

# the Ear

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THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

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Cold weather but  
HOT researchMadonna REINVENTED  
Mae WestIn glass cases not  
on WALLS

ETC ETC ETC

The Faculty of Economics is to host a Federal Budget Forum on Monday 2 September in the Basden Theatre from 5pm-7pm. The Forum will bring together a number of staff from the Faculty who will speak on such topics as Women and the Budget, Looking for the Black Hole, and the Environment and the Budget. All staff, students and members of the public are welcome to come along.

Professor Les Eastcott's term of office as the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Central Coast Campus) has been extended until October 1998. Professor John Ramsland has had his term as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Science extended until the end of the year 2000.

The Discipline of Environmental and Occupational Health will introduce a distance education course leading to a Graduate Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety. The one year course which will be offered for the first time next year has been designed with OH&S professionals, managers and supervisors in mind. It is hoped that the course will attract students not only from the Hunter region but from all over Australia.

Up to 120 Year 9 students from the Hunter region will attend this year's Science and Technology Summer School at the University. Organised by the Faculties of Science and Mathematics and Engineering in conjunction with Rotary, the School is being sponsored for the first time by TUNRA. Some of Australia's leading scientists will present papers at the School including Professor Mike Gore, Director of the National Science and Technology Centre.

The Faculty of Education's team which competed in the World Finals of the Odyssey of the Mind tournament held at Iowa State University, came sixth in the world overall and first in their style presentation.

Professor Ken Dutton, the newly appointed Head of the Department of Modern Languages, has received a grant of \$10,000 from the Friends of the University, to write the biography of Professor James Auchmuty, the University's first Vice-Chancellor.

A Chair in Gerontology in the Faculty of Nursing is to be endowed by Baptist Community Services NSW and ACT, a major provider of nursing services for the Hunter's elderly. Dean of the Faculty, Professor Margaret McMillan said it was another major recognition of the Faculty's excellent scholarship.



Architecture's Uncommon Week guest speaker Mick Davison demonstrates the breathing technique required to play the didgeridoo.  
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One of the new species found by Lorna Adlem

## New species found in the Barrington Tops

A number of new species of crustacean have been found in the Barrington Tops plateau and surrounding areas by geography honours student, Lorna Adlem. She has also discovered a particular genus of crustacean in the same location which had not previously been recorded in NSW.

The new species which belong to two orders - Amphipoda and Isopoda (common names scuds and friartucks!) - will be described officially by expert taxonomists at a later date.

The Amphipoda will go to Adelaide University and the Isopoda to the Australian Museum in Sydney. The animals are very small - 1cm would be considered quite big - and they are also ancient life forms.

"They have been around since Australia was part of the Gwandanan landmass, so you find similar creatures in South Africa, India, and New Zealand. The interesting thing about them, however, is because

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## Assumptions behind workplace legislation flawed

Dr Roy Green, the Director of the University's Employment Studies Centre appeared before the Senate Economic References Committee last month following his submission on the Government's Workplace Relations Bill. The submission argues that the assumptions behind the Bill are flawed in at least three respects.

"First, the assumption that awards are a major impediment to flexibility and productivity improvement is wrong. The evidence shows that awards provide ample opportunity for organisational change and improvement, though not for strategies based on low wage competition," Dr. Green said.

"Second, the assumption behind the proposed Australian Workplace Agreements (AWAs) is also misconceived. There is nothing inherently preferable about individual contract relationships between employers and employees as compared with collective agreements and awards.

"Contracts can be used now by companies, provided they do not discriminate against

non-contract workers. However, the evidence suggests that Australia's leading examples of best practice management and work organisation have been established with the involvement of trade unions.

"Third, the assumption that scrutiny by the Australian Industrial Relations Commission (AIRC) is the main obstacle to the spread of AWAs is also wrong. Large companies have opted for enterprise agreements as an effective way of structuring their relationship with the workforce. And small companies tend to prefer the stability and certainty of awards.

"The introduction of a new Employment Advocate to replace the public vetting role of the AIRC will do nothing to improve productivity. It will merely open up vulnerable groups in the workforce, especially young people and women, to exploitation," Dr Green said.

The submission argued that the Workplace Relations Bill should be substantially amended or rejected in its entirety. A copy of the submission is available from Dr Green.

# A week of inspiration and motivation

Professor Lindsay Johnson the Head of the Department of Architecture, admits that this University's architecture students are the most overworked in Australia. But once a year they get to relax just a little when at the beginning of second semester, they have Common Week where lectures, seminars and workshops become common for all students.

"The idea is to present a number of special lectures with guest speakers and to give students a chance to meet each other and to dislocate from the grind," he said

This year Common Week was run for the first time by the students themselves. The organising committee of Katrina Julienne, Sacha Zehner, Jaya Param and Brian Jones decided to call it Uncommon Week and to get everyone out of doors and re-energised.

"We all just seemed to be lacking in energy and excitement. We're always in the studio working and I thought we just needed to get outside and into the fresh air," Katrina told *the Ear*.

"The motivation for the week came when Peter Stevens who was the Curator of Grounds and who used to take us for site studies, left the University to take up another job. He was just so wonderful. He was the first person to actually take us outside and sit us down and just yarn about the environment. When he left we just panicked. We didn't want to lose what he'd given us so we decided to camp out for the week and learn about the environment, learn about ourselves, to become

better people and as a result, better architects."

The students spent the week in tents camped out on Scobie Heath behind Engineering and heard from guest speakers such as Richard le Plastrier, the eminent Sydney architect who recently won the Special Jury Award in the 1996 RAI NSW Awards, Philip Harris from Troppo Architects of Darwin who collaborated with Glen Murcutt on the award winning Kakadu Visitors Centre, Paul Pholeros an architect with extensive experience in developing new strategies for Aboriginal housing, Peter Stutchbury a Sydney based architect (and University of Newcastle graduate) who won State and National awards for the University's Design building, Janet Laurence, current Artist in Residence in the Faculty of Art and Design who is responsible for the award winning works in the plaza of Governor Phillip Tower in Sydney, and Mick Davison a virtuoso didgeridoo player who has been working with the Wollotuka Aboriginal Education centre.

"It was just amazing," Katrina said. "Apart from the lectures, we learned drumming, and fire dancing and didgeridoo playing. At the end, one of the guys came up to me and said he had wanted to give architecture away, that he had lost all motivation but the week had given him all his inspiration and motivation back - I just burst into tears. If that had been the only positive comment I'd got all week it would have been worth it. But we got hundreds. It was just so exciting. I'm still on a high!"



Mike Nendick and the GPS technology... "not much bigger than a pocket calculator"

## Aviation research takes off

by Alison Grahame

**Sometimes it just doesn't pay to become too successful. Take the Department of Aviation and Technology as a case in point.**

For the past six years, the staff have been turning out graduates who have been snapped up by the aviation industry - either as pilots or in a range of other professional positions. The employment rate for its graduates is very high, with recent graduates gaining employment as pilots with Qantas, Cathay Pacific, Ansett, the Royal Australian Air Force, Army and Navy; and as air traffic controllers with AirServices Australia. Many graduates are working in flying training organisations throughout Australia as they gain experience before joining the major airlines. Graduates

have also found aviation related research and teaching positions with the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) and the University of Western Sydney. But such success has been seen by many in the University as evidence that the Department's high standing in the industry as a source of rigorously trained employees, has been at the expense of its research output.

Whether such a view can be supported by the facts is another matter, but it is a view which Head of Department Dr Peter Pfister has acknowledged and it has led to the formation this year of the Human Factors Research Group. The Department is now set to achieve in research what it has already achieved with its graduates - a product that is relevant to industry.

This Group will concentrate on the interface between humans and machines or to give this its proper title, human factors. This is the study of people and

how they interact with all kinds of machines including ships, buses, trucks, trains and cars. It covers psychology both social and cognitive (areas such as stress, workloads, communication skills and decision making) as well as engineering (areas such as the ergonomics of technical equipment, and making the machine to fit the user rather than the other way round). It is an area of research which is very important in many industries, particularly aviation, but which has been sadly lacking not just in Australia but worldwide.

The Group will draw on the academic strengths and industry experience of full time staff members Peter Pfister, Mark Wiggins, Mike Nendick, Scott Taylor, and Warren Wilks and all its part time staff members. Expertise will also be drawn from outside the Department with members such as Associate Professors Richard Heath

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## New species found

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certain groups are restricted to high altitudes and cold temperatures, they could be good indicators of global warming and water quality. If conditions changed you would expect to see their habitat shrinking," Lorna explained.

Already man's intervention in the surrounding areas is causing changes in their habitats.

"You can readily see the differences between the habitats found in the National Park and those in ordinary agricultural land further north. On the agricultural land many of the swamps that used to be there have been drained with the result that in those places there are only remnant populations left."

Lorna's research took her twelve months and what with camping out for days on end and wading through freezing cold mountain waters with a net in hand to catch her samples,

it was quite a difficult and time consuming business.

"I took friends with me, I didn't go camping alone, but when it came to walking into freezing water suddenly everyone had something better to do!"

There isn't too much about these tiny crustaceans that Lorna doesn't know or find interesting. In fact she's had a fascination with small life forms since she was a child.

"I was always intrigued by insects and I feel that as far as social organisation goes, they appear more advanced than we are."

Lorna is now planning to turn her thesis into a paper for the Linnean Society of NSW

which gave her a grant last year to help with the research. It would appear from all accounts that should she wish to, Lorna could establish herself in an academic career. But for the moment she is holding off.

"I've been institutionalised too long! It's time to work and travel, hopefully at the same time."

Although not ruling out a PhD in the future (she would like to go into entomology), Lorna's real interest is writing.

"What I'd really love to do is write creatively about natural history. When you write academically there is a strict style imposed on you. What I'd like to be able to do is get people



interested in the natural world by writing in a way they can relate to and get paid for it!"

Lorna Adlem in the laboratory where scuds and friartucks come under close scrutiny.



The UNIVERSITY of NEWCASTLE

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Editor: Alison Grahame (ph: 21 7112; fax: 21 6400; Email: agrahame@seagoon.newcastle.edu.au)

Journalists: Tim Isles, Helene O'Neill, Charles Grahame, Kim Britton, Sonja Duncan

Photographers: Intervention Photography, Allan Chawner, John Freund,

Lorna Adlem, Phil Bottomley, Jill White

Advertising: Dianne Taylor (ph: 21 8641; fax: 21 6400)

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DEADLINE for copy for the next issue is Tuesday 20 August at 10am

# Make sure it "blows your airbags"

by Kim Britton

**Major Pamela Malroy decided at the age of 11 that she wanted to be an astronaut.**

The sight of a man on the moon really impelled me to make these career decisions at a very early age," the US Airforce test pilot, who hopes to fly the Space Shuttle in 1988 told an audience at the University last month.

A veteran of Desert Storm with over 200 combat and support hours, the 35 year old flew KC-10 cargo aircraft with her main task to refuel parcels of fighters and bombers in mid-air, frequently in Iraqi air space.

"That's when we started logging the combat time because of the danger of being in that air space. It was kind of an interesting job, carrying all that fuel in the back and yet with no weapon detection system and you certainly have no guns to fire."

