

uninews

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The University of Newcastle News

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The intended closure of BHP's steelmaking operations in Newcastle with the loss of more than 2000 jobs will change the face of the city. The University responded to the announcement by working with the company to offer flexible and focussed retraining options for many of the affected workers. Our feature article on pages 4 and 5 looks at how the University has been involved at BHP and what courses have fitted the qualifications and aspirations of those affected.

UNINEWS - April

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Uninews is written in an informal and friendly style that includes the use of Christian names for the staff and students interviewed and written about. Where honorifics or titles are used, it is at the request of the person involved.

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Vice-Chancellor's Column

The 1998 academic year is now well underway and I hope that you, our staff and students, are settling into a busy program of academic activities or support of our academic programs, here at the University of Newcastle. Well, hang on to your hats, the WEST Review of Higher Education Funding and Policy is about to be released at the time of writing, and is likely to be available to the Federal Government and the broader community by the time this Uninews edition is distributed.

As a university, we need to prepare ourselves for further change. Even though it is unlikely that Minister Kemp will implement any of the major recommendations of the review in the short term, and certainly not prior to the next election, significant changes in the way in which we receive our funding for teaching and research activities will undoubtedly occur. Consider what has taken place over the past 10 years: universities have more than doubled in size through amalgamations and the massification of higher education, and nearly doubled in number, from 19 to 36 public universities; deferred payment of fees for course enrolments was introduced, initially at modest levels, but more recently, reaching amounts comparable to some American universities; fees for undertaking coursework postgraduate awards are now

routine across all such programs, with exceptions for first professional degree qualifications for teachers and nurses; and a major reduction in government funding support for universities has occurred, particularly if you take account of the unfunded salary increases that have been largely paid from within existing budgets.

How do we prepare ourselves and the University for further change, and importantly how do we maintain academic standards and retain focus on the main game, which is the achievement and sustaining of excellence in teaching and research? The options are several and include a number of steps that have already been taken, such as reducing administrative overheads, enhancing income generation through expanding opportunities for international students and programs, retaining academic comprehensiveness, and preparing for a future which will be increasingly dependent on flexible learning options, improved articulation arrangements with TAFE and having the necessary support IT infrastructure. Additional effort is required, however, in a number of areas, including internationalising our curricula and student population, in providing more appropriate coursework postgraduate programs, establishing effective partnerships with business and industry, as well as with overseas organisations, increasing our research and research post-graduate student profile across the University, and improving links with alumni and other support groups.

Our continuing success will depend on how we cope with change. I invite you to join me in accepting and responding to these challenges as members of the University community.

Twenty one years of helping special children



Children who have been helped by the Early Intervention Program enjoy the birthday party at the Special Education Centre last month.

The Faculty of Education's Special Education Centre last month hosted a 21st birthday party for its Early Intervention program, which has helped over 2000 children to learn live with their disabilities.

Designed for children from birth to school age who have any form of disability or developmental problem, the program is the oldest and most comprehensive in the State.

"It's the most extensive program run by the Special Education Centre," director Phil Foreman said. "Children are referred to us by paediatricians, therapists, early childhood professionals and parents.

"We have a range of strategies and resources to assist children who are having difficulties. We employ childcare assistants and can send them to a childcare centre or pre-school to assist for

a term or so to help children integrate, for instance."

Phil finds it particularly rewarding following the children's progress into adulthood, as they develop skills which enable them to make great achievements.

"People like Lauren Hislop, who attended the party last month, started with the program in 1979 at the age of two. She was born with cerebral palsy, uses a wheelchair for mobility and has some difficulties with speech.

"With the help of Early Intervention and other services along the way, Lauren is now a second year arts student at the Central Coast campus," Phil explained.

Lauren's mother, Karen, said the program was priceless to them, helping them to communicate with Lauren using sign language.

The Special Education Centre's 21 year partnership with the NSW Department of Education and Training and the Catholic Schools Office has also helped children with basic literacy difficulties. The short-term programs have helped more than 1000 children since 1977.

The Dean of the Education Faculty, Professor Terry Lovat, launched a video series entitled *The Teaching Sequence in Special Education* in a ceremony at the University on April 8. Developed by Phil Foreman and Ian Dempsey with a grant from the Committee for University Teaching and Staff Development, the video series is about teaching children with special needs. It was produced by the Medical Communication Unit. For information telephone the Special Education Centre on Ext 6275.

BHP and the University in partnership

When BHP announced in April last year that it would close its steelmaking operations in Newcastle with the loss of more than 2,000 jobs, the city was stunned. For most of this century the steelworks have dominated the city's skyline and in its heyday more than 12,000 people worked there.

BHP's redundancy package includes cash incentives to encourage workers to stay at the plant for the full two years until closure in December 1999. It also includes extensive financial support for staff retraining. The retraining component of the package was seen as a goldmine by many institutions and BHP was flooded with enquiries and offers from private suppliers, TAFE and other universities

offering both existing courses and tailor made short courses. Sandra Sirasch, Assistant Dean in the Faculty of Education, quickly recognised the opportunity to offer technology and applied science teacher training courses to skilled tradesmen (see following story).

Ultimately, however, it was the workers who would determine the sort of training that was agreed to by the company. And many of the workers were uncertain about the possibilities. Pro Vice-Chancellor (External Relations) Professor Jenny Graham and the Deputy Director of Marketing and Media Services, Michael Coughlan, arranged the secondment of an onsite course adviser and Helen Parker from the University's Careers and Student Employment section began work one or two

days a week at BHP last October. "I think part of the reason that BHP is happy for me to be there is that I'm not a salesperson," Helen said. "They're wary after all the people they've had through trying to sell courses. They want someone who knows the Newcastle labour market and can advise people more widely than someone who is just pushing the university barrow."

The sort of training the company is interested in offering is courses that can be completed part-time in two years and will lead to jobs at the end. Some of the University's courses fitted the bill without any modification. The Graduate Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety, for instance, is a one-year part-time course that can be undertaken by distance education, allowing workers to fit their study

around their work schedule. The qualification meshed well with trade qualifications providing an extra string to the worker's bow when they begin to look for work.

