AMALGAMATION

Members of the University will be aware from the wide media coverage given to it of the increased activity in recent days on the question of amalgamation.

On Thursday, June 3, the State Minister for Education, Mr. R. Mulock, held discussions in Newcastle with the Public Service Association and the Staff Association and dined at the University on the same evening with members of the Council's Committee on Amalgamation and the Deans of the Faculties.

On Friday, June 4, the Federal Minister for Education, Senator P. Baume, visited Newcastle to hold joint discussions with the University and the College Council representatives, before going on to Armidale for similar discussions there. He was accompanied by Professor Karmel, Mr. Jones, Secretary of his Department, and other officers. The University was represented at these discussions by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor M. Carter, Dr. D. Dockrill and Mr. M. Edmonds.

On Thursday, June 3, the College Council met on June 7 to review and assess these visits and the discussions which took place with the different groups. Whilst neither the College or the University has changed its opposition to enforced amalgamation, there is agreement between us that serious discussions should now be undertaken on the details of an amalgamation, with a view to arriving at a common position if at all possible.

The University Council meets next on June 18 and it is proposed that a joint meeting of the two Councils should follow shortly afterwards.

I hope to be in a position to report on all these matters at my scheduled meeting with staff on June 29.

D.W. GEORGE.

Professor Sanson-Fisher will speak on What is Behavioural Science in Relation to Medicine?

All are welcome to attend the lecture and meet Professor Sanson-Fisher at a gathering organised by Convocation in Room 612 in the Medical Sciences Building afterwards.

The University Inaugural Lecture series is presented by Convocation as mainly University and Convocation occasions at which new Professors introduce themselves to colleagues and graduates and report on developments in their disciplines.

Professor Robert Sanson-Fisher's Inaugural Lecture

Inaugural Lecture

will be held in the Medical Sciences Lecture Theatre on Wednesday, June 23, at 5.30 pm.

Professor Sanson-Fisher took up his appointment to the Chair of Behavioural Science in Relation to Medicine in 1981.

Before coming to the Faculty of Medicine, he was at the University of Western Australia. He obtained his academic qualifications at that University, completing his B.Psych.(Hons.) degree in 1967 and his Clinical M.Psych. degree in 1969. In 1978 he was awarded his Ph.D. degree.
Dear Sir,

I have watched the events of recent days with a growing concern for the future of the University. It is now one year and two months since the Fraser Government announced the intention to merge the two tertiary institutions at Newcastle, and by now, one would hope, some notable progress should exist between the two institutions. This is not the case, and discussions have been hampered by NCAE opposition to the Wollongong model.

I have grave fears for this University, in the light of the AITC report and increasing unemployment. One might well worry at the silence in Sydney, the absence of any Act, and the possibly polytechnic implications of Departmental advice to the State and Commonwealth to also be concerned at the likelihood of an appointed Council for the new institution, as to recognise the right of democratic decision-making. While the present system of election-appointment has its share of bugs, it prescribes fair representation for most electorates.

This merger plan was an attempt to come to grips with the problem of the lack of direction which has existed since March, 1981. The question of aims and objectives of the University was first raised by Mr. Ted Buckman on Council in 1978. Collapse pasted the paper on to relevant bodies for consideration. Nothing came of it.

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Unfortunately, the Faculty has never had control over its Computer Science area. It has been hamstrung by a series of decisions, commencing with those of the Computing Committee, which have ensured that the Faculty has never had control of its Computer Science courses. Nevertheless, the Faculty has successfully defined the curriculum, and has made a number of excellent thoughts beyond the disciplines of the Computing Committee. The Faculty of Mathematics and the Faculty of Education have a good, watertight, logical and positive plan, not just negative "knocking", and whether, if the merger does not go ahead, they can concentrate on producing another plan for protecting our small departments from savage cut-backs imposed on us from outside.

There are certainly aspects of the merger plan that need discussion throughout the University as a whole, particularly among the students.

May I suggest that page for page, this plan be exhibited on prominent noticeboards in the University?

STEPHEN DATE
Student, 1901, on Council, 1977-82.

