FEATURE: EQUITY & ACCESS

Ingrid Olsson
"Sunset over East Campus Car Park"
Tie for People's Second Choice

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THE FIRST NATIONAL EQUITY CONFERENCE:
BETTER ACCESS, GREATER EQUITY, A FAIR CHANCE FOR ALL

Following the success of the inaugural Access and Equity Symposium hosted by the University of Southern Queensland in April 1992, the University of Newcastle won the support of delegates to host the first National Conference on the topic.

The conference, which will be held over three days from October 5 to October 7, will address issues including Government policy, equity and excellence, implementing equity initiatives, programs, research developments and credit transfer. Entitled, A Fair Chance For All in Access to Higher Education, Consolidation and Advancement into the 21st Century, the Conference is being organized by the Student Equity and Access Committee of the University, with the assistance of an external steering committee comprising representatives of DEET and staff of other universities, both academic and administrative.

The University of Newcastle applied to DEET for funding assistance and received a grant of $30,000. Equity and Access have become an integral part of the profile of Australian universities in recent times. All institutions must now submit an Equity Plan to DEET each year; the quality of which has funding implications.

In its policy statement on higher education released in July 1988, the Government made a commitment to achieving equity in higher education, as part of its social justice policy. In aiming to achieve a more just society, universities are seen to have a role in providing a fair chance for all in access to higher education.

One of the objectives of the conference is to review progress in equity and access to higher education since the 1988 policy statement and to plan for the future. The outcomes of the conference will be reported back to Government and institutional policy makers.

Four staff members of the University of Newcastle hold positions on the Steering Committee. They are: Gail White, Assistant Academic Registrar; Dr Anita Van Der Wal, Co-ordinator, Learning Support Unit; Annette Rudd, Disability Officer; and Dierdre Heinmeyer from Wollotuka.

Registration fees for the Conference are $170 (standard), $150 (presenters) and $100 (students). For bookings and further enquiries, please telephone Gail White on 215315.

PROGRAM:

Day 1 Tuesday October 5, 1993
10.00 - 12.00 Registration 7.30 Students from Low Socio-Economic Backgrounds
12.00 - 1.00 LUNCH * Students from Non-English Speaking Backgrounds
1.00 - 1.30 Official Welcome * Rural and Isolated Students
1.30 - 2.00 Statement of Government Policy Conference Dinner
The Minister: Department of Employment, Brunswick Room Shortland Union, Education & Training
The University of Newcastle After Dinner Speaker: Denise Scott
2.15 - 5.30 Major Issues Papers
* Equity and Excellence
* Mainstreaming Equity
* Equity and the Law
6.30pm Hunter Valley Wine Tasting Light Dinner
South Sydne Plating Ventures
After Dinner Entertainmen - Mick Davison
Didgehi600 player and interview

Day 2 Wednesday October 6, 1993
9.00 - 10.00. Keynotes Address - Miss Maggie Woodrow, 12.30 - 1.30 LUNCH Plesary Session Recommendations
Co-Chair International Access Network From Parallel Sessions Final Resolutions
The University of North London
10.30 - 12.30 Parallel Sessions
* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Programs
* Inclusive Curriculum
* On going Academic Support
* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Programs
* Preparatory Programs
* Schools Link Programs
* Special Admission Schemes
12.30 - 2.00 LUNCH Special Interest Group to form a 2.00 - 4.30 Parallel Sessions
national association of workers in equity and Interest Groups
access in higher education
* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students
* Students with Disabilities
* Women in Non-Traditional Studies

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:
* Ms Maggie Woodrow, Co-Chair, International Access Network
* Ms Eleanor Rankus, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Equity), University of South Australia
* Professor Brian English, Chair, Student Equity and Access Committee, University of Newcastle
* Associate Professor Brolf West, Director, Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Participation Research and Development, James Cook University
* Equity and Access program facilitators
* Government and Institutional policy makers

Day 3 Thursday October 7, 1993
9.00 - 10.00 Association Permation
10.30 - 12.30 Issues - Parallel Sessions
Credit/Transfer:
TAFE-
Open Learning
Recognition of Prior Learning
12.30 - 1.30 Evaluation of the Commonwealth Government's Higher Education Equity Program
LUNCH Plesary Session Recommendations
From Parallel Sessions Final Resolutions
3.00 - 3.30 Closing Address
ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION
AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Given the enormous diversity of national systems of higher education, it would seem that access is primarily a product, or perhaps a prisoner, of each country’s individual policies and traditions. In this case, an international perspective on access to higher education would be of no more than academic interest.

Maggie Woodrow

Maggie Woodrow, Head of Access and Community Education Services (ACES) at the University of North London, will present the keynote address during the Access and Equity Conference hosted by the University of Newcastle. Ms Woodrow’s role at North London University is to provide a major local, national and international centre of excellence for research, development and training in access and related issues, and to take forward the university’s access initiatives, programs and activities.

As Co-Chair of the European Access Network, Ms Woodrow is currently involved in investigating access approaches in European universities for the European Community, and working with the Council of Europe on its three year project: Widening Access to Higher Education in Europe. Ms Woodrow is also Co-Chair of the International Access Network, an initiative launched in Boston, USA, in 1990.

She says that comparative studies show a surprising consistency of access issues across national frontiers. “This encourages the view that where common problems of access are identified, common solutions can also be found,” Ms Woodrow said.

Her keynote address will focus on an international definition of access (Is it about participation rates? Retention rates? Or about the content, structure and delivery of the higher education curriculum itself?); an international agenda for access (Is widening access compatible with maintaining academic standards and controlling public expenditure?); a client perspective (Who are access students? What are their perspectives on higher education? How can universities respond to their needs? How is their progress monitored?); collaboration for wider access (What are the pitfalls and progress in local, national and cross-frontier collaboration?); and wider issues (What are the educational, social and economic implications of moving from an elite to a mass system of higher education?).

