The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Keith Morgan, announced on November 24 that advice had been received from Canberra on the funding proposed for the University in 1989.

The total Commonwealth operating fund grant for the University for 1989 is indicated to be $48.97m; by comparison the figure for 1988 has been $47.44m.

Preliminary consideration by the University’s Planning and Resources Committee indicates that with this increase of 3.14 per cent the University may be able to make provision for some limited expansion and still remain within its budgetary provision. This is in contrast with the situation in this and earlier years when the University has had to draw heavily on its very limited private income to make good the shortfall in Commonwealth funding.

Earlier this year the University had set itself objectives of eliminating the deficit in Commonwealth funding, re-ordering staffing priorities to reflect shifts in student demand, and making provision for important new developments. It now seems likely that these objectives can be attained in the near future. This result would only be achieved by implementation of the tough economy measures and the accompanying restraint and restructuring that had been accepted by the University community. The resultant savings represent some 3 per cent of expenditure.

The provisional budget for 1989 will be put to the University Council in December. It will make provision for a significant number of new and replacement academic and administrative positions. These will reflect support for continued growth in key areas. The Commonwealth has recognised the University’s ability to respond to perceived national needs in the provision of funds for an additional 100 places in 1989.

There is express provision for 40 additional students in a new development on the Central Coast. The University, jointly with the Hunter Institute, will announce separately the plans to implement this development when clarification of the arrangements becomes available from Canberra.

The Vice-Chancellor concluded by noting that it was possible to look to the future with renewed confidence and in particular to recognise a sound foundation for the impending amalgamation between the University and the Hunter Institute. It was important to recognise that the years ahead would require continuing restraint but that there should be capacity for the University to respond selectively to new needs.

Combined Service : 235 years

The retiring 11 members of staff in the photograph have a combined total of 235 years at the University of Newcastle, and its predecessor, the Newcastle University College. They are: (back) Assoc. Professor S. Warne (25 years), Mrs A. Rowley (25 years), Mr E. Flowers (22 years), Mr B. Twohill (19 years), Mr N. Gates (14 years), Mr K. Pitts (12 years); front, Mrs B. Evans (13 years), Mr E. Jacobs (30 years), Mrs J. Ebbeck (27 years), Mr S. Farquharson (27 years) and Dr R. Robinson (21 years).
E.O.H. retires, sails off to the Derwent

The University’s senior professor, Professor Eric Oglivie Hall, will retire on December 8, leaving Professor Godfrey Tanner as the longest-serving member of the professorial staff.

Professor Hall has had almost 30 years at the University. He commenced duties at Newcastle University College in January, 1959 when the staff of the young Department of Metallurgy numbered only a few; the others included Assoc. Professor Alan Oates, Mr Neil Molloy and Mrs Bess Vincer.

'I was an Assoc. Professor and Head of the Division of Applied Science,' Professor Hall says. 'The other Heads of Divisions were Jim Allen (Science), Eric Goodger (Engineering), Warren Hogan (Economics and Commerce) and Brin Newton-John (Arts).

'Most of the Metallurgy intake then were conversion students, i.e. people who were converting their diplomas from the Sydney Technical College to degrees and, like most older students, were mature and highly motivated.'

During the 60s, student numbers rose steadily, with the mineral industry and the BHP and its subsidiaries establishing a demand for trainees. This played a very important part in the development of the University.

Professor Hall was appointed to his Chair in 1963 and Professor Tanner took up his a year later.

Why the recent decline in demand for graduate metallurgists?

'The downturn in the steel industry in the early 80s meant that instead of the University enrolling 24 trainees a year we received 10, 8, 6, 5, 4, none,' Professor Hall says. 'The pattern is the same at almost every university on the East Coast of Australia.

'As an alternative, we introduced a materials engineering degree for 1988, but that has been abandoned in favour of staff providing materials courses for students of the mechanical engineering degree.'

Professor Hall graduated from Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand, before taking his PhD at Cambridge. He then taught physics at the University of Sheffield before accepting an Assoc. Professorship at NUC.

During his time at UN he was Deputy Chairman of Senate, Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science and a Deputy Vice-Chancellor for four years.

The break from this latter task was a two-year secondment as consultant to the Australian Universities Commission to assist the Chairman, Professor Peter Karmel, to investigate 'scientifically oriented activities of universities', such as research policy, library funding and other special projects.

'I helped to prepare the AUC’s sixth report. Even if I say so myself, the report was quite forward-looking in relation to the way in which universities should develop in the future. Some of the proposals are slowly being implemented to-day, such as the Special Research Centres, one of which we now have in Electrical Engineering.'

Professor Hall also wrote the University’s submission for the establishment of the Newcastle Medical ‘School. He admits to being one of the people who persuaded Professor David Maddison to leave Sydney to become the School’s first Dean.

James Auchtumn heard that there were some problems in the Medical School in the University of Sydney, where David was Dean, and suggested that while I was getting information from David I check whether he would come to us.’

