



March 2001

## February edition

Editorial enquiries and contributions should be directed to the Editor, Uninews, Marketing and Media Services, phone: 4956 1869 or 0412 128 727, email: [prk1b@alinga.newcastle.edu.au](mailto:prk1b@alinga.newcastle.edu.au)

Enquiries regarding display advertisements and design services – Jacky Kitcher, phone: 4921 5594.

Classified advertisements and other contributions for Etcetera should be sent to Rose Roohan, phone: 4921 6463, email: [prr@alinga.newcastle.edu.au](mailto:prr@alinga.newcastle.edu.au).

**Publisher** Fran Flavel  
**Editor** Kim Britton  
**Writers** Katie Porritt  
Maree Finnegan  
**Contributors** Cae Pattison  
Debbie Smith  
Latha Lewis  
Michael Sternbeck  
**Photography** John Freund  
Chris Patterson  
**Designers** Tim Burns  
Heather Redman

## 2001 Schedule

Copy deadline	Circulation date
March 29	April 16
May 3	May 21
June 7	June 25
July 12	July 30
August 16	September 3
September 20	October 8
October 25	November 12
November 29	December 17

**Cover** – students were welcomed to the University with a range of activities organised for Orientation Week – University photographer John Freund caught some of the fun, p11

# Corporate style



*Stylish uniforms for men and women of all shapes and sizes as shown by the NNT models at February's fashion parade*

The University has a new supplier and a new committee for its corporate wardrobe. Neat 'n Trim (NNT) Uniforms of 95 Hunter Street, Newcastle is the new supplier and our

representative is Quida.

The full line of men's and women's clothes were on parade in the Griffith Duncan theatre on February 6. Remaining blue floral fabric from Jean Bas will be used

by NNT to provide a limited range of clothing until it is used, after which a new fabric will be selected.

For those who missed out on the parade and subsequent ordering sessions on campus, you can order direct from NNT by going to their store for a fitting.

For information contact a committee member:

Sue Bowcock phone 5186  
Linda Tracey phone 5313  
Dot Etheridge phone 6642  
Geoff Whitnall phone 6512  
Debbie Hatherell phone 5293  
Sue Rye phone 8728  
Helen Thomson phone 6661  
Paul Griffith phone 7249  
Emma Toes phone 49241444  
Belinda Croker phone 5122  
Jason Sommers phone 6487.



# Newcastle wins rural health funding

The University will set up a University Department of Rural Health (UDRH) in the Tamworth area, to encourage students of medical and health-related disciplines to work in rural Australia.

Federal Health Minister Michael Woolldridge announced last month that the UDRH will be funded under the Federal Government's Regional Health Strategy, which has committed

\$117.6 million over four years to progress the development of a comprehensive medical education and training network in rural and regional Australia.

Professor Rob Sanson-Fisher, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, says undergraduate students will work in the Tamworth area for up to a year, and possibly longer.

"Students studying Medicine, Occupational Therapy, Medical

Radiation and Dietetics will all spend time in the area, experiencing a rural-based education," he said. "This will allow them to enjoy and see the benefits of working in rural Australia, and hopefully increase the possibility that they will practice there once they are qualified. This initiative will help extend our work with our colleagues in rural Australia, with mutual sharing of expertise."

Vice-Chancellor Professor Roger Holmes says the UDRH's are an important initiative.

"We are delighted that the Federal Government has recognised the quality of research and teaching in our Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, and we welcome the funding. This will extend the University's strong commitment to rural health, and assist the Faculty to make a significant contribution in training practitioners for rural areas."

# Vice-Chancellor's Column

The Review of the Organisational and Administrative Structure of the University undertaken last year was the major topic for discussion at a planning retreat held last month. Senior members of University staff, representatives of the University Council, student leaders and staff unions attended the retreat.

The scene for our discussion of the future directions of the University was set with a presentation of background information about recent trends in the Australian higher education sector. A look at the diversity in organisational structures for Australian universities, a SWOT analysis, the recommendations of the Review, a summary of responses from staff and students following the review, and our record in key performance areas in teaching and research were all considered prior to the discussions.

Focusing on projections of the University in 10 to 15 years time, an exciting vision of the future emerged during the two day retreat. This included the University being:

- the University of 'first choice' in northern and western NSW;
- a creative, dynamic and innovative teaching and research environment;
- built on our strengths and prepared to exploit our potential;
- attractive to students and staff, and respected by the community;
- committed to lifelong learning, by the successful provision of enabling, undergraduate, coursework and research postgraduate, and 'tailored' professional programs with accessible entry and exit points;
- a major centre for rural/regional studies;
- a leader in online learning and a significant user of new technologies and new ways to learn and to undertake research;
- an exemplar of Indigenous higher education and research;

- equitable and accessible;
- known for seamless post-secondary education, particularly with TAFE;
- distinct in major areas as compared to other Australian universities;
- one University while having multiple campuses across NSW and internationally, as well as new style learning places on its campuses;
- renowned for outstanding professional education and research; and
- strongly linked to community needs in its teaching and research activities.

Discussion of the organisational structures to support these visions led to an agreement to recommend consolidation of the University's resources within five faculties. This would include academic coverage across three major 'professional' or 'prescribed degree' faculties:

- Health;
  - Engineering and Built Environment; and
  - Business and Law;
- and two major 'open degree' faculties:
- Education and Arts; and
  - Science and Information Technology.

It is anticipated that the 'new' faculties would enable a permeable, cooperative culture across the University and encourage interdisciplinary efforts in teaching, research and service. They will comprise 'synergistic academic activities', with capacities for sharing resources, capital, equipment and support staff, while enhancing research, research training and the operation of successful research centres. The recommended structure will also reduce academic organisational complexity, provide a higher level of devolved responsibility to the faculties and schools, and contribute to the University's strategic objectives.

It is proposed that each faculty would support between four and six schools, each led by a



head with high level academic, leadership, management and communication skills. The schools would not be formula driven but would be funded on performance, agreed strategic objectives, and for initiatives, and would represent the major 'building blocks' for academic activities at the University.

Administrative functions would be divided between three major divisions:

- Vice-Chancellor – including the offices of the Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, the President of the Academic Senate, and the Dean of Students. This division would be responsible for legal liaison/agreements and contracts (other than research); and enabling programs, Elicos and Unipath;
- Research and International – including the office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and responsible for research and research training, research facilities, centres and institutes, contracts and scholarships, Graduateschool.com, postgraduate studies, TUNRA, international student marketing and coordination;
- University Services – including the office of Vice-President University Services and responsible for finance, estates and services, human resource

management, information and education services, student services and administration, secretariat, corporate governance, marketing and media, 2NUR, prospective students, alumni relations, community relations, institutional statistics and staff development.

The University faces a time of unprecedented change in the global education environment as the result of advances in technology and the subsequent responses of governments. The proposed changes arising from considerations of the 2000 Review Report, the 95 submissions received following the Review, and the planning retreat will position the University to take advantage of the many opportunities offered by the information age. It is important to emphasise that the re-shaping of our organisational structures is a positive initiative and not a downsizing exercise.

During early March, there will be public meetings held within the University to discuss these structures and vision statements with the University community. I urge you to attend and participate in these forums:

- March 1: 1-2pm Central Coast Campus Lecture Theatre 2
- March 2: 1-2pm CT Building Room CT202 Callaghan Campus
- March 7: 1-2 pm Richardson Wing Room RW149 Callaghan Campus

# CRCs receive millions



Researchers at the University's CRC for Black Coal Utilisation

The University has been granted several million dollars over seven years in Federal Government funding for two new Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) – the CRC for Coal in Sustainable Development and the CRC for Construction Innovation.

Both CRC's are collaborations between Newcastle and other universities across Australia, and

will involve strategic research partnerships with industry.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Ron MacDonald, says the funding is further recognition of the University's role in major research projects across Australia.

"The University is continually strengthening its role as a leading research institution, engaging in

promoting research for real business outcomes," he said. "I am pleased to see funding for the continuation of the extensive research done by the Black Coal Centre, and I am thrilled that the Construction Management industry will now be able to invest in key research."

The CRC for Coal in Sustainable Development will continue the work of its predecessor, the CRC for Black Coal Utilisation. Of the total funding for the CRC, Newcastle will receive around one million dollars a year over seven years.

The CRC's Deputy Executive Director, Professor Terry Wall, says the Centre researches current methods of black coal use in steel making and power generation, and develops ways to improve efficiencies and environmental performance.

"The funding will allow the University a continuing association with BHP Innovations and the CSIRO, and comes at an important time as the CSIRO sets up its new operation at the Steel River site," he said. "Approximately 50 percent of the research of this CRC will now be done in Newcastle."

