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# unineWS



August 2001

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# Vice-Chancellor's Column



Discussions about the University 'restructure' are continuing following the 10 August release on the University's web site of submissions relating to the Central Divisions of the University from 2002, namely the University Services Division, Research and International Division and the Division of the Vice-Chancellor. The submissions from members of the Senior Executive Group on the organisational structure and administrative arrangements of the University from 2002 are now complete. In addition to participation and feedback at University Forums, staff and students will have until August 30 to return submissions on any topic related to these proposed new structures and organisational arrangements.

I am hopeful of being able to release a 'final' version by September 5, to allow for further

consultation prior to consideration of the structure of the University by the Resources and Administration Committee (12 October), and subsequently by Council on October 26.

There is obviously a great deal of work to be undertaken prior to the commencement of the 2002 academic year in preparation for the new structure. May I invite all of you to participate strongly in this important process. Our new structures, and particularly the new Faculties – Engineering and Built Environment, Business and Law, Health, Science and Information Technology, and Education and Arts, are planned to deliver many attributes for enhancing our roles and functions as a University. Some of these include:

- moving the University into a stronger position as a successful research based university;
- enhancing cooperation

between academic areas of the University;

- meeting the emerging areas of teaching and learning over the next 10-15 years, with particular immediate emphasis on multimedia and IT, as well as new areas in health, business, the environmental sciences, and professional education and training;

- forming more flexible and permeable groups for teaching, research, research training and service activities which transcend traditional academic boundaries;

- providing solutions to suit new jobs, industries and social needs of the future, particularly for the Hunter and Central Coast;

- improving the quality of services and teaching to our most important clients, our students;

- removing duplication of courses across degree structures, and promoting cross-school and cross-faculty arrangements for degree programs;

- breaking down the 'WEFTSU' silos and promoting team based delivery;

- retaining and promoting disciplinary strengths for teaching and research within multidisciplinary school-based academic organisational units;

- establishing comprehensiveness in academic coverage across undergraduate and postgraduate (coursework and research) programs;

- delivering a more comprehensive range of teaching and research programs and other services to the Central Coast community;

- devolving primary responsibility to the faculties for the delivery of academic, student,

staff and business services;

- supporting increased numbers of both Australian (particularly postgraduate) and international students;

- developing a stronger entrepreneurial culture within the University, and promoting stronger links with and support from alumni, business and industry; and

- gaining increased public and private sector funded research for the University.

The new Central Divisions will support these attributes and objectives, and play strong facilitating roles for the faculties. I am particularly keen to ensure that we have a high level of ownership of the new structure by staff and students of the University, and will do all that I can to assist. I am happy to meet with student and staff groups to discuss the underlying philosophy of the changes, as well as the important details and timetable for implementation.

Best wishes with the changes as they effect you individually within your area of activity, whether as a student or staff member. Please remember that the restructure process has arisen following a comprehensive review undertaken of our structure and organisational arrangements, and a broad recognition by the Council, executive members, as well as by staff and students, of the need for change. I hope that you come to the same realisation as I have that these changes are necessary in order for us to prepare for an increasingly competitive higher education system in Australia and internationally.

**Roger S Holmes**  
Vice-Chancellor and President

## August edition

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**Cover:** Spirit of cooperation – Vice-Chancellor Roger Holmes and Lord Mayor John Tate agreeing to work together to bring conferences to Newcastle – story p20. Photo by John Freund

# Scholarship fund relieves burden

The recipient of the first Godfrey Tanner Scholarship, speech pathology student Judy Vajak, plans to contribute to the scholarship scheme herself when she has graduated and begins to earn a salary.

Thirty four year old Judy, whose six year old son Ivan was diagnosed with leukemia in 1997, says she appreciates the chance to improve her life by studying and would like to help others in the same way in the future.

"I receive a sole parent pension and with medical expenses and education costs, we were on a limited budget," Judy said. "I am determined to get my degree to be able to support us but it would have been very difficult and I would have had to accumulate debt to do it. The scholarship is wonderful and takes the added financial pressure off. It's one less thing to worry about."

Emeritus Professor Godfrey Tanner, who launched the scholarship scheme specifically to assist students who were experiencing hardship, said there were many people who find it impossible to study despite having the desire and the ability to do so.

"I fear that in the face of present government policy the numbers of people unable to overcome the financial barriers to tertiary study will increase," Godfrey said. "Judy is exactly the sort of candidate we wished to



Director of the Development Unit Dr Bernie Curran (right) and Emeritus Professor Godfrey Tanner congratulate Judy Vajak, first recipient of the Godfrey Tanner scholarship

assist with the scholarship."

He called on other individuals and companies to contribute to the scholarship scheme to enable others to benefit from assistance.

"Ideally, we need around \$50,000 each year to be able to offer a scholarship to a new student annually and maintain the assistance for the three or four years of their degree," he said. "I think everyone has the ability to study and bright, motivated people like Judy should be given the chance to do so."

Judy, who was born in Newcastle and attended West Wallsend and Merewether High Schools, began a Bachelor of Arts at the University in 1985, but lacked motivation and dropped out. She worked in banking and as a shop assistant before returning to the University to study nursing in 1996. Her experiences in hospitals due to her son's illness caused her to change her mind about nursing and after looking at the options, she decided to study speech pathology. Six year old Ivan, who

began school this year, is currently in remission and doing well.

"I want to say how much I appreciate Professor Tanner setting up this scholarship," Judy said at a morning tea to meet Godfrey and scholarship selection panel Chairman Dr Bernie Curran held in the Development Unit on August 16. "A lot of people feel that something should be done to help the battlers but don't do anything about it. When I graduate I will be giving back to the scholarship fund so others can benefit as well."

# Older men get pensions, not jobs

Unemployment among older Australian men is consistently at least 15 percent higher than official figures, says researcher Martin O'Brien.

Martin says that the Government has systematically removed unemployed older males from the labour force, especially during periods of sustained high unemployment, by giving them disability pensions or mature age allowances.

"My calculations, using pension statistics as well as statistical models, are that unemployment rates for males aged 55-59 have been consistently over 15 percent since the mid '80s, peaking at around 25 percent in the early '90s, compared to the official rate which is mostly under 10 percent.

"For males 60 to 64, my recalculated hidden unemployment rate suggests more than 20 percent

jobless since the mid '80s and possibly higher than 40 percent in the early '90s. Again the official rate is rarely over 10 percent."

Martin is studying the participation of older males in the workforce for his PhD with the University's Centre of Full Employment and Equity (CoffEE). He delivered some of his findings at a research seminar at the University's General Purpose Building on July 27 and a similar

paper to the 2001 conference of the Society for Advancement of Socio-Economics at the University of Amsterdam earlier this year.

"In Australia there are emerging problems for retirement funding strategy related to the inability of many older workers to retain jobs, in order to contribute to their own retirement incomes. Poor quality employment will be more fully reflected in poor quality retirement."

# Barker scholarship fund celebrates maritime history



Don Barker

Descendants of a Newcastle family that has accumulated almost 200 years of service in and around the city's harbour have endowed a scholarship fund aimed at safeguarding the region's future environmental health.

The Barker PhD Fund, which was launched at the University on August 13, is a partnership between the Barker family and the University through the University Foundation. The fund aims to sponsor a PhD student each year throughout the duration of a three-year research project in environmental science that is of benefit to the Hunter region.

Family historian and spokesman Don Barker said the scholarship will fund projects that are not only of benefit to the fragile environment of the Hunter River estuary but hopefully to the nation and perhaps the world.

"For the foreseeable future, the world's focus will be on environmental science and all its facets," Don said. "The University of Newcastle, through its specialist Chair, will play a significant part in that future and it gives my family a great deal of satisfaction to contribute to that."

Professor Robert Toia, who is world-renowned in the field of

ecotoxicology, took up the newly established Chair in Environmental Science at the University in July. Previously from the University of San Francisco, Professor Toia has researched environmental problems ranging from water quality in heavily-polluted San Francisco Bay to the effects of pesticides on human health.

The first members of the maritime Barker family to arrive in Newcastle, William and Mary Ann, came to the harbour with their baby daughter in 1868 from New Zealand, where they met and married after emigrating from England in 1865. The illiterate William got a job as a boatman with the Harbours and Rivers Department and joined the famous Lifeboat Service. His duties called on him to be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and led to him securing a cottage adjacent to Nobbys Beach for the princely sum of one shilling per week, where he and his family lived for nearly 30 years.