While he regrets the present lack of metallurgy students, he has many fine recollections of his time at UN. Professor Hall says dealing with highly motivated, keen students, including high quality postgraduates from Australia and overseas countries, was one of the most pleasing aspects of his career in academe.

'Our graduates are spread very widely. Incidentally, Brent Jenkins, a former BHP trainee who went through four years ago, was recently awarded his DPhil by the University of Oxford,' he says.

Retirement for Professor Hall and his wife, Jan, Lecturer in French here, will mean moving to Hobart, with which they have strong links. His wife comes from Hobart and his daughter, Christina, lives there. His son-in-law, Dr Jamie Kirkpatrick, is Head of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Tasmania.

Eric’s friends and colleagues can think of him sitting on his deck chair alongside the Derwent watching the boats finish in the Sydney to Hobart yacht race this Christmas.

Convocation Christmas gifts

Still hunting for Christmas presents? Remember that the Standing Committee of Convocation has produced a range of fine quality mementoes of the University, many of which feature the University’s Coat of Arms. These items would make beautiful and unusual gifts for family members and friends.

A glass paperweight ($10), a handmade commemorative glass plate ($25), or a wall plaque ($30) for the office, living room or study.

For a different sort of Christmas greeting card, a set of six pen sketches by Allan Gamble ($3.50) of University buildings in their bushland settings are available. The artist has also recorded his first impressions in a pen portrait album of the University, Campus at Shortland ($7.50).

The above can be obtained from Ms Niteolette Conn, Convocation Officer, University of Newcastle (telephone 68 5370).
Uni compensates for 'trouble' of leaving home

Mr Guo Wu, a student from Xian, in the People's Republic of China, says his experiences at this University have been worth all the trouble involved in coming to Australia.

He has been here for the last five months and is working on a PhD degree in the Department of Linguistics.

He enjoys working in his Department with 'all the nice and friendly people' and the convenience provided by the Auchmuty Library.

Mr Wu says: 'I'm very glad I'm here. It's worth all the trouble.'

'When I first got the letter of offer in China', he says, 'I felt both encouraged and worried; encouraged, because it's very difficult for a Chinese student to get a scholarship in Arts: worried, because from this year scholarship holders have to pay the overseas student charge, which I could never afford."

'However, it's my long-cherished wish to study linguistics in Australia. So I borrowed the money from abroad and took the opportunity — and the risk.'

Mr Wu says once in a while he can still feel the shadow of the overseas student charge. 'But I think I'll be able to manage if I can find some part-time employment.'

At present he is giving a short course at the WEA — 'China Today'. 'I enjoy the class and last week the Department of Community Programmes told me of a possible position as Mandarin Chinese tutor next year.'

Mr Wu is married with an 11-year-old son. It was not possible for his family to accompany him to Australia.

He says his linguistic background is a long story. He learned Russian at high school and English by reading English novels.

At the Hua Zhong University of Science and Technology, whilst studying for an MA degree, he developed an interest in linguistics.

'I've been interested in text linguistics or discourse analysis', he says. 'I wrote my MA thesis on Lexical Cohesion in English text and want to continue my research in this direction to further explore some cohesive devices in English and their function in the text.'

Changes to bus access till the end of 1989

Advice has been received from the Department of Main Roads that work is likely to commence at the University's main entrance within the next two weeks.

The work will include demolition of the bus shelter and entrance structures in order to make way for road realignment and the future construction of a roundabout at the University's entrance as part of the development of State Highway 23.

The entrance structures and bus shelter will be reinstated by the Department in due course.

However, for most of 1989 bus travellers will have to alight at the bus stop near the University Technology Headquarters Building, where a temporary bus shelter and improved access will be provided early in the New Year.

The rearrangements are necessary for safety reasons during road work in the vicinity of the University's entrance.

In the longer term, the new University entrance and bus shelter will be fully landscaped as part of the reinstatement work to be carried out by the Department of Main Roads.

Top singers coming for Bach's work

Newcastle University Choir and Orchestra, under the direction of Peter Brock, will present J.S. Bach's Christmas Oratorio in the Great Hall of the University on December 10 at 8 pm.

Eminent Australian singers have agreed to appear as soloists.

Roxane Hislop studied as a mezzo-soprano at the New South Wales Conservatorium of Music before joining the Australian Opera in 1985. She has also studied singing in London, Austria and America, and won major singing competitions such as the Sun Aria and Australian Regional Finals of the Metropolitan Opera Auditions. Roxane returned from overseas earlier this year for her debut in a major principal role with the Australian Opera in Britten's Albert Herring. She received excellent reviews for this performance.

Anson Austin (tenor), is known to Newcastle concert goers for his fine performance as Rodolfo in La Boheme with the Hunter Orchestra in 1987. He also appeared as soloist with the Festival Choir and Hunter Orchestra in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. He has performed with Dame Joan Sutherland and Dame Kiri te Kanawa with the Australian Opera and in principal roles with opera companies in New Zealand, Canada and the United States of America. He will perform in the 1989 season of Tales of Hoffmann in the title role for the Australian Opera.