While she was in the Gulf, Major Malroy learned she had been selected to train as a test pilot at Edwards Airforce Base.

After four years as a test pilot, she was selected to enter the astronaut corp. The class was half pilots and half mission specialists who went through an intensive year of training.

Major Malroy described many of the training tasks she undertook last year but said the most fun she had was experiencing zero gravity in the MKC-135

"you get about 26 seconds of zero gravity. It was a wild ride. I was really having a good time"

aircraft. "The pilots dive at the ground and at about 3000 metres they pull up and get going to this amazingly intense 45 degree angle, much higher than you ever take an aircraft of this type. At the top you push the yoke over and you get about 26 seconds of zero gravity. It was a wild ride. I was really having a good time, I personally didn't feel sick at all."

The candidates also get extensive training on the scientific experiments conducted on the Shuttle, including the way matter behaves in zero gravity.

"Right now there are three drugs for breast cancer, diabetes and AIDS developed from science learned from the Shuttle. They are currently being tested by the Federal Drug

Administration in the States. We're very proud of this." The training also included geology, oceanography, atmospheric physics, meteorology and every aspect of earth observation.

NASA's plans for the future include a return trip to the moon in the next 10-15 years, Major Malroy said. "But the big thing is preparation for the first

astronomy because it fascinated me and it worked for me."

Major Malroy's visit was

organised by the Department of Aviation and Technology.



## Bush regeneration at Ourimbah

by Charles Grahame

Work has begun at the Central Coast Campus to regenerate the flood plain between the campus and the railway line, with plantings of a range of native species which it is hoped will bring the area back to its natural state. The project initially involves the removal of around 38,000 cubic metres of material including soil and noxious weeds such as privet, camphor laurels, lantana and blackberry bushes that have strangled the area.

Ted Watson, the Development Director in charge of the project, said that undertaking the clearance now would provide a vast retention basin for floodwaters, helping to ensure that surrounding areas wouldn't suffer serious flood damage in the future.

"It also prepares the way for us to construct, in cooperation with Wyong Council, a safe footpath for students who walk to the campus from Ourimbah station," he said. "Unfortunately it looks a bit bare at the moment, but once we've removed the intrusive plants that stifle native growth, we'll be putting in blue gums, melaleucas, acacias and swamp mahogany."

As part of the development the campus car park is being extended to cater for the increasing number of students now enrolled in TAFE, University and Community College courses.

## Building a close working relationship

by Tim Isles

**Last year Dr Bob Conway, the Assistant Director of the University's Special Education Centre, was asked by the Australian Vice-Chancellors Committee to lead an evaluation of special education in Thailand.**

One of the recommendations in his subsequent report was the introduction of regular short courses in Australia for Thai teacher-college lecturers, special school principals and provincial administrators.

One such course, coordinated through the University, involved a group of 15 Thai educators and administrators who undertook studies through the Special Education Centre as well as at Griffith University in Brisbane and Flinders University in Adelaide. Funding for the visiting group's nine-week program has come from DEET, the AVCC and AusAID.

Dr Conway told *the Ear* that the course had three levels. In the first, the group participated in studies in Australia, in the second they returned home where they would be assisted by a team of three visiting Australian educators to prepare an in-service program. "Then in the third stage of the program our Thai colleagues would

become lecturers in their own in-service program with the support of the three Australian educators," he said.

Dr Conway said that during their Newcastle visit the group of Thai educators participated in a series of workshops on campus balanced by visits to schools with a special education focus.

"The idea was to make the workshops as practical as possible and then go out to a school with a special-education setting and see what they're learning in action. So the emphasis in these short courses is very much on the practical - we're trying to give as much information as

possible about what we are doing. For this particular course, eight lecturers in special education were involved, as well as staff from our Early Intervention Program."

The course focused on issues relating to early intervention (a field in which the University excels) - intellectual disabilities and the integration of children with disabilities in regular schools.

Dr Conway said the visit by the Thai educators reflected the close working relationship which the University has built up with the Thai education community in the provision of

special education services.

"The University has had a long history of involvement with the Thai Government. It has a contract with the Thai Government to train lecturers for their 36 Rajabhat Institutes (Teachers Colleges) and five of their newly built Special Education Centres have been developed using this centre and the Tingira Centre at Florville as their model."

**I to r Miss Suwapa Bunratn, Mrs Sunanta Tiangtrong and Mr Koon Namburintr with one of the children at the Special Education Centre.**



# Architecture student wins two scholarships

Mature age architecture student, Helen Stronach who recently collected scholarships worth \$10,000 - the James Hardie Scholarship and the Wreck Air Scholarship - was always interested in architecture but marrying at the age of 19 and starting a family soon after, put the idea of further study at the back of her mind. And there it stayed until three years ago.

"When my marriage ended I

started up a children's clothing company called *Ocky Docket* in partnership with my sister. It was based in Newcastle and was extremely successful with agencies in every State - we even sold to D.J.'s," Helen said.

"But it was very hard work and at peak times like Christmas it was really difficult to spend as much time with my children as I would have liked, so in 1992 when my sister had her first child we thought it

was time to call it a day and we closed the company down. I then began my architecture degree the following year."

The Wreck Air Scholarship was given to Helen for academic achievement in her first degree; the James Hardie Scholarship, awarded for her third year design for a new Wollotuka Centre, was presented at the recent Royal Institute of Architects awards night in Sydney.

Helen's design was so far ahead of the rest of the field that according to Dean of Architecture, Professor Barry Maitland, the judges did not need to go to interview - a process often needed to help select the winner.

In their written assessment, the judges said that Helen's submission demonstrated "an exemplary level of integration of design and theory with construction, material choice and finishes....Helen's tenacity is evident in the presented detailed work and stands testimony of her desire to reconcile her design ideas with construction."

Helen is now into her fourth year of study and loving it and is firmly of the opinion that women are needed in the profession as they tend to bring a different perspective.

"I'm particularly interested in environmental issues," Helen explained. "Most of our buildings are unhealthy in that the materials they contain like plastics and compressed particle board give off gases. It's not unheard of for people to get quite ill when they move into a new project home. I'd like to design buildings that give you a sense of well-being."



Photo courtesy Jill White Photography

Helen (left) and other RAIA winners (including Newcastle graduate Andrew Lamonde, centre back, who won the NSW Chapter prize) with the Premier Mr Bob Carr.

## Aviation research takes off

From Page 2

and Phil Moore. There will also be regular input from experts in New Zealand and Australia such as Dr David Hare from Otago University, Dr Ross St George from the NZ Civil Aviation Authority and Dr Simon Oldfield from DSTO.

Speaking to Michael Nendick, an ex-navigator, air traffic controller, and a pilot who has recently completed his Masters in Industrial/Organisational and Aviation Psychology, it was clear that the staff are highly enthusiastic about the new developments and keen to make their research effort as successful as their teaching.

"We currently have four Doctoral students as well as four Masters students in the Department and I intend to start on my own PhD very shortly," Mike said. "We are a relatively young Department and what we are now trying to do is negotiate the transition from being a place which has

relied on staff with wide ranging industry experience with the best "real world" credentials, to one where there is an increasing role for those with an additional academic and research background. Ideally we would like to have some line Captains who also hold a PhD in Aviation."

This transition, he said, will benefit not only future students but will ensure the Department will make an even greater contribution to the Australian aviation industry than it does at present.

"The University of Newcastle is one of 13 universities throughout the country offering some form of aviation training but it is the only one offering the full range of aviation degrees and a fully developed research function. When the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA), industry representatives and major airlines from throughout Australia, New Zealand and the Asia Pacific region recently met as a working group to look at developing licensing and training requirements for implementing the new Global Positioning System

(GPS) technology, the only University to be invited to participate was Newcastle," Mike said.

As it happens, Mike's Masters thesis was on GPS and the human factors aspects of its use by pilots and so it was he who took part in the working group. He has written the chapter, *Human Factors and GPS*, for CASA's GPS handbook for pilots and his proposed

"GPS makes it possible for a pilot to press a button that says "go-to direct" and off the plane will go. But if the pilot hasn't entered information relating to the topography being flown over, then the pilot can "go-to direct" into a mountain!"

PhD will delve more deeply into the subject.

Before we go any further a bit of an explanation of what GPS actually is and does.

GPS is a satellite based positioning system which enables a pilot to enter flight details into a machine (in many cases not much bigger than your average pocket calculator or car radio), and it will automatically keep the plane on course. But as Mike explained, it can have its drawbacks.

## Vale Bill Pickering

Readers will be saddened to learn of the passing of Emeritus Professor Bill Pickering on 23 July. From very humble beginnings, he rose to become an international leader in the field of analytical chemistry research.

Born in Newcastle, he was educated at Kurri Kurri and Maitland schools and having completed schooling at the early age of fifteen he then trained as a chemist in the local steel and coal industries. He joined the staff of the Newcastle University College at the Tighe's Hill campus and gained a MSc in 1956 and a PhD in 1959. Shortly after the Chemistry Department moved to its present location on the Shortland campus in 1968, Bill gained a personal chair in Chemistry and subsequently was awarded the first DSc given by the University of Newcastle in 1977.

Throughout his career, he published widely in academic journals and authored several textbooks on analytical chemistry, some of which have been translated into other languages. His research interests in recent times led him into the environmental arena where his basic studies of the adsorption of heavy metals by soil components have proved invaluable to investigators in the field of pollution evaluation, soil and sediment analysis and geochemistry.

Throughout his life Bill maintained a strong interest in music and was a gifted singer. He performed with a number of choirs including the University Choir and had been a noted bass soloist. He was a devoted family man who followed the academic, sporting and musical interests of his family.

Bill was greatly respected by his colleagues and had many friends throughout the University and wider community. He will be remembered as a kind and amiable man of strong character, greatly admired by those who were associated with him over many years.

He is survived by his wife, Mary, and their six children all of whom are graduates of the University.



"Traditionally, aviation technology has been developed from advanced military and civil research and has undergone comprehensive testing before being installed firstly into the big airliners, and then finally into light aircraft. But GPS is an example of flight instrument automation that reverses that trend. It has been rapidly adopted ahead of any regulatory provisions or

it's what I call technology with lethal implications. GPS makes it possible for a pilot to press a button that says "go-to direct" and off the plane will go. But if the pilot hasn't entered information relating to the topography being flown over, then the pilot can "go-to direct" into a mountain!"

For Mike's PhD research the Department is planning to install GPS into its four flight simulators and he is hopeful that as a result, some of the human factors problems relating to the technology will be identified and resolved.

"It's really a matter for the market place. There are a number of different models of GPS equipment and not all of them are user friendly. Many models have screens that are too hard to read and their buttons are too small. This can lead to pilot error. I hope, however, that if we can lay down well researched data about what is and what isn't acceptable, that through market pressure, the companies currently making the equipment will make a better, standardised product."

training requirements because it was a product of commercial technology and one that was immediately available and readily affordable.

"The speed of the development of GPS has meant that the aviation industry has had to try to develop standards and training well after the event. From my earlier research it's clear that many pilots with little knowledge of its limitations or capabilities are relying on GPS far too heavily. In fact

## Get great marks for your essays

John Germov from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology has written a user friendly guide to writing tertiary level essays.

