Tough economy measures to be adopted

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor K.J. Morgan, today announced a series of tough economy measures to address the University's deteriorating financial position.

These measures are necessary because the University is over-committed in a number of its operations and because the Commonwealth Government has made further cuts in the base for the University's funding. In late 1987, the Government advised that the University's recurrent grant for 1988 would be reduced by 1 1/2 per cent as 'an efficient measure'; and advice has recently been received that only limited support will be provided for the recent 4 per cent second-tier salary awards for academic and general staff. Commonwealth support will cover only 76 per cent of the academic salaries award for 1988 and 41 per cent of the general staff award, with the prospect of substantially less support in 1989.

Without corrective steps, the University's recurrent fund deficit in 1988 would rise to $1.75 million; on current estimates it would reach $2.4 million in 1989. These levels are unacceptable — the University's reserves would be exhausted within two or three years.

The University Council decided at its June 10 meeting that the deficit should be eliminated as soon as possible by taking economy measures and searching for new revenue-raising activities. The deficit has to be eliminated, not just to address the financial situation, but to enable the University to achieve its educational objectives. It cannot undertake new initiatives or improve existing programmes while its investment income is being used entirely to meet the shortfall in the recurrent budget.

A summary of the measures which are being examined is set out. Most would take full effect in 1989. Discussions with those sections of the University affected by these changes are now in progress.

The measures are being announced now so that the University community receives early advice of the proposals to provide an effective basis for planning for the years ahead. They represent a far reaching review of University expenditure to enable it to meet the reduced standard of living forced upon it.

The University has already indicated that commitment to the following initiatives which involve increased expenditure:
- the introduction of a degree in Building;
- the expansion of the Aviation programme;
- development of a new programme in Information Science; and
- appointments to vacant Chairs.

As a revenue-raising initiative, the University is seeking to enrol a limited number of full fee-paying overseas students for the first time in 1989.

It should also be noted that in endeavouring to alter the staff profile of the University and at the same time reduce expenditure, an early voluntary retirement scheme has been introduced.

The Finance and Personnel Committee of Council strongly endorsed the expenditure reduction measures which, in accordance with Council's decision of June 10, had been recommended by the Financial Planning Group who will be continually monitoring the financial position of the University.

Summary of Expenditure Changes Being Examined

It is envisaged that the following measures will, within three to four years, result in the elimination of the University's recurrent fund deficit. A number of the measures will be phased in over that period while others will take effect immediately. Without such measures, the University's annual deficits for 1989 and beyond would be of the order of $2.4 million.

1. The funding of certain operations by the University, e.g. 2NUR-FM, Animal House, Departments of Sport and Recreation, and Community Programmes, to be substantially reduced over the next few years with the aim that they then become largely self-funding operations (saving after three to four years, $400,000 per annum).

2. Reduced part-time teaching and administrative staff allocations ($100,000 per annum).

3. Reductions to be achieved in overhead costs including cleaning, repairs and maintenance, examination supervision ($300,000 per annum).

4. Time off in lieu of overtime to be encouraged ($50,000 per annum).

5. Reductions in expenditure on equipment and minor works ($550,000 for 1989).

6. Restructuring of the University Health Service ($100,000 per annum).

7. In respect to administrative staff, all vacancies over the next three years be frozen for at least six months pending review of each position.

8. In respect to academic, technical and office support staff, vacant positions will only be filled where the vacancy occurs in a department which is understaffed as shown by pre-determined staff/student ratios.
My last 'Admin Notes' ended on the warning note that, especially as the result of recent Commonwealth Government funding decisions — to reduce funding for the University — the University would have to reduce its "standard of living". On July 26, following consideration by the Finance and Personnel Committee, the Vice-Chancellor announced a series of tough economy measures designed to reduce the deficit and over time, restore the University's finances to good health (and provide us with the capacity to grow and develop).

An important point made to me in various discussions about the University's financial situation has been the need for early advance warning of expenditure reductions for 1989 so that the departments of the University know where they stand and can cast their plans for 1989 accordingly. The Financial Planning Group will now turn its attention to the 1989 Budget with the aim of preparing the Budget in advance of the new academic year. (This presumes that the Commonwealth lets us know our grant level for 1989 before December.)

The decisions announced by the Vice-Chancellor are clearly painful but unavoidable. The promise, for the longer term future, is that they will enable the University to achieve its objectives. Whether the promise is finally realised will also depend of course on our financial masters in Canberra.

One criticism made of the announcement is that many University staff heard of the University’s financial situation has been the need for early advance warning of expenditure reductions for 1989 so that the departments of the University know where they stand and can cast their plans for 1989 accordingly. The Financial Planning Group will now turn its attention to the 1989 Budget with the aim of preparing the Budget in advance of the new academic year. (This presumes that the Commonwealth lets us know our grant level for 1989 before December.)

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One criticism made of the announcement is that many University staff heard of the announcement any similar announcements (which' or we communicate directly with re-organisation commenced last semester). The Administration's I will be announcing a 50 some 900 staff, an awful lot of paper. year. universities for the 'on-air' series around the University. As I've planned for September (date yet to be image - possibly a more important comment. The Administration's I will be announcing a

University

University Challenge proves to be a real challenge

Newcastle University's attempt to appear on the ABC's University Challenge television programme proved to be just that — a real challenge.

Earlier in July an on-campus trial was conducted by the ABC's producer and program officer of the game show to see how the University of Newcastle would stand up against other universities.

Not well enough according to the Dean of Students, Professor Ken Dutton, believes both Newcastle teams (who were pitted against each other in the trial) performed credibly on academic ability.

'I was very impressed with both our teams', Professor Dutton said.

'If judged purely on academic ability I feel sure they would have won a place in the television series.'

However, I think factors other than academic ability may have formed part of the ABC's assessment of teams suitable for their programme.

'The ABC has not informed us of its selection criteria, or of our team's score in the trial compared with the scores of other universities.'

If criteria other than academic ability were used, I hope the ABC will not promote the programme as featuring the "top universities."

While budgetary constraints restrict the ABC to selecting only 10 universities for the 'on-air' series it is interesting to note that once again no small Australian universities made the cut off.