New Zealand born bass, Grant Dickson, was well-known in oratorio, opera and television before joining the Australian Opera in 1972 as a principal artist. He has performed an impressive number and variety of leading bass roles.

On December 5, in the Great Hall, the choir will offer an Open Rehearsal at 6.30 pm. Peter Brock will talk about Christmas Oratorio. The rehearsal proper begins at 7 pm. Admission will be $1.

Concert tickets cost $12 (adults), $8 (concession) and $5 (full-time students).

Tickets are available at the door and from the Civic Theatre, Lathams at Garden City, the University Union and MacDonald Bros., Maitland.
AVCC Report

The following items were among the matters of interest discussed at the Australian Vice-Chancellors’ Committee’s last meeting:

22nd Member

The AVCC has admitted its 22nd member — the new Northern Territory University.

The new university, formed from the University College of the Northern Territory and the Darwin Institute of Technology, will begin operating from January 1 next year.

It applied for, and was granted, associate membership and becomes the first university to enter that category of AVCC membership. Associate membership will give the new university the same rights as full members, except for voting rights.

Emeritus Professor David Caro, previously Vice-Chancellor at The University of Melbourne, is the interim chief executive officer of the University.

Over-Enrolment

The Chairman of the Higher Education Council, Dr Gregor Ramsey, has released a list of enrolment levels at all universities and colleges, which, he says, indicates over-enrolment in the system.

The figures show that across Australia a total of 5,372 students (EFTSU) are being carried by the institutions free of charge to the Government. The Government is providing funds for some of these in 1989.

The number of over-enrolments is projected to grow to 10,809 (EFTSU) by the end of the triennium.

Legislation

The AVCC has criticised the failure of the Government to include individual university grants in the Higher Education Funding Bill. Contrary to the system in previous years, these allocations will be tabled in a ministerial statement, rather than being included in the legislation.

While the allocations for 1989-91 will be tabled, apparently by the end of November, the AVCC argues that this does not provide the degree of guaranteed funding promised by the Minister.

Postgraduates

The AVCC has strongly criticised the Federal Government’s allocation of postgraduate exemptions from the new tertiary tax.

In a letter to the Minister for Employment, Education and Training, Mr Dawkins, the AVCC suggested that the formula used to allocate these exemptions could lead to a reduction in the number of students able to pursue research degrees.

The 15,000 exemptions allocated to universities and colleges will be given to postgraduate and honours students to exempt them from the Higher Education Contribution Scheme.

While 8,000 of the exemptions have been calculated on the basis of existing numbers of Master’s and PhD students, the other 7,000 have been calculated on the basis of all postgraduate enrolments including postgraduate diplomas.

This has meant that a large number of the exemptions have been allocated to Colleges of Advanced Education, which have extremely limited, if any, Master’s or PhD programs. As a result, a large number of the exemptions will be given to students pursuing single-year, self-contained terminal diplomas by coursework.

According to the AVCC this will mean that students proceeding to Master’s and doctoral studies will be disadvantaged. It has called on the Minister to review his decision, arguing that the end result contravenes his expressed determination to use the exemptions to ensure that Australian postgraduate numbers are not affected by HECS.

The AVCC has also criticised the prescriptive nature of the guidelines under which universities must allocate the exemptions. It believes that the requirement to award exemptions to all holders of Commonwealth Postgraduate Awards is too restrictive and that universities should have the freedom to award exemptions to the best and most needy students.
Mr Don Morris

Personal involvement in the protection of the University environment

Don Morris, the University’s Architect/Planner, will retire on December 23 after nearly 28 years’ service to the University and 40 years’ experience in the building industry.

Don was born in Mayfield and educated at the former Newcastle Boys’ High School. He worked in architectural practices in Newcastle and Sydney before joining Eric Parker and Gordon Appleby as a Lecturer in Architecture at the Newcastle University College at Tighes Hill.

Specialising in construction, Don spent 1967 on study leave in England investigating building techniques and visiting universities and Schools of Architecture in England and Finland. Don says this stimulated his interest in campus planning and in mid 1968 he was appointed to the newly established Staff Architect position in the Planner’s Division of the University Administration.

Don says he was also attracted by the opportunity to expand his long standing interest in landscape design and the retention of native trees in the built environment, which he saw as a particular challenge in the development of the new campus at Shortland.

Although most of his time has been devoted to the development of more than 25 major buildings for the University, numerous smaller buildings and, since he became Planner in 1975, the oversight of site development, maintenance and other divisional activities, Don has maintained his personal involvement in the protection and enhancement of the University’s natural environment.

Don Morris considers the University owes much to the original Master Plan consultants, Laurie and Heath, appointed by the University of New South Wales to plan the new campus at Shortland. While it was an attractive site, it was also a difficult one from a planning point of view. Don believes, as it consisted of three odd-shaped pieces of land, each isolated from the others and none with a frontage to any public street.

‘In hindsight one might have planned some things differently, but by and large the Master Plan has worked well and has absorbed the changes necessary over more than 20 years.’