Titled *Get Great Marks for Your Essays*, the book is published by Allen and Unwin and was officially launched last week as part of the University's regular "In Print" series.

John who was given the University's Award for Excellence in Teaching this year, holds to a teaching philosophy which emphasises linking knowledge with study skills such as reading, researching, critical analysis, referencing and

essay writing. It is useless to try to inspire critical thought, he says, if students don't have the skills to put it into practice.

"Many students are ill-prepared for tertiary study and experience a great shock when their first assignment is returned with a lower than expected mark," he said.

"Few academics have the time to teach academic skills to their students. Therefore, students are often left on their own to sink or swim."

The book addresses this issue by providing a short, step by step, practical guide to academic skills. By using the book and acquiring the

necessary skills, students can be assessed on their true knowledge and understanding.

*Get Great Marks For Your Essays* is written in an accessible style with plenty of humour and covers every aspect of writing the tertiary essay. Topics include time management, planning, interpreting the topic, brainstorming, how to find information, how to read academic texts and save time in taking notes, referencing, and how to write in an academic way.

"Perhaps the most important aspect of the book is that it shows students how to analyse and how to support an argument," John said.

# Chinese delegation visits Central Coast

by Charles Grahame

Australia must improve its performance in marketing if it wants to capture the Asian market on its doorstep, according to Associate Professor Chris Yuen of the Food Technology Department at the Central Coast Campus.

Professor Yuen was addressing a delegation from the Science and Technology Commission of the Fujian Province in the People's Republic of China.

"Asia has become the fastest growing economy in the world," he said. "It is expected to account for 60% of world income by the year 2025 and if Australia is to take advantage of this growth, it must overcome high production and transportation costs, low productivity and ignorance of Asian cultures."

The delegation of seven experts led by Professor Cheng Yuanrong, is in Australia to study food and agriculture production and to promote collaboration in research, teach-

ing and training between Australia and China. Its visit to the Central Coast Campus was part of a comprehensive 10 day program.

Professor Yuen spoke to the delegation about Australia's agricultural industry and its untapped opportunities to export food and fibre to Asian countries. He said there were similarities between China and Australia in that both countries occupied some 768 billion hectares of which only a third was arable.

"Australia is the world's most efficient food producer but exports are hampered by quotas, high tariffs, subsidies and quarantine regulations imposed by its major competitors," he said.

"As the market for products in the unprocessed form tend to be volatile and unstable, Australia's major growth area is now in processing and manufacture, but like China, it has historically looked principally to the domestic market. As demand from the Asia Pacific region is growing at 4% a year, Australia's future in food agriculture lies in Asia."

## It may be cold but the research is hot



Photo courtesy Phil Bottomley

From left: David Neudegg (physicist), Kevin Lee (construction carpenter), Lionel Whitehorn (diesel mechanic), Janet Reynolds (medical officer), David Jenkins (diesel mechanic), Phil Bottomley (construction plumber). The vehicles are radar equipped Hagglands for oversnow work.

**Spending a year in the Antarctic as part of your post graduate studies may not be every one's cup of tea but it certainly proved a major attraction for post graduate student David Neudegg.**

Working as part of the University's Space Plasma Waves Group (SPWG), David spent 12 months in the Antarctic assisting the Solar Terrestrial Energy (STEP) Program, a coordinated world wide program of over 2000 people researching energy in space with the aim of assisting in the prediction of weather patterns.

As a consequence Neudegg was part of the Davis Base winter party, and went on several vehicular traverses from Davis Base on to the polar ice cap. The purpose of the traverses was to set up equipment to measure plasma waves propagating at an altitude of 350km with velocities near 500km/sec. These waves bring energy into the atmosphere from space.

David said that the University's Physics Department is at

the forefront in near-earth space research and this is what attracted him to study here. He said the SPWG has been taking part in studies of the Earth's space environment - a region 100km to 50,000 altitude known as GeoSpace. The Earth's magnetic field and plasma (highly charged particles) dominate this environment.

He explained that the Magnetosphere is the area in GeoSpace that protects the earth from solar particle radiation with the most visible attribute being Auroras. What causes an Aurora to brighten is an intensification of electric currents in a magnetic storm. This we know seriously affects satellite communication links and power distribution grids at high latitudes and as a result is an important area of study.

The Earth's magnetic field funnels down onto the North and South poles around regions known as 'cusps'. Situated at an altitude of 100km, charged particles and waves in the plasma coming from space enter the atmosphere through them. The cusp moves in relation to the Earth's surface, due to the Earth's rotation and the

sun's activities, causing the focus of the funnel to change.

To study the effects of this, the Department of Physics has formed close links with the University of Maryland. Newcastle's Professor Brian Fraser and Doctor Fred Menk have recently received funding for the joint SHIRE (Southern Hemisphere Imaging Riometer Experiment) project, building a riometer at Australia's Davis Base in the Antarctic. The riometer uses radio waves to create images of the regions of enhanced ionisation associated with the Aurora. The riometer will be operating by the end of February 1997.

The SHIRE project will explore the idea that the energy input from the polar cusps may affect the weather. The results will be fed into STEP.

One hundred people from Australia stay in Antarctica each winter and Neudegg suggests that for Australians the experience of minus 30 degree temperatures and a 6 week winter night are quite odd. An obviously difficult experience, it is one that is rare and undoubtedly gives its own unique rewards.



The new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Roger Holmes will take up his appointment next Monday and will be profiled in a forthcoming edition of the Ear.

## Uni says goodbye

Over thirty overseas students were given a farewell at the University last month. The purpose of the farewell was to formally acknowledge the contribution the students have made to University life.

The farewell is held every six months for overseas students who have completed their courses at the University and will be returning home.

The students came from a wide variety of countries including: Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, India, Indonesia, New Guinea, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Africa, South Korea, Scandinavia and the United States. The length of their stay has varied from six months for students here on short term exchange programs to several years for those who came to study for a full degree.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Keith Lester and Pro Vice-Chancellor (External Relations) Professor Jenny Graham both attended the function.

"Besides the millions of dollars which are brought into the Newcastle economy by overseas students, they also contribute significantly to the social and cultural life of Newcastle and the University," Professor Graham said. "They are also of tremendous help in assisting the University in its internationalisation initiatives," she said.

"This function is one of the ways we have of recognising the positive involvement of these students both in University life and in the general Newcastle community. It highlights the vital part overseas students are playing in internationalising the Newcastle region."

Complementing the farewell, the University also holds an overseas graduation ceremony in Asia each year for those who opt to accept their degrees in front of their families. This year's ceremony will be held in Singapore later this month.

## Study aimed at helping stressed out principals

When one of his best students abandoned his postgraduate studies and quit his job, Dr David Gamage knew that there was something seriously wrong. The principal of a small school, Dr Gamage's student was forced to retire due to work-related stress.

In a study on small schools, Dr Gamage has found that principals who also teach, face unique problems filling the roles of full-time teacher and full-time administrator. They often have to work without clerical assistance and they have difficulties with inadequate relief time, and lack of professional development opportunities.

Dr Gamage welcomed the recent announcement by the Minister for Education, John Aquilina, increasing the number of yearly relief days for the

smallest 13 schools in the Hunter by 7 days and the other 77 schools by four days.

"I think that's a very good step. It's a step in the right direction," he said.

Dr Gamage said that teaching principals in smaller schools are often isolated from their peers, and other teaching colleagues. Unlike their contemporaries in larger schools, teachers in smaller schools have to perform their duties and responsibilities with inadequate facilities and access to services.

One of the toughest problems is in attending to the behaviour problems of kids, especially when many small schools are in remote, isolated communities without the degree of support that larger schools have.

Dr Gamage, a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Education,

commenced his study earlier this year. He is working with a consultative group of teaching principals, departmental officials and academics.

Dr Gamage feels that the findings of his research would be useful to the practitioners in schools, the Department of School Education, scholars and school communities. He hopes that the government authorities will take note of his study and put into effect desirable and badly needed changes to current practices.

Dr Gamage is planning to release a full report on his findings towards the end of 1997.



Dr David Gamage

## Successful SP microscopy conference

The first Australasian Scanning Probe Microscopy (SPM) Conference was held in Newcastle last month under the auspices of the University. Organised by Dr Simon Biggs from the Chemistry Department, it attracted 45 delegates from Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

"In the world of science and technology, SPMs are one of the newest and most exciting pieces of technology available," Dr Biggs told *the Ear*. "They are able to image individual atoms and molecules, a level of resolution unattainable by any other route. The development

of the SPM led directly to the Nobel prize in Physics for its inventors Binnig and Rohrer."

Twenty two papers were presented at the Conference on a wide range of topics including interparticle force and friction studies, imaging magnetic materials, monitoring crystal growth, studying surface degradation, and the need to better understand the methods of imaging.

"In the six years since the first commercial AFM/STM was sold here in Australia the expansion of the applications of this technique has been enormous," Dr Biggs explained.

"And this was reflected in the breadth of interest of the delegates who came from such diverse areas as colloid chemistry, plant biology, physics, materials engineering, mechanical engineering, mining, steel making, optical lens manufacturing, soap manufacturing and, of course, microscopy."

Invited presentations were given by Dr William Ducker of the University of Otago and Dr Craig Prater from Digital Instruments in Santa Barbara California. Dr Ducker presented recent work he has been undertaking into the aggregation of surface active materials on

mineral surfaces. His presentation highlighted the need to understand and control the forces operating on the imaging probe in an AFM in order to get maximum image resolution. Dr Prater's presentation centered on some of the recent developments of AFM techniques and allowed delegates some insight into how and where this new form of microscopy is heading over the next few years.

"We are planning to hold a similar meeting in two years time, although the venue and dates have yet to be finalised," Dr Biggs said. "In the meantime, it is hoped to formalise a network of Australasian SPM users."

## Bike thieves strike again

by Tim Isles

A new rash of bike thefts on campus has cost at least four students their bicycles each of which were valued at between \$1000-\$1500.

The Manager of University Security Services, Mr Peter Boyd, says two of the bikes were stolen from an area adjacent to a public telephone booth outside the Engineering

F building opposite the Chancellery between 2pm and 3pm on Tuesday 23 July. The other two bikes were stolen the following morning outside the Geology building.

"We have information on some people seen in the area of Geology at the time and we are passing that on to the police."

Mr Boyd says sometimes the locking devices used to attach bikes are not appropriate to the value of the bike and sug-

gests that bike owners could safeguard their bikes better by buying more expensive securing devices.

"Bike riders should also look at insuring their bikes. This may be covered in some household insurance policies. So owners should check with their insurance companies about cover."

He says the last rash of bike thefts occurred in June from an area outside the Auchmuty Library and claimed two bikes, one of which was valued at over \$2000.

"We get these people who

seem to turn up now and again and steal a number of bikes, and of course it is difficult for our Security Officers because we can keep an eye on bicycle areas for only so long, and we never know when they will strike next."

Asked about the possibility of setting up a secure area for bikes, Mr Boyd says such a move was mooted some years ago, but problems arose as to a site convenient to all cyclists, the costs involved in employing an attendant and the need to pass costs on through user-fees.