The larger universities again selected to appear on University Challenge will no doubt demonstrate to us their knowledge while at the same time continue to polish their image — possibly a more important credential for appearing on the 'box.'
‘Gut feel’ — a thing of the past

The time for management decisions based on ‘gut feel’ is gone. Today’s successful organisations base decisions on sound data.

With this in mind, NewStat, a division of the University of Newcastle Research Associates Ltd (TUNRA), has been established to provide statistical and quality consulting services to commerce and industry.

The general goals of NewStat are two-fold:

- to encourage use of the statistical expertise at the University by companies and other organisations to solve problems which involve ‘turning data into information’.
- to create an exciting and rewarding working environment for staff and students in the Department of Statistics through involvement with real-world problems.

NewStat has an interest in conducting short courses on statistical aspects of quality assurance in manufacturing or service industries, computerised data analysis and other topics and is currently resourced by 10 qualified applied statisticians.

NewStat consultants have accumulated many years experience, and achieved international reputations, in epidemiological research, health planning, and the design and analysis of medical trials. Previous work has included studies in occupational health, heart disease and behavioural medicine, as well as long-term monitoring of drug evaluation and clinical trials.

In addition, NewStat consultants have unique experience in the use of official health statistics for the management of health services.

NewStat consultants can advise on computer software for statistical analysis and the management of large data sets. Expertise is available in the planning and analysis of surveys and in forecasting.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor K. Morgan, said NewStat would be a major service to the community and we were fortunate to have it based at the University.

At the launching on July 29, Professor Annette Dobson, Head of the Department of Statistics at this University, commented that NewStat was very important to the business and industry areas of the region. She has carefully built up her team over the last couple of years and was pleased to be offering the service formally outside the University.

Dr Dennis Sinclair, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Statistics said the community didn’t have to look to Sydney or Melbourne for their statistical advice any longer. He said NewStat has strong bonds with the Health Department and has been well accepted in industry in Newcastle.

No leisurely retirement

Dr Keith Lyne-Smith

A leisurely retirement was the last thing on the mind of Dr Keith Lyne-Smith when he left the University on August 11.

Dr Lyne-Smith will begin work four days later for an investment company doing project feasibility studies.

Dr Lyne-Smith left the University as a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Chemical & Materials Engineering.

He first joined the University in 1958 when it was part of the Kensington campus. He later moved to Tighes Hill in 1961.

During his time at the University Dr Lyne-Smith coached the first grade rugby union team from 1964 to 1974 and was on the Staff Association Executive from 1982 to 1986, being elected President in 1986.

As President he represented the Staff Association on the University Council and was a member of the Selection Committee to choose the new Vice-Chancellor.

Chemistry study in Japan

Dr Elia von Nagy-Felsobuki of the University’s Department of Chemistry, is to undertake an Outside Studies Programme at the Institute of Molecular Science in Okazaki, Japan.

Dr von Nagy-Felsobuki will work with Professor Katsumi Kimura in the Department of Molecular Assemblies/Photochemistry Section conducting and interpreting synchrotron radiation/photoelectron/photolysis measurements of molecular complexes and clusters.

The Japanese Government has awarded Dr von Nagy-Felsobuki an Associate Professorial Fellowship in order that these studies can be conducted at the Institute during the study.

Dr von Nagy-Felsobuki will take up the study programme in January, 1989.
JULY SENATE

Building Degree

The Vice-Chancellor reported that the Building Licencing Board of New South Wales had made a grant of $658,000 for the establishment of a Degree in Building.

Professor Keith Morgan said the grant was subject to the Commonwealth Government including the appropriate numbers in the University's profile.

It was expected the course would begin in 1990.

White Paper

Copies of the Commonwealth Government's White Paper on education have been distributed to all faculties for consideration.

Professor Morgan told the Senate that the paper had arrived that day and that it was too early to make considered comment.

A pleasing aspect from an early reading was that the Common wealth sought to maintain, or even increase, the emphasis on the humanities. There appeared to be considerable attention given to equity.

The scale of withdrawal of research funding was not unexpected but nevertheless painful, Professor Morgan said.

It appeared the Government wanted to know the breakdown of time and resources given to research and assess this against total funding. The United Kingdom experience had clearly shown that universities were very efficient in the expenditure of funds on research and he fully expected this would be the case in Australia, Professor Morgan said.

Funding Cuts

The Vice-Chancellor expanded on tough economy measures designed to address the University's deteriorating financial position.

The measures were necessary because the University was over-committed in a number of its operations and because the Commonwealth Government had made further cuts in the base for the University's funding.

Professor Morgan said it was envisaged that the following measures would, within three to four years, result in the elimination of the University's recurrent fund deficit. A number of the measures would be phased in over that period while others would take effect immediately. Without such measures, the University's annual deficits for 1989 and beyond would be of the order of $2.4 million.

- The funding of certain operations by the University e.g. 2NUR-FM, Animal House, Departments of Sport and Recreation and Community Programmes, to be substantially reduced over the next few years with the aim that they then become largely self-funding operations (saving after three to four years $400,000 per annum).
- Reduced part-time teaching and administrative staff allocations ($100,000 per annum).
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- Reductions in expenditure on equipment and minor works ($500,000 for 1989).
- Restructuring of the University Health Service ($400,000 per annum).
- In respect to administrative staff, all vacancies over the next three years be frozen for at least six months pending review of each position.
- In respect to academic, technical and office support staff, vacant positions will only be filled where the vacancy occurs in a department which is understaffed as shown by pre-determined staff/student ratios.

Library Hours 1989

Senate has approved the following hours of opening that the Library should follow in 1989. This is the first year in which the University will move substantially to a semester year (terms will still prevail in the Faculty of Medicine) and for the first time, there will be a distinct pause in the demand for reader service at the mid-year period. It will be recalled that the semester dates for 1989 are as follows:

**Semester 1**
Commences Monday, February 27. Recession — Friday, March 24 to Sunday, April 2. Resumes on Monday, April 3 and concludes on Friday, June 2.