"It shows the government understands the importance of the coal industry, which is worth \$9billion a year to Australia, and

underlines the need for research to improve coal's performance in the areas of steel making and power generation, to comply with sustainable development policies and greenhouse emissions."

The CRC for Construction Innovation is a new Centre, and a first in Australia for the building industry.

Professor Chen, Swee-Eng, Head of the University's Department of Building, says it will be the most important research initiative for the building industry in Australia.

"Research spending in this area has been relatively low," he said. "But through this centre, we can expect about \$2million in research funding to flow to the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Design here at Newcastle over the next seven years, through the CRC."

The Centre will develop technologies and management systems in five related programs with the University joining the CSIRO in leading the Integrated Design and Construction Support Systems program.

"The aim of this will be to increase building productivity and improve materials, labour, plant and equipment utilisation through the development of intelligent design and construction support systems," Chen said.

# Helping children to communicate



L-R: Bernice Mathisen, Cindy Smith and Cindy Earle

Helping children with language development problems was the focus of a three-day workshop held at the University

from 1-3 February.

Hosted by the Department of Linguistics, the 'Involving Parents as Language Facilitators' workshop

instructed speech pathologists from across Australia in the techniques of the Hanen program. The Hanen program facilitates the language training of developmentally delayed children, and is available in NSW for only the second time.

Dr Bernice Mathisen, a lecturer in Speech Pathology, Department of Linguistics, and workshop coordinator, explains that the workshop empowered parents to be more effective as key developers of their child's language skills.

"The workshop demonstrated how the Hanen program

encourages parents to explore and capitalise on their child's emerging language skills through games, rhythm and rhyme, reading stories and music," explained Bernice. "The program is ideal for children whose language development is significantly delayed due to any problem such as autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, hearing impairment or overall developmental delay."

The workshop was conducted by Cindy Smith, a Sydney based speech pathologist, as part of her accreditation by Canadian-based Hanen program facilitator, Cindy Earle.

# Innovation statement: what it means for us

The success of the Prime Minister's \$2.9 billion Innovation Statement, *Backing Australia's Ability*, will depend on the distribution of the benefits included in the package, according to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Roger Holmes. The Innovation Statement has great potential to improve Australia's economy, the Vice-Chancellor says.

"The key to reducing unemployment, particularly in regional areas such as the Hunter and Central Coast, is to encourage business growth and promote further education to create a knowledge economy," Roger said. "The creation of 21,000 new full-time undergraduate places, a HECS-style system for postgraduate coursework programs, increased research and development tax concessions and more funding for the Australian Research Council are all ways to achieve this."

However he warned that the benefits of the package must be spread appropriately among all Australian universities.

"A number of areas of Australia, many of them regional, are in great need of the employment boost that a highly educated population can achieve," he said. "As a result, the distribution of the initiatives provided in this policy needs to be driven by the existing economic status of feeder regions to each of the universities."

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed an expected doubling in funding for the Australian Research Council (ARC). A part of this funding will support collaborative work with industry and encourage businesses to work with the expertise at universities, he said.

Dean of the Faculty of Science and Mathematics, Professor David Finlay, said the Government should be congratulated for the commitment shown to Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) in the statement.

"The Government's approach of asking the Chief Scientist to

conduct a full scale inquiry into science and innovation has produced a worthwhile outcome – the role that SET play, and will need to play in the future, in generating the national wealth is now on the record."

Australia needs to fall into line with countries with more advanced science and technology policies, including those to our immediate north, David said, and to nurture and support SET to get the real worth of our scientific creativity.

"The release of *Backing Australia's Ability* indicates that the country has responded to this challenge," he said. "The interweaving of pure research with applied or directed research is appropriate and consistent with the breadth of research interests at this University. The linking of discovery to commercial development provides real challenges for the University and will require a 'whole of University approach'."

Chief Executive Officer of the University's commercial arm, TUNRA, Dr Soozy Smith, says that the proposed government seed funding to develop research commercialisation projects to the venture capital ready stage was a starting point in an important process.

"The provision of seed funding is a start but it needs to be kept in perspective," she said. "There is a lot more that needs to be invested in convincing people that we will be an innovative country. Our whole way of thinking needs to change."

While she welcomed a proposal to increase tax concessions to 175 percent for investment in research and development, Soozy said she was sceptical that the offer only applied to "additional" amounts of investment, and excludes plant costs, to which the base rate of 125 percent still applies.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Ron MacDonald, said the seed funding for commercialisation was "very welcome" and would help bridge

the gap between basic research and its commercial application. The funding of \$78.7 million over five years, however, would probably only realistically fund around 200 instances where a research outcome is converted to a potentially marketable prototype, he said.

Ron also welcomed the introduction of a HECS type loan scheme for graduates to undertake postgraduate coursework. This is a valuable way to develop professionally and will encourage further moves to increase expertise across all professions and disciplines.

Although he supports the initiative, Ron is concerned about the fine details and has applauded plans by the Government's Department of Industry, Science and Technology to consult with universities on aspects of the innovation funding.

Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Professor Adrian Page, sees the innovation statement as a welcome change in government policy towards research in Australia.

"Increasingly, technology is seen as a key ingredient to

sustained economic growth, and so it is to the long term benefit of everyone in our community that such initiatives are introduced and supported."

While seeing the innovation statement as a well conceived and integrated scheme that will link secondary and tertiary education, university research, and industry, Adrian says it is essential that the funding is seen as merely the first step towards long term improvements in Australia's technological skills.

"Not only should funding continue to increase in the future, a significant proportion must be targeted at maths, science and technology education initiatives in schools to reverse the decline in interest in these areas," he said. "It is important to note that the definition of technology is very broad and encompasses areas of engineering, particularly fast growing disciplines such as telecommunications. Given the scheme's emphasis on researchers grouping together to form centres of excellence, we expect that the latest initiatives will help strengthen research collaboration within and outside the University."

## G·A·P COACH CHARTER

- 22 x 46 Passenger Air Conditioned Coaches
- Local, Interstate, Hourly, Daily or Extended Charter
- School, Social & Sporting Groups Welcomed
- Assistance available when planning your next tour
- Golf Holiday Specialists

### Contact Grant Petherbridge

48 Vine St, Mayfield 2304

Phone: (02) 4960 8080

Fax: (02) 4960 9393

Mobile: 0419 277 291

## Keeping PhDs in perspective



Leisure and Tourism Studies senior lecturer and last year's PhD Supervisor of the Year John Jenkins knows the value of a supportive teacher. It was his own PhD supervisors, John Pigram and Tony Sorensen from the University of New England, who inspired John to pursue studies in leisure and tourism and led him into his career.

"I nominated my own supervisors for an award when I finished my PhD," he said. "They were good communicators, always responded promptly to drafts, thoughts and ideas without ridicule and were generally supportive." The 40-year-old Jenkins was wooed away from his first love of geography, which he studied firstly at the University of NSW in his home town of Sydney, and then at UNE, by Pigram's course on the

'Geography of Leisure and Recreation'. He did his PhD thesis on Crown Land Policy Making in NSW, an area he says he was passionate about.

"I try to encourage people considering doing a doctorate to choose a topic they feel strongly about," he said. "I was lucky with my own topic and my supervisors helped it evolve as my ideas and interests developed in certain directions."

John says that a substantial growth in tourism in the 80s and 90s led to a strong push from government and the industry for greater education in the area. This coupled with strong diversity of employment opportunities for leisure and tourism students, has led to Australia having the most tourism courses per capita of any nation in the world. In a crowded

market, John says the Newcastle program has some advantages.

"I don't think there is another single university course that caters for such diverse needs as leisure and tourism studies. Students could end up in an isolated national park or behind the front desk of an urban hotel. One of Newcastle's strengths is that because it is based in the Faculty of Arts and Social Science, our students get a critical understanding of tourism rather than an approach that just lauds its benefits and sends them out into a career."

Newcastle's Department of Leisure and Tourism Studies also has an excellent research profile, although John says the discipline has struggled for acceptance in universities. He says people often joke that he works in the 'holiday program'.

"Uninformed outsiders don't realise that people have come into this discipline from diverse backgrounds including lawyers, policy analysts, geographers and scientists. In addition to a substantive research output (one of the highest in the Faculty), Leisure and Tourism Studies scores very highly in graduate evaluations of our teaching and has 12 full time staff who are widely published and respected."

Dianne Dredge and Sue Broad, who will both complete their doctorates this year, nominated John as Supervisor of the Year. He says one of the crucial ingredients for a good supervisor is flexibility, with different people

needing different things. While some students like to meet with their supervisor weekly or fortnightly and need additional guidance, others are independent workers. John says it's also important to be sympathetic to the students' broader lifestyles.

"I see PhD studies as a stepping stone and try to encourage students to keep their studies in perspective. I've often said to students not to worry unduly about their studies if they are under pressure in other areas of their lives – take the time to sort things out."