## 40th Anniversary Lecture Series

Join us for 3 FREE evenings  
as prominent Australian social commentators...  
**Explore the ideas of a civilised society**  
What it is & what constitutes high quality of life?

time

5.45pm to 7.00pm

venue

Newcastle City Hall, King Street Newcastle

to register

Call Maree Campbell (049) 69 4566

**Hugh Mackay**

Wednesday, 28 August 1996

**Phillip Adams** AD PRSA

Tuesday, 3 September 1996

**Prof. Geoffrey Blainey** AO

Wednesday, 11 September 1996

# the Inner Ear

EDITION 9

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

13 August, 1996

## NOTICES

### Distinguished Visitor in Health Promotion

Newcastle is soon to receive a visit from distinguished guest Professor Lawrence Green from the University of British Columbia, Canada. Professor Green is known for his extensive research in the field of behavioural science and health promotion over the last decade.

The Hunter Centre for Health Advancement is hosting Professor Green's stay after successfully competing for a grant from the Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Visitor's Program.

The Hunter Region will make the most of Professor Green's visit through a number of workshops and seminars where he will discuss his prominent health promotion models which include the comprehensive planning and evaluation framework for health promotion known as the Precede-Proceed Model.

His two month visit during August and September, will include a Workshop on Planning and Evaluation for Health Promotion (19-23 of August), a Health Promotion in Schools Symposium (9-10 September), a public lecture, meeting with health service managers, internal staff seminars and consultation with The Hunter Centre for Health Advancement on current projects occurring in the Hunter.

All staff and interested parties are encouraged to attend the public lecture to be held on 18 September 5pm-7.30pm in the David Maddison Building, King Street Newcastle. Light refreshments will be served and those wishing to attend are requested to RSVP.

It is expected that visitors will travel from throughout Australia to attend the scheduled events.

For further information regarding Professor Green's visit to Newcastle contact The Hunter Centre for Health Advancement on 24 6398.

### The Institute of Counselling

**Counselling and Culture:**  
**A Conference for Today's Australia**  
 September 26, 27 & 28 at Macquarie University - For brochure please contact:  
 Conference Secretary  
 Institute of Counselling  
 190 High Street Willoughby 2068

## DISCOVERY DAY

The University will be holding a Discovery Day

**8 September**  
 at the Central Coast Campus

**21 September**  
 at the Callaghan Campus

Both days run from 10am to 4pm.  
 For further information contact  
 Cae Pattison on 7228.

### Information Technology Research Day

The Departments of Computer Science and Software Engineering, Management, and Electrical and Computer Engineering will host the University's Information Technology Research Day on 11 September, 1996.

The day will consist of survey lectures on current research in Information Technology at the University. The lectures will be given by experts in a variety of areas including Information Visualization, High Performance Computer Architecture, Electronic Commerce, and Data Security.

For further information, contact  
 Dr Mirka Miller on 5797 or 6034  
 Email: mirka@cs.newcastle.edu.au

### Congress on Adult Continuing Education

15-17 February 1997.  
 For details: International Institute for Adult Education Methods  
 PO Box 19395/6194  
 Tehran 19156 Islamic Republic of IRAN  
 Ph: (021) 205 0313, Fax: (021) 640 6940

### Office Relocation

**Staff Health Safety and Welfare** formally the Occupational Health and Safety Unit has relocated from the Bowman Building to the Chancellery Stage 2. You can find us located in the Human Resource Management Branch. Contact details are as follows:  
 Hellen-Anne Wilson Team Leader Staff Health Safety and Welfare on 6546 and Liz Pilgrim Team Assistant on 6543  
 Email: epilgrim@mail.newcastle.edu.au

You may contact John Hattander Human Resource Officer on 6542 and Mary Barnes workers compensation claims on 5263

Please note the new fax 5285 or 5288.

### Vice-Chancellor's Research Best Practice Scheme

#### Information for Applicants for the 1997 Round

The Australian Taxation Office has advised that the honorarium component for the payments made under the above scheme is subject to PAYE for Australian residents. For international visitors, the honorarium is not subject to taxation. If further information is required, please contact Sue Beach, Office of the Vice-Chancellor ext 5937.

### Australian Federation of University Women

**Hunter Valley Branch**  
 Theatre Party to the comedy "Dinkum Assorted".  
 Venue: Newcastle Repertory  
 90 DeVitre St Lambton  
 Date: 28 August  
 Cost: \$11  
 Phone: 29 5226 for bookings.

### Department of Geology

#### Seminars

12 noon, ROOM G 04, Geology Building  
 19 August

Ms Sue Dippel: The Australian-Antarctic discordance - implications for mantle flow regimes.

Mr Damian Kinder: The role of mantle plumes in continental break-up.

26 August

Ms Sonia Cousins (to be announced) and Mr Mark Pawley: Models for the accretion of the Earth & formation of the core.

### Do you need publicity?

Do you have an event or function you would like publicised to the media? If so contact Carolyn Warner by fax 7420, email cwarner@mail or phone her on 6856 by the Friday before the event. Carolyn will then be happy to include it in the media diary which is sent out each Monday to local media.

### Deadline

Deadline for the next issue of the *Inner Ear* is Tuesday 20 August at 10am.

### Second Indonesian Students Conference

#### Indonesia-Australia: Toward Greater Understanding & Cooperation

The Conference will be held on 21-22 August 1996 and will take place at Leonard Huxley Lecture Theatre, the Australian National University, Canberra. For more information e-mail Swandi Candra seminr@coombs.anu.edu.au

### Continuing Professional Education Unit

#### Professional Education Program

**Communicating Effectively**  
 \$175 Code 451  
 9am-5pm Thursday, 15 August

**Improving Individual and Team Workplace Performance**  
 \$355 Code 453  
 6-9pm 6x3hr sessions  
 commencing Tuesday 20 August

#### Leisure and Recreational Program

**Broughton Island National Park**  
 \$60 Code 251  
 Sunday 8 September (Cruise 1)  
**In 1810 Governor Macquarie Names... Windsor**  
 \$80 Code 250  
 Sunday 15 September

For full Programs see the CWIS.

Victoria University's Centre for Strategic Studies has recently published a book which brings together 25 of Australia's leading economists and other experts who discuss many of the key issues facing Australia in the 1990s.

Topics covered include APEC and the lessons of Asian growth; deregulation of the wage system; investment and superannuation; information technologies; poverty in Australia; and quality of life and the national interest.

Called *Dialogues on Australia's Future*, the book costs \$24.95 in paperback and \$49.95 in hard cover and copies can be ordered by contacting the Centre for Strategic Economic Studies, Victoria University, on (03) 9248 1024 or fax (03) 9248 1048.

## STORE BULLETIN

The 1997 Government calendars are now available from the Purchasing office, please call in and collect. First in first served basis. 1997 diaries are expected to be in the store by the beginning of October.

Amendment - Issue 8 - NEW PART NUMBER

PS368035 Ink cartridge Epson Stylus 820 (SO20047)

Printing Requisitions - NEW ITEM

PS215 066

Lloyd Scott Printing Requisition

Pads

No Charge

For further information please contact Robin Cone 5336.

### Programs offered by CALT during August

#### Teaching large classes series

A special series presented by Dr Lee Andresen, formerly of the University of New South Wales and Professor Alan Jenkins of Oxford Brookes University.

**Teaching Large Groups:** concerns and strategies

Thursday, 15 10am - 1pm

**Assessing More Students:**

Thursday, 29 2.30 - 4.30pm

**Designing University Education for Life Long Learners:**

Friday, 30 9.30am - 12.30pm

**Reflecting on Fieldwork:**

Friday, 23 9.30am - 12.30pm

#### Postgraduate Supervisors Program

**Overseas Students**

Friday, 16 2 - 4pm

Associate Professor Trevor Tansley of Macquarie University, will discuss his experience supervising overseas postgraduate students.

#### Women's Career Development Program

**General Staff Workshops:** Career Moves Series - Session 1 Monday, 26 & Monday, 23 (Sept)  
 For women in clerical, secretarial and administrative positions at HEW levels 2-4.

Presenters Rochelle England, CALT and Vincia Martin, EEO.

Those who participate will gain a greater understanding of their roles and responsibilities; increased personal valuing of their contribution to the organisation; enhanced understanding of the concept of career paths and its applicability for clerical and administrative staff; and increased communication and negotiation skills.

For more details see the CWIS

# it MATTERS

## Our IT Infrastructure

Information technology permeates all that the University does: its teaching, learning, research, administration and community service. Information and communication services and systems, using information technology, provide the foundation for these activities.

Increasingly a University's information technology (IT) infrastructure will be a critical factor in the ongoing success of the institution. The IT infrastructure includes items such as the expansion or enhancement of the University's corporate information systems, telephone network, data network, educational technology in centrally timetabled teaching spaces and computer laboratories which service several Faculties. The infrastructure provides the foundation for the University to provide new and enhanced services and to be more effective and efficient in its operations. It enables our academics to gather information to support their teaching and research, to collaborate with their colleagues around the world, to communicate with their students, to use technology to improve their teaching. Our students can seek out relevant information to support their studies, communicate with their peers, check their exam results, improve the quality of their assignments and enhance their learning through the use of appropriate technologies. The University as a whole benefits from enhanced administrative systems which provide current, accurate information to improve decision making and planning and which ensure more effective and efficient administrative processes.

Previously the development of the University's information technology infrastructure has been funded through the major equipment grant bidding process. With respect to the development of the University's infrastructure the process does not encourage appropriate planning for infrastructure development and places requests for equipment to support new initiatives and services in competition with bids for core infrastructure. Plans and budgets must be created at a University level for our information technology infrastructure if we are to exploit it effectively. Such a plan and budget will form part of the IT Management Plan being developed by the Director of Information Technology through the Information Technology Planning and Policy Committee. The first draft of this plan will be complete by the end of 1996 but in the absence of such a plan we must continue to develop the information technology infrastructure to meet our immediate and emerging needs in the short to medium term.

With this goal in mind, staff within the Information Technology Division have examined the immediate needs for IT infrastructure development and an initial plan and budget has been given to the Vice Chancellor. This plan will require review within the context of the IT Management Plan as it evolves. Acceptance of this initial IT infrastructure plan and budget will be contingent upon the University's commitment to such a strategy within the context of forecast budget cuts.

## Associate Director, IT Infrastructure

To assist with the strategic planning for, and development of, the University's IT infrastructure Mark Piper joined the Information Technology Division in June as Associate Director, IT Infrastructure. Mark, a graduate of our University, was most recently IT Client Services Manager for Energy Australia (the largest energy services company in Australia with over 1.2 million customers) with responsibility for managing multi-million dollar IT projects on behalf of the business. Mark's goal is to ensure that the University's IT infrastructure is aligned with the overall directions of the University, providing the University with maximum return and minimum risk for its investment in information technology and ensuring competitive advantage for the University through the innovative use of information technology.