William's son, Edwin was the first Stockton ferry master, piloting the 15 car vehicular ferry (and its successors) from its inception until his retirement in 1937. Edwin's older son Bill was a master in the harbour dredging service for 50

years. His younger son Walter (Don's father), while pursuing a career as an electrician, was a member of the naval cadets and the volunteer coastal patrol. Edwin's brother Frank drove steam trams for a living but his son (also Frank) worked for 50 years with the Department of Public Works, first at Walsh Island until it closed and subsequently at the State Dockyard.

"Altogether, across six members of the Barker family, we amassed almost 200 years of service to the port," Don said. "I'm sure that if the maritime Barkers were here today, they would be excited at the knowledge of serious research work being done in the harbour and the river. They would also appreciate their families of today helping in the training of PhD students in frontline research of such potential benefit."

Don, who initially followed his father into an electrical career subsequently became an illumination engineer and finally ran his own handyman business. He helped found the Newcastle Family History Society in 1983 and

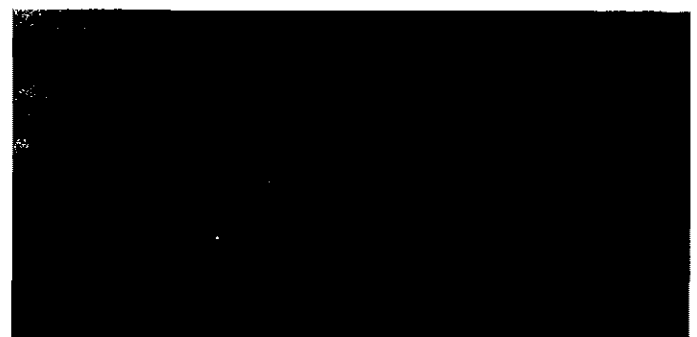
his son David graduated with a PhD in science from the University in 1987.

Director of the University's Development Unit Dr Bernie Curran says that the Barker family is taking the University's motto, *I Look Ahead*, at its full value with their endowment.

"Instead of commissioning PhD research on the Barker family or the maritime industry, they are looking ahead to the future of the harbour and its environmental health, which has obvious benefits to the whole Hunter region," Bernie said. "It is also significant that they have chosen the region's university to pursue this research."

The Barker family will donate \$100,000 to the PhD fund over the next few years, establishing a trust that will generate funding for future scholarships. Don says the family hopes their donation of seed funding for the trust will be the first of many from government, business and individuals.

"To ensure perpetuity for the trust, my target is one million dollars," Don said.



SS Mildred, c.1915 - the first government owned vehicular ferry on the Stockton run and (above) its Master, Captain Edwin Barker

# The shape of things to come

Increased devolution of decision-making to the faculties and the creation of six executive positions to oversee operations are the key proposals in a submission outlining the proposed structure of the newly formed University Services Division.

Vice-President (University Services) Linda O'Brien, commenting on the draft submission, says the University restructure is providing "exciting opportunities" to reshape the way things are done – opportunities which will improve outcomes for the institution and for staff. Staff will be given the chance to add to their skills and seek out new opportunities being created by restructuring, Linda said.

"We have guaranteed the unions that there will be no net job losses and that is our expectation but the nature of the jobs available and how they inter-relate will change over time. Many of the people I have spoken to within the division have already identified opportunities that will be created by staff working more closely together where structures may have prevented this in the past. By bringing staff from various units who deliver similar services together, we can improve our services and avoid duplication."

The draft Mission for University Services is "to enable the achievement of the University's Vision for teaching, learning, research and community service". Some of the immediate goals of the new division will be to create a client-focused, responsive one-stop shop for prospective students, students and alumni; improve communication; streamline processes; and to work toward greater devolution of decision-making to the faculties.

To achieve effective devolution, each faculty will have a new administrative structure, with the following senior positions created:

- Faculty Services Director, who will be part of the faculty executive, providing strategic



*Staff ponder the future at a recent forum to discuss the restructuring*

support and advice with respect to administration and service. The Director will lead and manage the administration and service groups to deliver services across the areas of corporate governance, financial management, human resources management, academic and student administration, student services, marketing, community and alumni relations, faculty facilities management, including laboratory management, space management, information technology and general office support.

- Faculty Business Manager, who will provide support and advice on business and financial management, helping the faculties to develop business plans.

- Faculty Student Services Manager, who will oversee student services and administration with a focus on quality customer service.

- Faculty IT Manager, who will ensure the provision of effective and efficient IT services and systems to the faculty.

The general staff profile for each faculty and division will be reviewed each year through an integrated service and budget planning process.

"We have a lot of talented people within the University and will fill the majority of the new

positions internally," Linda said. "Obviously there will be competition for the key senior positions so external experts will form part of the selection process to help us get the best outcome for the University."

Within University Services, six Executive Directors, each responsible for a different portfolio, and a Director, Planning and Business Improvement will support the Vice-President. The portfolios are:

- Student, Alumni and Community Services
- Staff and Workforce Management Services
- Education Services
- Business and Corporate Services
- Information Services and Systems
- Facilities Management Services

Linda's proposal for University Services was shaped by consultation with planning and reference groups from the various units that will constitute the new division, discussions with students, as well as feedback from the University's Senior Executive Group, the Vice-Chancellor and others.

"It was hard to involve

everyone due to the complexity of the division but I have met around 80 percent of the staff in meetings or one on one. The planning days we held were very positive and it was helpful for staff to realise that we are all trying to get the same outcomes. While all of them felt they were doing a good job, they could all see something in their area that could be improved upon and recognised the opportunities presented by being together in one division."

Comment is invited on the draft Submission on the University Restructure, which can be found on the web at [www.newcastle.edu.au/externalreviews/university/restructure/div\\_discuss.htm](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/externalreviews/university/restructure/div_discuss.htm).



*Linda O'Brien*



Newcastle is well placed to become a world-class environmental education and research centre, according to Professor Robert Toia, appointee to the University's foundation Chair in Environmental Science.

"Newcastle is the ideal learning environment for a whole host of reasons including its port, which handles large export tonnages, the Hunter River watershed and its estuarine environment, the wetlands centres, the Hunter vineyards, the coal mining industry and the industrial history of the region, and the fact that local government is not only environmentally conscious but also proactive," said Robert, who comes to Newcastle from the University of San Francisco.

"Add the fact that the University has the necessary combination of people in the biological, physical and social sciences, in engineering, architecture, and in the arts already working on a host of important and interesting environmental issues, as well as the physical campuses at Callaghan and the Central Coast, and you have all the ingredients of a very exciting environmental laboratory."

He hopes to bring together resources across the University and

the region into a focussed environmental arena, a centre that could not only house environmental science students but also provide an environmental focus for the University and the region, and create an international profile to inform the world of what is going on in the Hunter. Toward this end, Robert is excited by the recent establishment of the Barker scholarship, an initiative taken by a private citizen to promote environmental research on an ongoing basis (see p5).

"Newcastle is ideally located to stretch into Asia, where there are major water, air and population issues impacting on the environment," he said. "There will be increasing demand from Asian countries for education, training and research to deal with these environmental problems."

A graduate of the University of Western Australia (UWA), Robert did his PhD thesis in the area of organic chemistry, investigating the structure and biosynthetic origins of chemicals that occur naturally in plants. He went to the University of California's (UC) Berkeley campus to carry out postdoctoral work and became involved in the chemical and environmental toxicology of organo-phosphorus compounds.

He continued in this area at UC's Riverside campus, before returning to UWA in the late '70s as a research fellow, working with aspects of marine arsenic chemistry. He then took a lecturing position at the University of NSW before returning to UC, Berkeley in 1988 as Co-Director of what is now the Environmental, Chemical and Toxicology Laboratory, where research focussed on the mode of action and potential effects of pesticides on human health and the environmental implications of their use.

"I was enticed into the private sector, where I worked as Director of a contract research company for five years. Our research was primarily on environmental fate and plant and animal metabolism studies – research that determines what becomes of chemicals over time once they are placed into the environment – studies used by the EPA to regulate agro-chemicals."

In the mid 90s Robert joined the Department of Environmental Science at the University of San Francisco as a full professor, where he researched in the area of ecotoxicology, on problems ranging from water quality issues to allelopathic effects of eucalyptus oils in revegetation projects.

As Chair of USF's Environmental Science Department for the past two years, Robert was instrumental in adapting San Francisco's programs for export to Los Angeles, and to Europe and Asia.

"I have travelled a lot in the past couple of years gaining the support of faculty members from other universities, representatives from government and industry, and consultants. My experience in private sector research gave me a real advantage in dealing with people from industry to establish the programs. As a result, USF's programs began in Los Angeles last year, are beginning in Hungary this month and will commence in Thailand next year."