“I see the conference in Australia as encouraging evidence of the high profile that access issues are gaining world-wide. The conference program offers a valuable mix of overall issues and practitioner-based topics, with the prospect of some very positive outcomes, not least in relation to the proposal for a national access association,” Ms Woodrow said.

“I look forward to hearing some new perspectives, particularly in the area of resource-led policies on access, in which Australia is seen as a front-runner; and also the opportunity to extend the work of the International Access Network.”

FOCUS ON ACCESS
NEW SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

1993 has seen an expansion of services and resources for students with a disability at the University. This has largely been made possible through an Equity grant used to employ a full-time Disability Liaison Officer within the Student Support Office, whose role it is to initiate and implement disability services of direct benefit to students with a variety of disabilities.

These services are already having an impact. Ms Annette Rudd, who was appointed to the position in June, says she has noticed a significant increase in the number of enquiries from both prospective and enrolled students with a disability, particularly those with higher support needs that may arise from multiple disabilities.

Assistance for students with disabilities at the University now takes on a variety of forms. Each student is an individual with different coping strategies and so the assistance is tailored to meet specific needs. For example, some students may need to use a notetaker in lectures because of a manipulative impairment, or a scribe in tutorials for the same reason. Visually impaired students may need the assistance of a reader.

The libraries may be difficult environments for students with severe back problems or other mobility impairments who may need help in collecting books or photocopying. Through the Equity grant “Student Assistants” are available to help other students in this situation. Annette is responsible for implementing this scheme and reports that it has had enormous benefits for the students involved.

“Students with disabilities now really can have equal access to the necessary informa-
Andrew Hampson, first year Mathematics student, is currently receiving services from the Student Support Office, courtesy of the Equity grant.

IMPROVING EQUITY AND QUALITY

Ms Eleanor Ramsey, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Equity) at the University of South Australia, is determined to influence the national education debate. She has spent nearly a decade and a half working in the area of equal employment opportunity, women’s affairs generally and equity in education for currently marginalised groups.

Prior to taking up the position at the University of South Australia, Ms Ramsey was the Director, Equity (Workforce and Studies) for the Queensland Department of Education. She has also worked as the Equal Opportunity Officer for the South Australian Equal Opportunity Office, the Equal Opportunity Officer for the South Australian Ethnic Affairs, in the Office of the Women’s Adviser to the South Australian Premier and as the Women’s Officer at the South Australian Teachers’ Union.

Ms Ramsey has provided leadership at a state and national level in the policy and curriculum areas of sexual harassment and racism. She is known by many of her articles on such subjects as conversational politics, classroom interaction, sexual harassment and feminist applied linguistics.

In a recent interview in Campus Review (Vol 3; No 26), Ms Ramsey said she believes strongly that there is an inter-relationship between equity programs which maximise the skills and experience of its staff, and the quality of the educational outcomes of its students.

"I think the wider context, the wider agenda, offers Australia a unique opportunity to improve education and training along both dimensions of equity and quality," she told Campus Review.

"By achieving equity in education for both staff and students you inevitably improve quality as well as productivity."

At the 1993 Equity Conference, Ms Ramsey will discuss the relationship between issues and priorities in the equity portfolio, for both staff and students, and the current priority on quality and accountability in higher education.

"I will discuss the fundamentally different relationship which is currently emerging between higher education and the other sectors of education and training, and between higher education and our society in general," she said.

Ms Ramsey says the Equity Conference in Newcastle provides an ideal opportunity to bring together those with an interest in, and responsibility for, issues of access, equity and excellence in higher education at a national level.
TOWARDS AN INDIGENOUS UNIVERSITY

Associate Professor Errol West, who established the Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Participation Research and Development at James Cook University, says the National Equity and Access Conference provides an opportunity to focus on the next phase of educational development in Aboriginal higher education.

Professor West believes this next phase should be the establishment of an Australian indigenous university. “This University, which is conceptually the next logical step in Aboriginal education, is presently known as the Australian First Nations University (AFNU),” he said.

“As with all other citizens, irrespective of their motivations, Aborigines have a right to decide and pursue their personal and collective desires and to chart their own course.”

Professor West’s paper will focus on a number of issues in support of the establishment of the AFNU, as well as on some of the negative responses likely to be raised to prevent Aborigines attaining an absolute act of self-determination within the laws and infrastructures of Western society.

“It is my view that the debate on the need for an AFNU is over. It has been a focal point of discussion for almost all Aborigines involved in Aboriginal Education for over two decades. The apprenticeship is over, now is the time to act, achieve and control our future in higher education,” Professor West said.

A Tasmanian Aborigine, Professor West trained as a primary teacher at Coburg CAE in Victoria. Upon graduating in 1978, Professor West spent two years teaching before transferring to the Aboriginal Education Department as a Curriculum Advisor. In 1981, Professor West transferred to the Aboriginal Advisory Unit, Department of Premier and Cabinet, working there until being appointed as the inaugural Deputy Chair of the National Aboriginal Education Committee (NAE) in 1983.

His work towards achieving equity in Aboriginal Education continued, and in 1989 he was appointed as principal lecturer, School of Humanities, UTAS (Launceston Campus). While at UTAS, Professor West established the Centre for Aboriginal Research and Education (CARE) and co-ordinated the establishment of an Aboriginal Studies Major in the BA degree.

The Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Participation Research and Development established with Professor West’s assistance, offers access courses for Aboriginals in a number of subjects. “These courses enable students to enrol in many non-traditional (for Aborigines) degrees, especially in law, tourism, geography, education and the sciences,” Professor West explained.

The major activity of the Centre under Professor West’s direction, is the establishment of a degree in Australian Indigenous Psychology, a discrete Torres Strait Studies course, a communications course and the development of community-based access programs, research projects into culture, the environment and tourism, teaching Aboriginal languages, and research into Aboriginal health matters including spiritual mores and practices.

FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

As I move around and meet the various Departments, I am learning a great deal about the University, and I do welcome these opportunities. Accommodation is always an issue, and this will have to be dealt with by the newly-formed Council Physical Planning Committee, which contains three internal members of the University (Professors Mortley, Carter and MacDonald) and three external members of the Council (Ms Gillard, Mr Owens and Mr Peschar), and is chaired by the Deputy Chancellor, Dr Hendry. The Committee is advised by Messrs Penfold, Alexander and Pender.

This Committee has a big responsibility: it has over $30m available to it over the next five years. The Federal Government is clearly providing us with sufficient capital funds to do the job properly, and if the Committee does its job wisely and well, we should finish up with a fine campus and well-housed body of staff and students. Many accommodation problems are caused by private and external grant funding, which comes into the University without proper assessment of the real University contribution required, in space or overheads. In this sense, much grant or contract activity can actually detract from the University and its purpose (referred to as “mission” these days). We will be looking at how to improve our revenue from indirect costs budgeting in future years. But in the meantime, we will have to be patient! Buildings now being completed include the Arts and Design Building, and the Centre for the Advancement of Learning and Teaching. But others will follow.

RAUL MORTLEY,
Vice-Chancellor.
EXCERPTS FROM AVCC BULLETIN - 6/8/93
The AVCC Board of Directors met on Tuesday, 3 August.

ENTERPRISE BARGAINING
The Chairman of AHEIAA, Professor Blake, reported agreement with non-academic and academic unions on national framework agreements for enterprise bargaining.

QUALITY ASSURANCE
The Board noted a report from the Standing Committee on Education regarding the changed focus of the Committee on Quality Assurance in Higher Education (CQAHE). The Committee observed that rather than focusing on quality assurance mechanisms, as had been the previous understanding, there had been a change to include “excellent” outcomes. It was felt that methodological difficulties are associated with such an approach, and that there are also difficulties associated with a shift from audit of quality mechanisms to audit of institutional quality.

CURRICULUM PROFILES
The Board noted that work to provide nationally comparable secondary student learning experiences through the Curriculum and Assessment (CURASS) Committees of the Australian Education Council had been asked to terminate in November 1993. The Board resolved to advise the A.E.C. of its disappointment.

CHINA REPORT
The Executive Director, Mr Hambly, and the Director of International Relations, Mr Scutt, reported on a recent visit to China. They stated that Chinese higher education institutions are involved in and affected by changes taking place as China moves towards more market-oriented policies. A number of steps have already been taken towards greater autonomy for universities. Also significant is an increase in benefactions by expatriate Chinese and wealthy alumni. Chinese universities were interested in cooperating with Australian universities, particularly in exchange agreements. AVCC was offered as a contact point. It was clear that Chinese universities had been disappointed that some agreements signed with Australian universities were not followed up.

AVCC SAYS “MIXED BAG FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN BUDGET”

The decisions announced in the Federal Budget are a mixed bag for higher education, according to the President of the Australian Vice-Chancellors’ Committee, Professor Eric Smith. Professor Smith said the Government is to be commended for:

- Merging the APA and APFA Schemes into the Australian Postgraduate Award Scheme and exempting holders of these awards from HECS;
- Indicating that it will relax the guidelines in respect of fee-paying postgraduate students;
- Announcing that supplementation will be provided for universities for economic adjustments to workplace negotiated staff salaries;
- Offering temporary funding assistance of up to two per cent for academic and general staff for productivity increases.

RESEARCH
Professor Smith said the universities are extremely disappointed with the less than expected funding for research in infrastructure.

“A review commissioned by NBEET recommended that additional annual funding of more than $100 million was needed to make up for serious shortcomings in equipment, libraries, space, technical support and general infrastructure in universities. “The AVCC is concerned that the Government has effectively ignored the findings of the NBEET enquiry.”

HECS
”The full implications of the decisions to adjust HECS will not be known until the details are determined, but it is clear that the impact on some students will be considerable. "In particular, the decision to set completion times for students of only one semester above the minimum time required for courses, after which a higher HECS repayment rate will apply, will impact severely on such students. The AVCC argues strongly that at least one additional year should be allowed, and it will be making representations to the Government on this issue. “The introduction of a deferred payment facility similar to HECS for students enrolled in Open Learning may well be welcomed by the students enrolled in those courses but, to the extent that the organisation offering the courses is separate from the publicly funded universities associated with it, the arrangement blurs the boundaries between public and private providers.”

Professor Smith pointed out that there may be administrative difficulties in implementing the Government’s changes to HECS.

ENROLMENT POLICIES
“AVCC is concerned at the proposed measures to regulate university enrolment processes even more closely. Already universities are required to meet total and commencing student load targets. Apparently, yet another enrolment target is to be introduced, this time for school leavers," Professor Smith said. "While the AVCC acknowledges the needs of school leavers, it believes strongly that universities are best placed to select students with the potential to make the most effective contribution to the desired ‘clever country.’ ”

“Universities will also be concerned that policies which oblige them to enrol pre-determined quotas of school leavers could result in their contravening legislation aimed at preventing discrimination on grounds of age.”

NOBEL LAUREATE APPLAUDS NEWCASTLE PHD THESIS

Dr Elias Canetti, famous Austrian author and winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, has praised Newcastle University graduate, Dr David Scott, on the quality of his doctoral thesis. In a letter to David, Dr Canetti states that he was “captivated” by the thesis and that, unlike other theses he has read, he has no doubt that this work “constitutes a real achievement.”