## NB

If you are contributing information to *the Inner Ear* please send it to Rose Roohan in the Public Affairs Unit  
E-mail: prrr@cc.newcastle.edu.au  
Fax: 6400 or on disk  
(Word 6 or WordPerfect 5.1 only)  
and **without any formatting**.  
Enquiries 6463

## Call for Papers

### Australian Society for Classical Studies

10-14 February 1997  
Closing date Friday 29 August 1996.  
Enquiries to Dr Peter Brennan in Ancient History (SACAH) University of Sydney NSW 2006  
Ph: (02) 351 2473 Fax: (02) 351 3918  
Email Peter.Brennan@history.su.edu.au

### RMIT, William Angliss and the Australian Centre for Tourism and Hospitality

Invite papers for  
The Third National Commercial Gaming Convention  
Melbourne 26-27 November 1996  
Papers and presentations are invited in the fields of commercial gaming and gambling.  
For further information please contact  
Jan Lester  
Project Coordinator  
The Australian Centre for Tourism and Hospitality  
Ph: (03) 9660 3878 Fax: (03) 9660 2595  
Email: Bailey@rmit.edu.au

**1997 Rhodes Scholarship tenable at the University of Oxford.**  
**Applications close 2 September 1996 for copy of information flyer please email Rose Roohan - Public Affairs Unit prrr@cc.newcastle.edu.au and leave your contact details or see the CWIS.**

## The Lionel Murphy Foundation

This scholarship was established in 1996 principally to provide scholarship opportunities for the study of law and/or science. Applications close 1 October, 1996. Brochures are available by phoning (02) 223 5151 or (02) 223 4315



## LIBNOTES

### Electronic Publishing by University Staff

An increasing amount of research is now being published on the Internet, and specifically on the World Wide Web. One example is "Platonic passion" by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Raoul Mortley, with the URL <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/vc/platonic.htm>.

The Library would like to collect and provide access to all such electronic documents produced by staff, as it already collects and provides access to similar documents in printed format. However, we do not yet have a means of finding out what is being published by staff in electronic format.

We would therefore appreciate it if any staff publishing substantial documents on the Internet or the WWW would let the Library know, so that information about the documents can be included in NEWCAT just as it is for printed documents held in the Library. In particular, we would like to know about:

- Electronic journals edited by staff members or published by departments
- Papers presented at conferences by staff members
- Research reports
- Any document which is similar in substance and permanent value to a printed book.

At this stage, we would consider the following to be out of scope for NEWCAT:

- Articles in electronic journals (since their printed equivalents are not found in Newcat)
- Personal home pages or departmental home pages
- Contributions to Usenet or to electronic discussion groups, unless they are of some substance and are to be preserved permanently on the Internet or WWW. Information about such electronic documents should be sent to the Quality Control Librarian, Giles Martin (email [ulgsm@dewey.newcastle.edu.au](mailto:ulgsm@dewey.newcastle.edu.au)), and include the author, title and URL of the document. At present we will be creating records in Newcat and in the Australian Bibliographic Network for these documents, while in the future we may set up a mechanism for permanently preserving them on a computer in the Library.

### Weekend Library Hours

*Auchmuty and Huxley Libraries*  
We have been asked for longer opening hours at the weekends for a long time now. As there are no additional funds for extra hours we have been looking at making more effective use of the funds available for weekend opening. We have also looked at what other universities are doing.

After discussions with representatives from NUSA and NUPSA, the student associations, and after meetings with groups of staff who would be working the extra hours, we will be open on Saturdays from 10am - 5pm until November 16 and Sundays from 1 - 5pm. November 23-24 will see the libraries opening from 1 - 5pm Saturdays and Sundays.

We can do this only by operating under **Study Hall conditions during the**

**extended hours period** i.e. 10am - 1pm on Saturdays.

### Services provided:

- Use of open access collections of NEWCAT Study space provided
  - AV equipment & microforms accessible but not serviced Photocopies turned on and serviced
  - Telephones answered and phone renewals and general enquiries dealt with
  - Use of items and photocopiers in Short Loan. Items will be checked in but NO LOANS OR BOOKINGS taken. Items checked out on Friday night will be due at 1pm Saturday
- Services NOT provided:**
- LOANS
  - CDROMS
  - reference service
  - Law Reserve not open
  - EFTPOS payment of fines
  - paging, enrolling of patrons, or other Circulation enquiries
  - transparencies to be sold, or done by patrons
  - Although the microfiche readers will be turned on, there will be no service until 1pm.

This will be a pilot study and will be evaluated in November. If you think the longer opening hours are a good thing, show us by coming and making use of them.

### Hot Spots on the WEB

#### The White Pages

Allows you to search the directory of telephone subscribers in Australia. Includes maps for business and government listings. Pages available in different languages.  
<http://www.whitepages.com.au/>

#### The Yellow Pages

Allows you to search the directory of businesses in Australia by region and type of product or company. Includes access to UBD road maps.  
<http://www.yellowpages.com.au/>

#### The Australian Psychological Society

Contains a wealth of information and support for the professional psychologist, lecturer and student.

You can find out when the conferences are held; browse the audio and video library (lecturers may borrow items for classes); search through the worldwide job listing for psychologists; and find out what Professional Development credit points are required to maintain your membership of a college.  
<http://www.bhs.mq.edu.au/ap>

## CLASSIES

### For sale

- Packard Bell 486 intel DX2 66 8 MB RAM 210 MB & 540 MB Hard Drives 3" floppy disk drive 2X Speed CD Rom 16 bit sound blaster compatible sound card 512 KB local bus video (expandable to 1 MB) powered speakers 14" SVGA monitor 101 keyboard microsoft PS2 mouse games port joystick windows 3.1 Dos 6.2 microsoft works (word processor spreadsheet data base - multimedia edition) MS flight simulator 5.0 various games and utilities asking \$1,300. Contact Donna on 5227.
- 1940s Millard radio, timber cabinet, perfect working order \$80 or best offer 6800 or 63 4335 (ah).
- 7 yr old brick house at Metford (nr TAFE). 3 bed all with built-ins and ensuite to main, large lounge/dining room, family room with slate and tile, new air conditioner, wood burning fire, dble carport. Large enclosed BBQ area low maintenance garden with pond, lots of trees and paving, rainwater tank and lge workshed, awnings all around please call Anne Burtoft on 6444 or 33 4247 (ah).
- Magna 88 executive wagon, air con, pwr steer, pwr windows, auto, red in colour with rego till 24.6.97 near new tyres. Very well maintained with fully serviced log books \$8,000 ono please telephone (ah) 54 7047.

### Wanted

- House to sit for a visiting American medical academic and family during the period March to August 1997 or any amount of time during that period please telephone Melissa James on 8673 for details.

### The following information is available on the CWIS:

- Second Indonesian Students Conference ANU
- 1997 Rhodes Scholarships Details
- Staff Appointments for June
- Geology Department Seminar Program
- Music Appreciation Group Program
- Music Lovers Club Program
- Continuing Professional Education Unit Program
- Visit of Professor Lawrence Green
- CALT Program for August

If you are aren't familiar with the procedure this is what you do.

Open the computer program Netscape and you should automatically find yourself on the University's home page (URL <http://www.newcastle.edu.au>).

You then click on University of Newcastle local information then click again on campus news and services.

Now you're on your way.



Award-winning artist Tina Wilson, in her final year of her Bachelor of Arts (Visual Arts), found inspiration for her remarkable art work from her upbringing on the family sheep farm in Snake Valley, Victoria.

One of five children, Tina and her brothers and sisters shared a love of animals and drawing.

"We used to go frog hunting and we loved spiders and insects. We'd always be bringing them into the house to scare Mum and we had pet lambs and other animals as well."

While both her parents and her siblings all had artistic ability, Tina was the first family member to decide to pursue a career in art. Good at maths and science, she had a struggle to convince most of her teachers at Ballarat High School that she was doing the right thing dropping most of her "serious" subjects to do Art and Graphics in Year 12.

"My art teacher, Len Brookman, was inspirational," Tina said. "He helped me emotionally to stick up for what I wanted to be - an artist."

Encouraged by her parents, Tina wrote to naturalist and photographer Densy Clyne, who told her about Newcastle lecturer and scientific illustrator Andrew Atkins and the unique plant and wildlife illustration course at the University of Newcastle.

"I was amazed at how big

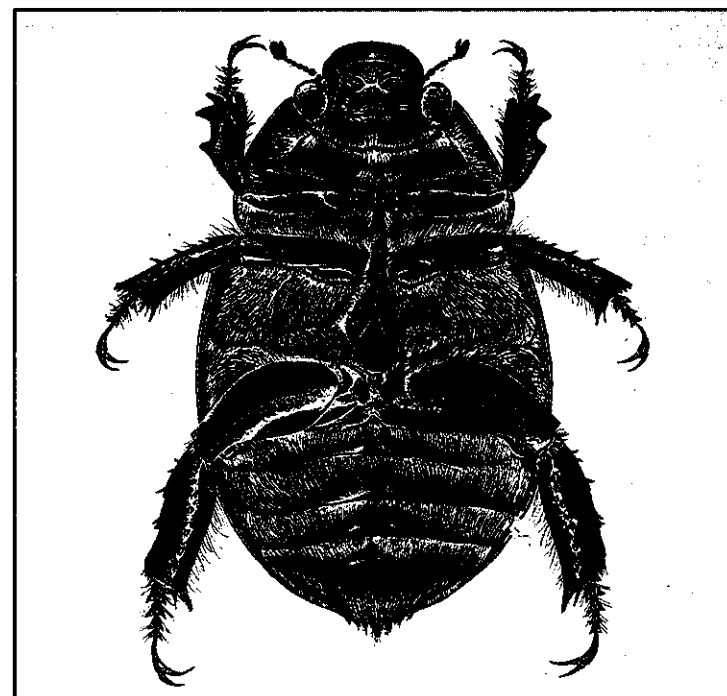
# From Snake Valley to the world



Newcastle was, I had no idea before I came," Tina said. "It was really scary but also exciting and because I lived on campus and most of the people I lived with were from the

country as well, I never really got homesick."

Being alone so far from the sleepy hamlet of Snake Valley (30km outside Ballarat) was no impediment to Tina's artistic



career. As well as being able to supplement her Austudy payments by selling artworks, Tina recently won both the contemporary and watercolour sections of the William Dobell Art Competition, and received an honorary mention in the plant and wildlife section. She also took out second and third prizes in the Australian Entomological Society insect illustration competition last year and her works adorn the walls of the newly opened Victorian Nature Education Centre in Ballarat.

Tina's talent is not restricted to plant and wildlife illustration and she is frequently commissioned to do portraits of children and babies. All the money she earns from prizes and commissions (Tina is also employed as a Resident Assistant at Evatt House) is used to purchase equipment which she will need when she graduates.

"I want to be a freelance artist and hope to illustrate children's books because I love the creativity it involves," Tina said.

## The guilty pleasures of feminist camp



The fabulous Mae West modelled herself on female impersonators

by Kim Britton

*Camp - a sensibility committed to artifice, elegance and theatricality, especially in relation to sex and gender roles. (Pamela Robertson)*

Madonna has been referred to as "Mae West for yuppies". What both performers had in common is their ability at camp. In her book, *Guilty Pleasures: Feminist Camp from Mae West to Madonna*, lecturer in Film Studies Dr Pamela Robertson examines the role of women as producers and consumers of camp.