**Examinations:** mid-year, Monday, June 5 to June 23.

**Semester 2**
Commences Monday, July 10. Recession — Saturday, September 23 to Sunday, October 8. Resumes on Monday, October 9 and concludes on Friday, October 27.

**Examinations:** end of year, Monday November 6 to November 24.

During the long vacation and for the two week period after the mid-year examinations, June 2 to July 7, the Library hours would be:

Monday to Thursday, 8.30 am to 10 pm.
Friday, 8.30 am to 7 pm.

During the Easter Break the Library would be closed from Good Friday to the following Tuesday, inclusive.

During other public holidays the Library would be open, as at present from 1 to 5 pm.

NEWCASTLE TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES

The University has an excess of Newcastle telephone books. If any staff member would like additional copies for work or home please contact the Mailroom at Extension 618.
Meanwhile, back of hackside .......

It was a race of attrition. One by one the other carts in the University billycart derby bought it! The Rugby Club's entry (three big boys on a piece of 4x2) broke, the flying wisbin lost its lid, the parachute brakes (someone's aunty's umbrella) failed in an emergency, and Geology showed that its syllabus should include a little more engineering when Martin Hicks welds unwelded. By round five few rigs were holding together — but one of the stalwarts was the mixed team of Anthony Tate and Christine Conway, from Chemical Engineering aboard The Jameson Jet, otherwise known as the Obsequious Special. No one could work out the secret — why this silly cart, painted red to go faster, was still in one piece.

Was it the extensive research and development that began the day before the race? Was it Shaun Manning's bagpipe playing that caused all the others to vibrate into little pieces. Was it the four-wheel steering that caused the cart to do a 360 on a quarter turn and needed a day to correct for oversteer? Or was it Christine's long blond hair? It can't have been helped by the spectators. One stood in front of it and now has no legs.

Once Chris and Anthony actually started to try taking the corners — it all fell into place. And considering that the enterprise section of the Chemical Engineering Department made a killing on their 

$3 a can of beer stall — you could say they really cleaned up.

And the real coincidence is — the new lap record of 23.05 is exactly the sum of Anthony and Chris's IQs! All together now —

Hey,
Aunty's umbrella,
Geology unwelded,
Rugby broke away,
the flying wisbin lost its lid,
All on Autonomy Day.
(Sung to the tune of a certain Christmas ditty.)

Fertility experts for Newcastle conference

An international who's who of fertility and reproductive biology experts will be in Newcastle from August 28 to September 1.

The first combined annual meeting of the Fertility Society of Australia, the Australian Society for Reproductive Biology and the Association of Sheep and Goat Artificial Breeders will be centered on the City Hall.

Part of the driving force behind securing the conference in Newcastle has been Dr David Kay and Dr John Rodger of this University's Department of Biological Sciences.

The two have been working on this year's conference for two years and it is the first time Newcastle has been chosen for any of the society's annual meetings.
Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

To all my friends and fellow staff members who helped make my farewell luncheon and associated get-togethers such memorable occasions I say thank you.

I also express my appreciation to all those who sent me good wishes and kind thoughts.

In my various roles in 24 years of service with the University I have received posibilities will only be filled where the vacancy occurs in a department which is understaffed as shown by pre-determined staff/student ratios.

Let us suppose a department not understaffed academically according to 'pre-determined staff/student ratio'. Let us suppose that that department has no technical staff and an office support staff of one. Let us suppose that that one person resigns.

Is that department deemed to be understaffed or not?

Dr A.W. Sparkes
Department of Philosophy.

With the advent to two parallel University news sheets an editorial problem has arisen which needs to be addressed.

For the second issue of UNINEWS I submitted an article on a current research problem in progress in the Department of Mathematics. I was advised to write in such a way as to make the subject of the research as generally understandable as possible. I was astounded that the article appeared, not in UNINEWS but in the Campus Bulletin. If I had known that I was writing for the Campus Bulletin I might have written differently and if I had known that my original article had been diverted to the Campus Bulletin I might have thought twice about publishing it at all.

Articles submitted to one journal ought not to be published in the other without the consent of the author. To do so without consent is not only rude but can mean that inappropriately styled articles can appear in the other journal. But worse, it carries the implication that there is an editorial policy that research in some departments will be featured in UNINEWS but research in others will only ever be given 'in house' notice.

At a time when the morale of most departments in the University is at an all-time low because of reduction in resources and an ever-increasing work load, it would be most unfortunate if such a lack of editorial politeness were to cause even more ill-feeling.

Professor John Giles
Department of Mathematics.

[John Giles will probably be happy when he reads the next issue of UNINEWS (No.3), as it will include his article. This outcome was intended all along. The item will appear with a photograph of visiting academics in Mathematics. UNINEWS is distributed mainly to audiences outside the University. We apologise to John Giles, but explain that, as the article was of general interest within the University (as well as outside the University), we thought it should also appear in Campus Bulletin. Ed.]

Geographers for international congress

Geographers from Newcastle University are actively involved in the 26th Congress of the International Geographical Union to be held in Sydney from August 21 to 26.

The congress has attracted more than 1,200 delegates to Australia.

Professor Eric Colhoun, Head of the Department of Geography, will Chair the congress commission on Periglacial Geomorphology (the study of processes, landforms and structures in the soil that occur in areas affected by severe frost action as found in such places as Siberia, Arctic Canada and peripheral parts of the Antarctic and also present a paper concerning the glacial history of Tasmania.

Dr Howard Bridgman of the Department of Geography, who assisted the organisation of the congress, will co-chair one of the sessions and present a paper in the Global and Regional Climatology session of the congress.

A highlight of the congress will be the visit by 90 delegates to the Lower Hunter Region for two one-day excursions organised by the Department of Geography on August 24 and 25.

The excursions will begin in Sydney travelling by train to Newcastle viewing the landscape of the Hawkesbury River area, its deep inlets of coastal regions and the settlement and development of the rapidly expanding Central Coast region.

On arrival in Newcastle the will be conducted on a tour of the Lower Hunter to examine the historical geography of settlement in the region with special reference to the impact of mining in the Newcastle and South Maitland coalfields.

The parties will proceed to the Pokolbin Vineyards region to view the agriculture and wine making process of the area.