The Master Planners, to their great credit, also recommended the preservation of the existing trees, which covered much of the site. However, this is not as easy as it sounds and, Don says, that when he came onto the site in mid 1968 many trees near the new buildings were seriously debilitated due to construction activities. He believes that he has been in the very fortunate position to be able to balance the often conflicting demands of engineering services, site development and construction of buildings with the protection of the trees.

Capital funding has always been difficult. This was made worse in the early years by the lack of any provision for supplementation with the growth of inflation in the late 60s. This led to many undesirable solutions, deferral of some buildings and transfer of the funds to others, or substantial reductions in areas such as was done with the first stage of Edwards Hall, when a 25 per cent cut in area was made. The level of funding and staffing of buildings and grounds maintenance has also been an ongoing concern.

Don Morris says that he has not always seen eye-to-eye with his fellow architects in maintaining the policy that the University buildings should harmonise with one another, but believes this has paid off in the unified appearance of the campus.

‘We have been able to get away with relatively simple buildings because of the visual impact of the natural environment.’

The slope of the site and dispersed layout of buildings create difficulties for wheelchair users and others with physical disabilities. Don admits. However he is pleased that during his period as Planner it has been possible to provide an integrated system of wheelchair pathways throughout the campus and that by the beginning of 1989 nearly two-thirds of the total floor area of University buildings will be accessible to wheelchair users.

Don Morris’s retirement agenda includes the establishment of a palm collection at the Hunter Region Botanic Gardens near Raymond Terrace and involvement in other community conservation activities. He may also find time to take up again his involvement in wood carving. ‘I’ve got a lot of recreation to catch up on’, he added.
Department's plans to combat funding cuts

The Department of Community Programmes is planning to introduce several profit-making services to compensate for funding reductions next year.

In August the Vice-Chancellor announced funding reductions to certain departments and other tough economy measures to reduce the University's deficit.

The Acting Director of the Department of Community Programmes, Mr John Collins, said the Department was making plans to increase its services in a number of educationally honourable ways in an effort to come up with the $45,000 it needed to combat the funding cuts.

He said that in a 'first' for Australia it would offer 'summer' courses in environmental studies for North American students, with credit for the six-week program given to their home studies.

The University of Nebraska had agreed to act as an agent in recruiting and screening students, and a pilot course was expected to begin in June with between 20 and 45 students, each paying $US2,200.

The students who will be A- and B-grade students, he said, will be accommodated at Kurri Kurri TAFE and the Great Northern Hotel and will spend their time here studying the impact on the Australian environment of Aboriginal habitation, European arrival, industrialism and post-industrialism.

"It's been quite a complicated matter to arrange," he said.

"The biggest problem is the fluctuating exchange rates.

The concept is not new to the Americans; many thousands go to Europe and Britain already and receive credits for their studies there."

Mr Collins said a second plan still in the early negotiating phase, might involve up to 250 Japanese students and business people visiting the University at any one time. Most of the visitors would spend about 10 weeks learning English.

"That's something that ought to have significant spin-offs for local firms and industries," he said. "Just accommodating them is going to provide work. If negotiations can be brought to a successful conclusion the University should benefit enormously."

In a third direction, the Department was discussing with the University of Albuquerque, New Mexico, the organisation of educational tours for North American educational administrators.

Mr Collins said the Department had also shown an interest in tendering for State Government contracts, which involved a significant component of adult, continuing and community education.

He said that in its 15 years, the Department had developed considerable skills in the development of educational materials and presentations. These skills should prove attractive to those whose job it was to promote and publicise new legislative initiatives, or changes in regulations and policies.

Finally, the Department intended to expand its range of short courses and seminars aimed at keeping those in the professions and business abreast of new developments in their fields.

Mr John Hill, Senior Lecturer in Community Programmes, had begun developing a number of projects in this category. Likely target groups were the professions of law, metallurgy and accounting.

"We also intend to explore the opportunities afforded by the University's new Institute of Aviation," Mr Hill said.

Conversed with Hunter Valley people

Dr Paul Kavanagh. Senior Lecturer in English, provided the text for Hunter Valley People, which will be exhibited in Newcastle Regional Museum over the next three months.

When I was asked to write the text, I decided to use the actual words of the people involved. So I visited and talked to them, recorded our conversations, then cut and arranged their words into poems.

Hunter Valley People was created by photographer, Mr Allan Chawner, of the Hunter Institute of Higher Education, and Dr Kavanagh.

The exhibition portrays 1980s life in the Hunter Region through photos and poems about eight local people. The people are from varying backgrounds and locations in the Valley and each is shown during their daily cycle — at work, at home and at play.

Hunter Valley People recently returned to Newcastle after shows earlier this year in Paris at the Australian Embassy and in England in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Whilst in England much interest was created with some 15,000 people visiting the display.

The exhibition has been adapted for its display at the Museum. Added to the photos and poems are artefacts borrowed from the eight local people which help to further detail their lifestyles.

It is hoped that the display will emphasise the role of less famous people in the making of history.