Dear Sir,

Professor Keay in University NEWS Volume 8, Number 8 writes concerning the development of Computing related studies in this University. His suggestions for a much broader approach to such studies are interesting and no doubt will be considered by the Computing Committee. However, the idea of a new Faculty of Information Science and a considerable increase in resources devoted to that area seems anarchistic when the University is desperately short of funds. Ten years ago the Faculty of Mathematics did propose a Department of Information Science; the money was available, but little support was forthcoming from most of the other Faculties. In fact, a good deal of opposition came from the people who should have known better.

The Faculty of Mathematics has always been, and still is, well regarded within the University and able to develop all aspects of computing except, perhaps, those specifically concerned with hardware and therefore more appropriate to the Faculties of Engineering or Science. Unfortunately, this Faculty has never had control of its Computer Science courses. Nevertheless, the Faculty has successfully defined the curriculum, and has made a number of excellent thoughts beyond the disciplines of the Computing Committee. The Faculty of Mathematics and the Faculty of Education have a good, watertight, logical and positive plan, not just negative "knocking", and whether, if the merger does not go ahead, they can concentrate on producing another plan for protecting our small departments from savage cut-backs imposed on us from outside.

The Computer Science Department of the University as a whole, especially among the students.

May I suggest that page for page, this plan be exhibited on prominent noticeboards in the University?

R.G. KEATS
Dean, Faculty of Mathematics.
Dear Sir,

The revised document on the Academic Plan mentions, in its newly added comments, that reaction to the proposal on research institutions "has ranged from fear of capitulation to vested interests and other interests, to warm welcome for the research possibilities opened up, the potential for international links and the scope for funding postgraduate students".

I have, surprised by this statement, made a point of going through the submission of the library and have searched in vain for any sign of this "warm welcome". I have found no euphoria on the research possibilities opened up but, instead, a range of opinion varying from the fear that the institutes would take money away from departments to the doubt that they would get any money at all. I have seen no discussion on the "potential for international links" but, instead, the consideration that focusing on regional matters would lead to a decrease in the "scope for funding postgraduate students". I have, finally, seen no rejoicing about the increased "scope for funding postgraduate students" but, instead, the fear that postgraduate research would be taken away from the departments.

It appears, in fact, that this particular recommendation has drawn more criticism than any other — and criticism of the most serious kind. I urge all concerned to look at these papers for themselves.

A. BRAND
Sociology Department

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Hotly contested Elections

A casual visitor to the University at present might be forgiven for thinking it had been struck by a bout of gambling fever. He will note that everybody is pouring over pieces of paper, consulting what seems to be form guides and filling in squares.

Actually, the biennial elections for the Council are being conducted. The elections have generated a great deal of interest and for the first time in memory it has been necessary to conduct elections in every category of Council membership. The vacancies on Council being contested are:

- Two members being Professors,
- Two members being members of the Academic Staff other than Professors,
- Two members being members of the Non-Academic Staff, and
- Six members being members of Convocation.

The first two categories are elected by the full-time academic staff of the University. The nominations received for election as the two Professorial members of Council are:

- Professor Reyn Keats,
- Professor Geoffrey Kelleman,
- Professor Ronald MacDonald, and
- Professor Godfrey Tanner.

The two vacancies for Academic Staff other than Professors will be contested by:

- Mr. Howard Bridgman,
- Mr. Phran Chopra,
- Mr. Jose de Castro Lopo, and
- Dr. David Dockrill,

Dr. Kenneth Mitchell, and Mr. Brian O'Shea.

Voting will also be necessary to fill the Non-Academic positions on the Council. Normally, the Public Service Association's endorsed candidates are the only candidates. The nominees are:

- Mr. Trevor Askie,
- Mr. Maurice Edmonds, and
- Mrs. Mary Rabbitt.

There has been a very strong response to the call for nominations for the six Convocation elected members of the Council. In 1978, eight candidates contested this election; in 1980, the numbers of candidates was 12. The number of nominations received this year is 18, the candidates being:

- Robert George Beal,
- John Noel Cowley,
- Alex Danilovic,
- Warren Gerard Derkenne,
- Jessie Reid Dyce,
- Clifton Darfield Ellyett,
- John Janet Grade,
- Christopher Carl Hallett,
- Peter Ian Alexander Hendry,
- Subramanien Kanagasundarar,
- Terrance Radnor McManus,
- Philip John Miller,
- Roy Markham Mills,
- Elizabeth Dorothy Morrison,
- Bethia Margaret Pengelise,
- Brian William Reif,
- John Joseph Skehan, and
- Noeline June Wilkinson.

