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## VAN GOGH'S EAR

### Central Coast Campus officially opened

The Governor-General visits Ourimbah



# GOVERNOR-GENERAL

MORE than 500 people turned out on the first day of spring, to see the Governor-General the Honourable Bill Hayden officially declare open the Central Coast Campus at Ourimbah. Children from the Burri Dance Group of the Darkinjung Council performed the Boomerang Dance of Welcome at the beginning of the ceremony which was held in front of the new library. Mr Hayden unveiled a plaque to commemorate the occasion and afterwards he and Mrs Hayden talked with guests while lunch was served by TAFE students studying Tourism and Hospitality. The official party was later taken on a walking tour of the site.

In his speech, Mr Hayden spoke about the importance of continuing education.

"The concept of this campus very much reflects my own belief and experience. For me, education and learning have been life-long undertakings, both formally and informally," he said.

"I left school at the young age of 15. It was not until my twenties that I began correspondence study to matriculate and, after I entered parliament in 1961, to get a degree in economics from Queensland University through what we now call distance education.

"Tertiary education opened up my mind. It made me more receptive to new ideas. It gave me a firm basis for the small "I" liberal values I have about society.

"Now that I am getting ready for retirement I have



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# OPENS CENTRAL COAST CAMPUS

been doing a part-time course at what is now the Canberra Institute of Technology, formerly the TAFE College, relating to the sort of work I will be doing on a farm that Dallas and I have bought not far from Ipswich in animal science, cattle husbandry, farm pastures and practical courses such as fencing, welding, motor vehicle maintenance and bricklaying. I have also been visiting some nearby properties learning cattle pregnancy testing, branding, cutting, innoculating cattle, dehorning them and so on. I believe it is far better for me to be preparing for retirement rather than to sit around in the suburbs moping the rest of my life away. In fact, I am now meditating on the possibility of starting another university course after I finish this job at Yarralumla.”

The Central Coast Campus is a joint venture of the University of Newcastle, the Hunter Institute of Technology and the Central Coast Community College, and consequently offers a range of university, TAFE and WEA courses designed to meet the educational needs of the region.

The official party included the Chancellor Mr Ric Charlton, the Vice-Chancellor Professor Raoul Mortley, the acting Deputy Managing Director of the NSW TAFE Commission Mr John Allsopp, the Director of the Hunter Institute of Technology Ms Gaye Hart, the Director of the Central Coast Campus Professor Les Eastcott, the Minister for Tourism, Communications and the Arts the Hon Michael Lee and Mr Grant McBride MP. The Campus Chaplain the Reverend Roy Hazlewood blessed the Campus on behalf of the community's ecumenical leaders.

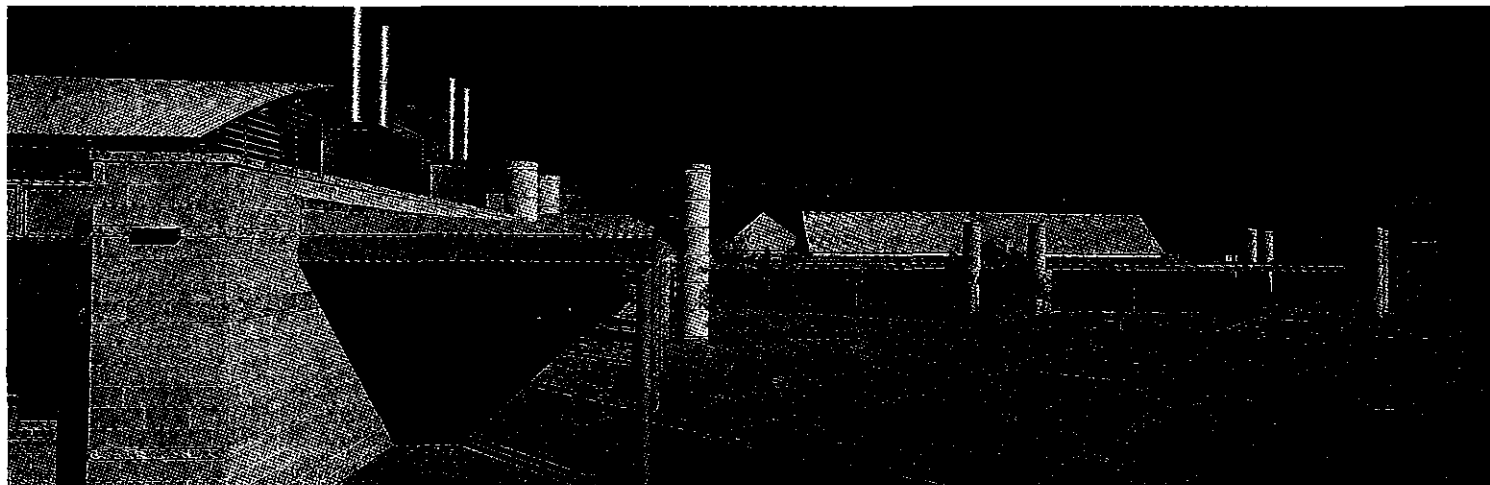


The Chancellor, Mr Ric Charlton, the Governor General, the Hon Bill Hayden and Director of the Central Coast Campus, Professor Les Eastcott.

“The concept of this campus very much reflects my own belief and experience. For me, education and learning have been life-long undertakings, both formally and informally.”

The Campus has cost \$27 million to date and currently has over 1600 students enrolled in the university and TAFE sectors, numbers that are likely to double next year and reach the maximum projection of 8,000 students within a decade.

Recognising the nature of the site as an educational precinct, the Governor-General said “ I believe the name “Ourimbah” comes from an aboriginal word meaning a circle of initiation. Certainly it would seem appropriate for an institution that is committed to education as an essential part of the process of transition at many points in the human life cycle”.