The Association Culturelle Franco-Australienne, which sponsored the exhibition as a Bicentennial project, was formed in Paris in 1980 by Jean-Paul Delamotte, with an aim to promote cultural relations between France and Australia. The Australian branch was formed in Newcastle in 1985, and has as its Chairman, Professor Ken Dutton.
Professor Clem Tisdell, Professor of Economics at this University for the last 18 years, has resigned. He plans to take up his new appointment - a Chair in Economics at the University of Queensland - on February 1 next year.

Professor Tisdell, aged 49, goes to Queensland from a Department which had its origins in the days of Newcastle University College, when undergraduates in Economics had to enrol for the BCom or BA degrees.

He came from Taree and was a student at the University College in the early 50s, when Professor Cyril Renwick was Head of the Department of Economics.

Reminiscing to Campus Bulletin and explaining why he decided to resign, Professor Tisdell said he believed it was time for a change. He was looking forward to the challenge of working to develop a major centre for postgraduate studies in Economics at Queensland University.

He would continue to pursue his research on a broad range of subjects, especially natural resource, and development, economics. He planned to visit China in April/May next year to give lectures at the University of Nankai and other institutions.

Professor Tisdell pointed out that this University had assisted him enormously to achieve recognition. The most productive years of his career had been spent at Newcastle.

He has written several books and numerous articles and in 1986 was elected to Fellowship of the Australian Academy of the Social Sciences.

In addition to his involvement in research, teaching and publications, Professor Tisdell has obtained considerable administrative experience at this University. He was Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Commerce, Head of the Department of Economics and Acting Director of the Institute of Industrial Economics.

As Dean I was instrumental in having the Bachelor of Economics degree introduced,' he said. 'As Head of the Department, I piloted through the postgraduate Diploma of Economic Studies and increased the number of postgraduate students.

'Following the resignation of Professor Brian Johns, I was Acting Director of the Institute of Industrial Economics during its formative period and helped to institute the conference monograph series.'

More recently, Professor Tisdell took a leading part in the establishment of the Resource and Development Research Group within the Department of Economics. He said this move was partly in response to Mr Dawkings' proposals in the Green Paper on Higher Education, which, he believed, could discriminate against smaller universities in the area of research.

'Despite Mr Dawkings' views, a small university such as this one is able to make a tremendous contribution, if they are given a go.'

In recent years Professor Tisdell has been working in the fields of development, trade, tourism and natural resources. His interests include wild pigs, weeds, coconuts, herbicides and giant clams.

He anticipates that he will maintain links with the Department of Economics because of some of this work.

Professor Tisdell added that he had been fortunate to have had the Department's staff to work with. The Department had been described by an academic from the University of New England, who had made a survey of universities, as the most productive Department of Economics in Australia in terms of research output.

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**Diary of Events**

**ROMANTIC FESTIVAL**

Wednesday, November 30 & Friday, December 2, 8 pm

The Department of Drama will present a Romantic Festival featuring John Bell in the title role of Manfred, by Byron. The Hunter Orchestra, Choir and Soloists, conducted by Ulric Burslein - playing the complete music by Schumann. The concert will be preceded by the Rachmanninov Rhapsody on a Theme by Pagany, played by the Australian virtuoso, David Hellgott. Venue: The Great Hall. Tickets will be available from all outlets including the Departments of Drama and English at the University. Cost: $16 (adults), $11 (concession) and $6 (under 15). Enquiries: 68 5705.

**OVERCOMING PANIC ATTACKS & AGORAPHOBIA**

Friday, December 2, 7.30 pm

Three experts discuss ways of dealing with a problem that affects an increasing number of people. Partners are welcome. Venue: Joy Cummings Centre, 88 Scott Street, Newcastle. Enquiries: 68 5600 or 68 5522.

**MACINTOSH & MICROSOFT WORD COURSE**

Monday to Thursday, December 5 to 8, 5.30 to 8 pm

Instruction will be given on Basic to Advanced, including Mail Merge features, Tabulation and Laser Printing. No previous computer or typing experience is required. Venue: AG24, Computing Centre. Enquiries: 68 5600 or 68 5522.

**SWIMMING POOL & SPA POOL OPERATION**

December 9, 9 am

The seminar is aimed at assisting people involved in the industry to understand the basic principle of swimming pool chemistry, water treatment, testing procedures and health regulations governing the use of pools and spas. Venue: Lecture Theatre K202, University. Enquiries: 68 5600 or 68 5522.

**SMITHS LAKE SUMMER SCHOOL**

January 15 to 21

The residential school at Smiths Lake will include Aquatic Studies, Birdwatching and Art. Accommodation for up to 20 people in a modern dormitory. Enrolment cost: $175. Supervisor: Mr Don McNair. Enquiries: 68 5600 or 68 5522.
Combined degree course welcomed

A combined degree in civil engineering and surveying, which was introduced by the University this year, has received widespread acclaim from both the engineering and surveying professions.

Students from the degree courses in civil engineering (BE) or surveying (BSurv) may transfer to the combined course after they have successfully completed their first year of study.

After five years of full-time study, it will be possible for the students to obtain a double qualification - Bachelor of Engineering and Bachelor of Surveying.