John says he likes teaching because he enjoys dealing with people and also enjoys research. He began his academic career at Central Queensland University in 1994. He moved to the University of Canberra where he completed his PhD in 1995 and pursued his interest in tourism policy, before coming to Newcastle in 1998.

"I was attracted to Newcastle by the reputation of the department and the position – but also by the lifestyle," John, who is a keen surfer, cyclist and rugby union coach, said. "It's a large department and I like the diversity of interests here and the strong emphasis on research."

John teaches several subjects including outdoor recreation and tourism management, and tourism policy and planning. He is coordinator of the Master of Applied Management (Tourism) and will continue to supervise Dianne and Sue's doctoral studies this year.

## Virtual reality in demand

A seminar on virtual reality (VR) technology held by the University's design department last month attracted attention from a diverse range of Hunter organisations and businesses.

The 'Virtual Reality – Cutting Edge Technology and its Applications in the Hunter' seminar drew more than 30 participants to the Industry Development Centre on February

15 to learn about its possibilities.

Head of the Department of Design in the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Design, Professor Tony Eddison, says the seminar has led to enquiries from several different organisations interested in using the University's VR facilities.

"VR is a flexible and affordable technology that allows businesses to test designs, model

traffic flow, and create prototypes. Some of the enquiries arising from the seminar include a request to create VR simulations of crimes, and a multi-media museum promoting the coal industry."

A generation beyond 3D modelling, VR has exciting applications in urban design, where architects and their clients can view their building concept.

"There are no limits to the

applications of VR technology – it's cost effective, interactive and produces photo-realistic results that enable literally everyone to view the product," Tony said. "The seminar demonstrated the University's capability to develop industry partnerships in VR, simulation, multimedia, web VR and rapid prototyping with Hunter and NSW companies."

## Delta puts faith in research



Mr van Zyl and Professor Holmes sign the Delta agreement, watched by Dean of the Faculty of Science and Mathematics Professor David Finlay, Chemistry Professor Geoffrey Lawrence and EMD Technical Director Mr Robert Gee

Delta EMD signed an agreement with the University last month to invest over \$200,000 in establishing the 'Delta EMD Lectureship in Applied Chemistry'.

The company will provide salary support for the lectureship and additional funding as research support for four years. Delta EMD produces nearly 20 percent of the world's Electrolytic Manganese Dioxide (EMD), used by the major global alkaline battery producers.

Since Delta EMD purchased the Newcastle plant in 1998, research and development expenditure has more than tripled. The support of this lectureship is part of Delta's commitment to grow its business in the long term.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Roger Holmes says he's delighted with the close partnership that has developed between the University, and a company that has made such a strong investment in Newcastle.

"I see the investment as further evidence of the teaching and research strength of the University," he said.

Mr Evan van Zyl, Chairman and Managing Director of Delta EMD Australia Pty Ltd, says the collaboration is a way to tap into appropriate expertise and assist in training future graduates.

Professor David Finlay, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Mathematics at the University, says

partnerships with industry are important.

"Signing with Delta today allows further development of our growing applied chemistry teaching and research initiatives," he said.

"We anticipate appointing a person with expertise in applied electrochemistry, an area in which the University currently lacks deep expertise, and one of great relevance to national priorities."

The appointment will mean a significant increase in research collaboration with Delta, and students will benefit from the expert knowledge of the lecturer and interaction with a high-tech world leader in its industry.

In addition to the lectureship, Delta EMD is currently supporting one PhD program in Applied Chemistry and has agreed this week to fund a further PhD program in Fundamental EMD Chemistry. The work in both of these projects will be significant, as they will involve work both at the University and onsite, utilising facilities within Delta's Newcastle pilot plant.

The links between the Newcastle EMD plant and the University stretch back over 13 years, during which time six Doctor of Philosophy candidates, two postdoctoral fellowships and a number of Masters and Honours projects have been supported.

# 3 ways

to add comfort to your home

## NATURAL LIGHT

**SOLA·TUBE**



**VELUX**

SKYLIGHTS

**Regent**



## VENTILATE

- Roof vents



- Roof ventilation systems

## INSULATE

- Polyester ceiling & wall batts
- **TRAKLOK** roller shutters

Call us **NOW**

**1800 354442**

*All work Guaranteed*

**Simply Genuine**

*"Simply the only choice in Skylights, Ventilation & Insulation"*

## Gardens or hothouses?



From left: Dr Yu with Associate Professor Laurie Makin, Professor Lyndall Ryan and two-year-old Will Perry

A seminar on curriculum for young children, entitled 'Gardens or Hothouses?' was held recently at the Ourimbah Campus of the Central Coast Campuses.

The seminar was a joint initiative of the Children and Education Research Centre (CERC) and the Yerra Early Childhood Studies Centre located

on the Campus.

Speakers in the morning sessions were Associate Professor June Wangmann, Manager of the NSW Office of Childcare within the Department of Community Services whose topic was '*Status and Professionalism: The Role of the NSW Curriculum Framework for Early Childhood Practice*'. Dilys Nicolson from the NSW Department of Education and Training whose presentation '*The Why, What and How of DET Priorities and Initiatives for Early Years in Education*' addressed prior to school and transition to school initiatives and the State literacy and numeracy plan for the early years of school.

Speakers in the afternoon sessions were Associate Professor Sue Dockett and Associate Professor Bob Perry, co-directors of the Starting School Research Project at the University of Western Sydney, who focused on effective transition to school programs and provided examples of some effective strategies developed through the Starting School Research Project.

A public address by Professor

Elizabeth Sulzby, from the University of Michigan, USA, entitled '*Engagement and growth as gauges of the 'curricular temperature' for young children*', created a lot of interest. Professor Sulzby is a visiting scholar at the CERC.

The CERC was officially opened at the seminar by Dr John Yu, Chancellor of the University of New South Wales and former Chief Executive of the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children in Sydney. Dr Yu applauded the establishment of the Centre and appealed to everyone in the audience to always advocate for children's rights and services. "In everything you do, in every setting, think about what is good for children. Lobby governments, demand the best services, provide the best education. They are our most important asset," Dr Yu said.

Director of the CERC, Associate Professor Makin, said she was delighted with the success of the day. More than 100 people participated. "This is the first of a series of seminars and activities we have planned," Professor Makin said.

## Commercial business manager appointed



Graeme Bevan

Graeme Bevan, newly appointed to the role of Commercial Business Manager at the Central Coast Campuses has arrived at just the right moment in the development of the institution.

With the recent

announcement of an innovative regional education model by the Minister for Education and Training, Mr John Aquilina, Graeme's role will become increasingly important.

The model has resulted in the establishment of a multi-campus, multi-sectoral institution, which incorporates the Gosford and Wyong Campuses of the Hunter Institute of Technology (TAFE) with the multi-sectoral Central Coast Campus at Ourimbah. The key objective of this new model is to maximise educational benefits and improve opportunities for the people of the Central Coast region.

With this aim in mind, Graeme's brief is to further develop community links, expand educational and training

opportunities for business organisations on the Central Coast and encourage fee-for-service relationships.

He is well qualified for the position, having spent the early years of his career as a marketer in industrial settings (both in Australia and England). He then ventured into a seven-year small business stint as the proprietor of several newsagencies in Sydney. In 1985, he embarked on a career with TAFE as a teacher of management, marketing and small business management.

"I had developed an empathy for small business which I could bring to the teaching role," said Graeme.

In 1990 he moved into the TAFE commercial arena, developing 'fee for service training'

and Workplace Training programs.

"I see my role here as a development one, but also an enhancement of services already available," he said. "The implementation of the Central Coast educational model gives us new opportunities and new directions and we should capitalise on those."

Graeme has lived on the Central Coast for 15 years, a fact that he sees as an added advantage in his understanding of the educational needs of the business community.

"We are aiming to position the Central Coast Campuses as not only providing degrees, vocational and adult education short courses, but also viable training facilitation for business organisations," he added.



# Mental health training in East Timor

A Newcastle social work lecturer has just returned from a journey to help train East Timorese workers to deal with the enormous trauma caused by the island nation's recent struggle for independence.

Allison Rowlands took part in an AUSAID funded project, Psychosocial Recovery and Development in East Timor (PRADET), that saw her spend two months in the hills behind Dili training more than 40 people in techniques to deal with the mental health problems left in the wake of the destruction wrought by war. Her involvement with PRADET came about through her membership of the Hunter branch of the Australian Association of Social Workers – the NSW branch of AASW is a member of the multi-agency management team of the project.

"PRADET has several aims," she explains. "It provides psychosocial trauma counselling and assistance to communities; emergency psychiatric outreach; training to other workers and non-government organisations (NGOs); and acts as a trauma resource centre for the whole country to draw upon."