Another first is that this year sees the introduction of preferential voting instead of the first-past-the-post system of earlier elections. With a total of 31 candidates, and in particular the 18 contesting the six Convocation vacancies, perhaps the thoughts of the casual visitor may be somewhere near the mark.

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Improvisation

Music lovers are invited to find out what a "free jazz" group sounds like.

The German group, the Alexander von Schlippenbach Trio, is to play for the Department of Community Programmers at the Goethe Institut Sydney at 8 pm on Friday, July 2, at the Conservatorium Auditorium building.

The trio comprises Evan Parker (tenor and soprano saxophones), Alexander von Schlippenbach (piano) and Paul Lomas (percussion). The group is now in its thirteenth year of existence.

Coda Magazine reported that the trio received the most ecstatic reaction of the Pisa Jazz Festival last year..."the audience was frenetic!"...Evan Parker has been described as the most startling individual saxophonist to have appeared since John Coltrane.

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New Society

Interested in Geography?

Newcastle Geographical Society was formed to act as a communication forum for all those with an interest in the subject at a meeting in the Department of Geography on June 10. Staff and students of the Department were organiser of the meeting. The Society will support Geography in Newcastle and the Hunter Region by sponsoring speakers in the many sub areas of geography, organising social functions and providing a means where people interested in Geography can come together for discussion.

For further information, please telephone Extension 774 or Extension 654.
Remedial Reading

Know any children who might benefit from a course in Remedial Reading?

The Department of Education has vacancies for children aged between 8 and 12 years in its Remedial Education Clinic.

Further details may be obtained from the Department of Education by telephoning 68 5532 or 68 5503.

Cycleway

The Newcastle Cycleways Movement is still pressing the Newcastle City Council to finish the partially completed East-West Cycleway which, besides carrying other public cycle traffic, will link the University with the central area of Newcastle.

The Newcastle Cycleways Movement seeks to be as representative as possible of the cyclists in this city and would welcome more members - students and staff from the University community.

A descriptive sheet outlining the benefits of membership and membership forms are available to anyone contacting either John Birchenall (Medical School, Extension 613) or Colin Kay (Physics Department, Extension 234 or 235).

Dr. John Rockey, Lecturer in Architecture, was invited to give a paper at the recent ANZAAS Conference at Macquarie University. His selected subject was 'John Ruskin: A Programme for Architectural Education for a Theory of Design'.

In this summary, Dr. Rockey explains the background to his talk and Ruskin's ideas for the education of architects.

Architectural practice and education have been forced out of step by the rapidity of technological change. Increasingly, the very nature of architecture is threatened as practitioners are placed in subordinate roles and displaced from traditional tasks, while design becomes shaped by material factors. Few schools have begun adapting to these forces and piecemeal reforms have left many academics and architectural offices dissatisfied.

John Ruskin (1819-1900), Foundation Professor of Fine Arts at Oxford, is of interest because he was reacting to industrial changes analogous to our own. Opposed to prevailing commercial values, he was reputedly 'intoxicated with inspiration' and informed by a 'divine rage against falsity'. His Seven Lamps of Architecture (1849) and The Stones of Venice (1851) influenced such masters as Walter Gropius, Frank Lloyd Wright and Le Corbusier.

For Ruskin, architecture is a fine art, the aptitude for which is innate. So he envisaged Trial Schools for discovering talent and developing artistic skills. Primarily, these schools should be centres of design fostering creativity and style. Educators should spare no labour on those students possessing a natural pre-eminence. Studies should include literature, philosophy and the history of civilisation. No one can be a great architect, he maintained, who is not a metaphysician, sculptor and artist.

In sum, Ruskin insisted on searching vocational selection (present criterion the HSC aggregated); broadening cultural pursuits and advanced scholarship (currently, low weighting in humanities); extended concentration on design - the essence of architecture - 'now sometimes lost sight of as other subjects crowd out the curriculum'; and, the pursuit of local or national styles (today, fascination with novelty or the bland diet of international architecture).