The combined civil engineering/surveying degree is the first to be offered by an Australian university. It was introduced in response to the demand by industry for professionals with several interdisciplinary skills.

Professor Rob Melchers, Head of the Department of Civil Engineering and Surveying, said the combined degree was commenced early this year when three civil engineering and three surveying students transferred to the combined program. The degree was made feasible by the fact that all subjects in Year 1 were common to civil engineering and surveying programs and some subjects in later years were also common.

He said students who were already part of the way through their civil engineering or surveying degrees were able to transfer to the combined degree course at any time.

He said he and his colleagues were delighted with the enthusiastic response shown to the new degree. Practising surveyors and engineers had offered their congratulations and there had been a flood of enquiries from secondary school students who were interested in enrolling in the course next year.

'The new degree is important because it reflects an urgent need by Australia's construction, engineering and surveying industries.

'Civil engineers and surveyors are at the forefront of progress and development, yet must be sensitive to attempts to protect the social and physical environment in which they operate.

'They are often leaders of professional teams dealing with problems as diverse as water supply dams, harbours, highways, town planning, land development, or mapping from satellites.

'As Australia moves towards the 21st century graduates with more than one discipline will be much sought after,' Professor Melchers said.

Professor John Fryer, Assoc. Professor, and Director of Surveying Studies, said the five-year combined degree program consisted of all the essential elements of both the civil engineering and surveying degrees and was professionally recognised by the Institution of Engineers, Australia, and the Board of Surveyors of New South Wales.

He said he had received telephone calls congratulating the University on the introduction of the degree from as far away as Roma in central Queensland.

He had received inquiries from firms sponsoring trainees and from students in Sydney, which indicated the popularity of the course and its potential to grow.

Student wins trip to Japan

A University of Newcastle undergraduate has won a study trip to Japan sponsored by the Mitsui Educational Foundation.

Mr Simon Dunne, 24, a Chemistry student, of Ridgeway Road, New Lambton, joined seven other students from Australian universities and expects to return home on December 15.

The Mitsui Educational Foundation has a charter to send a group of students from Australian universities to Japan for three weeks to help to promote goodwill between the two countries.

The young Australians are provided with the opportunity to experience the direct association with Japanese people, their culture, their economy and many facets that are part of the Japanese way of life.

The University was asked by the Foundation to submit the names of four prospective candidates (two male and two female), from which the Foundation selected one student.

The Mitsui Foundation has covered the cost of Mr Dunne's transportation, accommodation and meals.

Mitsui and Co. Ltd., the oldest trading house in Japan, has 200 offices spanning 88 countries. Its subsidiary, Mitsui and Co. (Aust.) Ltd., established in 1956, exports wool, grain and other agricultural products and holds equity in iron ore mining, salt production, coal mining and natural gas production projects.
Dangers in Narrow Research Priorities

Australian society could be the loser if the Federal Government attempts to narrowly target research priorities for postgraduate students.

The warning has come from the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee, which stresses the need to maintain viable research programs across a range of universities and disciplines.

In a submission to the Federal Government inquiry into postgraduate training, the AVCC argues that any attempt to narrow the range of student research topics is potentially counterproductive to the long-term vitality of the intellectual community.

It says that if the Government wants to target its postgraduate research awards (which provide postgraduates with a stipend) to national priorities, it should be prepared to provide extra funds for this purpose.

The submission to the inquiry into the Commonwealth Postgraduate Awards Scheme warns that attention to Australia's immediate utilitarian economic and technological needs must not detract from the importance of the humanities and of maintaining and enriching Australia's cultural heritage.

'The humanities are particularly vulnerable in a climate where research funding is concentrated on fewer and bigger projects,' it says.

The welfare of our society depends not only on the application of science and technology to our industrial and economic problems, but also on a fundamental appreciation of human factors which can be achieved only through advances in cultural, behavioural, educational and sociological disciplines.

The submission also warns against the possible damage to postgraduate study if the selection criteria for research awards are downgraded. It says that this year the selection committee for the awards felt obliged to allocate research awards to students graduating from three-year undergraduate courses in colleges of advanced education.'

Irrespective of where a course is taken, the AVCC does not agree that students graduating from three-year undergraduate courses can be considered for selection alongside students who have completed a four-year honours degree.'

New book on Pacific universities


Until 1945, virtually no universities catered for Pacific Islanders. By 1987, there were nine universities offering degrees in the islands, with a likelihood of there being 12 within a few years.

Pacific Universities ... contains a number of chapters by staff of the universities. It includes chapters on Islanders in universities abroad and on a range of national perspectives on higher education. The editors also look at the future of university education in the South Pacific.

Copies are available from The Institute of Pacific Studies, PO Box 1168, Suva, Fiji. Price: AUD $18; postage, AUD $2 by sea, AUD $7 by air.

PSA annual elections

The University's Sub-division of the PSA is holding its annual elections.

Nominations have been called for the positions listed below:

Chairperson,
Deputy Chairperson,
Secretary,
Assistant Secretary,
eight ordinary members,
two delegates — Annual Conference,
one nominee for election as Central Councillor, and
Government Agencies' Division Councillors.