Allison has done work in community recovery after disasters, as well as trauma work, with Department of Community Services State Disaster Recovery Centre. As well as providing ongoing training to 12 full-time case workers at the Lahane centre, she also carried on the training of 36 workers from rural and remote areas of East Timor. The topics she taught were community development, group work and brain injury (her own research and practice area).

The 36 students from remote areas were selected because of their involvement in their local communities and came from diverse backgrounds including nursing and the Catholic church.

"As I had hoped, they had a very intuitive sense of community development and rebuilding,"



Allison Rowlands (3rd from right at front) with staff and students at Lahane

Allison said. "They come from a very rural, participative society and they understand the theory better than many of our own students – their value base fits well with community empowerment."

As well as confronting the most basic needs of shelter, food, water and a shortage of health services, the East Timorese were confronting the legacy of violence left behind by the war. With around 80 percent of the population unemployed, domestic and gang violence reflect the frustrations of daily life in the ravaged country.

East Timor's health system has been badly affected by the widespread destruction and also by a history of neglect. There are not enough doctors, very few specialists and no psychiatric services. Despite their privations, however, Allison said the morale of the people was 'incredible'.

"I especially noticed that young adults and teenagers were always laughing and giggling," she said. "The Timorese community health workers that I got to know while I was there are cheerful, open, committed people, despite the fact that a couple of them had lost spouses and their homes and all of them had been affected by the war."

Allison lived and worked in the PRADET project headquarters in a badly damaged nursing school at Lahane from late November until the end of January. While the buildings she lived and taught in were renovated using AUSAID funding, the rural students and nursing students living in the compound were forced to sleep on the floor of buildings without running water, doors or power. The road to recovery will be long, Allison said.

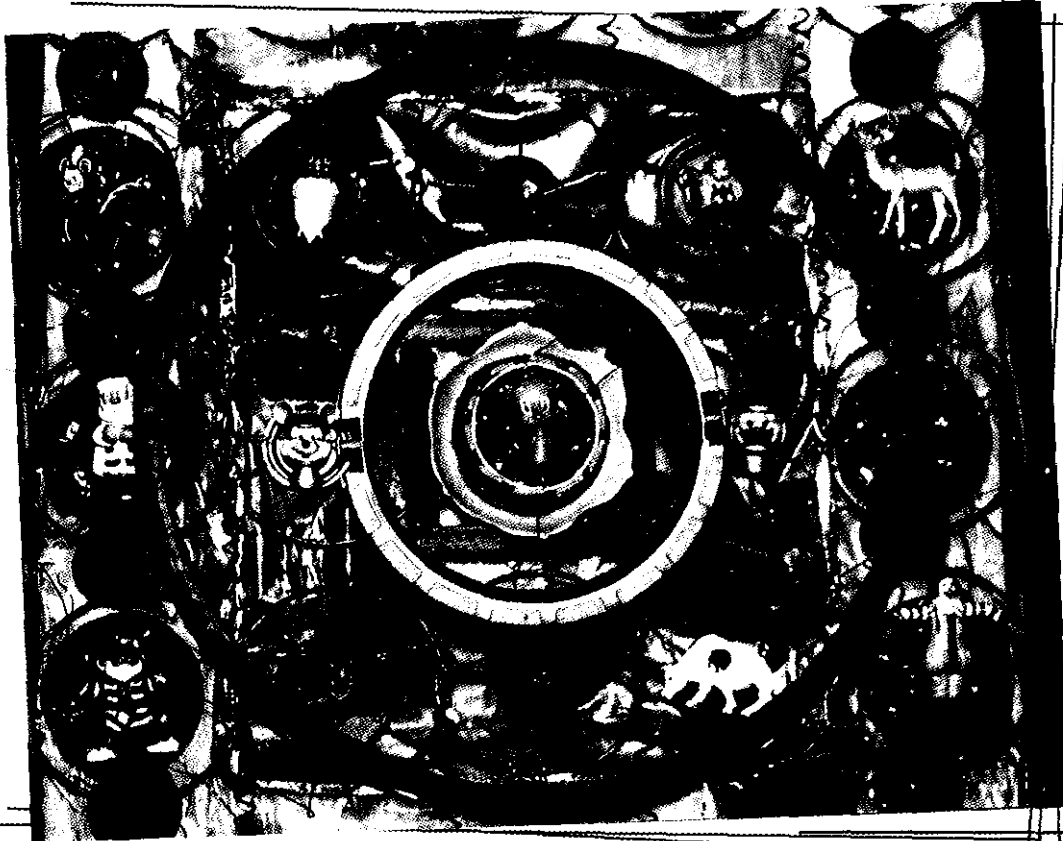
"There will always be mental health problems in any community and in East Timor there is a large number of long standing severe mental illness cases to attend to – people who have been psychotic for 15 or more years and have been restrained for all that time due to a lack of available treatment. Added to that, the effects of the violence, rapes and torture will take time to

ameliorate. The community development phase could emerge once some of this urgent work has been attended to."

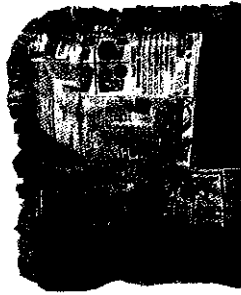
The PRADET project was established with Australians in the positions of Director and Clinical Supervisor and a Timorese Deputy Director. It is planned that the western management will be phased out and East Timorese will take their places as PRADET becomes an autonomous NGO. Another expectation is that it may form the foundation of a mental health section of the nation's health department. Allison also explored potential for social work and community development training with the University of East Timor and is looking at the possibility of collaborative research projects with PRADET and the University of NSW who is a partner to the project.



Allison snapped this impromptu Christmas message written on the PRADET whiteboard



Nobby



# Orientation Week

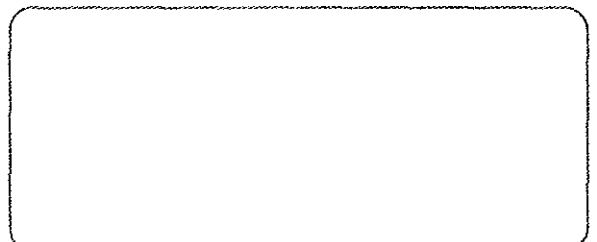
The University welcomed new students to the world of tertiary study with a series of events and activities for Orientation week, from Monday 19th to Saturday 24th February.

'O Week', as it's better known, offers students information on all aspects of university life, from sports clubs to workshops and becoming familiar with the Callaghan campus.

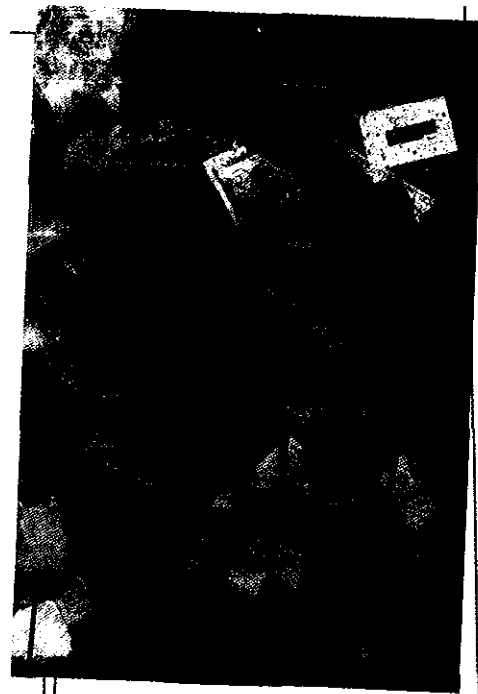
"Orientation Week gives first year students the opportunity to be introduced to the social, academic and residential aspects of university life," explains Robyn Drake, Deputy Secretary and Registrar. "It's a great time to get to know the university campus, meet other students and staff members, and learn about the various clubs and societies that are part of campus life."

The main feature of O Week is the Commencement Ceremony, in which the Vice-Chancellor formally opens the academic year, held in the Great Hall on Wednesday 21 February. The Central Coast campus held its Commencement Ceremony on Thursday 22 February.

Pictured here are Edwards Hall residents enjoying a Port Stephen's dolphin tour, canoeing at the Shortland Wetlands, and jumping for joy at Nobby's Beach. The main photograph is of international students playing volleyball on Dixon Park Beach and centre right is staff from the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Design welcoming new students with a barbecue.



# shing art



A recent exhibition at the Watt Space Galleries at University House could safely be accused of being "rubbish".

The Refuse exhibition, which ran at the galleries from February 7 to March 4, saw 23 Hunter artists use recycled materials to create art. Curated by Jennifer O'Brien, Ken O'Regan and Laraine Palmer, the exhibition aimed to raise awareness of the growing need to recycle.

The artists responded to the call to recycle in a variety of ways using diverse materials and processes, resulting in an exciting showcase of their work.