"It's about the role of women in camp, arguing for a feminist tradition that parallels gay male camp but isn't exactly the same thing," Dr Robertson said. "I was interested in feminist camp as an issue in spectatorship, in the way women can find a space in camp. Is it all just misogynist? What is it that the women are doing? Are they just being made fun of or are they in on the joke too?"

Mae West picked up on aspects of burlesque tradition dating back to the mid nineteenth century but also modelled herself on female impersonators, Dr Robertson said.

"That version of female bur-

lesque, where women played male and female roles, which involved very aware and direct sexuality and a lot of innuendo and wordplay doesn't exist anymore. In some ways she reinvented it, in the way that Madonna reinvented Mae West."

Robertson says Madonna linked to two strands of post-60s camp.

"The first is a revival of camp as queer identity politics using drag as a symbol for 'out' parades and things. But the other side is a kind of mainstreaming of a pop or post-modern camp, because she is so clearly a pop figure."

Through analyses of films from Busby Berkeley's *Gold Diggers of 1933* to Joan Crawford's performance in *Johnny Guitar*, as well as video and television, Dr Robertson shows how the gold digger is to feminist camp what the dandy is to gay male camp - its original personification and defining voice.

"There is a kind of self-oppression in camp even though you take pleasure in it," she said. "You recognise the images as stereotypes and can enjoy and laugh at that, but camp is never totally ironic. It is always about the relationship you have to it so you are recognising yourself in it. I think there is some aspect of guilt in that."

*Guilty Pleasures* explores the way camp tends to emerge during moments of backlash against feminist politics in America. "It is a way to retrieve something that has become outmoded politically at those terrible moments when you can't have serious activism - camp revives it in some bizarre form," Dr Robertson said.

"A lot of people have argued that gay camp comes out of feeling oppressed, not being able to be 'out' or open in public and therefore developing ways of passing and double entendre, a kind of performance style that is a code for self-recognition," she said. "I think that for women too, camp is a substitute. If we could get to the point where there wasn't oppression of various kinds then we wouldn't need it anymore."

But as well as the historical and political contexts for camp, Robertson recognises there was some irresistible magnetism about performers like Mae West. "It is also the case that these girls are just extremely appealing, funny, beautiful and wonderful."

*Guilty Pleasures: Feminist Camp from Mae West to Madonna* is published by Duke University Press and is available through the Coop Bookshop.

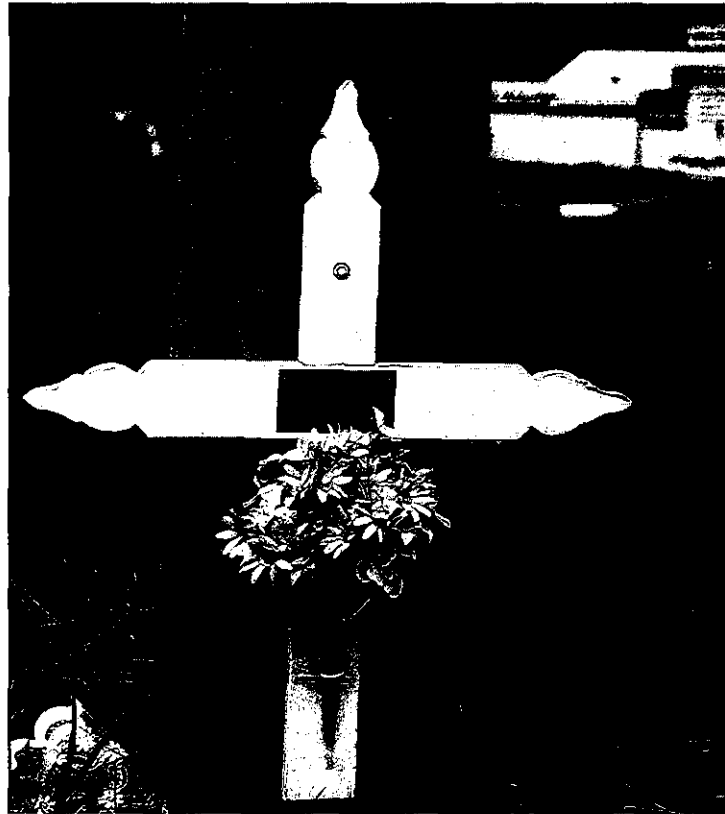
# What is it about young male drivers?

by Alison Grahame

Dr Kate Hartig from the Department of Geography has been given a grant of just over \$12,000 by the Federal Office of Road Safety to examine adolescent male driving behaviour. Her research will look at the influences on the driving behaviour of young men including peer pressure, socio-economic status, and their attitudes to driver education campaigns.

"Last year Kevin Dunn from the University of NSW and I undertook research on the effect of roadside memorials - the bunches of flowers and simple wooden crosses - that have been left by grieving relatives of road accident victims. What we found was that over half the men under the age of 26 whom we interviewed drove much more cautiously after having driven past a memorial but only 16% of the same group felt that they gained anything from road safety television commercials. It was clear that their attitudes needed further investigation," Dr Hartig told *the Ear*.

The national statistics for young male drivers are alarming. Of the 1374 males between the ages of 15 and 24 who died in 1993 for example, over 33% were killed in car accidents as compared to 25% through suicide. Within the Newcastle RTA zone, males were involved in 80% of the fatal accidents over a five year period and males under the age of 26 are the



A typical roadside memorial

most likely age cohort to be involved in a fatal accident.

"Roadside memorials in the Newcastle RTA zone, overwhelmingly commemorate the deaths of young males," Dr Hartig said.

Dr Hartig will investigate the relationship between young males' attitudes towards driver education and driving practices; identify how the social construction of masculinity, including peer pressure, influences driving behaviour; determine if socio-economic factors help shape attitudes towards driver education and driving behaviour; and

examine the locations and causes of all the fatal car accidents which have happened in the Newcastle RTA zone over the last five years.

"We hope that this analysis will provide an indepth understanding of young male drivers' perceived and actual strengths and inadequacies," Dr Hartig said. "From there the various agencies will be able to develop road safety programs that are acceptable to young male drivers.

"The long term benefits must be a reduction of male mortality rates and a reduction in motor vehicle accidents."

## Conservatorium buys new building in the city

Northumberland House, the three storey Georgian building on the corner of King and Auckland Streets in the city has been bought by the Conservatorium and will house Early Childhood Music and Music Therapy.

Dean of the Faculty of Music, Professor Robert Constable told *the Ear* that the building which is directly opposite University House, was previously the home of the State Government's Department of Planning.

"There is no doubt that the building is worth considerably more than we are paying for it. However I believe it has been important for the Government, just as it is for us, to ensure that the building remains in public hands so that it will continue to benefit a substantial cross-section of the people of our

region. Although we are no longer a State Government department, our community work is, as it has always been, a vital part of what we do."

Professor Constable said that the offer he had made of \$250,000 had been readily accepted and represented a great bargain.

"The best part of the deal is that we are able to pay \$50,000 a year over five years and we are getting considerable help with the repayments from the Conservatorium Foundation which has pledged \$10,000 a year towards the cost and which is also making the building the subject of a major fundraising program."

Revenue generated by Early Childhood Music and Music Therapy will also go towards the repayments.

## Uni to be linked to SWAMP

A \$300,000 Commonwealth grant to upgrade the University's electronic communications facilities will increase Internet capacity and provide fully interactive on-line video conferencing and lecturing connections between the Callaghan and Ourimbah campuses.

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Ron MacDonald told *the Ear* that the University was currently looking at the various technologies but hoped that the new system would be up and running by the end of the year.

"The grant will help us establish a microwave link between Newcastle and the Sydney Wide Area Microwave Project (SWAMP), the network which links all Sydney's universities plus Wollongong University. This will enable us to share facilities with the Central Coast Campus, lower our communications costs, and give us a much better service into Sydney," he explained.

"When the link is completed, researchers here who have to rely on Sydney based super computers will benefit from a much quicker file transfer rate, making their use a much more attractive proposition. It's also likely that a lot of our voice traffic could be transferred to the new link and this would give us considerable savings."

Total cost of the project is expected to come in at around \$650,000. The remaining \$350,000 will come from a number of other grants.

## Beware of hot phones

University notice-boards have been used as a selling point for a mobile phone scam, says Mrs Johanna Conners, a spokesperson for Network Mobile Phones at Mayfield.

Mrs Conners says at least one student has fallen prey to the scam.

"A student who recently came in to see us had bought a second-hand analog phone for \$60 as the result of seeing the phone advertised on a notice-board. The person who sold it delivered the phone to the student's home, and without a name and address there was no way to track the person selling it."

"It turned out that the lady who owned the phone had lost it at Jesmond, and someone appears to have found it and sold it to the student as a second-hand phone."

Mrs Conners says that mainly analog phones and not the more modern and more costly digital phones have been involved in the scam.

"The analog network has been running for about seven years and is due to be phased out by the year 2000. If an analog

phone is stolen it's really useless to whoever winds up with it, because the number on the phone plus its serial number are locked into a data base, and that's how it was possible in this case to identify the real owner of the stolen phone, which has now been returned.

"But people need to be very careful with digital phones. The digital network has only been going for about 18 months to two years and transmitters are still being put in, and while frantic efforts are being made to establish a similar data base as a protection against theft, as far as I know, no such safeguard is in place and consequently digitals are being targeted by thieves."

Recently a digital phone had even been shoplifted from the sales office at Network Mobile Phones.

Her advice to digital owners: insure your phone against theft and keep an eye on it.

And to analog phone owners: be particularly wary of any analog phone being sold without a re-charger - it's a dead giveaway that it's 'hot'.

## Celebrating 10 years of service

Program Specialist Mr Wim Monasso from the Bernard van Leer Foundation in Holland was one of a large number of friends and supporters who gathered in The Treehouse recently to celebrate the 10th birthday of the Hunter Caravan Project.

Mr Monasso was making his annual visit to the University-based Family Action Centre, which oversees the work of the Caravan Project which provides an outreach service to meet the community-development needs of families living permanently in the region's caravan parks.

The Bernard van Leer Founda-

tion has provided funding to the University since 1986, initially for the Hunter Caravan Project (HCP) and since 1992 for the National Dissemination Program of the HCP. The Family Action Centre which now attracts nearly \$1million per year from State and Federal government departments, and which employs 25 people, has grown out of this original Project.

Joining in the celebrations were Dr Wendy Schillar, the Caravan Project's first director and many former project staff, caravan park residents and members of the University and the wider community who have supported

the Project's work.

According to Ms Di James, the Centre's Director, the Hunter Caravan Project is truly unique in Australia and the world.

"In a broad sense it enables communities and families living in caravan parks to become more empowered and to take better control of their own lives. This support can take many forms from running play-groups for children to adult discussion groups and parenting courses," she said.

The birthday celebrations were also used to launch the Friends of the Family Action Centre.

"This is an attempt to become more independent in our funding. We have developed a total funding resource strategy of which this is a part. It provides for different categories of sponsorship. Everyone who has supported us over a number of years has been invited to become an Honorary Friend and we will also welcome individual membership and Corporate Friends."