Nominations closed on November 30 at 5 p.m. A secret ballot, if necessary, will be held before the annual general meeting on December 14.

Developing entrepreneurs

A local property developer, Mr Tony Doherty, will address the second Enterprise Forum at the Hunter Technology Centre at noon on December 8. Mr Doherty is Managing Director of Tonella Properties Pty. Ltd., and he will talk on Enjoy Your Work! Enjoy Success.

During the last two decades Tonella Properties Pty. Ltd. has made a significant impact on the re-development of Newcastle's central business district. It was Tonella's leadership that was responsible for the rebirth of Newcastle's King Street boutique shopping area, as well as introducing the concepts of using renovated terraced houses for shops and recycled warehouses for offices.

The Enterprise Forums have been designed by Hunter Technology to help promote and foster an entrepreneur network in the region. They aim to bring together under the one roof all those associated with private enterprise.

Hunter Technology's mission is to create, grow and support business enterprise to bring employment and prosperity to the Hunter Region and Australia.

DO DROP IN!

MR RAY REYNOLDS of the Printing Department will be retiring from the University on December 23.

Ray has been here for many years. To enable everyone to say goodbye, we invite members of staff to 'drop in' to the Printery for a few minutes between Noon and 2 pm on Friday, December 16.

Some light refreshments will be available.

We look forward to seeing you on the day.

The Printery Staff
Positions Vacant

Applications are invited from suitably qualified permanent members of staff for the following positions. Applications, quoting position number, should be lodged with the Staff Office, University of Newcastle, and should include all relevant information.

The successfyl applicant will be responsible for a wide range of secretarial tasks relating to the preparation of material for meetings (minutes, agendas, discussion papers), maintenance of the University’s Act, By-laws and Regulations, and other general secretarial duties.

Essential: Typing skills.
Desirable: Experience with an Apple Mac word-processor (or willingness to learn); ability to work in a team situation.

Commencing salary will be up to $18,705 per annum for a stenographer (for which shorthand is an essential requirement). Commencing salary for an Office Assistant/Typist is up to $18,321 per annum. Please note rates of pay are under review. For further information about the position, please contact Susan Jones (68 5317) or Lionel Farrell (68 5473).

Applications close on December 6, 1988.

Secretarial Positions: Secretary’s Division — Applications are invited from experienced persons for a number of senior secretarial positions in the Secretary’s Division.

DUTIES
One Appointment (Position No. N154/88)

The appointee will be responsible to the Secretary principally for assisting him and an Assistant Secretary with the preparation and distribution of agendas, minutes and correspondence and the maintenance of records of Council, Senate and other bodies.

Other Appointments (Position No. N173/88)

Teams headed by a Senior Administrative Officer are being formed to provide administrative support to the Directors of Schools and the Faculty(ies) comprising the School. Each team will include a senior secretarial appointment. The person appointed will be responsible to the Senior Administrative Officer for providing secretarial services to the team.

Essential: Shorthand, typing, word-processing skills.
Desirable: Experience in general organisation of secretarial work. The salary range for all of these positions is $19,570 to $21,108 per annum. For further information about these positions please contact Mr Phillip Alexander at Extension 240.

Applications close on December 6.

Senior Administrative Officer Position: Secretary’s Division

Teams are being formed to provide administrative support for Directors of Schools and the Faculty(ies) comprising the School. Each team will have a Senior Administrative Officer and a senior secretary as core appointments.

The Senior Administrative Officer will be responsible to the Secretary for providing administrative support to the Director and the Faculty(ies) and for co-ordinating and supervising the work of other staff appointed to the team.

Applications are invited for appointment to a Senior Administrative Officer position which, for the time being, will carry responsibility for the team providing support to the School of Science and Mathematics.

It is essential that the applicants have had experience in providing administrative support for academic boards and officers. Broad administrative experience is desirable.

The salary range for this position is $34,538 to $38,083 per annum.

For further information about this position please contact Mr Phillip Alexander at Extension 240.

Applications close on December 6, 1988.

General Information: Applications, quoting position number, should be lodged with the Staff Office, University of Newcastle and should include all relevant information.

Confused About Investments?

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Aboriginal heritage forum

A highly successful and well-attended public forum on Aboriginal Heritage was held at Wollotuka Aboriginal Education Centre at the Hunter Institute of Higher Education on November 18.

The forum was jointly sponsored by the Department of Community Programmes, the Hunter Institute of Higher Education, the Newcastle Aboriginal Support Group, the Worimi Land Council and the Awabakal Newcastle Aboriginal Co-op.

Three members of the New South Wales Ministerial Task Force on Aboriginal Heritage and Culture, including the Chairperson, Dr Bill Jonas, explained the work of the Task Force to the Forum.

Other speakers included Millie Ingram, Acting Director of the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council, James Miller, author of the best-selling history of Aboriginal people in the Hunter, Koori: A Will to Win, Kyren Tandarra, from the Eora Centre, the Aboriginal Centre for Performing and Visual Arts and Brian Syron, distinguished Aboriginal producer of plays, organiser of the First National Black Playwrights Conference and recently appointed Producer of the Aboriginal Unit of the ABC.