# WHAT A GRAND PIANO IT IS

The University's new Stuart and Sons grand piano was officially launched last month by Mrs Hazel Hawke at a recital given by internationally acclaimed pianist Piers Lane. It marked the ending of yet another highly successful Keyboard Festival held annually by the University's Faculty of Music and Conservatorium.

"It is an icon for Australians, a voice we can call our own and a vindication of our cultural maturity."

The program included 6 Bagatelles Op. 126 by Beethoven; the Sonata in b minor by Liszt; Twelve Etudes Op. 10 by Chopin; and three movements from Petroushka by Stravinsky.

It was a program which highlighted the brilliance of both the artist and the instrument. It also gave Piers Lane something of a physical workout.

"I came on tonight with the flu but I think I've sweated it out now," he exclaimed after the first of five encores.

The Stuart and Sons grand was designed and made by Wayne Stuart. It began in Melbourne as a TAFE project but when it grew beyond their capacity to develop any further, Dean of the Faculty of Music, Professor Robert Constable, seized the initiative. As he recalled in his opening remarks prior to the concert, "When I saw it and played it, I knew we just had to have it!

In her speech, Mrs Hawke said that she was well acquainted with Wayne Stuart from the work he had done some years ago when he supervised the restoration of a long lost Beale piano for The Lodge. (It had apparently been in The Lodge during the Whitlam residency but when the Hawkes moved in years later, the piano had disappeared).

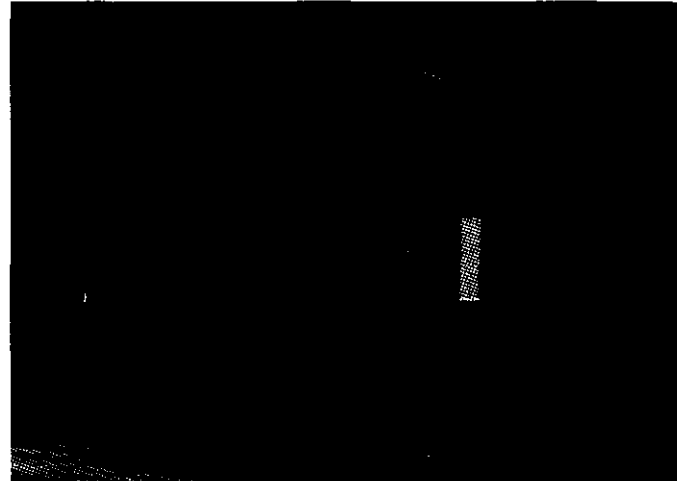
"I really loved the project, and later enjoyed, for some years, having it in The Lodge where it remains to this day."

Mrs Hawke spoke of the discipline of Stuart and Sons in finally making the beautiful Huon Pine grand a reality.

"It is the product of true dedication to the dream and to the task," she said. "It is an icon for Australians, a voice we can call our own and a vindication of our cultural maturity."

Word of the piano is spreading rapidly and it will inevitably attract top pianists from around the world who will want to come to Newcastle to play it.

As well as beginning the process of making another concert grand, Wayne Stuart will also be responsible for heading up a research team which will explore piano technology further. It is anticipated that research will involve both the Faculty of Music and the Faculty of Engineering.



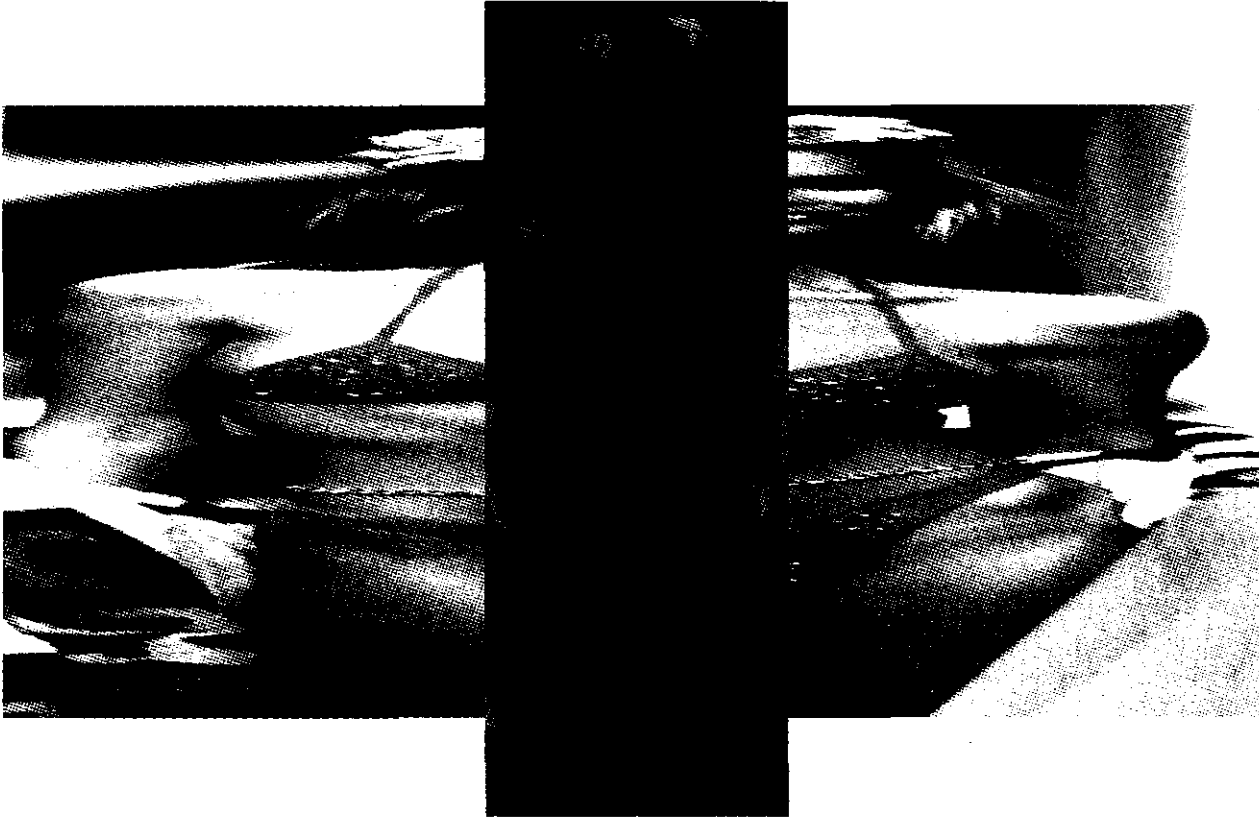
Above: (l to r) Raoul Mortley, Wayne Stewart, Piers Lane, Hazel Hawke and Robert Constable.