Ruskin's programme for architectural education reflects his theory of design: the concept must have its inspiration, craft its lore, choice its limit, freedom its bonds, then emanate art its morality, architecture its style and the student's vocation.

(Rev. Rockey has been approached by the ABC to convert his paper into a radio broadcast.)
Intern Training

The first medical graduates from the University of Newcastle will be entering intern training positions in hospitals all around the State next January.

The original intake is now half way through the last year of the five-year course. The Faculty of Medicine has planned the year as a trainee intern year, involving the students in a variety of clinical attachments on an individual basis with senior medical practitioners in the various medical specialties and in general practice. The experiences they obtain range from a country general practice to being on a 24-hour call with a surgical team in one of the main teaching hospitals.

The University is naturally concerned that its medical graduates will make a good impression on the professional world they are about to enter. However, the evidence so far is reassuring.

The students have already had very extensive contact with the practising medical profession through those numerous members resident in the Hunter Region who offer their services to the University as part-time teachers. The students also have two complete terms during the course in which they can plan their own learning activities. Students have used the opportunity to travel to many parts of the world. Their return is often followed by most complimentary letters from staff in the medical centres where they have worked.

The Faculty is maintaining its commitment to innovative educational methods emphasizing integration, independent learning, clinical relevance, and the development of interpersonal skills. It is also continuing with its innovative methods of selection which take into account personal qualities, assessed by written tests and by personal interviews, as well as the traditional requirements of above average academic ability.

The University is currently seeking applications for the sixth intake to the medical course starting in March next year, for which applications close at the end of June.
Added Support for Committee

The Hunter Development Board. The Friends of The University and Convocation are now sharing the work of the Positive Initiatives Committee of Council. The Chairman Emeritus, Professor C.D. Ellyett, explained that enlargement of the Positive Initiatives Committee and the Council had enabled initiatives to be distributed to the groups that could provide support and take action with the least difficulty.

A number of new ventures and proposals have recently been considered and some have been recommended to the Council for implementation.

A joint meeting of Chairmen of Council and the Positive Initiatives Committee has recently put to Council the concept of an External Liaison Officer. The idea was accepted and the post is presently being advertised as a $40,000 p.a. salary package.

Survey findings

A researcher from the University of Sydney has indicated that new students of the University of Newcastle are the most satisfied group of new students on Australian university campuses.

Within the University of Newcastle itself medical students reported greater satisfaction than those in other faculties and the study states that other faculties and other universities should examine closely the approach adopted within the Newcastle Medical School.

Dr. Williams, student counsellor at the University of Sydney, carried out the comprehensive study, which encompassed such criteria as staff/student relationships, social life at university, the quality of education provided, basis of student and participation in decision-making and was based on questionnaires distributed amongst students at 15 universities in Australia.

Within the University of Newcastle, a high score on student satisfaction was achieved by Arts students, who were ranked second to Medical students in almost every scale. Dr. Williams argues that although entry to most universities has become highly competitive there is still concern at failure rates and withdrawal rates among new students. It was agreed that a high proportion of students withdrew or failed because of adjustment to environmental factors rather than intellectual difficulties.

So far, he says, there is very little data on social and environmental similarities and differences, between Australian university campuses. Unlike their overseas counterparts, most Australian students attend universities closer to their homes.

One implication of the finding of the Williams Study is that Australian universities are too impersonal and that students in small universities, like Newcastle University, probably experience this impersonality less than those at the large universities.

Of the 19 universities in Australia only Deakin, Griffith, Murdoch and Flinders were omitted from the Study. This left all those in New South Wales, 5 in South Wales, Macquarie, Wollongong, New England and Newcastle — as among the participants. The small universities tend to rank highest on student satisfaction. New England, Newcastle, Tasmania, Wollongong and Macquarie achieved the highest scores in the order for male student satisfaction and, as an average, the male student satisfaction, Newcastle, New England, Wollongong, Macquarie and Australian National were accorded the highest scores.

Examining the Australian universities individually, the study says that on a student enrolment basis Newcastle University ranks 12th of the 15 universities in the study;

"Even though it is a non-metropolitan university, the City of Newcastle is large enough to enable 60 per cent of males and 59 per cent of females in our sample to live at home with parents. Thus, it is basically a commuter university, the proportion of students living at home being about the same as at the University of New South Wales."