Robert believes that the many contacts he has made in his

overseas travels will be useful for the University. His international links include contacts in Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia, Japan, Thailand, China and Hungary. He has also kept in touch with a number of PhD students he has trained who are now in senior academic positions in various nations including Korea and Guyana.

Robert sees environmental science as a discipline that attempts to bridge the gap that was formed by increasing specialisation in the study of science.

"You could argue that the fragmentation of scientific understanding created many of the environmental problems we are seeing today. Environmental science attempts to bring specialist aspects of science back into focus and recognises that to build a true picture of the environment you need to consider other areas such as social sciences, politics, law, economics and ethics."

Robert, who took up his appointment at the end of July, plans to establish his research presence at the University in ecotoxicology and is excited by the prospect of collaborating with colleagues both within the University as well as in some of the other environmentally-focussed organisations in the region.

"I would like to see the development of courses and programs to appeal to national and international students, particularly at graduate level. Environmental science changes all the time and we must keep pace with the changes. There are a lot of programs already in place that have been successful and I want to engage everyone in a dialogue to find ways to build on that success and see where we can take it. From an educational viewpoint, with the restructuring currently underway at the University, we have a great opportunity to integrate courses across not only the sciences but also engineering, the social sciences and arts, and possibly to use problem based learning."

# Feeling at home

Studying abroad can be challenging for students as they confront being in a foreign culture, away from home and family. American chemical engineering student Noel Romey has even more hurdles to face – he is blind and has a bone condition.

Despite this, 21 year old Noel has made himself right at home at Edwards Hall and won the respect and friendship of his fellow residents. Noel, who came from the University of Arkansas in the US, says he feels comfortable in Australia.

"My grandmother was Australian and met my grandfather when he was stationed in Brisbane during World War II," Noel explained. "Her name was Coral West and she was a well known soprano – she taught me a lot about Australia and I have relatives all up and down the east coast."

Blind since birth, with no light perception, Noel inherited his grandmother's love of music and has played the piano since he was five. He has entertained his housemates at Edwards Hall on several occasions and plays his own new age piano compositions on ACB Radio Interactive – an online community radio station for blind DJs. He feels as though his grandmother has influenced him in other ways as well.

"I have more in common with Australians than I expected," Noel said. "I think I've got a lot of qualities from the Australian side of the family including my sense of humour and my laid back nature."

Noel's constant companion, his guide dog Fiona, has also made a lot of friends at Edwards Hall. Kept in quarantine while Noel travelled around meeting his Australian family, Fiona has settled in to life on campus and even has a toy kangaroo to take home as a souvenir. Noel will take home a didgeridoo, which he is teaching himself to play.

"My bones have broken a lot and I have had a lot of setbacks, but every time I have seemed to

overcome them," Noel said, when asked how he summoned the confidence to study abroad. "I have come to think that nothing is beyond me and I try not to have any reservations. Everyone has difficult moments."

Noel, who is in his fourth year of a Bachelor of Engineering (Chemical), is enjoying his studies at Newcastle. He has a notetaking machine – a Braille Lite – that he uses to record lectures and other information and asks others to describe lab results to him. He will go home to Arkansas at the end of the year but hopes to return to Newcastle to undertake postgraduate studies in the future.



Noel with his guide dog Fiona at Edwards Hall

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## Environmental facility established at Ourimbah



Visitors to the Network opening were greeted by a traditional Aboriginal welcome

More than 100 people attended the opening of a new base for the Central Coast Community Environmental Network (CCCEN) at the Ourimbah Campus recently.

The CCCEN, a very active and diverse organisation, has found a much-needed permanent home in one of the Campus's original buildings (located in a spectacular bushland setting). The building has been transformed into a lively and welcoming place to better fulfil its role as an environmental education and resource centre. It also incorporates the Central Coast Centre for Sustainability, which seeks to find practical solutions for environmental issues.

The Network is an independent community group that works for ecologically

sustainable development. It provides advice, resources, information and support to individuals and community groups in the Gosford, Wyong and Lake Macquarie areas with a view to improving the environment.

Chair of the CCCEN, John Asquith, said the Network is an alliance of environment and community groups and is involved in many projects in and around the Central Coast which include:

- Riparian Rehabilitation ("Communities Caring for our Creeks")
- Green Corridors Committee
- Waterwatch
- Student Intern Program
- Database of Swamp Mahogany Forests
- Sustainable housing

- Marine environments

"The Network has been operating since 1997 and I am pleased to say that public awareness has been steadily growing," John said. "We now have seven people working for the Network on a part-time basis.

"Apart from our long-term projects, in particular the highly successful Riparian Rehabilitation Project, there are a number of current issues we are focussed on including the rapid population growth in the Kincumber area, which has resulted in the loss of foreshore and public land; transport issues; and the degradation of water quality from erosion, building sediments and other factors. We are also involved in issues surrounding high rise development at Tenigal and The Entrance," he said.

John, an engineer by profession, has been involved in environmental advocacy since the late 1970's. He is a Trustee of the New South Wales Environmental Trust, a Board member of the Sydney Catchment Authority and Secretary of the Nature Conservation Council. He is also a part-time lecturer in environmental sustainability in the University's School of Science and Technology at the Ourimbah Campus and this is where a very important link is made.

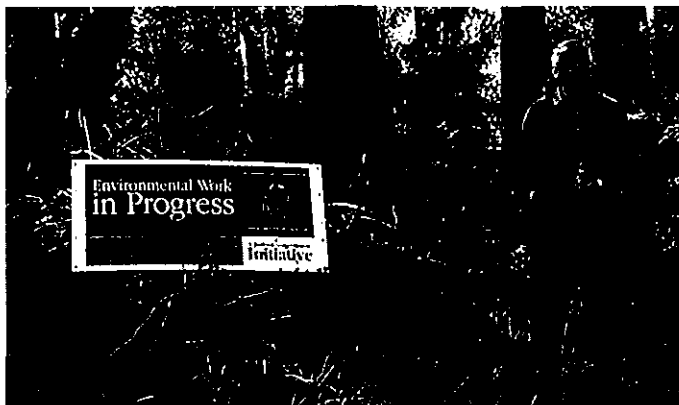
"It is through the Environmental Network that we are able to provide students enrolled in the Bachelor of Science (Sustainable Resource Management) with valuable professional experience. This can involve research into many areas, for instance, the management of natural vegetation in terms of biodiversity management, water testing and wetlands.

"Students generate a high degree of community support and are instrumental in gathering a substantial body of volunteers, a factor which is very important to us. Many of our programs rely on volunteers, working to benefit the environment around us. Students in other schools are also participating as a wide variety of skills are needed at the Centre.

"Without the volunteers our work would be hampered. Our funding is made available through the Natural Heritage Trust, the Riparian Project and the Waterwatch Project. And even though it allows us to initiate projects, the volunteers' contribution is worth twice every funding dollar. We have and are continuing to apply for grants, some of which can be used to fund PhD or Honours projects.

"Being located on the Campus is beneficial to everyone. It's helpful for the Network and also for the School of Science and Technology and its students," he added.

Head of the School of Science and Technology, Dr William Gladstone, endorses John's enthusiasm for Network's new location. "It's a significant asset to the Campus and in particular to the School," he said. "Our students have already made links and gained valuable professional experience through having this environmental facility working hand-in-hand with us. We believe that this is the only campus in Australia where this type of relationship is happening."



CCCEN Chairman John Asquith



# Every day a challenge in male dominated career

When Gunilla Burrowes chose to pursue a career in engineering, she didn't think about the fact that it was a non-traditional area of study for women and was unaware that only around two percent of engineering students in Australia at the time were female.

Gunilla, now the Coordinator of the Diversity in Engineering Project and a lecturer in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, saw that her father's career – engineering – was diverse and seemed to make a difference to society. She was good at science and topped the school in maths and her parents encouraged her belief that she could do anything she wanted to do. Her father's engineering colleagues were very supportive as well and Gunilla completed a Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical) at the University of New South Wales.

Interested in renewable energy, Gunilla worked for BP Solar until she won an Energy Research and Development Corporation scholarship to do a PhD looking at putting renewable energy into the power grid, which brought her to Newcastle.

"When I came back to do my higher degree, I recognised I was being treated differently and felt that expectations and attitudes towards my success were lower than for male students. I realised that there were no female engineering role models who I could emulate and became aware of the importance of gender in engineering."

In 1996, after struggling to find support, Gunilla quit her PhD studies and applied for a 12-month position looking at women in engineering, which was funded by the Higher Education Equity Program (HEEP) and the Faculty of Engineering. The number of women studying engineering,

although an improvement on the '80s when Gunilla was studying, were still low (at around 13 percent nationally) and Newcastle's figures were even lower.