Ross Coulton from the Discipline of Environmental and Occupational Health in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences said demand for occupational health and safety graduates was steady across all industries nationally. "All tenderers for State Government contracts now have to have an approved occupational health and safety standard workplace before they can even submit a tender," he said. Fourteen BHP workers are enrolled in the Graduate Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety, two in the Diploma program and two have gone straight into the Masters program.

Back to the books

On the day of the closure announcement Sandra Sirasch worked late. "I remember sitting here late in the evening thinking there must be something we could do," she said. The next morning Sandra called BHP's human resource section and spoke to Senior Human Resource Officer, Bruce Mewett.

"We were still catching our breaths from the announcement and none of us knew how we were going to handle it," Bruce recalls. "When Sandra first suggested that workers could be retrained as teachers I thought 'no way'. But I decided it would be good to meet with her and go from there." Initially, Sandra tried to sell the Faculty's double degree programs but the four-year full-time courses weren't what the company had in mind. She then suggested the Diploma of Education (DipEd) in Technological and Applied Studies, which fit-

ted the time frame as well as being an area where trade skills were valued. She also suggested keeping on the books the Bachelor of Education (BEd) (Design and Technology), which was to be phased out this year, and modifying it for BHP.

After almost 12 months of hard work forging agreements with the Department of School Education (now the Department of Education and Training - DET), the University, industry professional bodies and the company, Sandra managed to stitch together a course that was so well suited to the needs of the workers that 66 of them enrolled - 14 in the DipEd and 52 in the BEd. Not only has she provided enormous flexibility to allow them to continue working while they study, Sandra has also managed to have the workers' prior learning and qualifications recognised within the Faculty, by

DET and by the Institute of Technology Education.

A landmark agreement signed between DET, the University and BHP in December last year offers a guaranteed employment path to the BHP recruits. Minister for Education and Training, John Aquilina, said the joint initiative achieved two aims - retraining workers and offering them a guaranteed career path. "Most of the workers under this agreement will retrain as teachers in technology and applied sciences, an area of growing demand statewide," Mr Aquilina said.

Workers enrolled in the BEd will be financially supported by BHP for the full three years of their study, including the year beyond closure. They have received substantial credit toward their degree in recognition of their industry qualifications and will be paid a training allowance of \$500 a week for



• Sandra Sirasch

their final year of study by the DET if they undertake to teach with the Department.

According to Bruce, neither he nor Sandra had any idea that they would get such a huge response to the education courses. "I am delighted that it worked so well," he said. "I think our employees will make splendid teachers - highly skilled and very credible."

An important aspect of the University's dealings with BHP has been the recognition of prior learning of the applicants. The company provides extensive in-house training and development and their workforce is highly skilled and well qualified. Some students, however, either did not qualify for admission to University courses or felt they would benefit from some preliminary studies and have enrolled with the Open Foundation Course (OFC). Course coordinator, Keryl Kavanagh said around 20 BHP workers had enrolled in the year long part-time course. "We have also taken academic skills courses to BHP and had more than 70 people attend them," Keryl said. "BHP have been extremely supportive and their human resource people

have organised rooms and negotiated times as well as letting people know about the sessions."

Professor Scott Holmes and Suzanne Ryan from the Graduate School of Business have also worked with BHP to develop a postgraduate course suited to the needs of managers.



• Paul Gallimore at work in the BHP bloom rolling mill.

Leading edge leadership

Operation Superintendent of BHP's Bloom Mill and Billet Processing, Paul Gallimore, has a proprietorial air as he walks along the raised walkway that runs the length of the giant rolling mill. He is proud to be a part of one of the last of these enormous steel rolling mills on Earth and of the team that has made it great. And as the mill's closure in December 1999 draws closer, he feels a growing affinity with the 150 men who work with him. "We talk to each other and share how we feel and can express some vulnerability," Paul said. "I think human beings are at their greatest when they are issued with a challenge that stretches them."

In common with other workers at BHP, Paul and his fellow managers are well trained and highly qualified. Having already made up his mind to do graduate studies before the closure was

announced, Paul had specific requirements from a management course that could not be met by a conventional Masters of Business Administration (MBA). "I believe in personal growth as a metaphor for industry growth," Paul explained. "If you don't know how to manage and grow yourself, what hope do you have of doing that within your chosen industry."

Paul has been part of executive management programs within BHP based on systems thinking and it was this approach of leading edge leadership that he (and other like-minded managers within the company) wanted to study further. After some preliminary discussions with academic staff from Monash and RMIT, Paul spoke to Helen Parker who introduced him to Suzanne Ryan, Deputy Director of the Graduate School of Business (GSB). "Suzanne and I met and she

was very keen on tailor-making courses to local business, so there was an overlap," Paul said. "In terms of the University's responsiveness...the people at the GSB have a service ethic and understand their customer base. They took time with us, asked questions, discussed our needs and then delivered what we need."

The discussions resulted in the development of a new postgraduate course, the Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma and Masters in Applied Management (MAM). The MAM is a workplace- or industry- focussed course with classes offered in a range of flexible ways to suit the needs of the clients. BHP will be the first to use it, with nine people enrolled this year, but it is expected to be attractive to other major industries and organisations in the medium and longer terms.

"The timing of the course was important and the process

of getting it approved by the University is rather drawn out," Suzanne said. "But it is really an administrative hiccup so we have enrolled the BHP students in the MBA to begin with and will transfer them across when the MAM is approved."

BHP will provide financial support for the managers doing the course, contributing a significant proportion of the cost of the full-fee MAM. Paul believes the company has created a benchmark for closing a factory down that will be recognised as excellent both nationally and internationally. "Everyone was given the chance to develop a personal action plan for the future. If you can articulate what you want, the company is going to help you make it happen." He hopes to move into a general management role in any sort of organisation as his next position.



John Molony Study Abroad and Exchange advocate

Thoughts about overseas travel for many of us are imbued with the pleasant glow of holidays – images of lazy days by the pool in some tropical paradise or the nip of a winter morning in Paris. But for many who travel abroad for work purposes, like the Manager of the University's Study Abroad and Exchange Program, John Molony, the experience is a mix of stimulating encounters and hard work.