Below: Piers Lane - a stunning performance.



# A LOOK TO DIE FOR?



The bad news is that eating disorders such as anorexia nervosa, bulimia and binge eating are on the increase. The good news is that treatment for them is becoming more effective.

That was one of the messages given by Dr Denise Wilsley at her recent public lecture at the University. Dr Wilsley, who was visiting the Department of Psychology, is the Director of the Eating and Weight Disorders Centre at Yale University.

Studies have shown that the average female model today is at least 15% below her expected body weight, and many of them, Dr Wilsley said, look as though they are suffering from an eating disorder. She cited an opposite trend in the general population in the United States, where the percentage of the population which is overweight has increased from 25% to 33% in the past decade.

“What that means is that the weight of our models is decreasing while the average woman’s is increasing... and that leads to a lot of body image dissatisfaction.

It is not difficult to understand how the discrepancy between the perceived ideal and reality can lead to societal pressures for women to be fit and lean. Dr Wilsley pointed out, however, that men, too, are increasingly feeling the pressure. For them the message is that they must strive for the “swimmer shape” and the result is that they are also being treated at an increasing rate for eating disorders.

Those who are most at risk of developing eating disorders

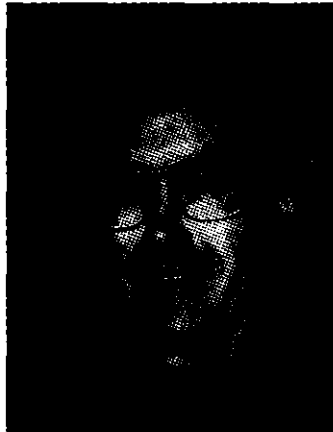
are women who are biologically disposed toward obesity, as well as those who struggle with self-esteem. “They focus on altering their appearance as a way to construct an adequate self...we see this particularly with adolescent girls,” Dr Wilsley explained.

“Studies have shown that the average female model today is at least 15% below her expected body weight.”

Patients suffering from anorexia nervosa are typically perfectionists who find it difficult to recognise their problem. “The first problem for an anorexia case is trying to convince them that they need treatment,” Dr Wilsley said. On the other hand, bulimia nervosa and binge eating disorder types “feel very out of control about their eating behaviour and usually present for treatment on their own.”

Dr Wilsley said the treatment of choice for bulimia nervosa is cognitive behavioural treatment, which focuses on attitudes about eating, shape and weight, as well as the problems with binge eating. The treatment had also been found to be useful for sufferers of binge eating disorder and anorexia nervosa. Anti-depressant drugs, she said, were found to be of limited effect as patients tended to regress when they were no longer taking them. They also failed to address the source of discontentment that may have led to the condition in the first place.

# FINDING SOLUTIONS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY



Mechanical engineers are often seen in negative terms, with their products associated with obsolescence, pollution, resource depletion and unemployment.

Speaking at the inaugural lecture to mark his appointment to the Chair of Mechanical Engineering, Professor Neil Page said that this negative view was undeserved and was caused by the very scale and concentration of human activity.

"What was once an easily externalised by-product of technology is no longer so," he said.

"Although the technologies underpinning our civilisation are changing, they are changing more in degree than in kind. Our needs for energy, transport, goods and services are greater than ever, but must be satisfied in new ways, ways that present challenges and opportunities to mechanical engineering."

In his lecture entitled the 'New Industrial Age', Professor Page said the nature of the long established industrial base in advanced economies such as Australia's was changing - shifting from the manufacture of goods towards the provision of services.

"This is occurring in a climate of increasing community desire to reduce the impact of human activities on the environment. Yet we must remember that the majority of the world is anxiously awaiting the benefits of its first industrial age...If they try to reach it by the path we have followed, there is real concern as to whether the world can sustain an acceptable quality of life...Clearly in both advanced and less advanced economies we need more environmentally benign technologies to support our civilisation."

The lecture focussed on what Professor Page described as the essence of mechanical engineering - physical motion - concentrating on transport. Mechanical engineering, he said, can make great contributions to improving the performance of and developing new transport technologies.

Professor Page said that with both public and private transport, reducing vehicle weight had a positive effect on energy consumption, lower emissions and shorter trip time.

"Lower weight can be achieved by better design, the use of more light weight or stronger materials...Yet if we look at... 1952 the Holden saloon weighed 1020 kg. In 1995, the Holden Commodore Executive weighs 1383 kg. Clearly we are not doing well on the weight front...We privately make choices harmful to the environment while publicly urging others to solve the problems of pollution," he said.