The images on this page are Ken O'Regan's 'Tweety Bird Mandala', Rebecca Peak's newsprint cushion, and Kim Blunt's untitled work. The works were photographed by Watt Space Curator Simone Paterson.



# Researcher discovers new use for satellite system



Colin Waters

A physicist with the Cooperative Research Centre for Satellite Systems at the University has achieved a major breakthrough in 'space weather' forecasting, allowing greatly improved understanding and forecasting of

global space weather.

Dr Colin Waters has been working with Dr Brian Anderson at the Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory in Maryland, USA, on alternative uses for the Iridium satellite telephone

system.

"The network was created by Motorola several years ago," explains Colin. "It's a \$US5billion constellation of 72 satellites which provided global telephone services to Motorola customers before it filed for bankruptcy last year. The good news is that the new entity, Iridium LLC, is committed to keeping the system running. The important aspect for our research, is that each satellite has a magnetometer, which measures Earth's magnetic field."

"That's like having 72 space-weather stations dotted across the globe. So as each satellite passes through the electric current and Earth's own atmosphere, its magnetometer can detect the signatures of that current. That means we have continuous measurements of the magnetic fields and electric currents above

Earth's poles."

Colin explained that by adding the magnetometer data to other radar measurements, he is able to see the global electrical power coming in to Earth. This allows continuous monitoring of electric currents between space and the Earth's upper atmosphere.

"It's important to understand and monitor space weather because it can disrupt power grids, communications, Global Positioning Systems, satellites and aircraft," he said. "By forecasting electrical activity at high altitudes we can prepare for power failures, reschedule airline flights and delay space walks until the problem has passed."

Dr Waters presented his research at a conference of the Cooperative Research Centre for Satellite Systems, held at Noah's On The Beach last month.

Reprinted courtesy of the Newcastle Herald

## Doing eCommerce in Australia



Mary-Anne Williams and Jack Pendray

Revenues for global e-business (commerce transacted over the Internet) exceeded \$95billion in 1999 and are predicted to exceed \$1.3trillion by 2003. But just how is the money being made, and how risky is it to try and involve a business in electronic commerce?

These and other key concepts of e-business, including the latest trends and emerging opportunities, were the focus of a seminar staged by the Graduate School of Business at University House last month.

Associate Professor Mary-Anne Williams, Director of the

Centre of Electronic Commerce for Global Business at the University, said that e-business represents a wave of change as significant as industrial revolution.

"We are living through a period of dramatic change, where there are unlimited opportunities," she said. "The online revolution has seen a change from a marketplace to a market-space."

The exponential growth of global communication systems will spell the demise of many traditional business structures, some overnight, Mary-Anne says, and herald radical changes in work, business, services and money.

"The real winners in e-business are those in service industries, such as real estate sales and the job market, with online tourism set to be huge," she said.

'Doing eBusiness in 2001' attracted executives, decision makers and team members involved in developing and maintaining eCommerce strategies. Topics included effective email strategies; increased awareness of Internet marketing and customer

relationship management; greater understanding of Business to Business and Business to Customer practices; and how to effectively implement eBusiness solutions.

Professor Jack Pendray, who has extensive experience with eCommerce in the United States, told participants how to do e-business in 2001 and beyond.

"eBusiness is alive and well and living in Australia," he said. "It is an inevitable part of business now and in the future."

Professor Tony Travaglione, Director of the Graduate School of Business, says the seminar helped businesses and executives demystify what's been taking place in eCommerce. "In the wake of last year's eBusiness stock slide, and with more mainstream companies going online, this was an opportunity to discuss the key concepts and trends in this most important area of the business environment," he said.

The seminar was the first in a series planned by the Executive Programs section of the GSB for this year.

# The future of music is here

The University's Faculty and Conservatorium of Music has taken a step into the musical future with the introduction of two new postgraduate courses in Music Technology.

Technology is playing an increasingly important role in the way music is recorded, performed, taught and promoted, with the Internet providing musicians with opportunities that didn't exist several years ago.

The Master of Music Technology and the Graduate Certificate (Music Technology) have been developed in response to demands from the music industry for education in this rapidly expanding field. The hi-tech courses enable music teachers, performers, composers and sound engineers to update their technology skills and take advantage of new advances in the field.

Nathan Scott, Lecturer in Music Technology at the Conservatorium, says the courses are designed to bring people working seriously in the music industry up to date on what technology can do for them.

"We're not just talking about technology, we're using it," he said.

"The courses are flexibly delivered through distance learning using email and the Internet, and we believe they are a first for Australia."

Demand for the courses had exceeded initial expectations, Nathan said, with more than 200 requests for prospectuses from every state in Australia as well as enquiries from Bulgaria, Denmark, New Zealand, Malaysia and Brunei. Over 25 students have enrolled for Semester 1.

"There have been a lot of exciting developments for Music Technology this year," Nathan said. "In addition to our first intake for the postgraduate courses, we will also be offering Music Technology as a major study area in the undergraduate Bachelor of Music course for the first time."

Students will be able to undertake Music Technology as a double major in addition to the study of their chosen musical instrument, promoting diversification in the traditional discipline. Music Technology also has a full schedule of visits by school students planned for 2001.

"Students come to the Conservatorium to use the Music Technology facilities for



*Nathan Scott*

composition, sound recording and film soundtrack creation. Last year over 200 students came from government and private schools throughout NSW. Bookings for 2001 suggest we will easily exceed last year's figures."

In addition, the Faculty of Music was recently endorsed as an "Authorised Finale Music Notation

Training Centre" – a training centre for Finale software from the USA, which allows musicians to create printed musical scoring. This is the first time an Australian institution has been granted this status.

For further information on the postgraduate courses visit <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/musictech>.

## Major GPS company enters University partnership

The University has entered into a partnership that will see it become a certified Trimble Navigation trainer, using Trimble Global Positioning Systems (GPS) in undergraduate, postgraduate and staff education and training.

Managing Director of Trimble Asia, Robert Lorimer, and Sales and Marketing Manager Australasia (Engineering and Construction Division), Dennis Lewis, presented \$250,000 worth of satellite equipment to the University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Roger Holmes, on January 24.

Faculty of Engineering staff will be trained to use the equipment, and will then be

qualified to operate commercial courses in the training of Trimble GPS for surveying practitioners.

Professor John Fryer, Head of the Department of Civil, Surveying and Environmental Engineering, says Newcastle is the only university in NSW to receive this equipment from Trimble.

"We are delighted that Trimble has chosen us to be its partner in education. This puts the University at the leading edge of GPS surveying, and creates a revenue opportunity for us by allowing us to offer Trimble GPS training at commercial rates," he said. "In addition, we will build use of the Trimble GPS into our

undergraduate courses, and research students as well as staff will also have access to it."

Professor Fryer says the equipment is the type now being used by surveying and engineering companies. "It is lightweight, fast, extremely accurate, and is state of the art in positioning points on the Earth's surface."

Trimble Navigation and the University will offer a scholarship to a commencing student in surveying, from 2002.



*John Fryer tries out the GPS equipment*

# Inclusive teaching for students with a disability



Interpreter Karen Lantry with lecturer Ken Sutton

A recently released guide for academic staff on inclusive practices for students with disabilities will help take the guesswork out of dealing with a range of situations in the classroom, according to the University's Disability Liaison Officer Liz Shanley.

The booklet, produced as a Universities Disabilities Cooperative Project and funded by the Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs, not only outlines the legal requirements under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992, but provides teaching and assessment strategies and suggests adjustments that can be made for various disabilities. It also includes a glossary of disabilities and medical conditions, which gives academics an understanding of how each condition might affect a student's ability to attend lectures, take notes and carry out assessment tasks.

"A lot of the suggestions in the guide will improve communication with the whole class and not just students with disabilities," Liz said. "They include being careful to talk to the class and not to the board, using microphones and other technologies available in lecture theatres, and handing out copies of overheads to students."

Liz says that many of the University's lecturers are already

doing the things suggested by the guide and that inclusive practices needn't mean much extra work preparing. She said the number of students registering with the Disability Support Service has increased dramatically in the past decade.

"The more obvious a student's disability, the more likely they are to declare it on their application form and seek help through our unit," Liz said. "Two areas that we are seeing more of now is mental illness and learning disabilities. While there is still a lot of hesitancy in declaring mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, seeking help can make a student's path a lot easier."

Bachelor of Commerce graduate, Leanne Bennett, says that her first year of study was 'horrendous' because she wasn't aware of the support that the university could provide. Leanne, who has a back injury that prevents her from sitting for extended periods of time, says that her first year results reflected her problems coping.

"From the time I became involved with the Disability Support Service and communicated with lecturing staff about my specific needs, my results improved," she said. "My time at uni was made much easier knowing that support was available when and if I needed it."