"It's really fascinating to experience so many different cultures and I get to meet a lot of interesting people," John said. "But it does take its toll." John's overseas travels are a part of the effort that has led to a phenomenal growth in the Study Abroad and Exchange Program at Newcastle during the past two years.

With more than 200 students participating last year, the program is the third largest in Australia and much of that success is due to the efforts of John and his colleagues in the International Office (IO).

Study Abroad refers to international students attending the University on a fee paying basis for a semester or year, who transfer the credit gained at Newcastle back to their home institutions. Exchange students also spend a semester or year at the University and transfer credit home but they don't pay fees. They usually come as part of an institution to institution agreement which allows for the reciprocal exchange of students.

John, who did his Bachelor of Arts in media studies at RMIT, began recruiting overseas students to the program as a commissioned agent while living in the United States in 1994. From his Baltimore base on the east coast, John visited over 100 colleges and universities in the States in an 18-month period and sent his first small group of students to the University in second semester 1994. A group of 18 students followed in 1995.

Apart from making contacts in America, John and other staff in

the IO built similar relationships in Scandinavia, and the University's program was up and running.

When he was ready to return to Australia, John was offered jobs both at Newcastle and at Bond University on the Gold Coast. "In March 1995, I came for an interview at Newcastle and woke up in a hotel room overlooking Newcastle Beach," John explained. "It was during that visit that I decided Newcastle wasn't a bad place."

The former Victorian is now a staunch advocate of the city and the University. "You couldn't find a better university for overseas students," John said. "The city is big enough for them to access decent entertainment and it has all the physical attributes to facilitate hiking, swimming, surfing and other activities. Students have told us that they find Newcastle very friendly and welcoming, both at the University and in the community."

"The international links add value to the University."

The majority of incoming students to the program have come from North America and Scandinavia, with participants from Northern Ireland, Germany, Italy, Austria, Korea, Thailand, Singapore and Japan. There is a greater number of incoming exchange students than outgoing but the imbalance is being addressed and last year students from Newcastle studied in Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Northern Ireland, Austria, Japan and North America.

That the program has succeeded so well at Newcastle

is a testament to the efforts of the IO team, who have worked hard to develop systems that are responsive to the needs of the overseas students, John said. "There is an enormous amount of goodwill for both outgoing and incoming students among the academic and administrative staff of the whole University. If deans weren't so supportive the program wouldn't happen."

John thinks there is enormous potential for continued growth in the program. "We haven't even touched the western European market yet and there is potential in Germany, Italy, France and in Asia as well," he said. "The international links add value to the University as we develop relationships with countries and with institutions through the Exchange and Study Abroad Program."

The University is taking a mature approach to internationalisation, John said. "Universities are often seen as being internationally focussed for the quick buck but here we have seen time, effort and money being put into sending our students out. Establishing these overseas links is an investment in the future of the University."

John recently returned from a trip to Singapore, Norway and Sweden to recruit students to the program. He stopped over at Berlin on his way home to see two universities about exchange possibilities. "I really enjoy promoting the University by making these connections," he said. "The cultural diversity that the program brings adds something very valuable to the University."

University Legal Centre involved in reactivating murder investigations



Police task force members search a section of Stockton Beach following the discovery of a jawbone last month.

When 62-year-old Hilda Armstrong was approached by the parents of missing Charlestown teenager Gordana Kotevski for help in reactivating the investigation into their daughter's disappearance, she knew just where to go first – the University's Legal Centre.

Having worked closely with centre director John Boersig, barrister Robert Cavanagh and their student team to have the Leigh Leigh murder case re-investigated, Hilda knew what they were capable of achieving.

"Mrs Kotevski contacted me after the Leigh case publicity," Hilda explained. "The investigation had gone so far and then doors seemed to close. Gordana's parents and those of other children who have disappeared in the Hunter over the past 20 years feel as though there is nowhere for them to go."

Hilda voluntarily acts as liaison person between the families, the Legal Centre, the police service and the media. "The powers that

be know that if I say I will have certain matters tabled in Parliament, then I will. The police and the media know that I tell the truth and they can trust me." Not a thorn in their side, Hilda softly jokes, but a rose that will cling to them.

Law students from the Legal Centre interviewed the families of missing Hunter people, taking statements with which they built a file used to approach police.

"Hilda makes it possible for us to get involved in this sort of advocacy role," John Boersig said. "It is community activism that gets these matters back on the agenda."

Four strike forces, Casco, Caserta, Cashel and Casato, have been established to re-examine the disappearances of Gordana Kotevski from Charlestown in 1994, Graham Monk, 22, from Wallsend in June 1996, Amanda Zolis, 16, from Newcastle in October 1979 and Leanne Goodall, 20, from Newcastle in December 1978.

The strike forces held an extensive two-week search of

coastal bushland near Belmont and Swansea involving a team of 30 specially trained police last month. The search fell under the control of Operation Fenwick, announced by Police Commissioner Peter Ryan following the discovery of a jawbone at Stockton Beach last month. The 1979 disappearances of Robyn Hickie, 17, from Belmont and Amanda Robinson, 14, from Swansea are also being investigated under Operation Fenwick.

The police searches may have ended but that won't end the search for truth by Hilda and the Legal Centre. While police assess the quality of information provided by the public during the course of the searches at Stockton and Belmont, Hilda prepares to make enquiries as to what they will do from here.

"The mothers and fathers of these children, some of whom have been missing for 19 years, asked for help," Hilda explained. "The backpacker murders have given police a new perspective. We've never really encountered

the serial killer phenomenon before and when many of the children went missing all those years ago, they were genuinely expected to show up again. We are able to offer their parents a chance to feel as though they are at least doing something to learn the truth about what happened to their children."

The Legal Centre is committed to statutory law reform and the seeking of truth, Robert Cavanagh said. "Involvement in these cases instils in law students that they can do more than just interpret the law."

The Newcastle Herald reported on April 6 that police had not ruled out the possibility of searching up to 20 other Hunter sites after the disappearance of 12 people in the past 20 years.

Central Coast News



• Steve Green, Snr Traffic Engineer for Gosford Council and winner of the Louis and Marjorie Karpin Memorial Prize

Pioneer makes his mark at the central coast campus

Central Coast Campus Master of Business Administration (MBA) graduand Steve Green has been awarded the coveted Louis and Marjorie Karpin Memorial Prize.