"As our civilisation develops, there is a continuing need for new solutions to our needs for energy, transport, manufacturing and services, solutions that mechanical engineering can contribute to by exploiting new materials and processing through innovative design."

"We privately make choices harmful to the environment while publicly urging others to solve the problems of pollution."

SOLUTIONS





## LEARNING TO LEAD

When the Dean of Nursing, Professor Margaret McMillan was involved in developing and implementing tertiary based programs for nurses ten years ago, her excitement was tempered by the feeling that she was an impostor. Despite 20 years of prior experience in nursing and education, Professor McMillan felt an element of cognitive shock at the steepness of the learning curve and tended less towards "vision" and more toward instilling pragmatism into sometimes ill-conceived plans.

Speaking at her inaugural lecture in August, Professor McMillan said if she had her time over again, she would think a great deal more about the way forward. "If we don't have an open mind and a capacity for critical personal reflection, as well as a sense of the right time to let go, we risk losing all of what we believe will contribute to making a difference."

In an era in which the omnipresent concept is change, in which nursing educators will constantly be exposed to novel situations, there will be a need to develop new skills. Professor McMillan believes that one of the most

important skills will be leadership.

"I would suggest that there are some personal attributes that need to be developed before leaders in nursing can evolve in a way that ensures that services and operations are enhanced and barriers...overcome," she said. "The role of the leader involves instilling principles of best practice into an organisation...The leader (with the help of others) needs to create an environment for quality."

Nurses have a responsibility to nurture leaders in order to make an impact in education, practice and research, Professor McMillan said. "It is imperative that we believe in ourselves, our endeavours, enterprise and the people who form part of it...We have to continually question how we are servicing our courses."

Professor McMillan stressed the importance of nursing leaders being sensitive to the real world, even at the risk of discomfort or disenchantment and encouraged others to look more closely at reality with her.

"People can be stunted and consumed by the past. It can be an excuse for not changing. It is really easy to fill up our days with maintenance issues and some of that is necessary. It is much more important to be future oriented, to ask the 'What if ?' questions...We need to take time to recognize the concepts of artful nursing."

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## PARENTS OF ADHD CHILDREN SURVEYED

A survey of parents with children diagnosed as having Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) has shown a general satisfaction with treatment by medical practitioners but at the same time revealed that many problems associated with ADHD are not being addressed adequately.

ADHD, which is characterised by excessive activity, impulsivity and inattentiveness in early childhood, affects the health of an estimated five percent of children in the Hunter Region. In the 1993-94 period, 1237 children were prescribed medication for the condition for the first time. The parents of 795 (64%) of these children responded to a request to participate in the survey.

Child Psychiatrist, Dr Philip Hazell, from the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, presented the results of the survey at the Annual General Meeting of the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Association held in Christchurch, New Zealand in August.

"We asked about the initial evaluation of their child, ongoing management of the condition, monitoring of the treatment and whether the parents thought the treatment had been successful," Dr Hazell said. "The fact that so many people responded indicates they had a story to tell."

Most people surveyed had to seek help from at least three health professionals before their child was diagnosed. They felt they had been given adequate information

although it was more likely to be verbal than written and, overall, assessment complied with the parameters set down for medical practice. Two thirds of those diagnosed were seen in the Hunter region. The rest sought medical attention in Sydney.

The main problem with treatment and monitoring, according to the parents surveyed, was the lack of attention paid to conditions associated with ADHD.

"Very few children have ADHD alone," said Dr Hazell. "They also tend to have difficulties with learning, behaviour and, in some cases, coordination."

"These associated problems were diagnosed by the medical practitioner but there was a lack of follow-up treatment. Very few children are getting special education services or tutoring to deal with learning difficulties."

The survey, which was funded by the NSW Health Department's Health Outcomes Project, will be followed-up with a telephone interview in an attempt to discover the differences between those children who achieved a positive outcome and those who did not.

"We want to look in more detail at the domains of the children's functioning, such as their academic performance, peer interactions, social behaviour, and functioning within the family. We'd like to know where children get into the most difficulties."





New environment officer, Janine Stablum, despairs over Autonomy Day litter and the over use of paper on campus.

## THE FURTHER GREENING OF CALLAGHAN

The experts told us that the age of computers would bring with it the paperless society but a quick squizz in the bins and recycling bags in most University buildings would quickly disabuse anyone of such a notion.

According to the University's new Environment Officer, Ms Janine Stablum, the paper culture needs to be seriously questioned. "If we're producing multiple printed copies of every document, perhaps we're not using the technology at our disposal to its best advantage," she said.

And that's not the only campus culture which needs questioning. Since her appointment in April, Janine has been planning significant changes to the way we approach environmental issues. Some of her major projects will be to assess and propose better ways to manage waste and conserve energy. This will be done in consultation with Engineering Services.

"Awareness of environmental issues has increased dramatically in recent years and I believe that most people at this University will be willing to participate in any initiatives, as long as they can see the benefits," she said.

And the benefits can be significant if the results from other universities are any indication. Universities in Canberra, Adelaide and Melbourne all report incredible savings after implementation of energy saving measures. The Universities of Queensland and Western Australia and Curtin University introduced waste management strategies with significant decreases in the quantity of waste going to landfill.

"As well as saving money, other universities have received a certain amount of kudos for what they have achieved. They are considered good corporate citizens," she said.

Another aspect of Janine's jobs includes ensuring the

University complies with Federal and State Government environmental legislation. The disposal of hazardous and other waste, water restrictions, noise levels and clean air all come under her jurisdiction.