The Williams Survey prompted these comments from the Vice-Principal, Professor Ken Dutton:

"The findings are very encouraging for staff. The University has made a conscious attempt to encourage extensive student participation and involvement in its affairs."

"Because most new students live at home, enabling them to maintain school friendships, the transition from school to university is less marked than at some larger, central universities."

"The SRC's successful forum on the Academic Plan reflects the students' involvement and concern at what is happening at the University."

"Also the fact that the rostrum was shared with the staff, confirms the finding of the Williams Survey that the students feel that they have access to the staff and are willing to join in the campus dialogue on academic issues."

Professor Dutton said.
Health Cards

Health Care Card eligibility is now assessed a on an increased level of income.

- Single people with a maximum income of $103 per week or an average income of $412 over four weeks,
- Single parents with one child with a maximum income of $112 per week or an average income of $688 over four weeks; plus $20 per week for each additional child,
- Married couples with a maximum income of $172 per week or an average income of $688 over four weeks; plus $20 per week for each child,
- Former army or navy personnel who have been assessed as eligible for a Health Care Card.

Enquiries may be directed to the Department of Social Security, or to the University Health Service.

Advertisements

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE
LOOKS AHEAD

You can make the University well-known by displaying a sticker.

Produced by Convocation following a suggestion from the Positive Initiatives Committee, the University stickers measure 15 cms by 5 cms. As a result of the financial limitations, Convocation has to keep the cost down. So bring your money with you. A stock is held by the Publicity Office (G60) in the McMullin Building. COST: 50 cents each

Situation Vacant

EXTERNAL LIASON OFFICER
$40,000 PACKAGE INCLUDING CAR

The Newcastle Convocation Foundation is a foundation of the graduate body of the University of Newcastle. In association with the University they wish to appoint an External Liaison Officer.

Reporting to the Chairman of the Foundation, duties of this newly created position include liaison between the University and a wide variety of organisations in commerce and industry and schools, not necessarily in the Hunter Valley area. Fund-raising will also form part of the appointee's responsibilities. Some travel is therefore envisaged.

Applicants aged from 35 years of age should be self-starters and have a sound educational background, ideally gained in a university. The ability to promote the activities of the Foundation through contact with people and groups is essential. Previous fund-raising experience would also be well regarded.

An attractive salary package in the vicinity of $40,000 per annum will be negotiated depending upon experience and qualifications. Superannuation and a fully maintained vehicle can be included as part of the salary package.

Complete confidentiality is assured. Initial telephone enquiries may be made to either B.H. Todd or R.S. Bozek at (02) 230 1666. Written applications quoting file no. 959 should be forwarded to: Price Waterhouse Associates Pty., Management Consultants, Box 191, Royal Exchange, Sydney, New South Wales, 2000.

Nimrod

Nimrod Publications' 1982 publications are an anthology of comic and humorous verse and an anthology of Japanese haiku. The publications were selected by a ballot of all Nimrod Publications Society members.

The anthology of comic and humorous verse — Nimrod's Quarry #5 — will be selected and edited by T.H. Naisby and Donald M. Moore. The anthology of Japanese haiku — Nimrod's Quarry #6 — will be selected, presented, and introduced by James Fennessy, with Australian versions by Norman Talbot, and illustrations by James Bennett. Contributions for the former anthology may be sent to the editors through Nimrod Publications, c/o the University. All contributions should be hitherto unpublished, or have details of publishing history clearly attached. Each must be offered by the actual author, and must be accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope. While no restrictions of subject-matter or size are imposed, longer works will be at a distinct disadvantage.

STAFF

Appointments

Dr. R.H.L. Down, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine.
Mr. C. Larrow, Laboratory Craftsman, Psychology Department.
Mr. W.R. Mason, Computer Programmer, Computing Centre.

Resignations

Mrs. J.M. La'trobro, Administrative Assistant, Secretary's Division.
Mr. P.J. Letchford, Technical Officer, Faculty of Medicine.
Mrs. S.A. McIlroy, Stenographer, Commerce Department.
Professor R.W. Robinson, Faculty of Mathematics.