Leanne said that academic staff in economics, commerce and law were extremely helpful once she'd explained her circumstances. Their support for her included extensions for assessment tasks when required, and acceptance of her need to occasionally stand in lectures and tutorials.

"I'd advise others with disabilities not to be afraid to speak to your lecturers," Leanne said. "I found that when I explained the situation, my lecturers often had ideas on how to get around a problem."

Amanda Hilton, who is in the second year of her studies towards a combined Bachelor of Arts/ Bachelor of Teaching degree, has profound hearing loss in both ears. She said that Liz and the support unit staff had exceeded her expectations last year.

"When I started uni I requested an interpreter but didn't think Liz would be able to find one in Newcastle," Amanda said. "I was really surprised to turn up on the

first day of lectures and find that she had arranged one. It's just made things so much easier for me. I was also lucky to be able to get a note taker too."

Amanda has also had positive experiences with her lecturers and tutors, with one tutor going to learn sign language after having her in a class.

"All my tutors have been absolutely fantastic about having me in their classes and having Karen my interpreter there," she said. "Most of the students have been really great too, with many trying to sign or gesture when they talk to me. The support especially from the education department has been wonderful."

The *Inclusive Practices for Students with Disabilities* guidebook will be available through heads of departments, deans, faculty advisers and departmental secretaries or can be ordered through Liz Shanley in the Disabilities Support Service at [student-support@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:student-support@newcastle.edu.au).



**HUNTER**  
**Low energy**  
**SYSTEMS**

*Quality Products to Make Your Home Safe, Healthy and Energy Efficient*

- **The "Breeze Power" fan:** Installed above the ceiling, the fan cools by drawing breezes of fresh air through windows and into the living areas, while expelling hot air from the roof space. The Breeze Power provides quiet and effective cooling for around three cents an hour.
- **Quantum Heat Pump Water Heating:** A world-class product manufactured locally, which can reduce electricity usage for water heating by up to 75%. The heat pump draws heat from the sun or surrounding air, providing hot water all year round – regardless of weather conditions.
- **Radiant Heating:** With heating cables in the floor, low wattage foil heating in the ceiling, or wall-mounted panel heaters, you can enjoy safe, economical and allergy-free winter comfort. Radiant heat provided a gentle and uniform rise in temperature with no draughts or hot spots.
- **"Insulcoat" heat reflective roof paint:** A new coating technology that reflects up to 94% of the sun's heat energy, reducing the roof temperature by up to 40 degrees in summer. Buildings become more comfortable, and air conditioning costs are reduced – or even eliminated in some cases.
- **The "E-Co Shower":** Another local product – a shower-head that halves water consumption and reduces water heating costs without loss of shower comfort.

**116B Elder Street Lambton • Telephone: 4956 2577**

# Australia's bid for the atomic bomb

Australian foreign policy after World War II was based on the development of nuclear weapons, according to a controversial new book by senior lecturer in history Wayne Reynolds.

In *Australia's Bid for the Atomic Bomb*, released last month, Wayne rewrites accepted Australian post-war history by contending that successive Australian governments collaborated with the British in attempts to develop a bomb.

The official line has always been that the development of rockets at Woomera and the testing of atomic weapons at Maralinga and other Australian sites was essentially a British exercise, with Australia simply providing "suitable real estate". Through painstaking and extensive research in archives and libraries around the world, Wayne has shown that Australia was actively pursuing nuclear capability in the post-war period. In his book, he says that the nuclear weapons deterrent project lay behind the great reconstruction

schemes of the Curtin-Chifley Labor governments and later the Menzies Government, including the Snowy Mountains Scheme and the Australian National University.

The assumption that Australia would one day be a nuclear weapons state drove post-war defence planning, Wayne says. "It explains the development of the RAAF bomber force, the decision to commit forces into Asia and, of course, the initiation of nuclear weapons tests on the Australian mainland."

Wayne began to form his theory on our atomic aspirations while researching for his PhD thesis in the Australian and British government archives.

"I was aware by the time I finished my PhD in the early 90s that Australia had strong links to Britain after WWII," he said. "The British were talking to us in ways the Americans weren't – in terms of defence and trade cooperation."

It was during a 1994 sabbatical in England, however,

that Wayne discovered the nuclear connection.

"I stumbled onto documents of the British Home Defence Committee, looking at how to disperse industry, power grids, etc in the event of WWII," he explains. "The British knew they couldn't survive a nuclear attack because they couldn't disperse their industry and I began to wonder if Australia was involved in the discussions."

Wayne says the penny dropped when he realised that the British were trying to reproduce the nuclear capability of the United States without their cooperation at the end of the war and had looked to their empire to support them.

"I remember one particularly cold and miserable day in the Public Records Office when I began to think that it had to be about the bomb."

Wayne, who graduated from

his Bachelor of Arts and Diploma of Education at Newcastle in 1972 and worked as a high school teacher for 17 years, came to academia late, driven by a long-standing love of history. *Australia's Bid for the Atomic Bomb*, published by Melbourne University Press with the assistance of the Department of History, was launched at the University on February 28 by Professor Roy Macleod of the University of Sydney.



## Get Your Team Together Now!

*The Forum's Sports Competitions commence Sunday 11th March 2001*



Mixed Netball  
(Sunday Nights)

Ladies Netball  
(Tuesday Nights)

Mixed Volleyball  
(Friday Nights)

Mixed, Mens or Ladies Basketball  
(Monday Nights)



**~FREE REGO FOR UNIVERSITY STAFF TEAMS~**

\*conditions apply

For more details plus nomination forms, please contact The Forum on: (02) 4921 7001.

**HURRY!! TEAM SPACES ARE LIMITED INDIVIDUAL PLAYERS WELCOME**



## Barahineban

# Campus and facilities news



*Accommodation designed to form a cohesive community*

Barahineban, the most recent residential accommodation on the Callaghan campus, has been completed in time for occupancy for the 2001 academic year. This major project, which began in January last year, was delivered within a very tight timeframe for such a large-scale complex. Residents are already in occupation, with only a few items – including the final touches to landscaping – to be completed.

Barahineban is an Aboriginal word meaning 'a bright place to live'. A painting reflecting this theme has been commissioned by the University from local Indigenous artist Mini Heath. This work will be hung at the entrance of the building.

Barahineban provides 96 units of accommodation suitable for single, twin or double occupancy, with six units set up for people with a disability. Most residents have opted to occupy the units as singles.

The complex has been designed using some ideas that arose from the former temporary 'Village' constructed on the same site after the 1989 earthquake. These centre around the elements which helped form a cohesive community amongst the Village residents and made it a popular place to live – communal

circulation space with welcoming seating dotted near front doors and lots of informal opportunities for interaction between residents.

The complex is designed to be as energy efficient as possible. Water is heated by an extensive array of solar collectors, with backup provided by efficient natural gas boilers. All power use in rooms is controlled by 'smart card', so power is switched off when residents are away. In designing the complex, natural air movement was computer modelled to maximise comfort, although the rooms are also equipped with an energy efficient air conditioning system for the extremes of summer and winter.

### Parking gains

In 1997 the University Council introduced the Motor Vehicle Entry Fee to manage our parking facilities effectively. Recent improvements were made with the reconstruction of carparks 11 and 13, providing more than 100 additional bays. The \$5million multi-level undercover parking facility now under construction will be operational later this semester and will provide an additional 350 parking spaces.

The Council has approved an increase in casual parking fees this year to help repay some of the costs of providing onsite parking

and to establish a fund to investigate innovative initiatives for alternative transport modes. Ten percent of one day parking permit revenue will be directed into this initiative, which will be guided by a committee including Council members and the Newcastle University Student Association (NUSA).

The two forms of one day permits now cost \$1.50. Scratch and Display tickets are available from the University Union and other outlets, and Pay and Display permits are available from vending machines located in all major car parks. However, staff and students can make considerable savings by purchasing yearly or half-yearly permits. Application forms for these are available from Physical Planning and Estates.

The increase in parking fees is intended to redirect some of the considerable costs of providing parking. Ongoing improvements to the public transport service to the campus, and onsite infrastructure such as cycleways and the Security Shuttle Service, are providing increasingly convenient alternate modes of transport and it is hoped that staff and students will consider these options for at least some of their trips to and from Callaghan.

### Water Sensitive Urban Design

PPE's Senior Architect Planner Philip Pollard recently presented a paper at a Water Sensitive Urban Design conference

hosted by the Regional Environmental Management Strategy group.

The conference was held on February 20 at the University's Nursing Building – itself considered a world benchmark for Ecologically Sustainable Design (ESD). More than 90 stakeholders including consultants, and representatives from local government and organisations such as the Environment Protection Authority, attended the one-day seminar. The conference concluded with a field trip conducted by our groundbreaking (literally!) Landscape Manager Mim Woodland. Mim highlighted the many water management features including the new roundabout at the Western Entrance and our constructed wetlands.