Awarded annually to the MBA graduand who achieves the best performance, if of sufficient merit, in the subject of Business Policy from both the University's Callaghan and Central Coast campuses, the prize has been donated by David Karpin, industry leader and author of the influential Karpin Report on Leadership and Management Skills.

Steve, who is employed as Senior Traffic Engineer for Gosford City Council, was delighted with the prize. The capstone MBA project which helped win him the prize is a business plan for a performing arts complex on the Central Coast Campus. The business plan, a team effort involving three MBA students, proposes

an exciting and innovative project which, if realised, would greatly enhance the quality of cultural life on the Central Coast.

Commenting on the award, Business Lecturer at the Central Coast Campus, David Cunneen, said Steve's performance in the Business Policy course and his project were outstanding and highly deserving of this recognition. "The prize is awarded to the best performing student in Business Policy, but it is not automatic. The performance must be absolutely outstanding," David said.

Steve is something of an academic pioneer. He has studied at two newly established campuses. His first degree in Civil Engineering was undertaken at the University of Technology in Sydney when it was in its fledgling days without a library or cafeteria. The glitches in the new buildings proved a test of character for students, especially when the lifts failed to operate and there were problems with the air conditioning and water supply.

From further study in Transport Planning and Management

through the University of NSW, Steve progressed to the MBA at the Central Coast Campus and once again found himself on a new and developing campus. "My experience as one of the first students on a new campus was starting all over again," Steve said. "The library was in a demountable building and there was building activity happening around us all the time," he said.

Being a pioneer doesn't seem to have adversely affected him. "I like to do things thoroughly and have always tried to work hard. Some subjects proved to be difficult while balancing the demands of study, work and family life. I told myself that if I kept on going and was honest and confident about the amount of effort I put in, that I would get the results," Steve said.

"The MBA has helped me. It has taught me to develop my ideas and to come up with creative strategies to work smarter and manage stress better. This is vitally important in a world of increasing work and shrinking budgets," he said.

USER FRIENDLY ZONE

An Information and Service Centre is soon to open on campus. This will amalgamate a number of functions currently located in different areas such as the cashier and course enquiries and will be a 'one-stop shop' for students and visitors. The new centre, which will also incorporate Student Administration, will be located in 'The Glen'.

NEW BUILDINGS

This year sees the continuation of the campus building program with the last of the grants committed by the Commonwealth Government, amounting to \$10.3M. New facilities will include an Information Technology Centre for the use of both University and TAFE students, staff offices for the Faculty of Business and Commerce, two large classroom blocks, and, at last, a proper home for our students in Fine Art.

FINE ART CENTRE

The Fine Art Centre will be a boon for students enrolled in the Bachelor of Fine Art degree course who are currently housed in temporary accommodation in a demountable building. The new facility will provide much needed space and a pleasant environment. It will also provide a link for the Regional Art Gallery which is scheduled for construction in 2000.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

A couple of significant dates in our calendar are Graduation Day and Open Day. It is exciting to be holding our Graduation Ceremony on campus this year. Another first for the Central Coast Campus in what seems like a wave of development, it will be held on Friday, 15 May.

The date for the Central Coast Campus Open has been set for Sunday, 9 August. Keep the date in your diary.

The University's best kept secret



• Guest speaker at the dedication ceremony, book restorer Daphne Lera.

One of the University's best kept secrets is its extraordinary collection of rare books, manuscripts and archives. The rare book collection, alone numbering 17,000 volumes, dates from the time of King Henry VIII and Pope Gregory XIII and has survived fire, plague, floods and long sea voyages.

Librarian Bill Linklater said the rare book collection places the University library alongside the great university libraries of the northern hemisphere. The University's collection, the calibre of which is rare among Australian universities, has been built largely through the foresight and generosity of Newcastle and Hunter Valley people.

Major benefactors to the collection over the years include the Friends of the University

who have generated and donated financial support (another well kept secret), the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle and the Catholic Diocese of Maitland and Newcastle.

Other generous benefactors include the University's Foundation Professor of Classics, Emeritus Professor Godfrey Tanner, and a member of an old Newcastle family, Miss Reta Light, whose father arrived in Newcastle as a refugee from the organised massacres of Jews in the Tsarist empire in the 1880's and left the library a bequest of \$1.5 million.

To thank the Friends of the University for their support, the University dedicated a reading room in the Archives and Special Collections Unit of the library on April 2. Volunteers

who have donated their time to the Friends' book fair and university staff and students attended the dedication.

Guest speaker, Daphne Lera, principal of a Sydney book restorer, gave a talk on rare book restoration, using examples of her work and of books which need conservation treatment.

To visit or explore the collection, browse the Archives and Special Collections Website at www.library.newcastle.edu.au/archives/archives.html or contact Denis Rowe on Ext 5820 or email: uldjr@deweynewcastle.edu.au.

The University will seek financial support to maintain the conservation of its priceless archival collection. If you are interested in making a donation, contact Glenn Gordon in the Development Office on Ext 8765.

Education Faculty attracts international attention

A groundbreaking Faculty of Education course, which trains teachers to deal with students with behavioural problems, is receiving international recognition.

The Faculty recently played host to a television crew from a Japanese current affairs show, on campus to interview Associate Professor Bob Conway about the Graduate Certificate in Education Studies (Behavioural Disorders and Emotional Disturbance). The course, which trains teachers to deal with difficult students, has been designed by the Faculty in conjunction with the Department of Education and Training (DET).

Like Australia, Japan has been facing a growing juvenile crime problem, particularly in its schools. Asahi TV was interested in how various NSW groups were working together on the problem, while in Japan all the relevant agencies are refusing to take responsibility for a solution, preferring to blame the problem on another agency.

The crew was also interested in the specialist training offered by the University to teachers. Apparently no similar training is offered to Japanese teachers. They also spoke to the DET and followed a graduate teacher from the University course as part of its story.