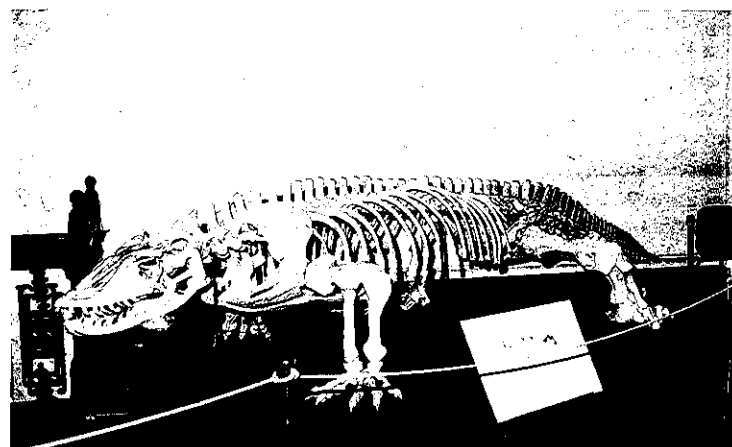
Di James, Wim Monasso and Wendy Schillar celebrate a special birthday



# Abstaining from sex helps create strong magic

by Sonja Duncan

Dr Tim Flannery, palaeontologist, mammologist and conservationist has left the jungles of New Guinea to spend time interacting with fellow researchers at Australian universities. His invitation to visit the University of Newcastle's Faculty of Science and Mathematics was particularly attractive as it has given him a chance to mingle with a broad cross-section of academics and researchers - something Dr Flannery loves to do.



A Principal Research Scientist at the Australian Museum, Dr Flannery has received international acclaim for a number of major scientific discoveries. He even boasts the honour of having a dinosaur (*Timimus*) named after him, after discovering dinosaur remains in Victoria in 1980.

In 1981 Dr Flannery began survey work on modern mammals in the little-explored mountainous forests of New Guinea.

"The work I conducted there over 15 years provided me with an incredible learning experience. Melanesian culture

is so very different to ours, as is the concept of animal abundance over there," Dr Flannery explained.

In trying to track down a species of previously unidentified possum, Dr Flannery was told by the locals that there were plenty around - but catching them required strong magic.

"The men would go into a men's house and abstain from sex for six months, eat only sweet potatoes and then, if the magic was strong, they would go into a distant forest three days walk away. They believed that, if the magic was really strong, they would see a possum."

Despite these cultural obstacles, Dr Flannery has discovered and described 16 new species and many sub-species of Melanesian mammals and described most of the named extinct fossil mammals from the Melanesian islands.

Studying the extinct Gigantia (*Megalia Prisca*) which lived in Australia about 40,000 years ago, prompts Dr Flannery to ask the question: why did Australia produce such creatures rather than lions and tigers?

So, how do you find a previously unknown species? Dr Flannery explains that this is achieved in one of two ways - either through a kind of sleuth-like tracking down, or by pure

great profit!"

During his time at the University Dr Flannery will be reworking his book, *The Future Eaters: an ecological history of the Australian lands and people*

"Sometimes it takes you years to track down an animal, other times you find one by accident."

accident. "The sleuth-like tracking down comes from an understanding of the biodiversity of a region, the distribution of organisms, blank spots of a species on a map, or other clues - like a piece of fur owned by a native, or a headdress seen in a photograph," detective Flannery said.

"Sometimes it takes you years to track down an animal, other times you find one by accident," he added. Like when he set a trap for one type of possum and caught a type he'd never seen before.

For the locals living in the jungles of New Guinea, Dr Flannery was something of a new species himself.

"Some of them understood the importance of my work, others thought I was collecting animals to sell their skins at

for a proposed documentary series to be run on ABC television. The book concerns the evolution of Australasian environments and is a remarkable synthesis of the determinants of life in the southern lands that comprise Australasia.

Dr Flannery's enthusiasm for and commitment to science is obvious and displayed in his numerous achievements. In 1990, at age 34, Dr Flannery received the Edgeworth David Medal in recognition of his outstanding contributions to Australasian science.

His advice to students: "Never stop reading - read as widely as possible. If you do specialise, which is often inevitable, keep as broad a framework as possible. This will provide you with an entree into other ways of thinking."

## Uni creates new links with local high school

Jesmond University High School has been approved as the new name for Jesmond High by the Minister for Education Mr John Aquilina.

Only a stone's throw from the University, Jesmond University High School has direct links via traffic-free cycleways, and the close proximity of the two institutions will make practical many of the proposals underpinning the name change.

Mr John McConnell, the Principal of Jesmond University High School welcomed the move as a formal recognition of the strong links already established between the school and the University.

Not only will it provide access to University resources for the school but it will assist the University to access school resources for teacher training, research and consultation.

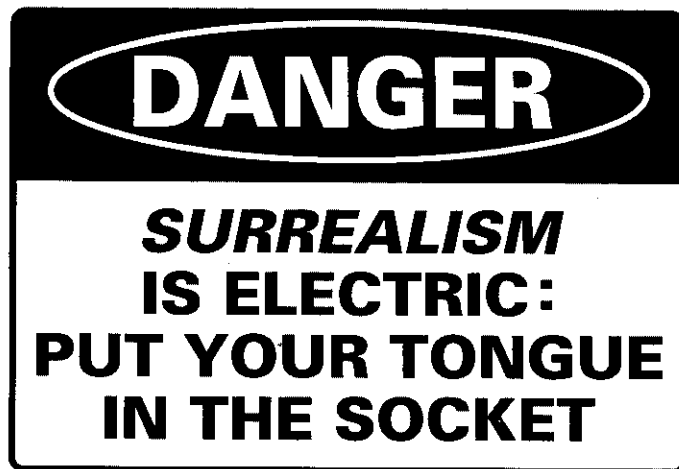
Students from the school will benefit from mentoring programs where the needs of individual students will be met through special extension and remedial programs. In addition, students will be able to work in small groups with tutors enabling more individual attention.

Professor Terry Lovat, Dean of the Faculty of Education, said there were tremendous benefits arising from the closer cooperation.

"It provides an opportunity not only for the Education Faculty, but also for areas such as psychology and medicine to provide services to the school and to get feedback from students on their reactions to assessment, learning and socialisation techniques being developed," he said.

## Taking the world at (type) face value

"Richard Tipping is a poet who takes the world at (type) face value and turns the expected by a fractional shift into the surprising and resonant. He makes art which grows from his experiments with poetry and language, exploring the nature and qualities of poetic perception."



So goes the press release from the Art Gallery of NSW which is currently staging a solo exhibition of Richard's entitled *Multiple Pleasures: Multiples and (Sub) Versions '69-'96*.

Richard who is a lecturer in the Department of Communication and Media Arts, told *the Ear* that his exhibition is somewhat unusual in that it doesn't come with the standard printed catalogue.

"The Gallery offered me the usual deal but I negotiated with them to produce a series of full colour postcards plus a simple fold out catalogue instead. As a lecturer in communications I've always been interested in postcards - I think they are a much underrated method of communication. And I thought this would be much more fun."

The package of 24 postcards is selling in the Gallery shop for \$15 and can be posted anywhere in the world for \$20. "They've given me a 4m row in the shop, so we are hopeful of some good sales."

Richard's exhibition is housed in four glass cases in the Gallery foyer where it should attract considerable attention. It will run until 22 September but if you miss it in Sydney and happen to be overseas next year you might catch a bigger show of his new work at the Eagle Gallery in London.



Taking pleasure in the literary textures of a sign-filled world

## BOOK REVIEW

**Title: The Debt to Pleasure**  
**Author: John Lanchester**  
**Publisher: Macmillan**  
**232pp**  
**RRP: \$29.95**

by Dr Tim Dolin  
 Associate Lecturer,  
 English Department

I'm convinced that the BBC is in league with the British Tourist Authority, treating us on cold Sunday nights to their version of post Thatcherist Britain, which seems pretty much a land of country houses, summery sound-effects, cottage gardens and climbing roses, all nestled snugly between the motorway and the cooling tower (just off screen). But not till the excellent *Pie in the Sky* turned up on our TV screens last year could we have conceived that this slick packaging of a lost Anglo-Saxon monoculture would stretch to the nursery pap and fried bread that is the British national cuisine. Though this drama of cooks and crooks has been careful not to offend the incredulous by snubbing Eurofood or Asian take-aways, it nevertheless relies upon the same decidedly National Trust-ish idea of England that brought us *Heartbeat* and *Pride and*

*Prejudice* - in this case, it's all steak-and-kidney pies and spotted dick, nestled snugly, as it were, between the Little Chef on the motorway and the curry house in Brixton.

This British Airways England, is, as everyone knows, an invention, and so, too, of course, is the *Pie in the Sky* food. Like Scotch whisky, Irish coffee, or Welsh rarebit, this kind of English food is not something you eat, but something you consume, along with real Ale, oak trees, the Brontes, and the rest of that Village Green Preservation Society cultural fare. The more authentically English it is, the more fake it is, and fake food, in this post-industrial age, is probably the most visible manifestation of the postmodern: whether it's plastic sushi in Tokyo shop windows; zip-out cookbooks in *Family Circle*; old-fashioned roast dinners; *The Cook, the Thief, his Wife, and*

# A brilliant, teasing, witty first novel

*and the blinis are great too!*

*her Lover*; Nescafe ads; *Like Water for Chocolate*, the *fin de siecle* offers you all the delectable fakery you could possibly eat.

John Lanchester's brilliant, teasing, witty first novel does this post modern moment to perfection. Something like a cross between a thriller and a gourmand's pastoral, *The Debt to Pleasure* is structured around seasonal menus, each dish lovingly elaborated by Lanchester's insufferable, incomparable narrator, Tarquin Winot. While he makes Keith Floyd sound modest and self-effacing, Winot is, like the far-flung drunkard, somehow engaging and memorable. His cultural displacement (he is fleeing from Portsmouth, on his way back to Provence) reminds me of some rambling

eighteenth-century figure. Mr Yorick, the hero of Sterne's *Sentimental Journey* is signalled clearly in Winot's opinionated narration, but so too are Winot's heroes - Jean-Anthelme Brillat-Savarin, who in 1825 published *La Physiologie du Gout*, Elizabeth David, Roland Barthes, Marcel Proust - these and countless others figure in Lanchester's ingredients list.

Enigmatic and playful, Winot is a tyrant and a connoisseur of knowledge, and knowledge in the culinary arts is a tricky business (even *Pie in the Sky*'s Crabb deals in the sly, secretive knowledge that is real cooking). The arcane combination of knowing *that* and knowing *how* that is *haute cuisine* suits Lanchester's chic dalliance with art and meaning in the novel: for him, the menu is *the work of*

art, lying "close to the heart of the human impulse to order, to beauty, to pattern. It draws on the original ethonic upwelling that underlies all art. A menu can embody the anthropology of a culture, or the psychology of an individual; it can be a biography, a cultural history, a lexicon; it speaks to the sociology, psychology and biology of its creator and its audience and, of course, to their geographical location; it can be a way of knowledge, a path, an ordering, a shaping, a manifestation, a talisman, an injunction, a memory, a fantasy, a consolation, an illusion, an evasion, an assertion, a seduction..."

