVE THE FRANKLIN RIVER!

HEAR DR. BOB BROWN
DIRECTOR OF THE TASMANIAN WILDERNESS SOCIETY

7.30 pm Wednesday August 25th
LECTURE THEATRE (OPPOSITE THE GREAT HALL)
NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

INCLUDED IN THE PRESENTATION WILL BE SLIDES AND A FILM ON THE FRANKLIN RIVER.

THE LONG OF THE FRANKLIN RIVER WILL BE THE DEATH KNELL OF AUSTRALIA'S MOST VALUABLE RESOURCES.

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY MDSOCPresents...
A STUDENTS' RECITAL

* RICHARD HALLIMAN (VIOLIN)
* CARMEL LUTTON (PIANO)
* WORKS BY MESSIAH, BRAHMS & BRAHMS

EDWARD GREVE (BARITONE)
SHARON RASMUS (PIANO)
ARMS & SONGS BY ANNE PENROSE, SIDWORTH, GOLDFIELD & UNIVERSITY,MULTIS

ABC, DRAMA THEATRE, NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY
SEPTEMBER 2nd and 3rd, 1982, 7.30 pm

ADULTS $4.00, CHILDREN $2.50
TICKETS: FLUM & MEDICINE BUILDING, JUICE CAMPUS

ALL CONCERT PROCEEDS TO FUND YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM OF LAST PAL, DAVID MADDISON.

FOUNDER'S ROOM, UP THE HEADING.

ONE OF THE FINEST FILMS EVER MADE ON JAZZ - ROLLING STONE
HEALTHY TESTAMENT TO JAZZ - News Week
BOOZE TO BOOGIE IT SWINGS! - Boston Globe
A TRIUMPH - New York Village Voice

Count Basie & His Orchestra
Big Joe Turner - Jay McShann

THE LAST OF THE BLUE DEVILS
THE MOVIE ABOUT KANSAS CITY JAZZ
BOI • Newcastle University • Sept. 15 at 8 pm • NEWCASTLE FILM SOCIETY PRESENTATION.

DIARY

THURSDAY, AUGUST 19

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21
7 pm Exhibition by the Northern Photographic Federation, Great Hall.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22
11 am Live Music Special on 2NUR-FM - BOB HENDESON QUARTET.
2 pm Choral Concert by Regional School Choirs in association with the ABC, Great Hall.

MONDAY, AUGUST 23
Full-day workshop conducted by Jim Portis entitled ORIGINS OF CHANGE. This seminar has been arranged for those in the management and administrative personnel area.

MONDAY, AUGUST 23 to 25

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24 to 28
8 pm NIDA's production of THE CRUCIBLE by Arthur Miller. Drama Theatre.
(Special school seminars on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday for students to discuss the play and participation with members of the Company.)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25 to 27
Second Conference on Control Engineering. Keynote address by Professor H. Rosenbrock, of the United Kingdom.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25
2.15 pm DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY SEMINAR on PROBLEMS and PROSPECTS OF URBAN HISTORY conducted by Professor Oscar Handlin, of Harvard University.
7.30 pm Address on Australia's last wild river, the Franklin, by Dr. R. Brown, Director of the Tasmanian Wilderness Society. BOI.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27
Full-day workshop conducted by Professor Allan Williams for management personnel entitled TIME MANAGEMENT.
Full-day workshop conducted by Peter Banks for people involved in counselling situations entitled USERS OF IMAGERY IN PSYCHOTHERAPY.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29
11 am Live Music Special on 2NUR-FM - GRIMTHORPE COLLIERY BAND.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31
12.30 pm DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY SEMINAR entitled KARL MARX AND ORGANIC UNITY conducted by Glenn Albrecht. Room A110.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
8 pm A Students' Recital. Richard Halliman and Edward Greive (Medical students) will perform in the Drama Theatre.
All concert proceeds are to fund the Judy Cassab's portrait of the late Professor David Maddison, Foundation Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. For further information contact advertisement in this issue of University NEWS.

University NEWS is published on a two-weekly basis in the Secretary's Division for the Editor, The Secretary, The University of Newcastle. Stories and items should reach Mr. John Armstrong or Mrs. Linda Aurelius, C/- Room G58(a) or Room G60 in the McMullin Building by 5 pm on the Thursday before the publication date.