Encore exhibition



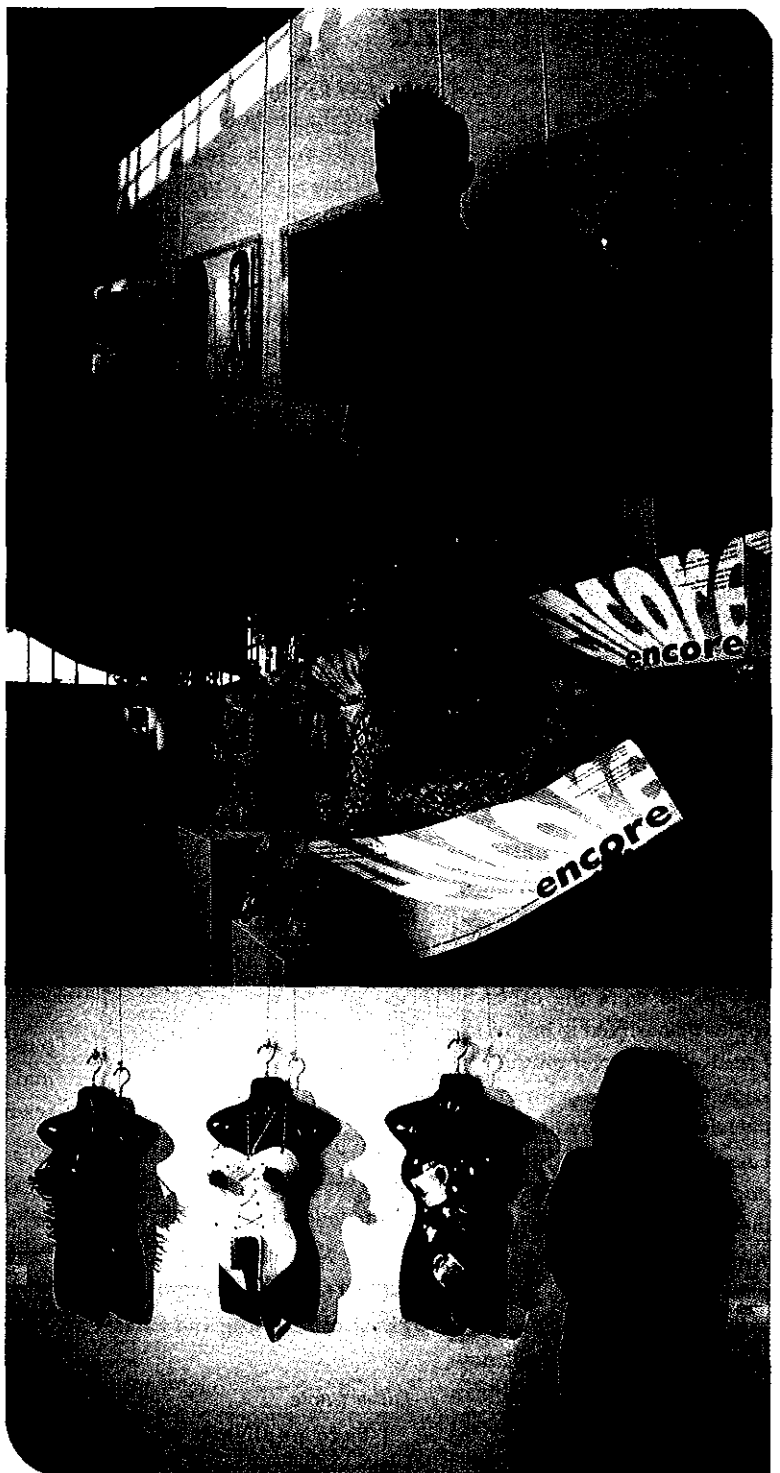
An exhibition showcasing the talents of graduating students from the Faculty of Art and Design has been running in the Art and Design gallery since March 25.

Featuring selected works of 43 students, the Encore exhibition represents a variety of art forms including painting, sculpture, ceramics, photography, printmaking, fibre art, video, illustration (plant and wildlife), graphic design and industrial design.

While final year students hold an exhibition of their work at the end of the year, Encore is timed to correspond with Art Express, an exhibition of the best works by NSW Higher School Certificate art students which has been showing at the Regional Art Gallery. Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Art and Design, Miranda Lawry, said school groups were offered tours that took in Art Express and then Encore. "They visit our exhibition and meet some of the artists as well as the lecturers from the Faculty and are provided with a tour of the facilities."



being an exhibition of
by the 1997 graduates
The University of Newcastle's
Art and Design Gallery
of Newcastle
in Cobham
Official opening
Wednesday 15th March 1998 at 7pm.
Continues until Sunday 29th April 1998.
Gallery hours
Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday
2.30pm or by appointment on
(071) 471 4376



encore

- Bachelor of Arts (Visual Art) graduand Tommy Leung with his digital photography exhibit, "Earth, Wood, Metal, Fire, Water".
- Graphic design graduand Mikola Trescott displays the poster she worked on for the exhibition. Students were involved in the promotion and publicity for the exhibition.
- Visual arts graduand Christine Cowan with her ceramics, mixed media exhibit, "Everything including the kitchen sink".

Greta Spall Prize



On 15 August 1997 Greta Spall, a librarian in the Biomedical Library died suddenly. Greta worked in many areas of the

Library but mainly in the Law and Biomedical Libraries. As a librarian in the Biomedical Library she taught undergraduate students in Health Sciences, Biology, Medicine and the two new courses: Bachelor of Biomedical Science (BBIomed) and Bachelor of Biotechnology (BBiotech). She designed handouts, presentations and workbooks, supervised Medical Reserve and taught staff and students how to use Medline.

Greta, who held a masters degree in librarianship from Monash University, developed a subject

specialisation in Biology and had a close rapport with postgraduate students and staff of Biological Sciences. Her warm smile, welcoming nature and gentle manner were not reserved for close family and friends. It is that caring nature that we miss and that makes it so hard to let her go. Everything she did was done quietly and confidently, reflecting high levels of service to our users. We miss her both as a friend and colleague.

The Greta Spall Prize of \$200 was initiated in memory of Greta. For 1997, 1998 and 1999 it will be awarded to the top student in the combined 1st year of the BBiotech

(Faculty of Science & Mathematics) and BBIomed (Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences). Greta coordinated and taught the library segment of Scientific and Data Evaluation (BIOL 103) in the inaugural year of the degrees in 1997.