They will enjoy lunch at Rothbury Estate which has developed strong research links with the Department in recent times.

After lunch the parties will examine the Maitland area, flood plain and the Lower Hunter Flood Mitigation Scheme.

Returning to Newcastle the parties will examine the layout of the industrial, CBD and port areas of Newcastle before returning to Sydney by train in the evening.

The Department of Geography has the expert assistance of the Department's former Assoc. Professor Peter Irwin who will act as commentator on the excursions. He will no doubt impart a wealth of knowledge of the local area to the visiting geographers.
Employment Officer
'Bubbling with Ideas

Ms Helen Parker

Introducing modern tools for students is one of the many ideas the University's recently appointed Careers and Student Employment Officer plans to implement.

Helen Parker takes on her new role after nine years in the employment section of the Department of Employment and Education Training.

She has much practical career guidance experience, including the past 10 months working with the Youth Access Program in the Newcastle CES office.

This program not only saw her guide young people towards career opportunities but also showed them how to handle bureaucracies.

Helen is quick to put her ideas to work and has started to put the old card index system on to computer and is also looking to put careers information on computer that can be accessed by students.

'Students need to be computer literate these days,' she said.

'As for putting career information on a computer I think the students will explore more career ideas if they can access and research the information themselves.'

Helen believes students must also be able to sell themselves to the workforce. Having a degree is not enough.

Prominent Chinese astrophysicist and political dissident to visit University

Professor Fang Lizhi, of the Beijing Astronomical Observatory, will be visiting the University on August 25 and 26 to conduct seminars sponsored by the Department of Physics, the Department of History, and the Standing Committee on Asian Studies.

Professor Fang, whose specialist fields are in cosmology and general relativity, is in Australia to participate in the Fifth International Marcel Grossmann Meeting being held in Perth. He will be accompanied by his wife, Assoc. Professor Li Shuxian, herself a physicist at Beijing University.

In January 1987, accused of advocating 'bourgeois liberalism' and of encouraging the student demonstrations of the previous three months, Professor Fang was stripped of his membership of the Chinese Communist Party and removed from his post as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Science and Technology in Hefei, Anhui Province. He was assigned to the Beijing Astronomical Observatory as a research worker but has not been silenced by the Chinese authorities.

Professor Fang has continued to be outspoken in his criticisms of the Chinese government and the Communist Party and in his advocacy of democracy, intellectual freedom, and the important role that intellectuals play in society as 'a leading force for social progress'.

Professor Fang will read a paper on Quasar Clustering at a seminar in the Physics Department on Thursday morning, August 25. On Friday morning, August 26 he will speak on current political developments in the People's Republic of China at a seminar being organised by the Department of History and the Standing Committee on Asian Studies.

For information on the astrophysics seminar telephone the Physics Department, Extensions 235 or 340; for information on the seminars organised by the History Department and the Standing Committee on Asian Studies telephone Extensions 262 or 363.
Visit by former Education staff members

Two former Education Department staff members made a welcome visit to Newcastle University recently.

Professor John Biggs and Professor John Kirby participated in a one-day seminar on Research in Reading and Writing organised by the Education Department.

Professor Biggs, now teaching at the University of Hong Kong, and Professor Kirby, now at Queen's University in Canada, returned to Australia to attend the International Congress of Psychology in Sydney.

Both men are presenting papers at the congress which is being held in Australia for the first time.

The one-day seminar at Newcastle University was organised because both professors were available to participate.

The seminar covered a range of reading and writing problems from young children through to university students. It was attended by staff from this University and the Hunter Institute of Higher Education and students from the Departments of Education and Psychology.

Both Professors Biggs and Kirby have been away from Australia for about 12 months.

Professor Kirby, in returning to his native Canada after 12 years, believes the Canadian Government has a far more positive attitude to higher education and students seem more willing to work harder.

'Queen's is a most selective University,' he said.

'tIt is very competitive to get into the first place with its education department also most competitive. It is very prestigious to be accepted for its teacher/education programme.'

Although noted for its economics and engineering schools Professor Kirby said you still needed to score about 88 per cent to be accepted to education.

While money for research causes a bottleneck at Newcastle University at Queen's the problem is finding the time and ideas.

Professor Kirby said he had received more research funding in the last 12 months than in the whole 12 years he was at Newcastle.

Professor Biggs said education had a higher profile in Hong Kong.

'It is a means of economic advancement for them so the kids want to go to school, they sit up and take notice,' he said.

New scholarships in Classics

The recent presentation of the inaugural Williams Scholarships in Classics will assist four students in the study of Latin and Classical Greek languages.

The students, Penelope Curran, Jillian Hughes, Lorraine Sostaric and Vicki Stewart, each received $500.

The Williams Scholarship a fund established at the bequest of the late Mr Frank Williams.

The Williams family was encouraged by Dr Bernie Curran of the University's Department of Classics to make the donation. The Williams Scholarship is designed to promote the study of Latin and Classical Greek languages particularly by Latin I or Greek I students, although it is not restricted to first year students.

Dr Curran and Mr Williams, Mark, studied Classics together and today the Williams' interest in the subject continues: Mark's daughter, Rachael, completed first year Latin last year.

Provision has been made for up to five scholarships to be awarded annually.

The four scholarships awarded this year are the Caroline Williams Scholarship (Ms Curran), the F.C. Williams Scholarship (Ms Hughes), the Hannah Askew Scholarship (Ms Sostaric) and the Mark Askew Scholarship (Miss Stewart).

Education which has contributions from Professor Kirby and the Head of Newcastle University's Education Department, Dr Phil Moore.

And speaking of books, Professors Biggs and Kirby hope to produce one on the basis of the research seminar that brought them together again at this University.
Forsythe House

On campus Edwards Hall now boasts additional student accommodation in the form of Forsythe House. The new block of self-catering units, incorporating a single storey flat for a sub-warden, is partially funded by a TUNRA loan. Forsythe House, named after TUNRA Chairman and Deputy Chancellor, Dr Alec Forsythe, received its first customers earlier this year. The accommodation houses 10 students in two units of five, plus a staff member. The incorporation of a staff member’s quarters is an integral part of the development, and the residential college community.