Under the supervision of Associate Professor Alfred Bartholet, David conducted research into the writings of Elias Canetti in the German Section of the Department of Modern Languages. Entitled, "Elias Canetti’s Cognitive Rhetoric: Metaphor in "Masse und Macht", David’s thesis is an analysis of how the generation and communication of knowledge takes place...
COPE WITH STRESS IN THE PIT

Picture the Australian coal-miner; a tough, coping, macho individual, not subject to the emotional "weaknesses" which grip the rest of us from time to time. Or so the image portrays. In reality the picture is somewhat different, as discovered by a University lecturer.

"In some areas, there exists a belief that coal-miners can cope with anything; that stress is part of the workplace and that they certainly don't require counselling," Ms Tricia Jacobs from the Department of Occupational Therapy, said. However, others do express concerns that their grief is abnormal, different and wrong and that they should be able to cope.

It is here that de-briefing can offer relief and education to those affected. Trish is part of an Advisory Committee which has been working on developing a management program for Critical Incident Stress in the mining industry. Initiated by Trish in 1989, the program has already been implemented in a number of coal mines around the Hunter Valley.

Critical Incident Stress can occur in any workplace, be it a coal mine, bank, service station or other area. Any event which causes a change in an individual's coping skills, whether they be physical, psychological or social, can be termed a "crisis". Trish says that although individuals react differently to different stresses, there are symptoms in common which can be dealt with if appropriate steps are taken.

Experience and research has shown that workers suffering from Critical Incident Stress may show abnormal behaviour patterns including deterioration in interpersonal relationships, increased alcohol consumption, increased tobacco use, irritability, absences, increased use of drugs and mood changes.

In an effort to combat Critical Incident Stress (and the related dangers) in the mining industry, Trish has produced a "Critical Incident Stress Management Package" containing a management protocol (compiled with assistance from the Department of Mineral Resources, Mine Workers Federation, Coal Association and the Joint Coal Board), a booklet on coping with crises, a series of training programs and an explanatory video.

The package was launched late last month by Dr Garry Lowder, Director General of the Department of Mineral Resources. Trish says the training programs will assist miners in recognising stress, encourage them to talk to their co-workers and suggest counselling where necessary. For her part, Trish has conducted a number of de-briefing sessions following accidents or deaths in mines.

"Basically what I am trying to do is to normalise the grieving process for miners following abnormal events," she said.

"Once we actually start the de-briefing process, the miners recognise its importance and appear to get something out of it," she added. The de-briefing program extends to rescue workers, mine-workers not involved in the rescue and family members of the injured or deceased. Those involved are taught stress management techniques, such as relaxation and imagery.

Trish, who is recognised as a world authority in the area of industry stress management, particularly in the field of mining, has been invited as a Visiting Fellow to the University of Portsmouth, UK, for 12 months. She has also been approached by the Royal Navy and the Hampshire Police Department to assist in the development of their own specific Critical Incident Stress Management Packages, which she says, will be based on the model developed here in Newcastle.
STATE INTERVENTION NEEDED IN ECONOMY

Full employment. Once a realistic, strenuously pursued goal in Australian economic life, the notion somehow seems outdated today. There is a growing suspicion among Australians that it is an impossibility, a reflection of a naive, protectionist past that will never be achieved again. But Professor Bruce McFarlane, newly appointed to a Chair in Economics at Newcastle, feels it is not only achievable, but should be a major goal for the Government and for economists.

In his Inaugural Lecture, delivered on campus in July, Bruce said today's economists lack vision. "In looking at the industrialisation and growth patterns of our country today, I am struck by the lack of vision, a lack of a clear set of goals being provided within the profession of economists," he said. "What passes for goals are pure technicalities - tariff adjustment here; waterfront reform there. The only unifying principle really is faith in the magic of market forces."

Neo-classical orthodox economics today put the individual at the centre of attention, Bruce said. The hedonistic assumption that the individual was bent on maximum pleasure with minimum pain discounted the study of society. Bruce said. And while big business may like the idea of full employment, there was no attempt to maintain it over a long period as it threatened the establishment of labour discipline, he said.

Bruce openly supported Government intervention in industry. "There should be activist State intervention in industry...it is up to us to decide on an industrial structure and go for it," he said. "Another view I am very much against is that which says, since Australia is now integrated with the world economy, there is not much that we can do about the economy...external shocks determine everything. I can't go along with that...we do have a sovereign Government, who can introduce industrial policy, or wages policy," he explained.

The last Federal election had shown that Australians want fairness, that the welfare system should be part of an ideal society. And the fact they did not go in for the "I'm all right Jack" option should be respected, Bruce concluded. "Even if we went back to the 1945 White Paper, we'd be ahead of where we are," he said. "There is a chance with the new Committee (to formulate a White Paper on Unemployment) to implement an interventionist industry strategy and regional planning to combat unemployment. In the end, that is the sort of program that is worth fighting for."

Bruce joins Newcastle's Economics Department from Macquarie University. The author of twenty books on world economics and politics and scores of articles, he brings a wealth of knowledge with him.

THE JUNGLES OF BORNEO

The phrase "off the beaten track" took on a new meaning for students from the Division of Leisure Studies during a recent expedition to Northern Borneo. Organised and led by Kevin Markwell, a part-time lecturer in the Division, the main purpose of the trip was to have participants "act as a case study" for Kevin's PhD research into nature-based tourism.

Twenty students, undertaking courses in Science, Environmental Science and Social Science, took part in the expedition, gaining valuable insight into Northern Borneo's ecology, culture and tourism "industry".

The highlight of the trip proved to be a hike up South East Asia's highest mountain, Mount Kinabalu, which rises some 13,455 feet out of the surrounding jungle. Other activities included visits to a cave system - home to thousands of bats; wildlife sanctuaries populated by Orang Utans; the Australian War Memorial in Sandakan; deserted islands and, by way of contrast, Singapore.