Gough Au (BBIomed) is the winner for 1997. Prize money was donated by friends and colleagues of Greta. We feel the care and attention Greta gave to her students is reflected in this prize.

**Charmian Mitchell (Faculty Librarian, Science & Mathematics),
Rosemary Jurisich (Biomedical Librarian)**

Letters to the editor

ENVIRONMENTALLY UN SOUND

Upon receipt of my inaugural copy of Uninews I was overwhelmingly disappointed to find that it was wrapped in plastic, as were the other 60 copies that arrived in our office. I read with interest on the first page that the document is intended as an internal document. I had initially thought that the document was also sent outside the University and perhaps there was some sort of reason for the plastic packet.

Should the publication be discarded unread, it will now find its way into the rubbish bin. Without the plastic packet it would have had some chance of ending its useful life in the recycling bin. I would be interested to know the reasoning for the packets. Individual name labels could be as easily affixed to the top of the publication. I have received a number of complaints from staff members about this very issue and have encouraged them to voice their concern to the publication.

The individual copy for every member of staff was also a concerning issue from a resource perspective. I would suggest

that individuals be provided with the option of having their names removed from the mailing list and/or that groups be given the opportunity to request that only a small number be forwarded to their group for circulation or for their common room.

From an environmental perspective it is discouraging to see the lack of consideration of environmental issues within the University.

Yours faithfully,

**Janine Stablum
Project Officer (Environment)
Physical Planning and Estates**

Editor's note

I have published Janine's letter as a representative sample of the several concerned emails and phone calls received about the plastic packaging of our first Uninews. Those who have been at the University some time will remember that previous publications have been circulated in internal envelopes and that a regular call went into The Ear and its predecessors asking staff to provide us with their empty large envelopes for reuse. Our stocks of envelopes were exhausted last year and contrary to some comments by

staff, the bagging of the newspaper was an economical alternative to purchasing replacement envelopes and having Uninews inserted into them (albeit a one-off cost that could not be recouped as some would argue we are able to do by putting more internal envelopes into circulation). Please note the renewed call for internal envelopes in this edition of Uninews.

As for placing a label directly onto Uninews, I will admit some editorial pride in not wanting to deface our front cover or devalue the publication. The possibility of folding the newspaper with the label closing it would have rendered sections of the front and back covers illegible. And, of course, the possibility of Uninews being discarded unread didn't even occur to us!

An early policy decision was made to send a copy of the newspaper to each individual member of staff in response to feedback we received while circulating The Ear. The (then) Public Affairs Unit received a steady stream of callers wanting to be placed on the mailing list or to receive additional copies in their section. Several requests to be added to the mailing list were received from staff in

response to the first Uninews mailing. Many people like to receive an individual copy. I have also received requests from departments to receive only one copy for their area and will respond to all such requests by adjusting the database.

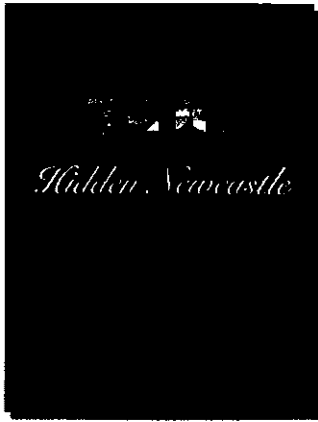
The publication is also intended for students and 2000 copies are currently circulated through the Union, Sports Centre and libraries. They are not, however, individually bagged and will not be. Forthcoming editions of Uninews will be circulated using internal envelopes and I will be happy to meet any individual departmental delivery needs you might have.

It is intended to survey our readers in a forthcoming edition to test the publication's effectiveness and seek suggestions and comments. I hope that people continue to read and respond to Uninews and look forward to the next round of letters and emails. I can be contacted on Ext 6457 or Fax 6400.

**Kim Britton,
Editor, Uninews**

Books

Hidden Newcastle revealed



When Sydney publisher Gadfly approached John Moore and Michael Ostwald from the Faculty of Architecture early in 1996 and asked for their ideas on a book to mark Newcastle's bicentenary, they got more than they bargained for.

"They wanted something that was very accessible and we wanted something with a more academic content," John recalls. "We also wanted something that would have an appeal beyond the academic and beyond Newcastle - something for and about Newcastle but putting an argument that can be extrapolated to any city."

The concept they put forward won funding from the Newcastle Bicentennial Corporation and resulted in *Hidden Newcastle: Urban Memories and Architectural Imaginaries*.

More than a history, the book looks at forgotten incidents in the city's past and the way they impacted on people and on the landscape.

"There was no need for another history," Michael said. "They keep repeating the same ideas and there is a whole aspect that is missing entirely - that is the hidden or invisible side of the city."

The book's intentions are summarised in the foreword: "...this work is concerned with uncovering a few of those hidden, fragmentary spaces which enrich Newcastle's urban fabric and, indeed, any urban environment".

Beautifully illustrated with unusual and original photography by Alan Chawner (from the Faculty of Art and Design) and with archival material, the book is an anthology of essays featuring the work of 16 authors, many of them from the University community. The contributors include architects, architectural historians, urban designers,

historians, urban and cultural geographers, sociologists and practitioners of cultural studies, providing an eclectic mix in both content and style.

"We wanted it to have a broader appeal than purely local," Michael said. "So we approached people from disciplines other than architecture and also people from Sydney and Melbourne."

One Melbourne writer studied depictions of the BHP in Newcastle and other industrial works in the National Gallery; her contribution is viewed through the lens of art. Another of the authors compares the changes

wrought in Newcastle by the 1989 earthquake with the changes to his hometown, Fremantle, in the wake of the America's Cup.

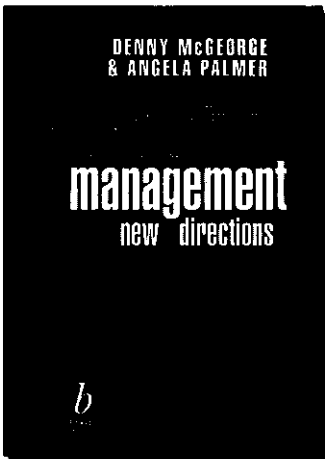
With the support of the research management committee of the University, the editors employed researcher Jo Hanley, who put in a huge amount of time and effort to track down the various historic images used in the book and gain the rights to use them. She also wrote a chapter.