The TUNRA loan of $112,256, repayable at the expiration of 10 years, by the University, is considered to be an extremely worthwhile investment in the future of the University and its student accommodation.

Amalgamation wins!
On Sunday, July 24, the seeds of amalgamation were sown by participants from both sides of the creek.
A team called Amalgamation comprising of Stan Barwick, Malcolm Roberts, Mark Johnson and Scott Gardiner, of the Hunter Institute of Higher Education, and Harry Daniel, from the University, won the Open Teams Category of the prestigious Newcastle Herald, Coca-Cola 10.2km Fun Run.
University runners Terry Farrell and David Rundle were also honoured by individual second and third placings from a field of over 1,200 participants.
Our photographs shows from the left: Michael Ross, Stan Barwick, Malcolm Roberts and Harry Daniel.

Squash Club News
University Squash Club was represented by 21 teams in the recently concluded Autumn Competition conducted by the Newcastle and District Squash Racquets Association. Twelve teams reached the semi-finals of their respective grades with only one of these teams being eliminated at this level. A further four teams were eliminated by losing their finals matches.

This meant that one-third of the Club’s initial entry had reached their ultimate competitive match, the Grand Final. All seven teams were successful. Only one other club in the competition, Charlestown, with eight grand final winners, did better.

Congratulations to the women’s teams who won the C3 and D7 grades, and to the men’s teams who won the C6, D8, E1, G3 and H1 grades. The results reflect a great effort by club players. The Squash Club looks forward to an equally successful Spring Competition.

ADVERTISEMENTS
Accommodation Wanted
Visiting doctor and wife seek accommodation and car (if possible) mid-November to mid-January. Reasonable rent etc. negotiable. Please telephone Max Brinsmead at 67 9348.
Alternative medicine scrutiny seminar subject

The need to critically scrutinise alternative medicines will be the subject of the first in a series of four public seminars organised by the Department of Community Programmes at Newcastle University.

Professor Tony Smith, Professor of Clinical Pharmacology, will address the topic Orthodox or Alternative Medicines.

Professor Smith said many forms of alternative medicines had grown up over the past decade but few had been subjected to the same critical scrutiny which applied to orthodox medicines.

"Properly conducted clinical trials have provided a tool for evaluating new medicines and other treatments, and evidence of effectiveness and safety is required before new medications are permitted to be used in Australia. It is reasonable to require the same criteria of efficacy and safety from all forms of intervention in illness," Professor Smith said.

The seminar will be held in the Case Study Theatre, Level 2, David Maddison Building, Watt Street, Newcastle at 6 pm on Wednesday, August 17.

The September seminar will deal with preventing heart disease, the October seminar will look at the role of exercise in human health while the last seminar in November will consider screening for gynaecological cancer.

Gatting gives ‘thumbs up’ to University

Former England cricket captain, Mr Mike Gatting, has paid tribute to the facilities of the University whilst recommending that a 19 year-old county cricketer play with the University Cricket Club this summer. Mr Gatting, who has trained on campus during visits to Newcastle, spoke most favourably of both the facilities and the hospitality received.

The cricketer concerned, Mr Paul Weekes, is due to arrive on September 28. Paul will have his cricketing education ‘Down Under’ supervised by the Club’s qualified and experienced coach, Mr Bob Wellham.

Paul comes highly credentialed. Prior to taking up his present contract with Middlesex, he played for London Schools and the MCC Youth Team. Paul was recruited to Middlesex by current England selector, and fellow off-spinner, Mr Fred Titmus and recommended by the University Club by the English Director of Junior Cricket Development.

Traveling Film Festival — ‘on the road again’

Showing at the Lyrique Theatre from September 2 to 4.

September 2: Playing Away, 7.30 pm. Director: Horace Ove (Britain). A refreshing comedy about race relations in Britain.


9.51 pm: My Sweet Little Village (English subtitles). Director: Jiri Menzel (Czechoslovakia). Is a very enjoyable, lyrical rural comedy.

September 3: Rosa Luxemburg (English subtitles) 5 pm. Director: Margarethe von Trotta (Republic of Germany). A film about one of this century's most important political figures. Rosa represents the acceptable face of socialism.

8 pm: Where the Forest Meets the Sea. Australian Director: Jeannie Baker. This film uses built-up textures in her life-like relief collages to take the viewer to an extraordinary visual journey to the exotic primeval wilderness of the Daintree Rainforest (10 minutes duration).

8.10 pm: My Life as a Dog (English subtitles). Director: Lasse Hallstrom (Sweden). A charming comedy of childhood, with amazing performances, offbeat humour.

September 4: The Nights Belong to the Novelist, 5 pm. Australian Director: Christina Wilcox. Documentary which explores the imaginative world of Australian novelist Elizabeth Jolley (duration 48 minutes).

5.55 pm: The Home of the Brave. Director: Laurie Anderson (USA). Lensed in the New York area and is an eye-popping tapestry stitched with video, chaotic choreography, subtitles, wild props such as dancing shirts and a so-called drum suit that turns the singer's entire body into a percussive instrument.

8.30 pm: Telegram for Mrs Edwards. Australian Director: Kris Stenders. A young wife receives news of her husband's death. They are reunited, but at what cost? (duration 4 minutes).

Tickets can be purchased from the Lyrique and Kensington Theatres or from the Second-hand Book Shop, University Union.

A Message on Open Days

Throughout the University, individuals, departments and units are gearing up for what promises to be magnificent Open Days on September 3 and 4 — a promise to be both festive and informative — and should attract a record number of past and prospective students, old friends of the University, and new.

Universities are subject nowadays to constant 'theoretical' reviews; the Open Days provide a timely opportunity to demonstrate to the public the range of the work of the University and its significance regionally, nationally and internationally. On behalf of the Open Days Committee, to all concerned — Thank you! and to all visitors — Welcome! I am sure that the Open Days will be rewarding and enjoyable.

Professor M.P. Carter, Acting Chairman, Open Days Committee.