**"With commitment and forward thinking by staff and students the environment will really have something to look forward to."**

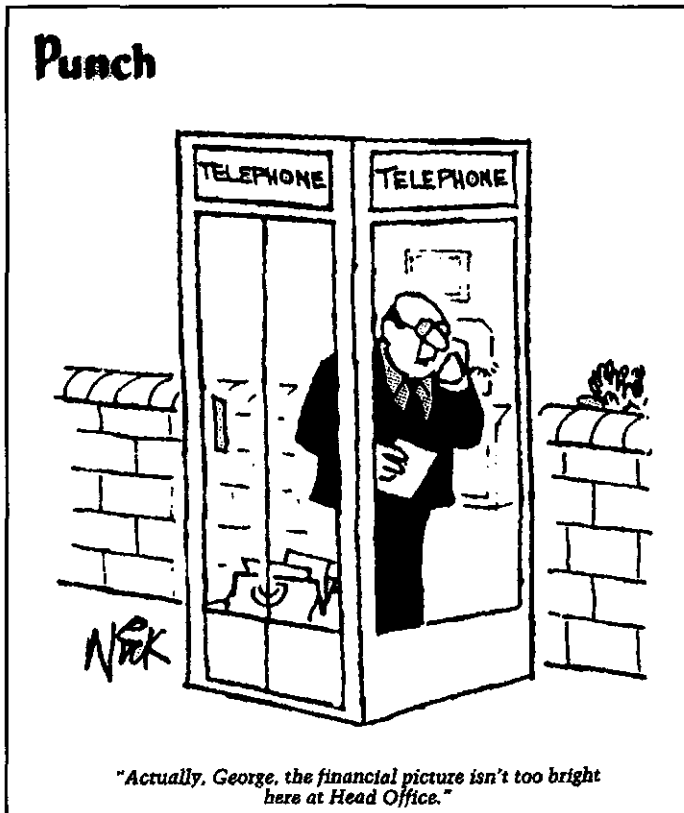
Some of the measures she intends to introduce require strategic planning, like changes to waste collection when contracts come up for renewal. Others require careful negotiation.

"There's a lot of visual pollution on campus, mainly from advertising flyers and posters in inappropriate places. Naturally we wouldn't want to impinge on freedom of speech but there must be a better way of communicating information and ideas. I have already begun talking to NUSA representatives. One suggestion has been the use of banners rather than throw-away posters. Banners can be re-used and don't create rubbish," she said.

Increased participation in an extended, campus-wide recycling system is another of Janine's aims but will also require longterm planning and careful negotiation. There have been times, she admitted, when it's all been too overwhelming. After all, changing people's attitudes and habits has defeated many a social engineer - even those with huge budgets - unlike Janine!

"Some systems are already operating but the opportunity still exists to make some real improvements. With commitment and forward thinking by staff and students the environment will really have something to look forward to."

# COMMERCE DULL? NEVER!



"Accountants, lawyers, technologists and marketing men all contribute essential skills...If one discipline prevails, however, danger is imminent." - *M. Van Mesdag, "Why too many mergers come unstuck", The Director, April 1972.*

So begins a new book by Sparke Helmore Professor of Law Warren Pengilley and Sydney management consultant James Feros. Both have qualifications and experience in law, accounting, commerce and management and both are well aware that texts on these subjects can be rather dull.

"We're not frustrated comedians but it is undeniable that many a true word is spoken in jest."

The book - *Strategic Business Decisions: Reviewing Proposals for Growth* - published by Pitman, is a common sense guide to making management decisions, with a lot of fun thrown in. It is a collection of checklists, cartoons, sage quotes and accessible commentary on various aspects of management. As the authors said, "We're not frustrated comedians but it is undeniable that many a true word is spoken in jest."

"People in the business sector and in management positions often don't recognise that a broad range of

issues has to be considered when making decisions - they are frequently governed by their own discipline in making their evaluations," said Professor Pengilley.

"Any management decision should be made after consideration by a broad spectrum of evaluators, not just the traditional accountants, marketers and lawyers. Devil's advocates should be encouraged. And the effect of management decisions on people is perhaps the prime factor so often overlooked.

"It's important not to be fooled by the figures, computers and printouts - ask sensible questions to elicit the information required before making a decision. Use good checklists (many are provided in the book) and always consider the alternative of building up your own business rather than buying someone else's."

The authors also warn that projections often don't consider the changing world, and draw the reader's attention to some delightful quotes:

"There is no reason for any individual to have a computer in their home." -

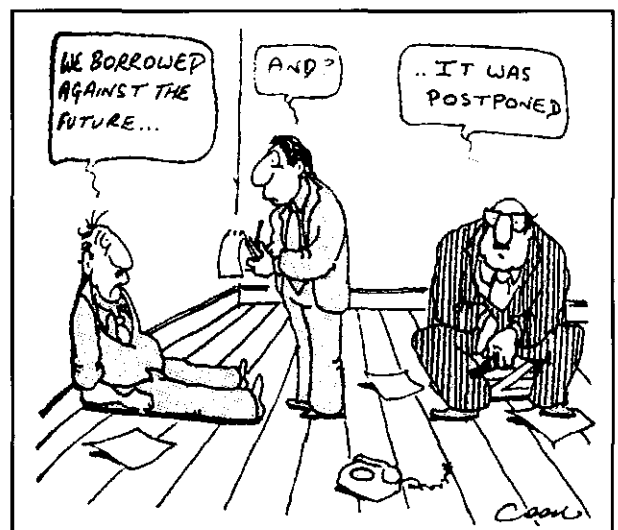
*Ken Olsen, president Digital Equipment Corporation, 1977.*

"I think there is a world market for five computers." -

*Thomas Watson, Chariman of IBM, 1944.*

"There is not the slightest indication that nuclear energy will ever be obtainable. It would mean that the atom would have to be shattered at will." -

*Albert Einstein, 1932.*



Professor Pengilley has taken his own advice and earned a number of qualifications and wide ranging experience, including work as a country solicitor, a partner in a large Sydney law firm, and a Commissioner of the Trade Practices Commission.