Local historian Norm Barney said in his review that *Hidden Newcastle* "should be required reading for all with a genuine interest in our great city" and "may turn out to be the most important book to be published in conjunction with Newcastle's Bicentenary". A limited edition, the book is available through specialist bookshops around the country and retails at \$44.95. For information contact Jo Hanley on Ext 5774.

John can be contacted on Ext 5553 or email: jhill@mail.newcastle.edu.au



New Directions in Construction Management



Professor of Building in the Faculty of Architecture, Denny McGeorge, recently held a seminar in Sydney to provide information on six major new management concepts being applied in the construction industry.

The seminar, organised by the Professional Education and Projects Unit (PEP), gave people involved in the construction industry the opportunity to hear Denny outline the contents of his book, *Construction Management: New Directions*.

The six concepts: value management, total quality management, constructability, benchmarking, partnering and re-engineering, are

being employed in the construction industry in response to demands for improved quality and cost control and a reduction in contract disputes.

"I co-wrote the book with Dr Angela Palmer while on study leave at the Caledonian University in Glasgow in 1996," Denny said. "The new concepts described involve a radical approach to management - revolutionary rather than evolutionary approach."

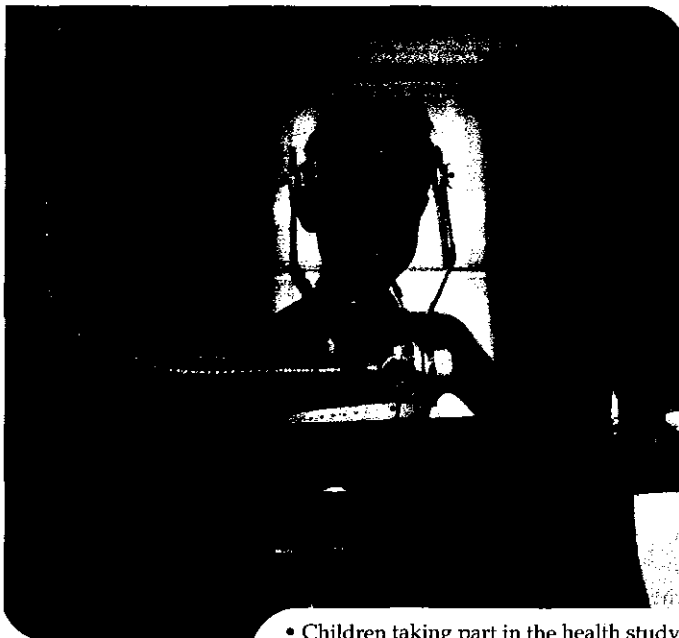
"They involve techniques like brainstorming and lateral thinking to solve problems. A lot of people in the industry find the concepts confusing and are sceptical about their usefulness so the seminar was

an attempt to provide an objective account of them for managers."

Held at the Menzies Hotel on March 26, the seminar was the first to be run by PEP in the Sydney central business district. Seminar organiser, John Hill, said he hoped it would be the first of many.

"If departments want to hold seminars in places other than Newcastle, we can facilitate that," John said. "The population base in Sydney means a wider audience for specialist subjects. We are working on plans for another Sydney seminar and would be happy to hear from anyone interested in presenting a seminar."

Are children turning into couch potatoes?



• Children taking part in the health study.

Australian children in previous generations were always on the go. With no television or computer games, children spent their time playing street cricket or red rover crossover or just roaming the neighbourhood either on a bike or on foot.

Many children today are driven to school or take public transport because parents believe that cycling or walking is unsafe. They tend not to play on the street or roam unsupervised and they watch television or spend hours at computer games.

Health professionals are becoming increasingly concerned that children are no longer engaging in enough sustained playful or incidental physical activity to maintain health. Despite the concern, however, health outcomes associated with various physical activity levels of children remain to be established.

A children's health study is being conducted by staff and students from the Discipline of Human Physiology in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. Aimed at determining whether fitness depends on the types and quantities of physical activity children do each day, the study will take place in the Human Performance Laboratory of the University.

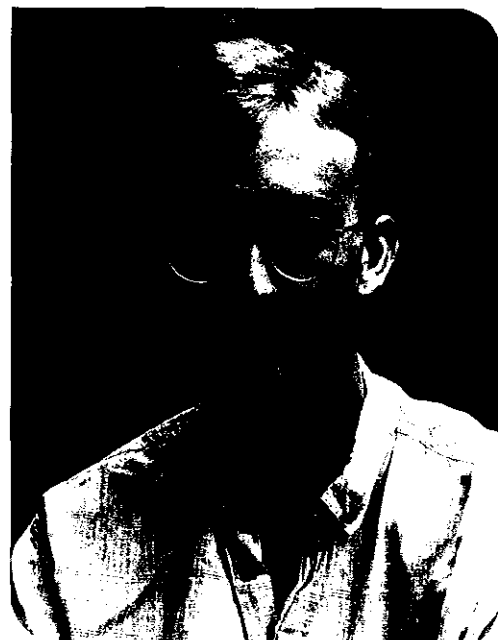
Research student Peter McLaren said that the main body of research literature supporting the health benefits of exercise is based on an adult population. "We will be trying to determine if there is a clear relationship between the level of regular physical activity and health indicators," he said. "At the moment we can't accurately advise young people on the amount of physical activity they need to do to get fitter or stay healthy."

The researchers are looking for children to take part in the study. They should be between 10 and 16 years and generally in good health. They will be asked to walk on a treadmill and ride an exercise cycle, while having their heart rate and breathing monitored by the researchers.

"It is important that we test girls as well as boys as gender makes a difference," Peter said. "Girls grow at a faster rate than boys and there is a general perception that boys are more active."