Representatives of the local Koori community joined with the visitors to celebrate the survival of Aboriginal culture and values in spite of the consequences of the European invasion of their country 200 years ago.

Finnish scholarships

The Finnish Ministry of Education is offering scholarships for postgraduate study in Finland:

- One scholarship of nine months duration for an Australian citizen (no restriction on field of study).
- Scholarships of three to nine months duration for advanced studies in the Finnish language, literature and other national subjects.

Eligibility: Applicants must be graduates of an Australian tertiary institution and possess a working knowledge of Finnish, Swedish, English or German.

Benefits: (a) maintenance allowance of up to 620 Australian dollars per month for accommodation, meals, local transportation and other expenses; (b) free tuition, and fares for approved study tours within Finland.

Candidates must meet the cost of travel to and from Finland. No provision is made for dependents.

Application forms and further information may be obtained from The Secretary, Department of Employment, Education and Training (Finnish Government Scholarships), PO Box 826, Woden, ACT, 2606.

The closing date for applications is January 20, 1989.

Pre-Christmas clean-up

Are you drawers and cupboards full of surplus, used, internal envelopes? If so, bundle them up, put a rubber band around them and telephone Ken Hardy (Extension 675) in the General Store to arrange collection. These envelopes can then be re-issued from the Store at no charge.

WASTEWATCH

Super Christmas Sale
University Sports Store,
Squash Pavilion

10% discount on every item in the shop (except some Reebok shoes). Sale commences on Saturday, December 3 and continues until Christmas Eve.

REAL ESTATE PRICES ARE RISING

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- Realistic Market appraisals
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L.J. HOOKER NEW LAMBTON
33/35 Alma Road, New Lambton.
HVTC's 1989 list of plays

The Hunter Valley Theatre Company has announced details of its 1989 program.

The first play of the year, *Kid Stakes*, by Ray Lawler, is the beginning of the love story that *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* finished. It is the second Ray Lawler play presented by the HVTC.

*Zen & Now* is a revue-style musical set in the 'swinging' sixties. It fulfills an objective of the Company to have more music in the Playhouse.

*My Mother Said I Never Should*, by Charlotte Keatley, is a contemporary English play that will be directed by the HVTC's guest director, Christopher Williams. The play is about four generations of women living in Manchester and London.

The HVTC's new play for 1989, *Once a Bold Collier*, has been written especially by David Allen for the Company. Set against a background of the 1929 Hunter Valley miners conflict and the infamous Battle of Rothbury, the play is a story of love and politics: of three people caught up in events.

*Arms and the Man*, by George Bernard Shaw, promises to be the extravaganza of the 1989 season. It is Shaw's famous comic satire on love and war set in Bulgaria at the turn of the century.

The benefits of becoming a subscriber to the HVTC include a 33 per cent saving on theatre tickets. A subscription costs $60 and entitles you to six vouchers.

Advertisements

For Sale

Yamaha A55N Organ featuring two keyboards, pedals, auto-chords and fun blocks etc. Asking price: $950. Please telephone Paul at Extension 264 or 51 4921 after hours.

Toshiba 1100+ portable computer in excellent condition. Asking price: $1,550. Please telephone Extension 798 or 49 8414 after hours.

Sony FH15R HI-Fi. Features include: wireless remote control mini-system, 300W amplifier, digital tuner, Dolby C auto reverse cassette deck, 7 bands equaliser and three-way speakers. Asking price: $680. Please telephone Paul at Extension 264 or 51 4921 after hours.

Synflex S1 single pine water bed, $80; cedar stained and French polished bedhead with two drawers (any reasonable offer accepted); bedroom vanity, includes tinted mirror 1m x 80cms (any reasonable offer accepted). Please telephone 49 9339 after hours or call in at 47, Ocean Street, Dudley, for inspection.

Canon Typestar 7 electronic typewriter. Features include: memory, italic font, foreign character set, silent operation. Asking price: $450. Please telephone Extension 311 or 51 8458 after hours.

The University of Newcastle

Auction of Excess Equipment

Wednesday 7th December 1988

on Campus Rankin Drive, Newcastle

Over 600 Lots to include

* Office Furniture  * Computer Equipment
* Audio Visual Gear  * Medical Equipment
* Laboratory Equipment  * Library Shelving
* Engineering Items  * General Furniture
* Electronic Gear

Viewing Tuesday, 6th December, 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Further particulars contact Ray Norman

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Staff Moves

Appointments

• Miss Diana L. Freeman, Stenographer, Department of Drama.
• Mr Philip G. Greentree, Technical Officer, Computing Centre.

Resignations

• Professor James L. Keedy, Department of Computer Science.
• Miss Susan J. Rowley, Word Processor Operator, Faculty of Medicine.
• Miss Tanja A. Sprung, Laboratory Assistant, Central Animal House.

Retirement

• Mrs Kathleen Watkins, Clerk, Faculty of Medicine.