International Affairs

( Newcastle Group) Dinner Meeting

A talk entitled Arms Control and Disarmament: Making Australia's Voice Heard, presented by Cathy Graham, Newcastle graduate and member of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, will be preceded by a buffet dinner at 6 pm for 6.30 pm. The dinner will take place on Friday, September 9 in the Staff House. The cost of the dinner is $20 per person. If you wish to attend either the talk or the dinner please contact Professor L.E. Fredman, C/ Department of History, Extension 364.
New face in Computer Science

The Department of Computer Science at Karlsruhe is very impressive,' he said.

There is a whole Faculty devoted to computer science with 15 Chairs and over 200 members of staff doing research work. One-third of them are paid by the State while the rest are supported by industrial concerns.

After 10 years at Karlsruhe, Graham moved to Wellington where he had the opportunity to work with some of the leading logicians in the area of artificial intelligence.

Assoc. Professor Wrightson’s research interests lies in the area of automated reasoning asking the question of how do you get a computer to reason inductively?

‘I’m looking at the way humans think and then trying to get computers to think the same way,’ he said.

‘There are many questions to be considered, such as ‘How do building machines help us?’ and ‘By building machines that do more and more tasks we normally do, how does that help us to know more about ourselves?’

‘There is still a gap to be bridged between relating mind/software, if you like — to body/brain or hardware.’

When Assoc. Professor Wrightson is not deep in his mind/body problems his concern turns to the current situation of computer science in general.

There is a tremendous need for computer science both from students and industry which wants the qualified students,’ he said.

‘But the staff/student ratios at most Australian universities is poor and it is becoming more difficult to get staff let alone turn out graduates.

‘Universities cannot compete with industry for salaries in attracting or retaining students and if they can’t provide a good research environment then the students won’t stay.

However, the situation is improving at Newcastle and should be strengthened when computer science merge with the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.’

Both his daughters, are studying computer science at the University. Eighteen-year old Astrid is in her first year and 22-year-old Gertrude is in her final year.

There would seem to be no escaping the world of computer science for Assoc. Professor Graham Wrightson.

Community emphasis remains at the University

The University of Newcastle would maintain and seek to further improve its emphasis on community teaching despite some funding cuts, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor K.J. Morgan said.

Cuts announced earlier this week would not affect the Open Foundation Course, which gives older members of the community entry to the University.

Professor Morgan said the funding cuts by the Department of Community Programmes were in areas such as special seminars, that could become self-funding.

'It is regrettable that the Newcastle Herald editorial of July 28, said that the cuts would have bitter consequences for older people who have used the course to gain University entry.

'This is not the case. In fact we intend to gain further Federal funding to support this work,' he said.

Professor Morgan said representatives of the Department of Education, Employment and Training would visit Newcastle next month as part of a tour of all 66 higher education institutions.

'We have long been disappointed that our Community Programmes are the only ones at an Australian university not funded by the Commonwealth and we will not allow these representatives to leave until they understand the significance of this programme to Newcastle and the University,' Professor Morgan said.

He said the suggestion that the University would "retreat into the traditional academic ivory tower" was abhorrent to the University's public commitment to better serve the Hunter Region community.

'Clearly the University is moving closer to expanded, and more effective, community involvement,' Professor Morgan said.

Yes, we have moved

The Drama Department is now located on the top floor of the Geography Building and the telephone numbers remain the same.
Vice-Chancellors' hit out at White Paper

The Australian Vice-Chancellors’ Committee has hit out at the Federal Government over what it calls a back down on promises.

The AVCC said the Government backed away from two of its key proposals in higher education - expansion and deregulation of the system.

Acting Chairman of the AVCC, Professor Brian Wilson, said the White Paper on higher education failed to deliver on the Government’s promise to free universities from unnecessary bureaucratic restrictions. Rather it now appeared to be keen to control more and more of the universities’ activities from Canberra.

Professor Wilson said the Government’s move to centralise control included:

• barring institutions from joining the unified national system unless they complied with a range of Government demands covering internal management, credit transfer, staffing arrangements, a common academic year;
• interfering in the operations of the universities through Canberra-initiated reviews of institutional management;
• demanding excessive amounts of statistical data from the universities, much of which was unlikely ever to be read;
• reducing the flexibility of institutions by carving off significant portions of their operating grants with this money targeted to specific Government-dictated projects;

The funding issue was of great concern to the AVCC which considered an erosion in the financial flexibility of the universities would make it increasingly difficult for them to be innovative and entrepreneurial.

Professor Wilson said the Government was asking universities to operate like modern business organisations, reacting to changing circumstances, adopting an entrepreneurial stance.

‘The only trouble is, it’s ruining our chances by constantly reducing our infrastructure,’ he said.

The AVCC was also concerned that the Government had ‘gone soft’ on the expansion of student places, dropping the indicative growth targets which had been spelled out in the Green Paper last year.

Professor Wilson said the Government’s failure in this respect had made it difficult for institutions to engage in long-term planning for enrolments.

Doctorate for Wind Turbine study

Dr Philip Clausen

Dr Philip Clausen has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the Department of Mechanical Engineering for his thesis titled

Measurements and Predictions of Sustaining Flow behind Wind Turbine Blades and Through an Axisymmetric Diffuser. His supervisor was Dr David Wood.

The work in Dr Clausen’s thesis forms part of an investigation into diffuser augmented wind turbines. The little research that has been done on this particular wind turbine configuration shows an increase in turbine power output of up to seven times that of a bare turbine. Consequently, diffuser augmented wind turbines show promise for the generation of electric power in remote areas.

The major finding from Dr Clausen’s work was that existing theory does not adequately predict the performance of wind turbines for all operating conditions. Furthermore, he found that this theory significantly underpredicted the power output of a model wind turbine when the turbine was operated under heavy load conditions. This finding suggests some exciting possibilities for improving wind turbine design.

To understand the discrepancy between theory and measurements, detailed, sophisticated and unique measurements were made using an IBM PC compatible computer. The software, written by Jim Smith, the Departmental Programmer, allowed the PC to both acquire and process the data in real time.

To date, one journal paper has been published from Dr Clausen’s thesis, one is soon to appear, another is being reviewed and at least two more are planned. Some of the findings of his research have also been presented at conferences in New Zealand, France and the USA.