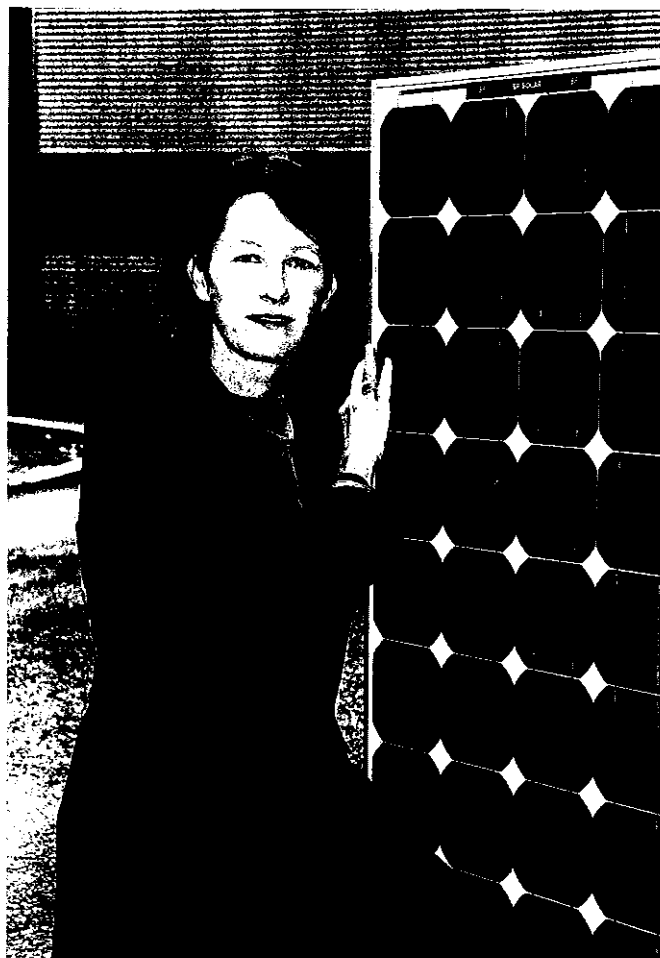
"There are two major issues surrounding the poor participation of women in engineering. The first is the issue of equity, with 51 percent of the population female and very few professions that have remained so closed to women. The second is the fact that engineering has an impact on the whole society and we are currently living in an environment that has been designed and implemented almost solely by men."

Gunilla believes that diversity is essential if Australia is to be successful in the global economy. She applauds the Faculty of Engineering management for supporting an ongoing program to encourage not only women but also Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, people from non-English speaking backgrounds and people with disabilities to study engineering.

In 1998, concerned that there was no broader support for women across the University, Gunilla began collaborating with the Equity Unit and with women from science, architecture and construction management. The Vice-Chancellor supported the formation of a working party to look at the participation of women in non-traditional areas at the University in 1999 and the group, chaired by Dean of Students Phil Foreman, developed a range of policies and strategies.

"We looked at the whole spectrum from prospective, undergraduate and graduate students through to staff and the University culture. The document we produced is still in use today and we are looking now at implementing some of the ideas."

Gunilla has instituted an



*Gunilla Burrowes*

Ambassador Scheme where female engineering students visit Hunter high schools to try and break down barriers for prospective students. She also personally meets and maintains an email network with women who are currently studying engineering and regularly meets with female members of general and academic staff in a support network and informal mentoring arrangement. She has just completed a study for her Master of Philosophy on gender in the engineering classroom.

"Research says that most women who choose engineering have feminist views in terms of a belief in equal opportunity and the fact that gender shouldn't make a difference to their career outcomes.

Most of them don't want to be associated with affirmative action programs because they want others to see that they earned their success on their own merits. This creates a major challenge for these programs and requires a delicate balancing act.

"I don't believe that there was ever any conscious intent by men to keep women out of engineering but they create a patriarchal environment that is often off-putting to women. Changing this environment requires individuals working within it to recognise and promote the benefits of diversity. Each day that I walk into the corridor I feel challenged. We all want to fit in but my job asks me to find ways to change attitudes and values and that is a tough call."



Parents take great delight helping their children achieve the milestones on their way from birth to school and beyond. But many children, for a variety of reasons, don't achieve these early milestones. The University's Special Education Centre has been helping children like this since it was established under the Whitlam government in 1977.



## Special Education Centre

Director, Associate Professor Bob Conway, says the work of the Centre has changed since it first ran segregated classrooms for children with learning difficulties in regular schools.

"We now provide no special classes for school aged children as their needs are increasingly met within the education system. We have greatly expanded our range of early intervention programs, with many of them provided in regular early education settings such as preschools or long day care centres."

The Special Education Centre currently works with more than 140 families each week through its nine programs and has an outreach centre in Port Stephens. It operates under a non-categorical model that sees children with a range of difficulties attending the Centre including those with communication disorders and autism spectrum disorder, a condition characterised by difficulty with language and social skills.

The University provides the building and some funding through the Faculty of Education

for the Centre, which attracts more than half a million dollars in funding a year from various government departments. Despite this, the funding falls far short of the demand for the Centre's services and there is a long waiting list. Firstchance, a charity run by a group of parents, is constantly involved in fundraising.

Firstchance President Mary Picton says the Centre offers a unique service that is not only beneficial to children with special needs but is also helpful to their parents. Mary's son Joseph had significantly delayed speech and a range of other difficulties following a series of middle ear infections in his infancy.

"We were referred to the Centre by Joe's paediatrician and the initial visit by Centre staff is to the child's home, which was really helpful because the person assessing him could see him in his own environment," Mary said.

The Centre enters into an individual family service agreement in collaboration with any health professionals who are

seeing the child. Joe began in the morning program at the Centre with Mary when he was under two. While excelling at individual play with books and puzzles, he found group time very stressful, screaming and covering his ears when they came together for singing or games. By the time he left the Centre, he was happy to socialise and was able to cope in a regular pre-school.

"The Centre has been wonderful for us," Mary said. "Parents always have the opportunity to talk to individual teachers and team leaders. The Centre also runs parent information sessions, including the Hanen Program, a Canadian program that teaches parents to facilitate speech in their children. Parents of children with special needs can often feel very lonely and coming to the Centre not only empowers them to help their child, it also introduces them to other parents with similar problems."

Firstchance runs raffles, family fun days, golf days, sausage sizzles, walkathons, and trivia and





# Special Education Centre

film nights to raise funds that are used to reduce the waiting list or to assist families in financial difficulties to access the Centre's services. They also try to attract corporate sponsorship and are hoping to introduce payroll deduction schemes at the University and elsewhere. The next fundraiser is a Family Race Day during the Spring Carnival at Broadmeadow Racecourse on Saturday, September 22nd. The \$35 ticket fee (\$30 for groups of 10 or more) includes admission to the races and finger food in a marquee. Tickets can be ordered from Jenine in the Special Education Centre by telephoning 4921 6268.

## Centre for Special Education and Disability Studies

Housed in the Special Education Centre, this research centre was formed last year and links special education and disability staff at the Callaghan and Central Coast campuses with Renwick College in Sydney's North Rocks, which is run by the Royal Institute for Deaf

and Blind Children. Academic researchers and research higher degree students are working on a range of projects, some relating to programs that operate through the Special Education Centre, and others to broader areas of special education and disability studies. Current research includes a longitudinal study of the experiences of parents of children who have attended the Centre and who are now in school settings, an evaluation of language-based playgroups, an investigation of methods of early diagnosis of students with visual processing difficulties, and studies of behaviour states in children with severe disabilities.

The research centre also encourages cross-disciplinary projects including biochemical profiling of children with reading difficulties and autism, which is being conducted in conjunction with Associate Professor Tim Roberts in the School of Biological and Chemical Sciences.

## Training teachers for special education

The Special Education Centre is involved in providing training across the University. The Special Education option is currently a very popular fourth year specialisation for undergraduate teachers and the Centre also teaches specialist courses at Graduate Certificate and Masters levels in Special Education and Disability. Students from medicine, speech pathology, occupational therapy and psychology also make use of the Centre as a training facility. The Centre is equipped with a range of one-way mirror viewing rooms that allow students and family members to watch intervention sessions, playgroups and pre-school classes. It also boasts a purpose-built play area, a hydrotherapy pool, lecture and teaching rooms, and academic offices.

Around 35 people work at the Special Education Centre including academic and teaching staff, speech pathologists and support staff.

## Brain Injury Rehabilitation

The Brain Injury Rehabilitation team is in the process of negotiating to move their operations from the John Hunter Hospital to the Special Education Centre.