This is a book that could well be kitchen-tested as well as reviewed, but perhaps, after all, reading is as satisfying as eating. In any case, I recommend this book; and especially the blinis with sour cream and caviar (pp14-18).



Alan Chawner's latest photographic exhibition entitled *Between the Ceiling and the Sky*, has opened in the Art and Design Gallery. It includes 80 photographs of the ceilings of great European churches, taken while Alan was lying on the floor. "These photographs are not physically correct at all, they are wild distortions. When you look at a ceiling from that angle you wonder how it will look and how the columns will bend. They don't bend when you're standing there, they bend when you flatten them out and put them on a piece of paper." Each of the photographs is over a metre in length. They were taken in Italy, France and Spain. The exhibition runs until 25 August.

## PROFILE

# THRIVING ON ACTION

"I believe we are in a position to provide a very high quality service and I believe we can make some money at the same time."

by Kim Britton

The Director of the newly formed Continuing Professional Education and Projects (CPEP) Division, Ms Pamela Finberg, sees her own professional experiences as an ideal example of the increasing need for lifelong education and retraining.

"Employers are looking for workers with leading edge skills and without continuing education the leading edge can soon become the trailing edge," Pamela said.

In common with many other workers in the 90s, Pamela's aspirations have changed dramatically since she began a science degree at the University of Natal in her native South Africa. "Growing up in Africa, I went to university to do wildlife management," Pamela said of her early ambition, dashed when her family emigrated to New Zealand.

"We went to New Zealand, where the only native mammals were two species of bat - not quite consistent with my initial aspirations of working with the large mammals of Africa!"

Completing her Bachelor of Science at Massey University in New Zealand, Pamela then followed her family to Sydney, where she worked as a medical technologist.

"Experiencing living in a number of different countries is in fact part of my normal landscape. I think it has certainly challenged me from an early age to have to adapt, to work outside the social and cultural norms and to be resourceful."

Her resourcefulness was demonstrated by her rise to the position of National Product Manager for a clinical products company. It was then she first felt the need to retrain.

"I found myself in middle management on the strength of my technical and scientific expertise and informal business skills," she said. "I could see that I wasn't going to have a good chance of improving on that commercial success without the benefit of some formal business training."

Pamela gave up her well paid job, the company car, the overseas travel and went back to university full time to do an MBA at the Australian Graduate School of Management. "I needed to be flexible and multi-skilled and I wanted to be able



to talk to the accountant in his language when I was arguing for my resources," she said.

It is this type of retraining and career upgrading that Pamela plans to turn into a significant revenue raiser for the University in her position as Director of the CPEP Division.

**"All organisations, regardless of their size and turnover, understand the value of training and development in the workplace"**

"The Division was established to capitalise on our teaching resources and to develop a market for short courses on a commercial basis with a view to raising funds for the University Foundation," Pamela explained.

"The professional education market is highly competitive. There is a potential in this market which has been serviced in part by some of the activities of the previously called Department of Community Programmes."

The former Department of Community Programmes that

provided adult education, training and leisure courses for over 20 years, as well as the Newstep and Open Foundation courses, has been disestablished with the Continuing Professional Education Unit taking its place.

"Through the old Department

of Community Programmes the University enjoyed some success in the area of continuing education but the major opportunities remained untapped," Pamela said.

"Lifelong learning concerns everyone. School students, the person who wants to acquire new skills to get ahead in their job, the unemployed person who wants to improve their employment prospects, the professional who needs to maintain their vocational registration and the retired person."

All organisations, regardless of their size and turnover, understand the value of training and development in the workplace according to Pamela, who hopes to cater to the needs of industry through the teaching expertise of Newcastle academics.

"Contract training into industry involves the diagnosis of the organisation's requirements and their resources, in line with their strategic objectives, and developing a program that is custom-made for them," she said.

"The initial focus will be on the design and development of non award courses with the view that they may in some instances articulate with award programs and finally achieve award status of their own...it's pretty much a continuum."

In the overseas market, Pamela hopes to respond to opportunities provided through Australian Government agen-

cies such as AUSAID, foreign government agencies as well as directly liaising with foreign industry.

"There is a large potential market in the area of contract training in developing countries," she said. "Courses would be designed in response to a brief rather than offering one of our existing award programs."

But will the teachers and academics rise to the challenge of providing this new brand of contract course? Pamela believes that many in the university are excited at the opportunity this will provide.

"One of the real benefits of being market driven is that one has to offer a high quality product to succeed," she said. "I believe we are in a position to provide a very high quality service and I believe we can make some money at the same time."

The Newstep and Open Foundation programs were an important consideration for her Pamela said.

"This division is responsible for about 2000 students on this campus, more than some faculties. We have very few resources and an enormous responsibility to student education and care."

Pamela's overall objective as defined by her position description reads "To be responsible for developing University activity in short education courses, professional education programs and in providing these and other marketable services to the community, at home and abroad and thereby to generate an annual surplus to the University". The duties listed as a consequence of this objective are numerous and detailed.

She pauses reflectively. "We haven't even mentioned the conference management proposal - there are lots of conflicting demands on my time." But nothing that the dynamic Pamela can't handle. "I thrive on activity and action and prefer to have a busy diary planned."

Pamela also enjoys living in Newcastle, although she hasn't as yet found an outlet for one of her favourite leisure pursuits, flamenco dancing.

"I'm attracted to the story around flamenco, the passion, the lifestyle, the community and apart from that it's a lot of fun. I gave up my lessons when I came to Newcastle but I still play my castanets occasionally."

# Adrenalin

SPORTS NEWS



Gavin Thompson, Ben Darwin, Professor Jenny Graham, Bob Ferris (CEO Hunter Mariners) and Andrew James

## Mariners come on board

by Helene O'Neill

Although the rugby league playing future of the Hunter Mariners will be decided in the courts, the club has offered three \$10,000 scholarships to students selected on their ability as Rugby League and Rugby Union players.

Rugby League exponent, Gavin Thompson, is enrolled in a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering degree. He has represented NSW Country in Rugby League as well as the Newcastle Knights at both

under 19 and 21 level and is eagerly awaiting selection in the Knights senior teams.

In an unusual twist, two scholarships have been awarded to Rugby Union players. Combining a Bachelor of Teaching degree with a Bachelor of Arts degree leaves just enough time for Ben Darwin to further his Rugby career. He is currently playing with the Newcastle Rugby Football Club (Wildfires) and has experienced past success with Australian Schools squads.

The third scholarship recipient is Andrew James, a first year Bachelor of Science stu-

dent. Andrew is a multi-talented sportsperson with a background in soccer, shotput and swimming. His highest Rugby representative honour was as a member of the Australian under 19 side in a series against New Zealand earlier this year.

Participating in football activities specified by the Mariners is a condition of the scholarship. The three students are also required to maintain a satisfactory level of academic progress in order to retain the scholarships for the full three years.

## Sport V study

Professor Raoul Mortley believes that offering Sports Scholarships "encourages excellent sports men and women to study at the University while their sporting achievements raise the University's profile". In light of these words the \$1000 scholarships have been awarded to Allison Dally and Lisa Dally (hockey), Danielle Harvey (netball), Damien Schaefer (rugby union), Bryn Dannatt (fencing) and Dimity Taylor (basketball).

Scholarship recipients are required to play for a University sporting club and represent the Uni in competitions, where possible.

**CRICKET** - The annual General Meeting of the cricket club was held last week. Club members are proud to welcome back Professor Saxon White as club patron while Peter Tate has been returned for a fifth term as President. Life membership was conferred on Alan Smyth who has served the club for some 17 seasons.

If you are interested in supporting the club for the 96/97 season turn up at the club training sessions which are held each Saturday at No 4 oval from 10.30am. Male and female players are welcome and if you would like more detailed info. contact Peter Tate on 51 1356.

**RUGBY LEAGUE** - Big things are expected from the Rugby League club over the final few weeks as they have planned a big bash for Presentation night at the Crazy Crab. The U/19 team are currently in 2nd place despite struggling to field a side during the vacation period. The open team has experienced a mixed season but under coach, Shane Fernando, should finish the season on a high.

## Goal attack

One of the recipients of a Sports Scholarship, outstanding netballer Danielle Harvey, applauds the University's scholarship initiative and welcomes the monetary contribution to help cover training expenses. Danielle has experienced representative netball since the age of 14 and is currently a key member of the Sutherland team in the State League Region 1 Division 1 side.

Travelling to Sydney up to 4 times a week for matches or practice means that Danni does a lot of her studying in the car while her

mother drives the 3 hour trip. Such are the sacrifices of athletes who wish to have "something behind them" if their sport does not provide for life after the game. Danni looks forward to a career as a Physical Education teacher but does not discount the idea of following a combined playing/coaching path.

If the form Danni showed during the recent Eastern Conference Games in Armidale is any indication, watch out for D Harvey, Goal Attack, in future Australian netball teams.



## It's gold! gold! gold!

by Kim Britton

The big day had finally arrived. All the training, the weeks of competition, the stress of the semis, the loss that led to underdog status, a restless night and at last - grand final day. Butterflies the size of eagles defied the notion of breakfast, the colours are lovingly donned hours before the event and the probability of defeat raised and soothed with the inevitable consolation "at least we made it to the grand final". All the stress and excitement is definitely beginning to tell - and that's just on the player's mother!

No, it's not the Olympics. The U12 Division 3 boys basketball club competition had come to a head. The boy seemed annoyingly composed as he practiced at the stadium for the 40 minutes we had to kill before the match. Having never beaten Central Charlestown 2, he had nothing to lose and everything to gain.

It was definitely the parents

and coaches who were feeling the pressure, with an adjudicator giving strict instructions to retain a neutral bench and leaving us no way to vent a natural excess of emotion.

No Olympic athlete could have felt more elated than the players and supporters of the University team as they defied the odds to win 37 to 20. And the emotion and drama was relived by the families of the University Basketball Club's numerous other junior teams who made it to grand finals.

The Basketball Club is the only University sporting club to have junior members and they have certainly acquitted themselves heroically during the 1996 season with University teams carrying off gold medals in four of the five grand finals contested in the U/12 and 13 girls and boys competitions. University teams will also contest grand finals in the U/14 boys Division 3, U/16 boys Divisions 1,2,4, U/14 girls Divisions 1 and 2.

Uni, Uni, Uni, oi, oi, oi!

WHAT'S

NO

### CAMPUS SCAMPER

Wednesday 21 August  
No 4 oval

Entry forms are available from the Sports Union office

Enquiries welcome on 5584

### BLUES DINNER & SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR

Friday 30 August in the Brennan Room - bookings required by Wednesday 21 August

Phone Lesley on 68 8149 or 52 1150

### SOCIAL SPORT

Enjoy a game of touch, soccer or netball during your lunch break

Entry forms are available in the Recreation Handbook

Further info 5578 or 5584

### SPORTS UNION RELOCATION

The offices of the Sports Union can be found in the front of the Hunter Building (former offices of Physical Planning and Estates), adjacent the stairs leading to the Griffith Duncan Theatre.