For Rent - LONDON

Mrs. W.P. Lloyd, of 88 Mann Street, Arncliffe is interested in letting her house in Central London to an academic who may be going to London on sabbatical leave.

The house is a terraced unit on two floors, built around the turn of the century. It is close to the Central line underground stations of either Leyton or Leytonstone (East London) and central to shopping and all bus routes into central London. The house itself is completely modernised and comprises three good-sized bedrooms, a large lounge and dining room with French doors leading to the garden, a large kitchen, shower, bath and separate toilet all contained within the house. The decoration is of a very high standard, and there is carpeting throughout, as well as full gas central heating.

The rental Mrs. Lloyd envisages is in the region of £250 per calendar month (approximately $425), which includes rates, water rates, and all ancillary services. Electricity, gas and telephone would be payable by the tenants on a quarterly basis.

For Rent

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

Carol Byrnes, Ashtownfield, telephone: 35 8072.
Jan Collister, Wallsend, telephone: 51 1524 or 25 681.
Jan Davis, Metford, telephone: 33 2592.
Faye Morton, Mayfield West, telephone: 67 4147.
Advertisements

Challenge

In the last issue of University NEWS I offered a bottle of wine for information on the remark, "China is a sleeping giant..." (said to have been made by Napoleon), both the correct full quotation and an acceptable source. It seems that my colleagues have had as much difficulty with this minor item as I have! I am therefore, with unparalleled generosity, now offering a bottle of Elizabeth Reisling and a bottle of Philip Hermitage for the correct solution. The offer closes on June 30!

E.M. ANDREWS
History Department
Extension 365.

WANTED

House for visiting Professor and family from June 26 until September 7. Please contact Bruce Valaire c/- Department of Mechanical Engineering.

FOR SALE

1975 TOYOTA CORONA SE MANUAL SEDAN in very good condition, 110100 K. Rear brakes which have been recently re-lined, very good tyres, 12 months registration, $2,100. Please telephone Extension 593.


DIARY OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, JUNE 17

Noon & FILM: DIVINE MADNESS - "a clean, dirty film!". Venue: Common Room.

FRIDAY, JUNE 18

1 pm Performance by SCRATCH, highly percussive modern group. Venue: Southern Cross Lounge.

MONDAY, JUNE 21

4 pm ANGLICAN EUCHARIST, Chaplaincy Meeting Room (Union Basement).

2 pm to Department of Civil Engineering & Surveying Seminar. Guest Speaker: Mr. R. Merkennoff (Leighton Contractors, Bayswater). Topic: EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN CIVIL ENGINEERING, Public Sector vs Private Sector. Venue: LAGO (Engineering complex).

MONDAY, JUNE 24 until JUNE 24

ARTS & CRAFTS EXHIBITION. Categories: Painting, Sculpture, Graphic Arts (including Collage), Photography, Pottery, Creative Writing, Mixed Media (performance, photographic, experiments, video or movie film entries, kinetics, traditional crafts (weaving, tapestry, knitting, embrodiery, crochet, preserving) and Kitsch. All entries must be received no later than JUNE 18. Venue: Southern Cross Lounge (Union).

TUESDAY, JUNE 22

3.30 pm Department of Philosophy Seminar. Guest speaker: Dr. A. Nargis (Computing and Mathematics, University of Exeter). Topic: ASCRIBING MENTAL PRECEDENTS TO COMPUTERS. Venue: LAGO (McMullin Building).

1 pm FILM: HOME ON THE RANGES - American Bases in Australia. Venue: Common Room.

6 pm S.C.M. Study Group. Topic: CHRISTIAN FUNDAMENTALS. Venue: Chaplaincy Residence, St. Philip's Church, Wahroonga. Meal provided. Please telephone 68 3358 if you wish to attend.

THURSDAY, JUNE 24

Room & FILM: MACBETH 7 pm (Roman Polanski). Venue: Common Room (Union).

FRIDAY, JUNE 25 to JULY 31

ART EXHIBITION - paintings, prints, weavings by Cheryl Kusick and Jackie Garring. Opening night, June 25 from 4.30 pm until 7.30 pm. Venue: Staff House.

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 Mrs. John Atmatraong 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.