According to Emily Butler, who is undertaking a degree in Social Science (Recreation and Tourism), the Borneo Expedition provided attendees with an education in life that will enable them to understand and combat any situation in the future. "If you can climb the highest mountain in South East Asia and survive the jungles of Borneo, you can do almost anything," Emily said.
LAW STUDENTS HELP ‘REAL CLIENTS’

A co-operative effort between the Faculty of Law and the Hunter Community Legal Centre is resulting in law students breaking new ground in their first year of study. The students are putting theory into practice every Thursday night by volunteering their services as interviewers for the Centre in Newcastle.

The Director of Clinical Legal Education, Ms Maria Tzannes, said law students normally do not take an active role of interviewers during their studies but that Newcastle’s law course was taking an innovative approach to traditional practices.

"It’s important that law students are involved in the practical aspects as soon as possible and that is the aim of our course," Maria said.

“Our students initially visited the Legal Centre earlier this year as observers and then undertook an interview skills workshop and further training in family law.

These workshops as well as role play situations have resulted in the students being able to offer their services.”

A total of 23 students from the first year enrolment of 60 have volunteered as interviewers on a six-week rotational basis for the Centre. Their role is to interview clients and then hand the facts to the Centre’s volunteer solicitors. If further facts are required, the solicitor will then interview the client.

The Co-ordinator of the Hunter Community Legal Centre, Ms Jill Miller, said the Centre assisted people who did not qualify for Legal Aid or who could not afford a private solicitor. The Centre is funded by the Office of Legal Aid and Family Service through the NSW Legal Aid Commission. Services to clients are not only provided by solicitors employed by the Centre but also by solicitors who volunteer their time.

"The students undertook orientation sessions to work within our guidelines and the program is working very well,” Ms Miller said. “Our first priority is the client and they are informed if they are to be interviewed by a student, but we recognise that the education of the student is also important and they are gaining valuable practical experience.”

Maria said the 23 students volunteering their services was a high proportion for such a program, especially as the work is in addition to comprehensive law studies.

"There is no academic credit given to the students but the experience of assisting real clients in their first year is very advantageous in increasing their knowledge of law, co-operating with a legal service and also communicating with practising solicitors,” Maria said.

"The quality of service offered by the students is very high and there is a great deal of enthusiasm for the program which not only assists our students but also helps a very important community legal aid service.”

JEWEL IN THE ECONOMICS CROWN

written by Dr Roy Green of the department.

"Apart from Roy Green and my friend Bruce McFarlane who has recently returned to Newcastle to join its professorial ranks, the department boasts the grand old man of Australian HET and a superb classical scholar, Barry Gordon, as well as Allen Oakley, a distinguished student of German and Austrian economics in its more radical variant," Professor Groenewegen said.

"Roy Green’s performance shows the addition of a classical scholar in a new dimension, a student of classical economics (Marx/Saffra style) to add lustre to this already superb group. Given its small number of professors, and the voting proclivities of Australian economics professors as disclosed in a recent issue of Campus Review, Newcastle would have been ranked much higher in the recent professorial survey reported by Blandy and Anderson in the Australian Economic Review if that survey had been based more on facts, and less on preconceptions and prejudice.

"The HET strength in the Department at Newcastle is even more useful because it is non-specialised. All those involved in the subject area have in addition a second, if not more, strings to their bow - a quality which enhances both their HET scholarship and their value to the department and wider community.”

Roy's book challenges orthodox economic thinking which has guided policy making in Anglo-Saxon countries over the past two decades. Looking back over 20 years of controversy, the book concludes that the domination of economic theory and policy by the Quantity Theory of Money, or monetarism as it is now known, has been a disaster for any country pursuing it.

"The problem is that because monetarism is an inescapable part of orthodox thinking, the only way for policy makers to break free from it is to devote greater effort to understanding alternative approaches," Roy said.

"The book suggests that a fruitful approach would be one which combined the profound, but largely forgotten contributions of the early classical economists with the analysis of effective demand in Keynes’s General Theory. This would provide a theoretically consistent framework for job creation policies, industry intervention and long term economic management, none of which are encompassed in the orthodox free market model.”

Professor Groenewegen, in launching the book, said the publication was a splendid contribution to monetary thinking about a period which has attracted great minds from the past and present.

Classical Theories of Money, Output and Inflation: A Study in Historical Economics is published by Macmillan Press in London and New York and is available in Australia for about $90.
CHINA INTERNSHIP FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

A group of our Languages/Asian Studies students are currently undertaking a mandatory part of their courses in China. The focus is on the innovative and pioneering program which has already received praise in Australia.

As China plays an increasing international role, a group of Newcastle University students is having an experience of a lifetime. The group is in China studying the Chinese language, teaching English in middle schools and being exposed to the country's fascinating cultural and historical heritage.

The three-month visit is the result of more than two years of planning by lecturing staff and is a practical internship for the 17 Bachelor of Education (Languages/Asian Studies) students. While many students from Australian universities visit China for specialist studies to help with their courses, this is the first group which has been required to spend time there as a mandatory part of their course. The internship completes the final semester of the four year degree program. The University's first lecturer in Chinese, Ms Frances Huang, said the program was being watched with interest by colleagues at other universities since its pioneering and innovative nature was praised during last December's national conference of lecturers involved in Chinese Studies.

The group is staying at the Shannxi Teachers University in Xian, a city which many Australians have visited to see the entombed warriors. The city is about 900 kilometres south-west of Beijing, where the group spent the last week of August.

The students were involved in intensive Chinese language classes for the first month and are dividing the remaining days between a continuation of these classes and teaching English as a foreign language to middle (secondary) school students.

On return to Australia the students will become eligible for teaching positions in the area of Chinese Language/Asian Studies. Some have indicated they may stay in China to further improve their command of the Chinese language.

Frances said the students flew to China in two groups, the first in July and the second in August and are residing in the Foreign Students Dormitory at Shaanxi Teachers University. The students received assistance from two visiting lecturers and also the Department of Curriculum Studies in their preparation.