"Most of the children who are treated by the team have spent traumatic times in hospital with their injuries so it is important that they begin their rehabilitation in different surroundings," Bob Conway said. "We are also looking at carrying out joint research with them and they provide an additional consultation service to our staff, who will now have access to specialists in occupational therapy and physiotherapy."



*Professor Roger Smith (far left) with some of the researchers drawn from around the world to the Mothers and Babies Research Centre*

**Background**

The Mothers and Babies Research Centre, which is housed in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the John Hunter Hospital, was established in 1989. It represents the interest of a group of committed academics in what regulates the onset of birth in

pregnant women. This previously unsolved riddle has inspired the groundbreaking, cross-disciplinary work of the Centre and its Director Roger Smith.

"Premature birth is responsible for 80 percent of newborn baby deaths and is the

cause of 50 percent of cerebral palsy cases in Australia," Roger said. "There are about 17,000 premature births in Australia each year, resulting in 1300 deaths and enormous ongoing health costs to those who survive but may have an intellectual handicap, cerebral palsy,

blindness, deafness or learning disabilities. By focussing on trying to create healthy babies we have an opportunity to improve the health outcomes and productivity of the whole community."

**Structure**

The Centre attracts people from a wide range of disciplines including obstetrics and midwifery, and many which would not normally be associated with the study of pregnant women such as endocrinology, statistics, biochemistry, molecular biology, chemistry, engineering and mathematics. It is unique in the world in its single-minded focus on the question of the trigger for birth, which has seen its reputation grow as an international leader in the area.

"Increasingly, people are applying to be involved in our research," Roger said. "We have about 50 researchers from as far afield as Africa, the United States of America, and many parts of Europe working with us. We have been successful in reversing the brain drain, attracting Australian researchers back from overseas postings. The replacement value of

**Pathways for reconciliation**



*Professor Larissa Behrendt*

The possible directions reconciliation can take, the commitments needed to achieve it and the goals that the process must seek to make it meaningful were addressed in the 2001 Morpeth Lecture, delivered by Professor Larissa Behrendt last month.

Professor of Law and Indigenous Studies and Director of the Jumbunna House of Learning at the University of Technology Sydney, Professor Behrendt said that after a decade of reconciliation, the process of developing the relationship

between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians has many paths that it can take.

"Reconciliation has always been flagged as a peoples' movement and the challenge now is to find a way to build upon the work already done to improve understanding between black and white Australia," she said.

Professor Behrendt examined flaws in the Constitution and brought the realities of reconciliation to life for her audience, stressing the need for people to become personally

involved in the process and the meaning this journey could bring to those who embarked upon it. The lecture was preceded by a welcome to Awabakal land by elder, Uncle Rex Morgan, and followed by a lively question time dealing with issues ranging from law reform to proposals for an Indigenous 'treaty'.

The Morpeth Lecture, presented in partnership with the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle, was held in the Conservatorium Concert Hall on August 2.

equipment is around \$12 million, which also draws researchers to the Centre.”

While research funding initially began with National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grants, the Centre was the first from Newcastle to attract State government funding and has also received Federal funding through the Targeted Institutions Links Grant (TILG) scheme. The TILG grants aim to link Australian research centres with others in South East Asia, and the Centre has regular contact with researchers in institutions in Singapore, Hong Kong and Shanghai, China. It also attracts funding from philanthropic organisations and individuals, both locally and nationally. The National Institutes of Health of the USA is providing funding for the Centre's work on pregnant women with diabetes.

“The Centre operates according to a flat administrative structure,” Roger explains. “I'm responsible for coordinating its activities but the scientific activity is supervised by about 12 senior postdoctoral scientists, each with their own team of researchers. I

report to an independent board and we are part of the recently formed Hunter Medical Research Institute.”

#### Research

The research being undertaken at the Centre ranges from molecular biology looking at the genetics of the placenta to studies of the hormones that trigger the birth response and population studies to trial the new treatments. The researchers ensure that the results of their work are incorporated into clinical practice straight away, providing significant benefits to Hunter patients, who are already receiving improved obstetrical care as a result of the research. Roger sees this return to the community as an important aspect of the Centre's work, as the research is made easier by the support of pregnant women who come to the John Hunter Hospital.

“We have patented discoveries and are seeking to develop several commercially,” Roger said. “We were the first group to discover the biological clock in the placenta that determines the length of a woman's pregnancy and are currently looking for development

partners to commercialise tests to predict the onset of premature labour and the wellbeing of the baby while a woman is still pregnant.”

The Centre's work has led to quite a lot of significant advances including the development of a new strategy for managing women presenting to hospital in premature labour. Around Australia, most hospitals will switch from treating women with Ventolin, which was unpleasant and dangerous for the women using it, to the use of a calcium channel blocker, which is expected to be more effective in preventing the onset of premature labour as well as safer for the mothers using it.

“We didn't invent the calcium channel blocker,” Roger explained, “but the Centre has been an agent of change, coordinating the process of introducing the treatment to hospitals. We are also planning a large trial and virtually all the major obstetrics hospitals in Australia have agreed to take part.”

#### Director

Roger Smith graduated with his Bachelor of Medicine (Honours) from the University of

Sydney in 1974. After two years at the Royal North Shore Hospital, he went to Perth, where he undertook his specialist examinations before working in Christchurch, New Zealand. He then went to St Bartholomew's in London, where he did his PhD in endocrinology. He came to Newcastle 1981.

“Even when I was at school I wanted to become involved in research. I went into medicine to get involved in medical research and my interest in obstetrics was heightened by the birth of my own children and by the discovery that the hormone I was interested in (CRH) was not only found in the brain but also in the placenta.”

CRH was first discovered in the brain and is implicated in stress responses. Roger's work at the Centre (and that of others around the world) suggests it also regulates the length of human pregnancy.

“While we are not yet at the stage of being able to prevent premature labour, it is likely that within 10 to 20 years, we will see marked improvements in the rates of premature birth, cerebral palsy and intellectual disability as a result of our research.”

## Shot of grandma wins national award

Fine Art honours student Penny Jones has won the Student Scholarship prize in the national Yellowglen Young Photographers' Awards with a photo of her grandma.

In their fourth consecutive year, the awards are open to non-professional photographers aged between 18 and 30 and attracted more than 600 entries.

Penny's photograph was a black and white shot of her 80-year old grandmother at Newcastle baths. The image was taken as part of a body of work she is preparing for her Honours studies that celebrates women and age.

“It began as a study of the baths and the importance of swimming as part of life in Newcastle,” the 22-year old said. “I shot one of grandma's friends in their swimmers and it just went on from there.”

Penny became interested in photography during her first year of a combined Bachelor of Arts (Visual Arts)/Bachelor of Teaching at Newcastle and did a photography major. She hopes to continue her studies at Masters level when she has completed her Honours year.

Penny noticed a sticker promoting the Yellowglen awards on a bottle of champagne and followed it up on the web. She won \$1000 and a selection of Yellowglen products and her work is one of 100 selected to tour Australia in coming months.



# New technology to clean contaminated land



*Dr John Lucas (left) with company Chairman Ron Robson OAM (Republished courtesy of the Newcastle Herald)*

A Newcastle-based technology company is developing a treatment plant for contaminated soils, which cleans the land for half the current industry price.

Innova Soil Technology Pty Ltd was founded in 1995, and stems from research and development conducted at the University. This research developed an innovative, energy-efficient system to remediate land contaminated with carcinogenic and persistent hydrocarbon substances such as oils and tars.

The system is known as Direct-heated Fast-quenched Thermal Desorption (DFTD) and

Innova has been offered \$1.1million in financial support from AusIndustry (the Department of Industry, Science and Resources) to develop the treatment plant.

Dr John Lucas is Managing Director of Innova Soil Technology and a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Chemical Engineering.

"Industrial activities across Australia have resulted in large areas of land contaminated with a variety of hazardous chemicals, meaning health, ecosystem and urban detriment problems," he says. "The Innova process is an

environmentally friendly, totally transportable system which fits onto four semi-trailers and allows treatment to occur at the site of contamination.

"It provides a clean soil product, with significantly reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and can do the job for less than half the price of other treatment options currently available. At the moment, dumping contaminated soil costs around \$70 per tonne, and cleaning it is around \$120 to \$300 per tonne. The DFTD technology allows Innova to clean contaminated soil for less than the cost of dumping."

This provides an economical incentive for landowners to clean contaminated sites, with the assurance that gases generated by the cleaning process will not harm the environment."

MCM Manufacturing Pty Ltd at Cardiff is currently fabricating the first treatment unit, which can treat 40 tonnes of soil per hour. The \$1.5m required to build the unit has been raised totally through local investment. MCM General Manager, Richard Tait, says the University-based research has the potential to create additional manufacturing opportunities, which will benefit the local community.