# AWARD TO LEGAL CENTRE



(l to r) Nicole Legget, John Boersig, Rodney Walsh, Hellen Nikitidis, Andrew MacDonald and Paul Murphy with the award.

The Newcastle Legal Centre has been awarded the Newcastle Citycentre Business Award - Service Provider by the Newcastle Citycentre Committee. The Legal Centre is at the heart of the clinical legal education component of the University's Faculty of Law, providing supervised legal skills training for students in a practical setting and a place where the public is able to obtain free legal advice.

Senior Lecturer in Law and Director of the Centre, Mr John Boersig, said the award was "in recognition of the provision of a good service to the people of Newcastle. It shows that the Centre and its services are responding well to the needs of the local community."

The Centre has provided legal advice to over 500 people this year and has referred many people to private lawyers once a legal issue has been identified.

## CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Just over \$540,000 in Quality Assurance incentive funding has been approved by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Raoul Mortley. The money will support a variety of projects put forward by faculties as well as CALT, the Family Action Centre, Computing Services, the Library and the Central Coast Campus.

Two of the successful proposals to be funded highlight the University's primary goal of continuous improvement. The Faculty of Nursing, for example, will receive just over \$53,000 to redefine and operationalise its quality assurance policies; and the Faculty of Architecture will receive \$40,000 for two proposals - the development of faculty-industry links and the development of a preparatory program for overseas students.

According to the Dean of Nursing, Professor Margaret McMillan, the faculty will be able to set up, for an 18 month period, a Quality Assurance Support Unit which would redefine existing policies on a faculty rather than a departmental basis and then put them into effect.

"The Unit would also be in a position to provide me with advice and recommendations on all Quality Assurance matters," she said.

The funding will provide for a full time member of academic staff plus secretarial support for the 18 month period.

Professor Barry Maitland, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, said that the two projects put forward by the faculty would enhance the long-term quality

and viability of its activities, as well as meeting immediate perceived opportunities.

"The faculty has been holding discussions with industry and professional groups such as the Royal Australian Institute of Architects and the Australian Institute of Builders, to try to find ways of developing new industry links as well as new initiatives in professional education," he said.

"This project would enable us to carry out a feasibility and planning study for a new post-graduate, professional development course for professionals already in the industry."

Professor Maitland said that the second project involved the development of external studies material for students with standing.

"It is based on our experience of the difficulties overseas students with partial qualifications commonly have in adjusting to our courses. The material we hope to develop would provide a relatively gentle introduction to areas of the course which give most difficulty," he explained. "It would also establish a mutual commitment to their future enrolment at the University of Newcastle."

**"The successful proposals to be funded highlight the University's primary goal of continuous improvement."**

# DISAPPEARING FROGS

In the last decade seven Australian frog species have become extinct and 20 more species are endangered. And no-one knows why.

Dr Michael Mahoney, from the Department of Biological Sciences has seen an extinction. He watched a species of frog disappear from its last known habitat, a mountain between Townsville and Cooktown. That particular disappearance may be put down to a fish virus, probably introduced from outside Australia.

"We know nothing about why frogs are disappearing and what affect that will have on the eco-system because we have never monitored their numbers or researched their ecology," Dr Mahoney said. "I started out studying genetics and evolution in animals, using frogs because they were abundant and easy to find. But suddenly they were not so easy to find and, unlike the recent deaths of race horses and pilchards, there was no industry with a vested interest to cry foul."



Dr Mahoney and friend - why are frogs disappearing?

He is now surveying frog populations in New South Wales in an attempt to determine the rate of decline (or otherwise). The field research, funded by the Australian Nature Conservation Agency, is coming up with mixed results.

"Their disappearance is said to be an early warning system for others who inhabit the earth."

The rainforest pouched frog is doing well and reproducing in areas where it has been studied; the northern tablelands bell frog has not been seen during the last two years; the peppered frog found in the escarpment regions of the Great Dividing Range and described to science in 1985, is now believed to be extinct; and, while two of the three species of Great Barred River frogs are doing well, the other can't be found.

The good news is that during the field studies, Dr Mahoney and his team have discovered new species of frogs but the question still remains: Why are so many species disappearing?

The decline of frog populations has been likened to the situation of the canary in the mine. Their disappearance is said to be an early warning system for others who inhabit the earth. While he is cautious about exaggerating this analogy, Dr Mahoney believes we should take notice and do the research now before frogs are gone and we can learn nothing about why they became extinct.

"In 1984 I discovered and described to science Australia's second species of gastric brooding frog. This Australian frog is known to brood its young in its stomach and give birth orally. By 1986 it was extinct. When you can walk along a creek and only find the same frog you tagged two weeks beforehand, you know there's not many others out there. It's very worrying," Dr Mahoney said.

"Race horses suddenly sickened and died, thousands of tons of dead pilchards were recently washed up on our beaches. There are things out there that we have no control over and if a virus is killing our frogs, then we must consider the potential for danger to our other fauna."

# REFLECTIONS OF A 'RIVER RAT'

Visiting professor in the University of Newcastle's Department of Geography, Professor Jonathan Laronne, lives and works in the Israeli desert but is an expert in the transport of sediment in rivers. He has worked in almost every type of landscape, from the hyper arid regions of Israel to glacial areas in New Zealand.

On previous visits to Australia he advised on gravel mining projects involving, among others, the Murrumbidgee, Macleay and Clarence Rivers. As a fluvial geomorphologist (with qualifications in geography, civil engineering and geology) his expertise covers two main areas: the damage caused to rivers by extracting resources; and the clogging of water reservoirs with sediment.