'Mr Xiao Xi from Huanggang Teachers College and Associate Professor Yang Sanlu from Anhui University were working with the students for most of the year before their departure and officials from the Chinese Consulate visited the University to provide valuable information," Frances said.

DANCING IN THEIR SOCKS

Academics dancing in their socks at a seminar. What would cause this behaviour?

Only a seminar hosted by the University's Department of English entitled "The Court Masque" could entice them to sit and rightly so, as the the masques of the English Renaissance were elaborated affairs.

English kings spent a small fortune on them and some of the best poets, designers and musicians of the day collaborated on them. Texts were published afterwards with learned annotation, reporting in breathless prose the marvels of their staging. At their climax, members of the court - even members of the royal family - were revealed on stage dressed in the costume of allegorical virtues or ancient heroes or heroines, and the sheer presence of the king in the audience was declared to have dispelled all threats to virtue instantaneously.

Court masques are notoriously hard to make sense of: were they solemn rituals, conforming to the court that it was the seat of virtue and nobility, or were they mainly opportunities for dancing and feasting? Did the spectacle come first, or the poetry? Did the masque represent an ideology, or even certain policy positions, in symbolic form, or was it merely an occasion for indiscriminate flattery of the king?

These and similar questions were the focus of this unusual seminar organised by Drs Hugh Craig, Peter Holbrook and Nancy Wright and sponsored by the English Department. There were no papers. A small group of specialists met in the mornings to discuss topics proposed by a succession of session leaders and relating in various ways to the theme of "The Court Masque". The afternoons were devoted to reading for the next day's session.

Overseas visitors included Professor David Bevington from the University of Chicago and Dr Tom Bishop from Case Western Reserve University (US). The diverse backgrounds of the participants, in dance,
WORLD LEADERS AT UNIVERSITY

Industrial engineers recently met with the world's leading researchers in the field of "control systems in power generation" during visits to the University's Faculty of Engineering.

In Australia for the International Federation of Automatic Control (IFAC) Congress held in Sydney last month, three of the world's leading authorities met up with Professor David Hill from the University to discuss current studies and new directions in the field. Professor Harry Kwatny, from Drexel University, USA, is a highly successful academic and consultant in many areas of electrical and mechanical engineering. He pioneered detailed physical modelling and modern control of power plants in the early 70's and recently returned to the subject to explain (theoretically) a major unresolved practical problem in control of plants at low power outputs.

Also visiting the University was Dr Gerhard Lausterer, Director of Research on Future Power Plant Control at Siemens Company, Germany. Siemens is the major supplier of power plant control systems to the Australian power industry and has installed state-of-the-art systems in Hunter Valley power stations. While in Newcastle, Dr Lausterer presented an all day seminar on future technology to industry engineers.

One of the world's leading academic authorities on power plant process control, Professor Claudio Maffezzoni, from the Politecnico di Milano, Italy, spent two months at the University giving seminars and advice to students and discussing research interests with staff in the Faculty of Engineering. During his visit, Professor Maffezzoni lectured to 60 power station engineers and industry figures at a course on "Power Plant Control" co-ordinated jointly by the University and the Electricity Supply Association of Australia.

According to Professor David Hill, those attending the course commented enthusiastically about the relevance of Professor Maffezzoni's techniques to their activities. David says that the restructuring of the power generation industry and subsequent upgrading or replacement of controls, will require a deeper understanding of system behaviour and advanced control methodologies. "The trend towards corporatisation will mean that power plants are competing with one another and so performance will become much more relevant than in the past," David said.

A SHAKESPEAREAN VIEWPOINT

Imagine reading the complete works of Shakespeare four times. Now imagine editing it four times. That is exactly what Professor David Bevington, visiting Newcastle for the "Court Masque" seminar, has done. And that, he says, involved updating notes and critiques to bring them into line with modern social attitudes.

In line with this thinking, we asked him what he considered to be the most relevant Shakespearean quote for the 1990's.

His answer, from King Lear: "Let us go kill all the lawyers", a quote he feels is very relevant for our times of contentious litigation.
ON REASON AND ETHICS

Two philosophy conferences hosted recently by the University's Department of Philosophy posed challenges for those attending and set the scene for new research ideas, according to their organisers.

The first conference, entitled Non-Formal Foundations of Reason was held at the Morpeth Conference Centre. Its primary aim was to look for richer theories of reason other than logic, using modern revolutions in brain research, artificial intelligence and evolutionary biology.

Its organiser, Head of the University's Department of Philosophy, Professor Cliff Hooker, said that participants discussed the focus on the development of positive theories of our non-formal rational capacities, e.g. of judgement, heuristics, risk assessment criticism and the like; on the bases for constructing, testing, accepting and rejecting various formalisms; on arguments for the limitations of formalisms which demonstrate something insightful about the nature of reason and on the theory of reason in other philosophical and cultural traditions vis-a-vis non-formal reason.

He said that discussions led to a search for, and examination of, alternative non-formal foundations for a more adequate theory of reason and the assessment of supporting evidence across relevant areas.

The second conference dealt with Philosophy and Applied Ethics. Its attendees came from a wide range of medical and professional fields.

Among topics for discussion were medical ethics; the ethics of bureaucracies; social caring ethics involving social work; police and ambulance work; professional ethics which relate to areas such as engineering, architecture, accounting; nursing ethics euthanasia, AIDS and expensive and prolonged medical treatments.

Professor Cliff Hooker said a number of questions relating to ethics were explored during the conference, principally how applied ethics should be taught as well as who should be involved in ethical decision making in real-life situations and who should be involved in teaching this.

"The conference was the result of collaboration between four different institutes of ethics across Australia. Newcastle is considered to be one of the leading centres in teaching applied ethics and naturally we were very pleased that the conference was held here," Cliff said.