Further work is planned on the aerodynamics of wind turbine blades. A computer model is being developed and a new wind tunnel is being built for experimental verification.

Presently Dr Clausen has a lecturing position in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Apart from continuing with the work from his thesis, he is now branching into the mechanical design area.

Former PhD student honoured in America

A PhD student from this University, Dr Chuan Yan Cheng, has won the Weitzman Award from the Endocrine Society in America.

The Weitzman Award was established to honour young researchers and was given to Dr Cheng in recognition of his work in fertility studies, both in testicular physiology and in clinical investigations.

Dr Cheng, who is now a scientist at The Population Council in New York and Assistant Professor at Rockefeller University, undertook his PhD in the Department of Biological Sciences under the supervision of Professor Barry Boeticher.

Much of Dr Cheng’s work during his PhD candidature was cited at the American award presentation including his early investigation of the binding of steroids to spermatozoa and demonstrations that this binding was associated with alterations in sperm mobility.

The Endocrine Society noted that the early success of Dr Cheng ‘argues that he will continue to make contributions to the field of endocrinology and metabolism for many years to come.’
Alternative medicine scrutiny seminar subject

The need to critically scrutinise alternative medicines will be the subject of the first in a series of seminars organised by the Department of Community Programmes at Newcastle University.

Professor Tony Smith, Professor of Clinical Pharmacology, will address the topic Orthodox or Alternative Medicines.

Professor Smith said many forms of alternative medicines had grown up over the past decade but few had been subjected to the same critical scrutiny which applied to orthodox medicines.

Properly conducted clinical trials have provided a tool for evaluating new medicines and other treatments, and evidence of effectiveness and safety is required before new medications are permitted to be used in Australia. It is reasonable to require the same criteria of efficacy and safety from all forms of intervention in illnesses," Professor Smith said.

The seminar will be held in the Case Study Theatre, Level 2, David Maddison Building, Watt Street Newcastle, at 6 pm on Wednesday, August 17.

The September seminar will deal with preventing heart disease, the October seminar will look at the role of exercise in human health while the last seminar in November will consider screening for gynaecological cancer.

Forthcoming Study Tours

The Department of Community Programmes is once again offering Study Tours to Historical Southern Tasmania and Norfolk Island — from the Convicts to the Pitcairn Islanders.

The tour to Historical Southern Tasmania takes place from December 10 to 17 and costs $825 per person.

The tour to Norfolk Island from the Convicts to the Pitcairn Islanders takes place on February 11 to 18 and costs $1,160 per person.

For further details please contact Extension 600 or 522.
**Hunter Tapestry Unveiled**

![Sir James Rowland, watched by the University's Chancellor, Dr Elizabeth Evatt, unveils a plaque commemorating the Hunter Tapestry which was presented by the Friends of the University.](image1)

**Stage designer enjoying pace**

Tom Bannerman, Designer-in-Residence with the Drama Department is impressed and enthused by the number of plays in production there.

'Most of the lecturers within the Department are producing at present and this gives me great scope to work with them and with students,' he said.

Tom is no stranger to Newcastle. He worked with Professor Victor Emeljanow, Head of the Department, on his Master Class then on *The Caretaker* for the Hunter Valley Theatre Company.

While this is his first work within a university he has taught drama in high schools for 13 years.

His professional experience in Sydney is long and varied and includes the original production of David Williamson's *The Club* directed by John Bell which toured in London.

He is perhaps best known in drama circles for his skill in designing productions for which the audience sightlines are wide such as the Spanish Renaissance Theatre and Company's Civic Playhouse.

Tom will oversee the design work of productions at the University and is conducting weekly seminars on sceneography.

'Because of the number of lecturers involved directly in productions at the University, the work pace is extremely fast and exciting,' he said.

**'No worries' for Writer-in-Residence**

David Holman, the Writer-in-Residence in the Drama Department is an English playwright with more than 70 plays to his name.

He has two major goals for his semester at Newcastle: working with students to produce a play based on local industrial labour history of the mining industry, and the writing of a play centred on four adolescents in a half-way house.

'I like to work with young audiences and performers,' he said. Newcastle's mining history, and the more recent Richmond Scheme proposals offer much for my work,' he said.

He is working with Dr David Watt and students researching the industrial relations history of mining from the late 18th century to the 1890s.

The students are working in groups to address different periods for the research.

He will also offer the opportunity to students to become involved in his writing of the play based on the half-way house. He is doing much of that research with the Development Disabilities Section of the Department of Health.

David is also using his time at the University to further his knowledge of the history of dramatic production, particularly on the German Romantic Theatre of the 19th century.

His credits include the much performed and acclaimed *No Worries* and *The Small Poppies* for the State Theatre Company of South Australia, *Frankie, One in a Million* and *Rodeo*.

In 1986 he won the Australian Writers Guild Awarde Award for best children's drama *No Worries*.

![Writer-in-Residence David Holman, right, meets the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Morgan, while Designer-in-Residence, Tom Bannerman looks on.](image2)
The Heartbreak Kid

The Heartbreak Kid was an aptly named film comedy of the late '70s. It dealt with the disappointments of a young American woman, jilted on her honeymoon. Richard Barrett's play, being performed as a joint venture by Freewheels and HVT at the Civic Playhouse, is a new Australian tale about New Australians — but the title is somewhat obscure.

Who is the Heartbreak Kid? Is it Chris Papadopolous? (A young teacher, she is engaged to anotherreek Australian, but becomes infatuated with one of her students.) It is the student, Nick Polites? (He initiates their flirtation but is awkwardly unable to pursue it.) Both are Australian-born; each has struggled to reconcile the weight of heritage with the freedom of the modern world.

The play tosses a vast range of problems at the characters and at the audience: What are one's obligations to one's family? To one's cultural foundation? Does a teacher have the right to be attracted to a student? What if the teacher is female, an Older (23) Woman? What if the teacher is male, and gay? Can money buy happiness? Is formal education crucial to a successful life?