"Wherever there are rivers there are forces and those forces are the same," he said. "However, the problems facing rivers can be very different."

"It's important to understand that rivers have varying abilities to supply materials for our use. Some areas of a river may be sensitive to changes imposed on the landscape and they ought to be left alone. But sometimes, especially in developing areas, economic and political decisions are made which can be detrimental to rivers."

In Australia, as in most other countries, the main resource mined from rivers is aggregate (gravel) but Professor Laronne said this material can also be mined from mountains and, in many countries, is being produced artificially from broken down cement blocks and other waste material.

Rivers damaged by gravel mining, however, can be rehabilitated with the help of reservoirs. Around the world,

the clogging of water reservoirs with sediment has been a problem. In one instance a reservoir was filled with sediment within a decade. In Israel, reservoirs are being located on stretches of river which have been damaged by extraction of gravel or sand.

"The damaged site is covered with water and recuperates much faster than it would otherwise. And the sediment which collects in the reservoir is being sold as a resource to contractors, making the cleaning of clogged reservoirs an economically viable option," Professor Laronne said.

After leaving Australia, Professor Laronne will attend a meeting of fellow fluvial geomorphologists, or as they call themselves - "river rats." That meeting will set the agenda for the next five years of research in this area.

He hopes that more Australians will become interested in this research and perhaps develop a more contemporary approach to their work. The fluvial geomorphologists already working in Australia, he said, are more interested in historical phenomenon than they are in solving the present day problems of rivers.



Professor Jonathan Laronne with students in the Department of Geography.

## AUTONOMY DAY ON THE WESTERN FRONT

Twenty six members of the Far Western Alumni Association of the University attended a 30th anniversary dinner in Perth on Autonomy Day this year. The recently formed group of graduates and their guests dined at Wellingtons Restaurant in West Perth to swap memories of Newcastle experiences.

The dinner was preceded by a tasting of wines from Rosemount Estate, with the Hunter vintage setting the tone for the evening that followed. One of the founding members of the group, Mr Terry Love, said "the dinner was a success, and is likely to be followed by similar functions next year". The coordinator of the group, former Convocation Medal winner Professor Terry Caelli, proposed a toast to the University on its 30th anniversary.

A letter from the Pro Vice-Chancellor for External Relations, Professor Jenny Graham, congratulating the association on its formation and offering the future support of the University was read at the dinner. The Alumni Association will seek a regular meeting place and will then propose some further activities. Anyone interested in making contact with the Alumni Association in the West should contact the Convocation Officer in the Public Affairs Unit at the University.



Swapping memories in Perth.

## VALE SANDY ANDERSON

*The first member of the academic staff to be appointed to the University (when it was still the Newcastle University College) has died at the age of 72.*

*Alexander "Sandy" Anderson was a lecturer in the Department of Philosophy from 1954 to 1988. He specialised in ethics, logic, aesthetics, the origins of philosophy, the relationship between philosophy and psychoanalysis and the relationship between philosophy and scientific mood.*

*Mr Anderson was born in Scotland and although he migrated to Australia as a young boy, he never lost his accent. As an undergraduate at the University of Sydney he was interested in literature and science but chose philosophy just as his father had. (His father was John Anderson the famous Chalice Professor of Philosophy). An obituary published in The Australian earlier this month was written by a long time friend, Alvin Lawson, and the following is an extract from it.*

*"He was a gifted teacher, with great patience, determination and knowledge of his given subjects, and the ability to pass this to his students. At the same time, his warmth of personality and interest in people, whatever their standing, endeared him to many of his students. A large number kept in touch after his retirement, some attending his funeral and some sending condolences, which after seven years speaks for itself.*

*He possessed a fine academic knowledge of his chosen subjects, but as well had an encyclopaedic knowledge in many fields and could talk to a skilled engineer, a chemist or a mechanic at their level of expertise in their professions, quite often to their surprise when they found he was a lecturer in philosophy and not their subjects. Sandy is survived by his mother's sister Meg, aged 100 this year, and her brother Willy, aged 90, who reside in Scotland.*

*Vale to a philosopher, teacher and friend."*

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## VALE PROFESSOR GEORGE

*We are sad to report of the death in June of distinguished physicist Emeritus Professor Paul George who died in June of bronchopneumonia.*

*Professor George was most recently a Research Associate in the Department of Physics but during his long and valued career he had a great deal of professional contact with the University. This was particularly true during the period when he was Head of the School of Physics at the University of New South Wales and Newcastle was its College.*

*In his retirement Professor George moved to the Hunter Valley and maintained contact with the Physics Department. He brought new insight into some areas of physics and his period with us was most valuable. He assisted in our undergraduate laboratories, and he made international contacts which have been fruitful for both the Department and the Discipline.*

*Professor George was a valued colleague who will be greatly missed. He is survived by his wife Mabs.*

Associate Prof John O'Connor, Head, Department of Physics

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR LETTER TO THE EDITOR LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

The University of Newcastle has a new campus myth. A member of an administration unit gave her location on the Hunter campus as "The Station - I think there used to be a railway station here."

The Station was the creation of the quirky sense of humour of Jim Stokes, a lecturer in the Social Sciences Department at the Newcastle College of Advanced Education (NCAE), one of the ancestors of the Hunter Institute of Higher Education (HIHE) in the late 1970s or early 1980s.

During an acute shortage of office space, a 1940s unlined timber double portable classroom from Broadmeadow High School was provided. Jim was allotted an office there and its full-length open verandah prompted him to christen the

building The Station. Jim got from somewhere such railway artefacts as a guard's cap, a lamp, a 'waiting room' notice and a sign warning against venereal disease.