### New Western roundabout

While the students were away over the vacation, a major new roundabout has been completed at the top of the Western Entrance drive. This work was necessitated by the new multi-level car park, currently under construction downhill from the Great Hall. Operations Manager Peter Lloyd says traffic using the western entrance should flow more smoothly. Peter also highlighted that the roundabout has been designed to be fully "mountable" to accommodate long or heavy vehicle access to the campus. However, regular vehicles should use the roundabout as a conventional facility.



*The Western entrance roundabout will help traffic flow*

### Vice-Chancellor's Awards for General Staff Excellence

The presentation ceremony for the Vice-Chancellor's awards has been rescheduled to March 16 at 12.30pm in the Great Hall.



# iesd

## Rhona Beare

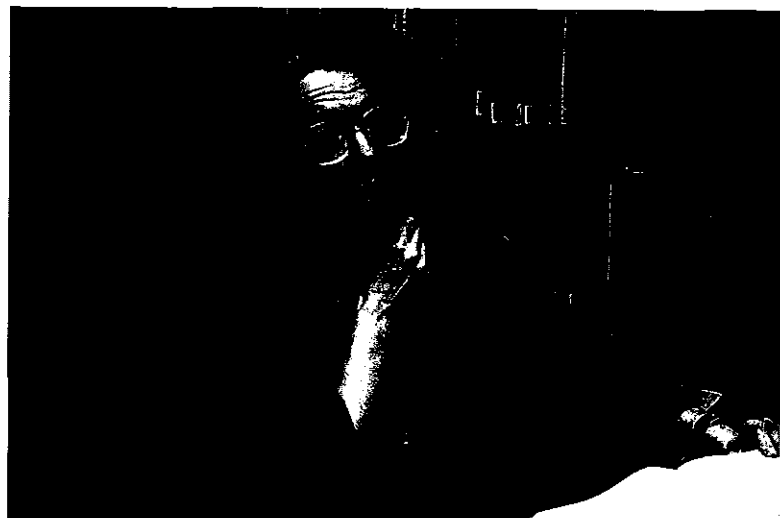
*Dr Rhona Beare returned to England on 14<sup>th</sup> December, after 35 years in the Department of Classics. Mick Fauchon, who has worked in Library since 1969, has written this tribute one of the Auchmuty's most valued readers.*

Any institution acquires its share of characters with the passage of time, a university no less than any other, and many of these have an endearing and enduring quality. From my perspective, it seems as though Rhona was always here, and even though I didn't ever have the pleasure of being taught by her, I

can always recall her being an obvious presence on the campus from the time it moved here from Tighe's Hill.

The Library is a focal point in any university and it's not surprising that Rhona made a great deal of use of the facility. I have no doubt she would be equally well known on her usual path to the University – by bus – but she was an inveterate and energetic walker.

She had also acquired a reputation for erudition and an encyclopaedic memory of things classical (eminently well-deserved), and far beyond, and these she was always ready to share at any time. Related to this was her willingness and cheerfulness, and her busyness, in fact she always seemed to be 'on the way' somewhere –



which didn't mean that she wouldn't stop to engage in a lively discussion, of which I can recall many, always informative and enjoyable.

Rhona is a character whose

endearing qualities can only be enhanced by the passage of time, and though I wish her all the very best for her return to England, her going will leave a gap that will be difficult to fill.

## Internet access changes

During Semester One this year, the Internet usage of staff and students will be monitored, to gather data to guide the development of an Internet Access Policy for the University. To achieve this there will be some changes in how you use the Internet – most notably that your web browser will prompt you for a username and password when you first access an off-campus web-site.

These changes will come into effect on 12<sup>th</sup> March and will require you to make some simple preparations. You may make these changes prior to 12<sup>th</sup> March without disrupting your Internet access.

### What must I do?

**Students:** Set up your Internet

user account and password at <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/iap/> students. This only applies to students commencing in 2001.

Students continuing from previous years can use their student username without further action.

**Staff:** Set up your Internet user account and password at <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/iap/staff>. Change the proxy server setting\* on your web browser to: <http://proxy.newcastle.edu.au/proxy.pac>. Your Internet account is separate from your modem account.

**Conjoints, associates and other non-salary individuals:** Set up your Internet user account and password at <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/iap/> conjoints. Change the proxy server

setting\* on your web browser to <http://proxy.newcastle.edu.au/proxy.pac>.

\*Users located at Hunter Area Health Service sites (ie behind the firewall) should not change their proxy server setting.

### Internet Traffic Monitoring : Why?

The University has in the past provided free unrestricted use of the Internet for its staff and students. This usage has grown to be a major cost that can no longer be sustained. The cost of this resource to the University has increased from \$177,000 in 1998 to more than \$900,000 in 2000.

Along with other universities in Australia, the University is considering measures that will encourage responsible Internet use

– that is, the use for learning, research and work purposes (refer to the University's policy on Acceptable Use of the Internet at the web-site shown below). To do this, a trial is being implemented for the first semester of 2001, which will monitor Internet use. Students and staff will be able to check their own usage and the University will be able to determine aggregate levels of use by various user groups. This information will inform subsequent efforts to define an Internet Access Policy.

For detailed instructions regarding these changes and the University's broad directions regarding Internet access go to <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/iap>.

## SkillBuilder

In March, IESD will be launching a new system for online training and development for staff and students. SkillBuilder is a web-based application, which divides approximately 400 courses into different areas of learning. These encompass personal development, basic and advanced computer skills and a range of specialised information technology courses. Instruction in a course consists of

a learning objective, a training activity and an assessment. Although stored on the Web server, the courses can be downloaded onto a PC or laptop, where you can undertake the course at your own pace. On completion of the course, the activity is uploaded back to the Web for assessment. Watch this space for further details next month.

## What's on

### March 6-17

Clark in Sarajevo – a new play dealing with the siege of the city of Sarajevo in the 90s. Drama studio from March 6-17, Tuesday to Saturday at 7.30pm. Bookings taken by Department of Drama on ext 5001.

### March 7-25

Watt Space Galleries presents 'X' in the Loading Dock and The

Pit – an exhibition of painting, drawing, ceramics, sculpture and photography by 10 artists; 'Art Market' by Ashley Whamond in the Locker Room; 'Obsession' by Tonia Gardiner in the Hoist; and 'Two Vein Ladies Presents Dolls and Divas' by Carly Leonard and Serena Thiem in the Long Room. Wednesday to Sunday 12-6pm, phone 4921 5188.

## For sale

**Executive home** in Rankin Park. Elevated, with bush views on all sides. Raked ceilings, exposed beams, 3-4 bedrooms, with separate study, and self contained studio apartment below. Just 4 minutes from John Hunter Hospital, 9 minutes from University. Around \$270,000. Ian on extn 6088 or [iw@ee.newcastle.edu.au](mailto:iw@ee.newcastle.edu.au).

**Country style three seater lounge** and two chairs, solid pine frame with green tartan-type covers, excellent condition, \$800 ono. Peg Perego pram, navy blue and white (material slightly worn on arms), sturdy frame, excellent condition, \$70 ono. Please contact Anne Burtoft on 4921 6444 (w) or 4975 2139 (h).

## For sale by tender 01/01

The following items are available for sale by tender.

Item 1: Computer; Pentium 200, 64Mb Ram, 2Gb Hard disk drive, 15" monitor & NT Workstation v4, Serial Number 01847-8

Item 2: Computer; Pentium 200, 64Mb Ram, 2Gb Hard disk drive, 15" monitor & NT Workstation v4, Serial Number 01873

Item 3: Computer; Pentium 200, 64Mb Ram, 2Gb Hard disk drive, 15" monitor & NT Workstation v4, Serial Number 01847-5

Item 4: Computer; Pentium 200, 64Mb Ram, 2Gb Hard disk drive, 15" monitor & NT Workstation v4, Serial Number 01847-4

Item 5: Computer; Pentium 200, 64Mb Ram, 2Gb Hard disk drive, 15" monitor & NT Workstation v4, Serial Number 01847-1

Item 6: Computer; Pentium 200, 64Mb Ram, 2Gb Hard disk drive, 15" monitor & NT Workstation v4, Serial Number 01847-6

Item 7: Computer; Pentium 200, 64Mb Ram, 2Gb Hard disk drive, 15" monitor & NT Workstation v4, Serial Number 01847-7

Item 8: Computer; Pentium 200, 64Mb Ram, 2Gb Hard disk drive, 15" monitor & NT Workstation v4, Serial Number 01847-2

Item 9: Computer; Pentium 233,

128Mb Ram, 2Gb Hard disk drive, 17" monitor & NT Workstation v4, Serial Number 02705-1

Item 10: Computer; Pentium 233, 128Mb Ram, 2Gb Hard disk drive, 17" monitor & NT workstation v4, Serial Number 02777-1

Item 11: Computer; Pentium 200MMX, 64Mb Ram, 2Gb Hard disk drive, 15" monitor & NT workstation v4, Serial Number 2063

Item 12: Computer; Optima Disk Drive with CD & zip S/N 49790-1-1197, Honeywell keyboard S/N j962421773 & Mouse & Optima Multimedia Speakers (NO MONITOR with this unit)

For further information please contact Lorraine Alley Ext 5202

The goods are sold in "as is" condition and the University reserves the right to reject any or all tenders.