"We are proud to be associated with Innova Soil Technology Pty Ltd and the University in this exciting venture," he said. "MCM Manufacturing Pty Ltd is supportive of this technology and has invested in the Innova company."

The first unit should be completed in September, when it will be used in a full-scale trial. Innova Soil Technology plans to be operating the unit on a commercial basis by 2002 and is currently discussing several large-scale projects, including sites in Brisbane and Sydney, with companies such as Thiess Services Pty Ltd. Innova plans to export its units under licence to the UK, Europe and the USA.

## Help living with cancer

New research in the Department of Psychology is investigating the effects of psychological interventions on the survival of cancer patients.

PhD student Stuart Edser and his supervisor Dr John Shea will conduct a three-year study of more than 1500 people from across the Hunter region, using techniques they hope will improve the patients' quality of life.

"Anything can be a psychological intervention, even just meeting other people with

cancer and sharing information," says Stuart. "Cancer patients can learn how others have coped and can gain great satisfaction in sharing ideas about where they can access certain foods and exercise programs which may be beneficial."

The researchers use a number of different strategies to help patients, including helping them to identify destructive thought patterns and reframe them; teaching meditation, relaxation, and self-hypnosis; and encouraging

participants to share their feelings. They stress that psychological interventions are not meant to replace medical treatments, but rather compliment them.

"If a patient has a positive mental attitude towards survival, they may be more likely to continue treatments like chemotherapy, which can be quite draining both physically and mentally," explained Stuart. "It is quite clear from our studies and from those elsewhere, that the patients who gain the most both

physically and psychologically are those who whole-heartedly enter into the notion that they can do something for themselves. We can help them in this process."

Dr Shea and Mr Edser have the medical support of Dr Phillip Tynan from the Hunter Area Pathology Service, who will assist by analysing patients' blood samples. They are seeking participants for their study. For information contact John 4921-5956 or Stuart on 4968-4747 or mobile 0416 075 984.

# World-renowned architect in Newcastle



L-R: Richard Leplastrier, Michael Oswald, Glen Murcutt, Peter Stutchbury and Lindsay Johnston at 'Riversdale' during the Master Class

Australia's most internationally famous architect Glenn Murcutt visited the University for the second week of a two-week long Master Class in Architecture in July.

The first week was spent on the Shoalhaven River near Nowra at the Arthur and Yvonne Boyd Education Centre 'Riversdale', designed by Glenn Murcutt with Wendy Lewin and Reg Lark, and recipient of several architecture awards.

Senior students, graduate architects and practitioners from the United States, Jamaica, England, Ireland, Luxembourg, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia spent the two weeks working on a design project for an art gallery for the Bundanoon Trust at the 'Riversdale' complex, under the guidance of Murcutt and leading Australian architects Richard Leplastrier and Peter Stutchbury.

Glenn Murcutt has received 25 Australian architecture awards, including the Royal Australian Institute of Architects Gold Medal. International awards include the Alvar Aalto Medal (Finland); Richard Neutra Award (USA); the 'Green Pin' International Award for Architecture and Ecology

(Denmark); the Asia Pacific Culture and Architecture Design Award and the 2001 Thomas Jefferson Medallion in the US.

He is currently visiting Professor of Architecture at Yale University in the United States, and has been Professor at the University of Virginia, and visiting Professor at the School of Architecture Aarhus Denmark, Graduate School of Fine Arts, University of Pennsylvania, Montana State University, UNSW and UTS.

The two-week program included visits to University buildings including the Staff Club (a 1968 job on which Murcutt was the project architect); the Faculty of Nursing; the Department of Design; and the spectacular new Life Sciences Building beside the Auchmuty Library, designed by Peter Stutchbury and Suters Architects.

The Master Class concluded with a trip to Kempsey to Glenn Murcutt's Museum and Visitor Centre (1976-1988) and the Murcutt (Marie Short) Farmhouse (1974-1980).

The Master Class was conceived and organised by the Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Design, Professor Lindsay Johnston.



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## University wins Sulman

The recently completed Life Sciences building designed by graduates Professor Peter Stutchbury (of Stutchbury Pape) and Dino Di Paolo (of Suters Architects) has brought the Sir John Sulman award to Newcastle for the second time in six years. The previous recipient was James Grose's Architecture Design Studios.

The Sulman is the most prestigious architectural award for public or commercial buildings in New South Wales and is awarded by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects. The award is made only in those years that the jury considers the merit of the project warrants this recognition of excellence.

Most impressed by its siting, the jury found the Life Sciences Building 'environmentally responsible, unapologetically bold and sensitively detailed, generating an appropriate iconic image for the Callaghan Campus'.

The Life Sciences building

provides high quality laboratory space for research and teaching purposes in the biotechnology field. The building was also designed to enable future modification as research needs change over time – a challenging task given the extensive servicing requirements of these PC2 (Physical Containment) and PC3 laboratories. Although the laboratories required very specific lighting, ventilation and air conditioning provisions, the building has been designed to be one of the most energy efficient of its type.

The structure of the building has generated a considerable degree of interest amongst the engineering fraternity, and has been designed to both withstand earthquake loads and minimise any possible vibration that may impact sensitive instrumentation.

### Life Sciences wins another medal

The Life Sciences building was also recently awarded a Gold Medal in the Francis Greenway



Co-designers Professor Peter Stutchbury (right) and Suters Architects Director Philip Manns in front of the award-winning Life Science building

Society's 2001 Green Building Awards.

The Francis Greenway Society is a relatively new association of architects committed to promoting green building design in Australia. In making the award the Society

noted that the Life Sciences building is recognised as being "excellent" in the application of green building principles such as the "extremely well considered use of daylight" and use where possible of natural ventilation.

## Setting toes tapping

Gareth Koch, Head of Plucked Strings at the University's Conservatorium of Music, recently released his fifth solo CD, *Colours of Fire*.

Gareth has lectured at the University for the past five years and in between undertakes Australian and overseas concert tours and runs the Newcastle-based Australian Guitar Competition and Festival. He is internationally renowned for his flamenco playing and has introduced flamenco studies to the Conservatorium, making Newcastle the only university in Australia to offer a graduate and postgraduate flamenco program.

"Flamenco is the spiritual music of the guitar itself," Gareth says. "It connects students with the guitar's basic ancestry and encourages energy and rhythmic vitality. The teaching of flamenco has been neglected partly because the style is not understood. Flamenco is like folklore – it's passed down from guitarist to guitarist."

Born in Milan and son of novelist Christopher Koch, Gareth studied at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, the Royal Conservatorium of Music in Madrid and the Academy of Music

and Dramatic Art in Vienna. He learnt flamenco from itinerant players in Andalucia.

*Colours of Fire* features four centuries of guitar favourites including the music of Albeniz, Granados, de Falla, Sanz, Dowland, Bach, Rodrigo, Vivaldi and traditional flamenco. Gareth will perform at the Conservatorium concert hall on September 30, with soprano Jane Edwards, as part of the ABC's Sunday Live series.

For further information contact Gareth on 4921 8834 or visit [www.classicalguitarist.net](http://www.classicalguitarist.net). The CD is produced by Artworks (AW026).

## Web publishing revision

Development of the University's new website is proceeding with workshops being held for web authors. Revisions to web publishing procedures are underway. Any questions or comments should be directed to Dr Fran Flavel, Marketing and Media Services by emailing [Fran.Flavel@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Fran.Flavel@newcastle.edu.au).



# Crossing disciplinary boundaries for better health

A book exploring transdisciplinary thinking and the synthesis of different skills to pursue quality health research was launched at the University last month.

*Health Social Science: A Transdisciplinary and Complexity Perspective* details the experiences of Newcastle academics in developing and applying social science concepts and methods to clinical and population health research. Written by Nick Higginbotham, Glenn Albrecht and Linda Connor, with contributions from Julie Byles, Dick Heller, Kate D'Este, Carla Treloar, Ann Saul, Jenny Porteous and Sonia Freeman, this is the first textbook to comprehensively define the field of health social science.

The book explores a framework for teaching, planning interventions, and pursuing quality

health research using complexity theory, which is described as a means of understanding health problems as dynamic systems. It features detailed case studies demonstrating how a transdisciplinary framework can be used to prevent heart disease, control hospital infection, understand the global pharmaceutical industry, and in AIDS prevention. The final section of the book features comprehensive reviews of epidemiological and qualitative study designs and methods.