On this fringe of the CAE a small railway sub-culture grew that even used railway terms like tagging as The Indian Pacific a lecturer who came in only once a fortnight.

Jim moved up to the main platform when he became Head of Department but The Station he left behind has been institutionalised. He is still something of a phantom figure as a part-time lecturer in Fine Arts.

(Dr) Morris Graham  
Former Head, Social Sciences Department  
Newcastle CAE

# PREGNANCY- REDUCING THE RISKS

Researchers in the Discipline of Reproductive Medicine have begun collaborative work with Indonesian obstetrician, Dr Ronald David, which will reduce the risks associated with pregnancy for Indonesian women and their unborn babies.

Dr David practices at the Atma Jaya Hospital and is attached to the Atma Jaya University in Jakarta. While the three main causes of death in pregnant Indonesian women are haemorrhage, pregnancy induced hypertension and infection, it is the treatment of hypertension which has brought Dr David to the University.

"The work done in Reproductive Medicine at the University of Newcastle is well known internationally - the researchers here are leaders in their field," he said.

Head of Reproductive Medicine, Professor William Walters, said Dr David's work will focus on studies of the placenta. Using special ultra-sound equipment and under the supervision of international expert Associate Professor Warwick Giles, he will measure blood flow in the placenta before delivery. Then, using laboratory equipment which keeps placentas 'alive' for up to five hours after delivery, he will carry out clinical trials on certain drugs.

"When blood flow to the placenta is restricted, as is the case with hypertension, the growth of the fetus is retarded. Babies whose mothers have suffered with hypertension carry the effects with them through life and are more prone to heart disease, hypertension and stroke," Professor Walters said.



Dr David with researcher Mark Lietch in the placental research laboratory at John Hunter Hospital

*Inset: (left to right) Professor William Walters, Professor Alan Boura, Dr Ronald David and Dr Mark Lietch.*

"In Indonesia, a number of drugs are used to treat hypertension, some of them not the same as those used in Australia. Dr David will carry out clinical trials on those drugs because, although they are successful in treating the hypertension, we do not know how they affect the foetus."

Dr David will be assisted in his work by Professor Walters, Professor Alan Boura, Dr Mark Lietch and Dr Mark Reed.

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## CELEBRATING THE FIRST DECADE

Research for Practice: Making a Difference was the title of the highly successful international conference held



(l to r) Janice Morse (Professor of Nursing, Pennsylvania State University), Irena Madjar (Professor of Nursing, the University of Newcastle) and Marilyn Pedder (Continuing Education Unit, Faculty of Nursing, the University of Newcastle)

last month to celebrate the first decade of tertiary based education for nurses in Newcastle.

Conducted over three days, the conference drew delegates from the United States, Korea, Thailand, New Zealand and from throughout Australia. The keynote speaker, Professor Janice Morse from Pennsylvania State University, delivered a paper entitled 'Nursing Scholarship - Sense and Sensibility'.

A smorgasbord of sessions from practitioners and academics provided topics such as cultural diversity in patient care, nursing practices in neonatal intensive care, and the recently developed nurse practitioner role.

The speaker at the conference dinner was Miss Maureen McGrath, one of five people instrumental in managing the transfer of nurse education in NSW from hospital based programs to the tertiary sector.

The conference was held at the University's Conservatorium of Music and officially opened by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Keith Lester.

## FIRST STUDENTS FROM TEMASEK POLYTECHNIC

Closer ties are being forged with Temasek Polytechnic in Singapore with the hosting of two students by the Faculty of Engineering. The two students are the first to come to Australia from Temasek's Industrial Attachment program.

Byron Kwek and Poh Ting Ong are enrolled in Diplomas of Mechanical Engineering and Electronic Engineering respectively at Temasek Polytechnic. As part of their diploma program, all students undertake an 11 week Industrial Attachment to sample the realities of industrial and commercial life. Traditionally, the top five or six students in each year (of several hundred students) are selected to venture overseas to experience a broader diversity of cultures and work practices. Students from Temasek have, in the past, travelled to China, Hong Kong, India and Germany.

The opportunity to study and work at Newcastle has

arisen out of growing ties between the University's Faculty of Engineering and Tamasek's School of Engineering. Formal links between the two institutions have been established, with a view to attracting increasing numbers of Temasek diplomates seeking to articulate to bachelors degree status, and providing professional development for Temasek staff through our postgraduate opportunities.

While they are here, Byron and Poh Ting are working on various aspects of the Wind Turbine project being undertaken by the Centre for Industrial Control Science (CICS) and the Department of Mechanical Engineering. A major goal for the students outside of the laboratories is to experience some snow before they return home.



Poh Ting and Byron at work in Mechanical Engineering.

## AFFILIATION AGREEMENT SIGNED

The University of Newcastle recently signed an affiliation agreement with the private organisation, Health Care of Australia, proprietors of the Christo Road Private Hospital.

Health Care of Australia agreed to fund a Fellowship in Reproductive Medicine based at Christo Road Private Hospital. The fellowship holder will have links with the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences' Discipline of Reproductive Medicine.

According to the Vice-Chancellor, the affiliation agreement and fellowship provides opportunities for both the University and the hospital.

"The position will enable the hospital to carry out education and research activities and will provide valuable assistance to the hospital's visiting obstetricians and gynaecologists. The University will gain an additional teaching unit and have access to patients and resources at the hospital, which will extend its teaching and research capabilities. It is encouraging to see the private sector developing a partnership with the University in this way," Professor Mortley said.

The Obstetric Unit at the Christo Road Private

Hospital was developed in collaboration with the University's Discipline of Reproductive Medicine and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the John Hunter Hospital.

Professor Raoul Mortley with Dr Barry Catchlove, Managing Director of Health Care of Australia.