ACHIEVEMENTS

A GOOD CHALLENGE

This year, for the first time, the University of Newcastle participated in the Proctor and Gamble Intervarsity Management Challenge. Students from the Department of Management, "coached" by John Rappell, won the semi finals but lost the finals to UTS - by the Chair's casting vote!

Not a bad effort when universities from across Australia competed. The crux of the contest was solving strategic management problems, presenting solutions to a 'board', and defending it against aggressive questioning.

The Chair of the adjudication panel, Mr. Dean Wills, Chairman and Managing Director of Coca-Cola Amatil, praised the students for their performance and expressed the delight of the panel at its level of professionalism.

Next year, look out! We will be there with a post-graduate team as well!

TEAM MEMBERS

Samantha Martin
Danielle Romani
Melanie Bondini
Nicole Dunn
Andrew Fletcher

Mark Thompson
Tony Davison
Andrew Hewson
Christopher Polik
Mandy Davies

Standing (l-r): David Noor (Israel) and Hal Brown (USA)
Seated (l-r): Bill Herfel (Newcastle), Maher Aly (Egypt) and Cliff Hooker

The Team!
EDWARDS HALL AFTER 20 YEARS

Last year saw the twenty-first intake of students to Edwards Hall. They followed the footsteps of some 2400 former residents, many of whom spent their entire University careers living at the Hall. Their names and degrees, together with some 15 University medals, are recorded on the honour boards in the Hall’s dining room.

No residential college conceived by one group, designed by a second, funded by a third and managed by a fourth is likely to be deemed entirely satisfactory on handover and Edwards Hall was no exception. When the Hall opened in 1972 it contained a few bedrooms, ablution facilities, a dining complex and two small television lounges. The initial 100 residents had to negotiate muddy paddocks and unsealed carparks, with no bedroom heating, no recreation facilities, no common room, no telephones and a food service struggling to produce food with inadequate equipment.

It was apparent in the early days that the necessary improvements could only be achieved by self help, particularly by the generation of required funds. An appropriate program was instituted with close cooperation between the Hall’s Governing Body and residents, and over a period of years a number of major projects have been undertaken. Since 1974 in excess of $1.2 million has been generated and spent on physical improvements to Edwards Hall on such projects as bedroom heating, recreation facilities, carparks, bicycle enclosures, computing equipment, air-conditioning, an academic library, general landscaping, external illumination, kitchen alterations and additions, extensions to the central building, additional residential accommodation and fire alarm systems.

Edwards Hall is now one of the most comfortable and well-equipped university residential colleges in Australia. It is also one of Australia’s larger colleges and is the first to offer self-catering units. With the comfort and academic needs of students now reasonably well provided for and the physical condition of the buildings being regularly maintained, future developments at Edwards Hall will likely be in the areas of grounds improvement, additional bedroom accommodation and the continued extension of the Hall’s residential scholarship scheme. The recent addition of a terrace adjoining the Hall’s dining room is the first step in a planned development of the northern aspect of the central building. This area will be fully landscaped to provide a major external entertainment area for residents.

A University needs more than a single college to achieve the vitality and life which such institutions provide on campus. Colleges also find it difficult to function fully in isolation, and the opportunity to compete intellectually and on the sporting field with students in rival colleges assists in the process of building community spirit. The opening of International House in 1989 and Evatt House in 1990 has assisted in the overall development of Edwards Hall and general campus residential life.

DONATION ESTABLISHES LAW DATABASE ROOM

The Law Faculty has a new facility thanks to one of Newcastle’s oldest law firms, Rankin and Nathan.

A donation from the firm has enabled the establishment of a database room in the Auchmuty Library which will enable law students to use the latest technology to access legal information on cases and Acts of Parliament. All information is stored on CD-ROM.

A Partner in Rankin and Nathan, Mr Jim Helman, presented a cheque to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mortley, for the facility, known as the Rankin and Nathan Database Room within the law library.

Mr Helman said Rankin and Nathan was established in 1899 and that the firm was pleased to continue its association with the University. Rankin and Nathan has acted for the University for about the past 15 years.

Professor Mortley said Rankin and Nathan’s donation was greatly appreciated and allowed further expansion of a necessary resource for law students.

The Vice-Chancellor officially opened the law library on September 8.

The law library contains about 40,000 volumes and is being developed under a $1m establishment grant by law librarian, Peter Sidorko.

Jim Helman (centre) presents his company’s donation to Professor Mortley, while the Dean of the Law Faculty, Neil Rees, looks on.

ALUMNI SEMINAR TO BE ANNUAL EVENT

An Alumni Seminar for graduates of the Master of Business Administration and Graduate Diploma in Management courses will become an annual event following the success of the inaugural function.

The University’s Faculty of Economics and Commerce and the Hunter Graduate Management Association joined forced to present the first Alumni Seminar last month as an input to continuing education.

The Faculty’s Assistant Dean for postgraduate students, Ms Suzanne Ryan, said more than 50 graduates attended the seminar, a figure with which the organisers were very happy.

“The interesting point was that the seminar attracted people who graduated many years ago as well recent graduates who wanted to gain up-to-date information on developments in their respective fields,” said Suzanne.

Increasing requirements of individuals, employing organisations and the University, coupled with the encouragement given by government for continuing education were some of the reasons for the seminar.

Dean of the Faculty, Dr Winston Dunlop, said the seminar was both an interesting innovation for the Faculty and a useful addition to the continuing education of its graduates. The Graduate Management Association had shown great interest in organising the seminar and the response had been very encouraging.