"The book reflects a key aim of health social science, which is to define new and productive ways to work across the many disciplines and health problems that make up the field of population health research," Nick Higginbotham said. "The volume is of practical use to students and professionals involved in health research and will also inform medical and public



At the launch (from left): authors Linda Connor, Nick Higginbotham and Glenn Albrecht, with ABC presenter Norman Swan (holding book)

health practitioners and health advocates grappling with major health problems in developed or developing world societies."

The textbook, published by

Oxford University Press, was launched by Dr Norman Swan presenter of ABC National's *Health Report* at the Fine Art Gallery on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## Shaping a nation by removing street kids

Nineteenth-century middle-class Australia removed 'neglected' boys from their working class roots in a similar way to the later removal of Aboriginal children in the 'Stolen Generation', says Newcastle historian Dr Martin Crotty.

In his first book, *Making the Australian Male, Middle-Class Masculinity 1870-1920*, Martin examines changing ideals of Australian manliness during a crucial 50-year period in our history and argues that middle-class society moulded its idealised Australian male in an ever-shifting response to the times.

The well-mannered, intellectual, Christian male was 'respectable' society's reaction to the fear of convict taint, but this meek and feminine ideal was rapidly supplanted from the 1870s onwards by a much more rugged,

physical and athletic successor. In the decade or so prior to World War I, Martin argues, this ideal took on an increasingly militarist and nationalist bent, with disastrous consequences.

Respectable society sought to press its ideals down the social scale, attacking working-class ideas of manliness. Writing about the boy rescue organisations of the late nineteenth century, Martin says middle-class movements sought to instill a respectable manliness into boys from across a class divide – "rescuing" street boys considered to be living in 'reeking filth and sin'. Many hundreds were 'rescued' and sent to 'respectable' homes in the country where their 'moral and industrial training' was undertaken.

"In a similar sort of way to the attempts made to stamp out Aboriginal culture, the invasion of



Martin Crotty

some homes by members of the rescue movements was an attempt to remove the rising generation as a means of stamping out a resistant culture," Martin writes.

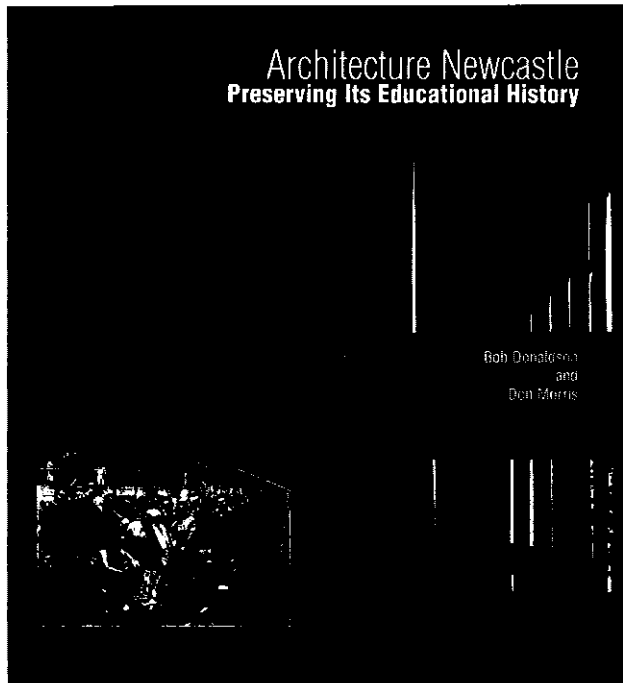
*Making the Australian Male, Middle-Class Masculinity 1870-1920* is published by Melbourne University Press.

## Farewell John

For the past 20 years, John Freund has provided the University with photographic services. Many University staff have been framed within the viewfinder of John's camera and immortalised in one of the thousands of photographs he captured of the life of the University. John has retired from the University to enjoy other pursuits and I am sure all staff wish him well in his retirement.

Photographic services to support marketing, publications and advertising will in future be coordinated through the Marketing and Media Services Unit. All enquiries for photographic support should now be directed to M&MS. Clinical and research photographic services provided by staff based in the David Maddison Building and John Hunter Hospital will not be affected by this change.

# Major scholarship to study architecture overseas



Donate to the Parker scholarship and receive a copy of Bob Donaldson's book

A third year student in the Bachelor of Science (Architecture) has won a major scholarship to study architecture around the world.

Twenty-year-old Andrew Donaldson has been selected from 27 applicants as the winner of the Eric Parker Memorial Scholarship, which was established at the

University's Architecture Reunion last year.

Eric Parker was the first permanent teacher of architecture at the University, arriving in 1957. He later became the University's first architect and planner.

Bob Donaldson, Head of the Department of Architecture (and no relation to Andrew), says the scholarship allows the student to spend between three months and one year overseas studying architecture.

"Eric Parker always carried a sketch book with him, and this scholarship requires Andrew to sketch the buildings he visits overseas as a permanent impression of his travels," Bob said. "Andrew has chosen to spend his time in the USA, England, Paris, Spain, Germany, Austria and Japan. On his return, he will

present a record and sketches of his travels to the University and the architectural profession at the 2002 Parker dinner."

Andrew Donaldson says he is looking forward to the opportunity.

"I'll be focusing mainly on modern architecture, but will also inspect some older works in Paris and other parts of Europe."

Andrew was officially announced as the scholarship winner at the Eric Parker Memorial Dinner, held at the University Club on August 11. Bob Donaldson's book, *Architecture Newcastle. Preserving its Education History*, was also launched at the dinner. Anyone who contributes \$50 or more to the Parker scholarship fund will be given a copy of the book. To donate or for information contact Bob on ext 5787 or email arjd@alinga.newcastle.edu.au.

## Letter to the Editor

Sue and I would like to thank all that wished us well for our move to Melbourne. The farewell dinner held in the Brennan Room was a wonderful night for us and the generosity of those who attended and who contributed to the beautiful noodle bowls and the John Earle painting is very much appreciated. I am about to launch

into noodle recipes. The letters, cards and emails I received were all appreciated.

I have attempted to write personally to many people and this letter is a lazy way of covering a collective thankyou.

Our news! We have organised rental accommodation in Balwyn North for six months in order to

have time to look for a house to buy. Our temporary digs on arriving at La Trobe were in very luxurious University accommodation that originally formed part of a large psychiatric hospital (perhaps they knew a thing or two about the new arrivals). La Trobe has been very welcoming and the pace has been frenetic (and enjoyable) since taking up the

position. As expected the weather has been hot, cold, freezing, beautiful in hourly cycles.

Thankyou again for all your best wishes and we hope to see you if you venture to the deep, dank, dark south.

**David Finlay**  
**Dean Faculty of Science,**  
**Technology and Engineering**  
**LaTrobe University**

## Remnants of Green

*Remnants of Green* was created by wildlife illustrators Herbert Heinrich and Anne Young (Llewellyn) as a postgraduate project that visually documented the rainforests of the Hunter Region. It incorporated large watercolours, together with acrylics on paper, photography, movie film, environmental sound recordings, resin castings of collected organic material, and tree sculpture, all set in a simulated rainforest

environment. After the graduate exhibition at the Hunter Institute of Higher Education, it was displayed at the 1988 Newcastle Show and subsequently became a permanent exhibit in the Newcastle Regional Museum opened during 1988 bicentennial celebrations.

The Hunter Institute of Higher Education reproduced the major artworks as greeting cards and a poster for

environmental awareness of loss of rainforest habitat. Kangaroo Press commissioned Heinrich and Young (Llewellyn) to write a children's book around the artwork (published 1989).

Over the 12 years of its life in the Museum, *Remnants of Green* was used as an interpretive tool for student groups. The surviving artworks have been compacted and assembled,

along with the historical documentation of the project, into a book, which has been exhibited at University of Queensland, TechTrain Conference (Creativity Exhibit). The *Remnants of Green* book was displayed in the Foyer Exhibition Space of the Design Building during August and will go on show at Macquarie University Biological Sciences Museum and ANIMALmagic this month.

# Faculty of Engineering Safety Committee

by Dr Shaun Manning  
(acting Hazard Watch Safety Officer)

Teaching and research activities in the Faculty of Engineering inevitably produce an extensive variety of hazards. Some of the hazardous equipment includes overhead cranes, forklifts, large tensile/compressive test machines and a variety of rotating machinery. In many buildings there also exists substantial chemical, electrical, biological and manual handling hazards. Despite the extent of the hazards, risks are generally controlled to acceptable levels.