Tenders close on Friday, 23rd March, 2001 at 11:30am and should be forwarded to: The Tender Box, Supply Section, The University of Newcastle, University Drive, Callaghan 2308. Please mark clearly on the sealed envelope "TENDER 01/01".

## For rent

**Semester 1**, Tingira Heights – charming, spacious three bedroom house in bush setting. Three years old, open fire, polished floors, attic study area. Close to Lake Macquarie, 20 mins to Uni, 1min to bus. Some furniture can be made available if needed. \$250 per week. Contact Debbie on 65593354, [daplath@mail.newcastle.edu.au](mailto:daplath@mail.newcastle.edu.au)

**Experienced** single female house-sitter (BCom - Newcastle, MBA-Griffith,QLD). Honest, clean and reliable (non-smoker), loves animals (brought up on a farm), competent with garden and pool care, available for short and long term, housesitting references will be supplied. Contact Jackie on 0412 441 717 or leave message with Wendy on 4946 1949.

## Security gates installed

Security gates have recently been installed on campus at the following locations:

- Engineering Close
- McMullin Lane
- Architecture Way
- Wirra Crescent

Gates are open 7am-11pm weekdays and closed after these hours, including weekends and public holidays. The gates have been installed following a spate of thefts from buildings involving break, enter and escape by offenders using vehicles. Closing off certain inner campus access roads during the evening and on weekends will make it difficult for vehicles to enter and/or leave the campus. In addition the closure of these gates will assist Security Services staff to investigate any vehicles that, by virtue of being on the campus after hours, could be here with criminal intent.

Any member of staff who is working during the security gates' closing times and are effected can ring the University Security staff for assistance on 4921 5729 or 4921 5888. The latter phone number rings through to a two-way radio system, and parties need to allow a few seconds between communicating with each other.

While there may be some inconvenience for the University community, the overall objective of installing gates is to prevent potential felons from having easy access to buildings to commit their crimes and even easier escape paths when their deed is done.

Forum patrons using Wirra Crescent should enter and exit using either of the University's two main University Drive entrances.

## Bookshop opening



*Margaret Lockwood prepares for the student onslaught*

United Campus Bookshops (UCB) are now established on the Callaghan campus and for a short period in Semester 1 will also operate from University House. UCB was appointed as on campus bookshop following a competitive tender process last year.

The Vice-Chancellor officially opened the refurbished bookshop on February 21. Managing Director of UCB Kristian Romuld expressed delight at UCB becoming part of the University.

Manager Margaret Lockwood is preparing for a busy period.

Margaret, who worked at the Coop Bookshop at Callaghan for eight years, has extensive experience in the book industry including five years at Dymocks and three years at Pan Books.

Currently UCB services more than 140,000 tertiary students in NSW through bookshops in TAFE colleges and at the University of Western Sydney. The University of New England bookshop will come under UCB management in September.

Contact Margaret by phoning 6009 or 4960 3045, fax 4960 3038; email: [email@ucb.net.au](mailto:email@ucb.net.au)

# Health, Safety and Development

## Putting theory into practice

by Barry Anderson\*

One of the things that I remember about my supervising days in engineering is having to deal with new university graduates. I perceived them as only knowing what was in 'the book' and lacking the experience that only on the job training can provide. Now, many years later, as a mature age full-time OH&S student, I find myself quickly approaching that time when someone will perceive me as one of those new graduates who doesn't know how the 'real world' operates. It was with this in mind that I approached the Health Safety and Development Team to gain work experience by participating in a typical OH&S team environment.

Being a large institution, the University offers excellent opportunities to experience and observe the Industrial Relations umbrella that OH&S must operate under. It affords an opportunity to expand on the theory introduced in the OH&S degree, especially the Management and OH&S Practice strands. In addition to this, work experience gives a sense of purpose. For instance, being involved in the drafting of a

University Manual Handling Policy was a chance to put into practice what 'the book' says and to adapt what it says to the workplace. It is probably how confidently you can adapt the theory to the workplace that determines how well you are perceived once you have graduated.

Thanks to a patient and supportive team, my work experience has been both rewarding and enlightening. For example, it has highlighted some of the many and varied issues affecting an environment such as the Callaghan campus. The University is an extremely complex OH&S environment. Where a typical workplace has a narrow range of hazards, the University must deal with a whole range of industries, occupations and tasks. These include education, medicine, arts, science, hospitality, engineering, construction, electrical, banking, transport and the list goes on. Occupational groups represented include managers and administration, clerks, professionals, para-professionals, plant operators, tradespersons, etc. Some of the tasks involve pouring hot metal



Barry Anderson

into castings for sculptures, handling infectious or hazardous substances, and preparing food to name a few.

So the complexity of issues involved in putting together a University Manual Handling Policy that covers the field begins to emerge the further you research the issues and background. However I am pleased to say that the skills developed and the issues covered by the OH&S degree are relevant to the workplace and enabled me to contribute in a positive way to a worthwhile project. Further, the mentor/

student relationship that workplace experience provides is crucial to the utilisation of these skills and has given me the confidence to project a more positive image as my experience grows. With more work experience planned over the coming year, I am confident of a smoother transition into the 'real world' on graduation.

*\*Barry Anderson is a final year student in the Bachelor of Occupational Health and Safety. Over the last few weeks Barry has spent time with the Health, Safety and Development Team in the Human Resource Management Branch doing work experience.*

## Rural students look into a medical career

Forty students from regional NSW considered future careers in medicine as part of the Rural High Schools Medicine Career Workshop held by the University on January 23 and 24.

The Workshop allowed school students to experience university life, meet academic staff and students, and learn more about a diverse range of career options in medicine.

"There is evidence that medical students who come from rural areas are more likely to return to work in rural areas after graduation," explains Dr Kevin Sweeney, Senior Lecturer in General Practice at the University. "The workshop is one way we encourage more students from rural areas to apply for our medical degree course."

Currently only about 15 percent of applicants for Newcastle's medical course are from rural areas, and with 27 percent of Australia's population living in rural areas there is a strong demand for medical professionals.

The students came from rural areas all over the state including Albury, Bathurst, Cowra, Dubbo, Griffith, Kempsey, Narrabri, Scone, Tamworth, and Wagga Wagga. The workshop was held as part of the Rural High Schools Medicine Career Week in conjunction with the Universities of Newcastle, NSW, and Sydney.



*Touring the Westpac Rescue Helicopter base at Broadmeadow as part of the Rural High Schools Medicine Career Workshop*



# Leaving them in our wake

The University's Water Skiing Club successfully defended their championship status by winning the 2001 Australian University Water Ski and Wakeboarding Championships in Mildura at the end of January.

A relatively small team competed in all categories over the week long competition, defeating teams from 16 other universities around the nation to come out as overall

tournament winners and take first prize overall in the wakeboarding. It was the first time that wakeboarding has been an official part of the annual competition, which was hosted this year by Melbourne's RMIT.

Club secretary and final year law student Stuart Clout said the team members were delighted to win the competition again this year.

"We were really happy we won, especially considering the club's star skier - and one of Australia's leading skiers - Chris Cockburn was coaching in New Zealand and didn't compete," he said. "It was the highest standard of competition of any of the championships so far, as well, with international standard skiers including Joel Wing and Andrew Morris competing against us."

Stuart said teamwork was the secret of success for Newcastle, with all eight team members doing their bit towards the victory. Outstanding performances at the championships included third place in the jump and slalom events for David Smith, 2nd in the trick and 3rd in the slalom for Nadine Ash, and 2nd in the wakeboard for Jennifer Newton. The Men's Team were the best overall.

"It was great to realise how healthy the ski club is at Newcastle," he said. "We've seen a lot of people getting involved in the sport as students, who may not have had access to it otherwise. It's an expensive sport when you have to provide your own equipment but because the club provides the boat and all the gear, people can just come along and try it."

Stuart said that beginners really benefited from the experience of the club's executive members, who all enjoyed trying to help people to learn and improve their skills. The Water Skiing Club owns a Lewis Prestige speedboat, which is out on the water up to five times a week during the summer at Myuna Bay on Lake Macquarie.