Topics covered included Labour Economics by Dr Martin Watts, Information Science by Mr Bruce Cheek, Accounting by Professor Frank Clarke and Marketing by Associate Professor Bill Merrilees.
The Right Reverend James Bromley has been enthroned as Lord Bishop of Australia in the Anglican Catholic Church at St Hilda's Church, Teralba. Officiating at the ceremony was the Metropolitan of the Anglican Catholic Church, Archbishop William Lewis. Bishop Bromley holds degrees in Arts and Educational Studies from the University of Newcastle, and in 1978 was the Lindgren Prizeman in Law. He served the University as Anglican Chaplain from 1980 to 1984, and as Warden of Convocation from 1984 to 1988.

The Anglican Catholic Church is a strictly orthodox Church in the Anglican tradition, derived from the Church of England and the Episcopal Church of Scotland. It has 24 dioceses in the Americas, the United Kingdom, India and Oceania. At the request of Australian Anglicans its jurisdiction was extended to this country in 1991, and the Diocese of Australia was promulgated in March 1992.

As head of this diocese Bishop Bromley has the care of twelve congregations in Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia as well as New South Wales, with more parishes and a seminary being planned.

Despite his widespread responsibilities, Bishop Bromley continues as an active member of the University. He is a Fellow and Tutor at International House, and a member of the board of the Hunter Postgraduate Medical Institute.

Sports Awards Announced at Blues Dinner

The speaker at this year's Blues Dinner, Mr John Devitt, AM, said the concept of University Blues in recognition of sporting achievements is extremely important.

Mr Devitt, the Secretary-General of the NSW Olympic Council and a member of Sydney Olympic 2000 bid was the guest speaker at the dinner at which the University Colours, Blues and Sportsperson of the Year were announced.

Probably more well known as one of Australia's outstanding swimming champions, winning gold medals in the 1956 and 1960 Olympics and also gold at the Commonwealth Games in 1958, he spoke with enthusiasm about the bid to hold the Olympic Games in Sydney in 2000, emphasising the importance of sportsmanship and the international understanding that it brings.

He congratulated the winners of the University sports awards, Andrew Beachley (University Blue) and Mark Searles (University Colour), both water skiers who have shown outstanding commitment to university sport and water skiing generally.

Well known rugby player, Anthony Ekert, was named Sportsperson of the Year, a choice enthusiastically applauded by the audience.

Anthony's rugby career is impressive. He played in the Newcastle Representative team for Country Week, Eastern Province Seniors, Country of Origin, Country First team (in which he played all fixtures), NSW Senior team (all fixtures) the NSW Senior team which toured New Zealand and the NSW Sevens team for the Australian Championships.

He also travelled to Hong Kong to play for Australia in the International Hong Kong Sevens Tournament. Anthony was a member of the Australian Sevens team which played in the international tournament held in Uruguay and he also toured Wales and Ireland as a member of the Australian Senior team.

Anthony's dedication to his sport and his sportsmanship was recognised as being of the highest calibre and deserving of Sportsperson of the Year Award.
LENGTH, STRENGTH AND CELESTIAL OBJECTS

How do you measure the distance between two points? Do stars disappear during the day? How strong is timber and steel? Can you use bar-codes to measure differences in height?

These and other intriguing questions were answered for 20 selected children from the region's primary schools, during a visit to the University of Newcastle's Department of Civil Engineering and Surveying.

Co-ordinator of the demonstration day, Dr Harvey Mitchell, says the general aim was to show school children how science and mathematics can be applied to measurement. "It is important that school students gain some appreciation of the way in which science and mathematical principles can be applied to the practical world," he said.

Demonstrations commenced with the question of how to measure the distance between two points. The first solution, which introduced the problems of sag and slope, utilised a simple steel tape. "We then showed students the advantage of an electronic distance meter, which uses electro-magnetic radiation and which gives a digital display of the distances to a reflector," Harvey said.

The sky holds a great deal of fascination for most people, but not many of us have had the opportunity of observing astronomical objects through a high-powered telescope. During their visit to the University, students were not only able to observe the objects, but also noted that they are, in fact, moving.

Students also learnt about the mysterious workings of a telescope.

Other demonstrations included height and strength measurements. "If materials such as timber and steel are to be used in building houses and bridges, we need to know how strong they are," Harvey explained. "Samples of materials were bent or stretched until they broke and maximum strength was recorded on a guage."

Science and mathematics took on a whole new meaning for the students, many of whom had not envisaged the many practical applications of the subject area.

School students are introduced to the wonders of science and mathematics.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM DOBELL

Well-known Australian artist, Tom Gleghorn, guest speaker at the University's 1993 Art Advisory Dinner, says he doesn't invent forms, rather translates and transmits them.

"All my paintings come from something I can feel and identify with. "Abstractionism is the handwriting of the painting. One reads it rather than looks at it," he said.

Tom candidly attributed his success to great Australian artist, Sir William Dobell.

"Without Bill, I would never have painted. He taught me a lot about paints and the techniques. He really started me on the road to painting and continually encouraged me," he added.

GILES GOES ALL DEWEY

Giles Martin from the University Library has been appointed as the Australian representative on the Editorial Policy Committee for Dewey until the end of 1996. This is an international appointment and reflects Giles' achievement in his field. The work involves attending two meetings each year at the Library of Congress with all expenses paid for by Forest Press.

"Nice work if you can get it!"

"Van Goghs's Ear" is published monthly and is edited by Sonja Duncan, with layout and design by Gillian Stack.

Letters to the Editor (no longer than 300 words and signed), reports on outstanding and unusual research, news and human interest stories are welcome.

Please contact either Sonja Duncan or Rosemary Roohan at the University's Information and Public Relations Unit on 21 6440 or 21 6463.

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Kevin Johnson
untitled
People's First Choice
Judge's Second Choice

Saw Heng Yeeong
"In front of the Hunter Building"
Judge's Third Choice

D Beierick
"Kirsten Rapp"
Judge's First Choice

Judge's First Choice

Judge's Second Choice

Judge's Third Choice