The first faculty-wide coordination of risk management came about by the formation of the Faculty of Engineering Safety Committee in 2000. The Dean of Engineering, Professor Adrian Page, chairs the committee. The committee is made up of representatives from each of the

faculty's departments, and combines a mix of academic and general staff. The representatives are:

- Tim Wylie – Lab Manager, Computer and Electrical Engineering
- Geoff Martin – Lab Manager, Computer Science and Software Engineering
- Dr Eric Kennedy – Senior Lecturer, Chemical Engineering
- Dr Renhu Pan – Lecturer, Mechanical Engineering
- Dr Shaun Manning – Professional Engineer, Civil, Surveying & Environmental Engineering.

The Committee has met regularly since its inception, and has performed the functions of identifying safety issues and focusing on solutions. Some of the areas of concern that have been tackled are:

- Safety Audits
- Building evacuations
- First aid officers
- Development and adoption of a Faculty safety document.

Ongoing concerns relate to providing safety to pedestrians negotiating roads and paths, and adequate lighting in car parks.

The committee acts as a forum for raising safety concerns, and all staff in the Faculty are encouraged to raise safety issues with their supervisors, and to raise any unresolved issues with the committee.

Effectiveness of the Committee relies on members finding the time to implement strategies including monitoring, controlling and reviewing the risk management scheme. This is often made difficult by work commitments, and because of the significant level of OH&S expertise required to effectively

manage the scheme.

To continually improve the safety management system in the Faculty, the committee has recommended the appointment of a dedicated Engineering Faculty Safety Officer to work in support of the PVC and the Safety Committee. The Safety Officer will coordinate the Faculty's safety initiatives, ensure legislative compliance and work with the University's Health and Safety unit.

A number of issues being considered by the Safety Committee arise from the expansion of the Faculty of Engineering as part of the University restructure. The larger Faculty will involve more staff and more individual buildings, with a number of buildings located outside the traditional Engineering "cluster". Despite such challenges, the Safety Committee will strive to continually improve its safety management system.

## University captures leading literary journal

The University is bringing a significant cultural icon to Newcastle by supporting the new series of one of Australia's leading literary journals.

The new series of HEAT, a paperback book-length journal of distinctive fiction, essays, comment, poetry, art and photography, was launched in Newcastle on July 18.

Contributors to the first edition of the new series, called *Fire and Shadow*, include some of Australia's most renowned authors, poets and artists including David Malouf, Louis Nowra, Beverley Farmer, Eva Sallis and Judith Beveridge.

HEAT was established in 1996 by former editor of Southerly, Ivor Indyk. The University has appointed Ivor as a Senior Research Academic with a twofold brief – to edit and publish the new series of HEAT and to encourage and supervise

postgraduate research around its interests.

A passionate believer in quality literature, Ivor says: "No area of knowledge need remain remote or too specialised if the writing is good enough to carry it to the reader. HEAT is aimed at the wide audience of people who enjoy writing that is committed, innovative and adventurous."

HEAT was launched by Professor John Ramsland, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Science, and distinguished poet Robert Gray on July 18 at the Watt Space Galleries.

"I have encouraged and sponsored the move of HEAT, which remains self-funded, to the University and believe that

its presence will involve the Faculty much more directly than before in the production, dissemination and discussion of good writing, as well as in local, national and international networks of writers, publishers and critics," John says.

*Fire and Shadow's* striking red and blue cover was designed by Harry Williamson, whose achievements include the Mawson \$100 note.

Although HEAT is a literary journal, it is published in book form (254 pages) and is available through bookshops and by subscription. Cost is \$23.95 or \$40 for an annual subscription (two issues). Subscription inquiries should be directed to Dr Indyk, email [heat@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:heat@newcastle.edu.au) or visit the website at [www.mypostbox.com/heat](http://www.mypostbox.com/heat).



### For sale

Used in "Our Town" production, two wooden trellis type garden arches, as new, \$75 each. Four bentwood chairs \$65 each. Contact Foveaux Kirby, Drama Dept, ext 8665.

### For rent

Charlestown, Oceanview Parade – two or three bedroom original art deco cement rendered house in bush setting. Includes old piano and wood combustion fireplace, with some furniture available if needed, home security plus spacious lockup garage. \$185 a week for six months lease and bond required. Available mid September. Long term tenancy preferred. Contact Irene on 4942 1884 (or leave a message).

...elle...



L>R: Newcastle City Council General Manager Janet Dore, Vice-Chancellor Roger Holmes, Lord Mayor John Tate and University Director of Estates and Services Don Foster.

The University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Newcastle City Council to collaborate in promoting Newcastle as a leading destination for conferences and conventions.

The MoU, signed by the Vice-Chancellor Professor Roger Holmes and the Lord Mayor Councillor John Tate on July 25, recognises that University staff are potential generators of significant levels of conference business. It agrees that the University will work with the City to encourage staff and departments to bring their academic conferences to Newcastle.

The Vice-Chancellor says the agreement with the city will help the University to attract conferences to Newcastle.

"The MoU is another step in the strengthening relationship between the University and the community it serves," he said. "By cooperating to encourage national and international conferences to Newcastle, we are raising the profile of the University and showcasing its facilities to a wider audience, as well as promoting the region's appeal as a holiday destination."

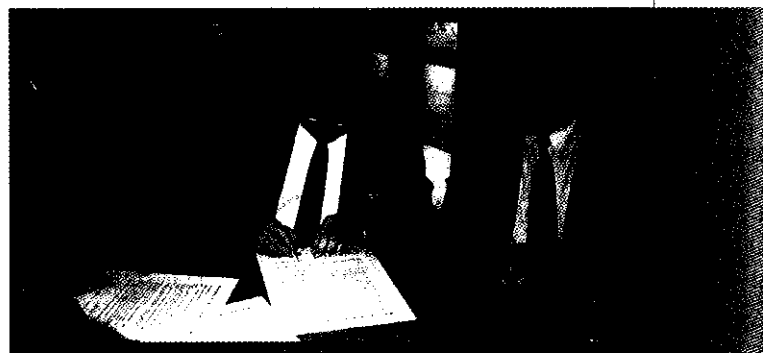
Senior Facilities Officer (Space Management) Sandra Jones says the University attracts more than 80,000 people to its Callaghan campus each year through Facility Hire (Space Management) bookings.

"We view the visitors as prospective students, whose first experience of their future University might be through a ballet eisteddfod when they are children," she said. "The University's facilities have the capacity and the high-tech audio-visual technology required by modern conferences and the MoU means we will be working more closely with the Newcastle Tourism and Convention Bureau to devise strategies to attract conferences."

Sandra will work with Bureau Convention Organiser Ruth Appleby to maximise the number of conferences they can attract, thereby providing an economic boost to the region. She says one possible strategy would be to provide kits to academic staff travelling to conferences that would assist them to promote Newcastle for subsequent conferences.

"Staff are high-end users of conferences and we hope they will act as ambassadors for the city and the University," she said. "The Bureau is available to help people who want to bid for conferences and have worked with staff in the past to stage successful events both on and off campus."

Sandra says that anyone planning to bid for or organise a conference can get valuable assistance organising the million and one things necessary for success through her office or the Tourism and Convention Bureau. For a conference checklist or help in booking facilities or accommodation, contact Sandra on 4921 6665 or Facility Hire Coordinator Clare Nader on 4921 6664. To view the University's conference policy go to [www.newcastle.edu.au/cwis/Admin/ppe/policy/facilities-policy.htm](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/cwis/Admin/ppe/policy/facilities-policy.htm).





## Special Education Centre

### This is your 'FIRSTCHANCE' to help turn disability into ability

Occasionally a child who has extra challenges is born into our community. Maybe they are diagnosed with a disability like Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, autism disorders, ADHD or emotional disorders. Of course such a child will bring a lot of joy to their families but they can also increase the common difficulties faced by other families.

Thankfully there is a program that can help families of young children with disabilities right here on campus. Firstchance is the registered charity that supports the work of the Special Education Centre, a dynamic part of the University's training, research and community service. The early childhood intervention facilities at the centre cater annually for the needs of more than 140 families. Thirty other families who are not able to access the centre programs receive weekly home visits. The Outreach Program supports the integration and inclusion of over 100 young children with additional needs into their local early childhood centre.

Firstchance is appealing to you now because we are faced with a situation unique in the history of the Centre. Increased referrals of young children with diagnosed disabilities mean that we are unable to provide a service for a large number of families who remain on our waiting list. Although we have the space and facilities to provide extra programs we do not have enough funds to meet their very high running costs.

By donating a small sum of money from your fortnightly pay YOU can help children to participate in a program which will help them to reach their full potential. Your donation is tax deductible.

## 'FIRSTCHANCE' Salary Deduction Authorisation

Please return to firstchance, special education centre, university of newcastle

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Employee no: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please deduct \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Per fortnight from my salary.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_