Any one of these questions contains enough meat to fill a good, solid, thoughtful play and still leave the audience with further food for thought. The Heartbreak Kid, in endeavouring to cover too much in too short a time, succeeds in entertaining and tantalising without providing any satisfying intellectual nourishment.

Evdokia Katahanis is outstanding in the competent cast, most of whom play multiple roles. She is delightful as a whining eight year-old, credible as a middle-aged migrant, and quite winning as Chris. Stephen Boyle is believable as the student rushing to grow up, whose charm is enough to make Chris forget that they really have nothing to talk about. Brendan O'Connell seems uncomfortable as the gay Graham, but both he and Justin Collins handle their various other assignments smoothly.

Designers, Judith Hoddinott and James Jablonski, have mounted the play very well. In earlier reviews we have commented on the difficulties encountered when actors must move props between scenes. In The Heartbreak Kid, this task is incorporated so as to enhance, rather than interrupt, the flow of emotion and action: a good job by co-directors Brian Joyce and Brent McGregor.

The dialogue has the ring of truth, as do many of the situations. It would be a good play to see with your HSC-age offspring, since it could provide a springboard to more interesting conversations than are engendered by Perfect Match or Neighbours. It will be at the Civic Playhouse until August 20.

Distance learning through 2NUR-FM

Two series of distance learning programs — in Direct Marketing and Alternative Lifestyles — begin on 2NUR on Tuesday, August 8.

Under the collective banner of 'Norwaves', the programs are part of an innovative project of the Northern Rivers College of Advanced Education.

Norwaves uses radio — in addition to study notes and residential courses — as a means of delivering accredited units to students of the College. The radio programs are also designed to be of interest to the general listener.

The courses each run for 10 weeks. Direct Marketing has a strong practical emphasis, with students required to prepare a direct mailing plan and mailing list.


**DIARY OF EVENTS**

**Wednesday, August 17, 6 pm**
Public forum entitled *Orthodox or Alternative Medicine?* Speaker: Professor Anthony J. Smith. Venue: Level 2, David Maddison Building, Newcastle.

**Thursday, August 18, Noon**

**Monday, August 22, 3 pm**
Public Lecture entitled *Medical Involvement in the Care of Old People*. Guest speaker: Dr R.B. Lefroy, R.M. Gibson Travelling Fellow for 1988. Dr Lefroy's lecture will be of great interest to anyone who is concerned with the care of ageing and disabled people in this community. Venue: David Maddison Lecture Theatre, Level 2, Royal Newcastle Hospital.

**Wednesday, August 24, 7.30 pm**
Hunter Branch of the Australian Association of Social Workers in association with the Department of Community Programmes present a Hypothetical on AIDS (issues for professionals). Facilitator is Ralph Hampson (social worker team leader). Student Unit Instructor, Prince of Wales Hospital. Panel members: Sister Sandy Berenger, Ms Anne Bissett, Mrs Alison Croft, Mr Michael Errington, Ms Sarah Evans, Dr Diana Lang and Dr Libby Prior Johnson. Venue: R04, Geography Building. Cost: $2 (payable at the door).

**Saturday, August 27, 9 am to 4 pm**
Aviation Psychology Workshop.

**Wednesday, August 31, 8 pm**

**ADVERTISEMENTS**

**Wanted to Buy**

Metronome for piano student. Please telephone 59 3069.

**For Sale**

Miller Video tripod with fluid head and tripod dolly, near new. Being sacrificed at $500 (cost: $1,300). Please telephone Extension 279 or 52 9577.

**For Sale by Tender**

10 microcomputers, President Turbo IV XT, IBM Compatible, 640K Ram, 4.77/8 MHz Clock Speeds, dual 360K Floppy Drives, CGA video card, green TTL Monitor, standard parallel, serial ports.

To be sold individually as complete units comprising system box, monitor and keyboard.

For further information telephone Janet Piper at 68 5563.

Tenders should be forwarded in a sealed envelope marked 'Tender for Computers' and addressed to the Purchasing Officer, University of Newcastle, 2308. Tenders close at 11.30 am on August 19.

The University reserves the right to reject any or all tenders.

**FREE**

Hi, my name is Heidi. I am nine-years-old and I have been desexed and I am looking for a new home. I am a German Shepherd and I am exceptionally good with kids. If you are able to provide me with a loving home please telephone Extension 453 or 43 1664 so that I can look you over.

**EEO conferences and seminars**

The Office of the Director of Equal Opportunity in Public Employment (ODEOPE) has scheduled Stress Management courses for all members of EEO target groups — people of non-English speaking background, Aborigines, women and people with a disability.

**Job Skills for People with Disabilities**

September 1 and 2 plus September 23 for people with disabilities employed in the New South Wales public sector. Please contact the EEO Unit for details.

**Communication in the Workplace for people of a Non-English speaking background**

A two-day course organised by ODEOPE for public sectors employees, to be run on August 18 and 19 at a cost of $230. Details are available from the EEO Unit.

**Public Speaking and Presentation Skills for Members of EEO, Course III**

The ODEOPE has organised a training programme for public speaking and presentation skills (a signing interpreter will be present). Cost: $275. The programme will focus on:

- Analysis of the reasons why members of EEO target groups tend to be reluctant to talk in active note in meetings, seminars, conferences etc.
- Overcoming the barriers — learning the unspoken rules, confidence building, and
- Public speaking technique, getting your message across.

**A Day in the Life of the Seventeenth-Century**

On Friday, September 9, the History, Philosophy and English Departments are together sponsoring a conference on the seventeenth-century thought. Literature to mark the quartercentenary of Thomas Hobbes's birth (twinned with fear in the year of the Spanish Armada).

It is hoped that the occasion will enhance seventeenth-century studies within the University and introduce students to the excellent sources available in the Auchmuty Library. A variety of seventeenth-century thinkers will be considered in papers delivered by 'home' and visiting speakers.

The film *Winstanley* will be shown in the evening. Conference convenors are Margaret Sampson, David Dockrill, Henry Chan, Maree Mitchell, Hugh Craig, Bill Sparkes, John Lee and Barry Gordon.

Further details about the conference will be posted in the University. Enquiries to Margaret Sampson (Extension 293) and David Dockrill (Extension 411).