The study will investigate the relationship between the physical activity status of boys and girls and a variety of health indicators including blood pressure, body composition, cardiorespiratory fitness and cardiovascular efficiency. None of the tests

New link established between El Nino and coastal rainfall



The Hunter could have fewer water restrictions in the future, thanks to work in the Faculty of Engineering.

A study by Dr Stewart Franks of the Department of Civil, Surveying and Environmental Engineering has established a link between the El Nino effect and the rainfall patterns of the Hunter and Sydney.

"Previous studies by the weather bureau had ruled out such a link in coastal New South Wales," Stewart said. "This was mostly because the bureau used a linear model. My research has used a new model which better explains the chaotic nature of weather systems."

The study's main benefits will be in the area of water management. The research allows rainfall patterns to be more accurately plotted and dry spells more accurately predicted.

"This research allows authorities to plan ahead with greater knowledge about the actual amount of water which will be available. That means better management of the available resources.

"Increased insight into projected rainfall could lead to more moderate restrictions, implemented earlier. The gauge is now working, so we have a better indication about where water supplies are heading so we can predict and manage dry spells."

Stewart's research also has important flow-on effects in a range of areas of water management. The research found a link between the El Nino effect and excess leakages from waste water pipes. "There are significant excess charges and repair costs involved with those leakages," he said.

"This research will identify the periods and the areas when the leakages are likely to occur. As a result information can be used to identify the best times for repairs and other works to offset the leakages. With more than a billion dollars worth of piping involved in the system, there can be substantial savings for water authorities."

involve blood samples or any other intrusive procedures.

Parents will be asked to help their child complete a questionnaire about their health, some background on the family's health, daily activity patterns and their

physical development stage. The total time in the laboratory will be between one and a half to two hours. If you are interested in having your children take part in the study call Dr Robin Callister on Ext 5650 or Peter on 8755 for an information package.

Family action centre Easter breakfast



• Children from the Homelink program ready to taste the blancmange easter bunny and right, Knights players Wayne Richards and Adam MacDougall sign autographs for their fans.

A blancmange rabbit formed a centrepiece, the hot cross buns were piled high and the smell of bacon and eggs hung in the air as children, volunteers and school principals involved with the Family Action Centre's (FAC) Homelink program enjoyed an Easter breakfast on campus last week.

The Vice-Chancellor gratefully acknowledged the work of volunteers, who are trained by the FAC to provide support to disadvantaged or troubled children identified by schools or the Department of Community Services. "I would also like to welcome the young people," he said. "I'm pleased to see so many of you come to the University and I hope to welcome many of you back here in 10 or 12 years time."

A certificate was presented to Keith Powell, from Pasmenco, in appreciation of the company's ongoing financial support of the Westlakes Homelink program. But Keith, a former public relations employee of the University, and the Vice-Chancellor were quickly usurped as the centre of attention with the arrival of two Newcastle Knights players, Wayne Richards and Adam MacDougall. The two were quickly surrounded by their adoring fans as children and volunteers sought their autographs.



Cybercycle facility for students

The University Union has provided a new computer room, Cybercycle, under the "Bar on the Hill".

Officially opened by the Vice-Chancellor in March, Cybercycle provides a computer laboratory with a difference. Students can listen to Triple J and relax in leather lounges with a tea or coffee. Utilising a combination of new and used equipment, Cybercycle provides internet access and the use of various software packages.

The Union has funded modem support into the University system for students as well as providing a CD "Browser kit" that enables them to access the internet from a number of sites. "We're aiming to provide students with up to date technology in a friendly, relaxed environment." Union General Manager, John Broughton, said

Cybercycle will be staffed by a Supervisor, Paul Harrison and three other student assistants.



• Cybercycle supervisor, Paul Harrison with the Netscape 3.04 disk supplied to students.

Chinese banking leaders study at GSB

Eleven senior managers of the People's Bank of China (PBOC) attended the University for an intensive week long course in insurance finance last month.

The client-specific course was designed by the Graduate School of Business (GSB) as a first step in its attempt to become a preferred training institution in Asia for Zurich Insurance and its recruits from the PBOC. Zurich Insurance is one of the world's largest insurance companies and has a strategic alliance with the Chinese bank to improve insurance management skills in China.

A key part of the GSB course makes use of Newcastle City Council's earthquake database, with Chris Henry of the Australian Insurance Council using it to explain Australia's biggest insurance payout.

The GSB commissioned Ernst and Young to design specific course modules, delivered by lecturers from the Faculty of Economics and Commerce.

Mariners scholarships to continue



The Hunter Mariners football team may have become victims to the first round of the "rugby league war" but fortunately for three Newcastle students, the generous scholarships they endowed at the University have not.

The University of Newcastle Hunter Mariners Rugby Union Football Scholarships, which at \$10,000 per year for each year of a student's degree are the most generous ever offered at this University, will continue for the

students who were lucky enough to win them last year.

Director of Community and Alumni relations, Dr Bernie Curran, said it was to the credit of Mariners boss Bob Ferris that News Limited had agreed to continue funding the scholarships.

"The relationship we had with the Mariners was always much broader than a purely training exercise," Bernie said. "They tried to get involved with the educational life of the University

• Scholarship recipient Andrew James looks forward to pursuing his rugby union career with his degree behind him.

and they were very responsive to requests we made."

Hence, the Mariners sponsored college sporting activities, provided physical education and marketing students with some hands on experience in their organisation and awarded their scholarships to rugby union players when they were better qualified or more promising than rugby league players.

Medical Radiation Therapy student, Andrew James, says the Mariners scholarship has enabled him to pursue his sport as well as concentrate on his studies. "Things were pretty uncertain when the Mariners folded and we didn't know whether the scholarship would continue," Andrew said. "I think it's great that it has. There's nothing like it anywhere else in the country and I'd find it really hard to keep going with my sport without this sort of backing."

Twenty one year old Andrew, who plays for local rugby union club the Wildfires, represented Australia in the Southern Hemisphere Under 21 Tournament in Sydney last year, when the junior Wallabies won the series against South Africa, New Zealand and Argentina. He travels to Sydney three nights a week to train with the NSW Under 21 side and finds the scholarship invaluable.

Two other students continue to be sponsored by the Mariners scholarships - James Lawrence who is doing his Bachelor of Business and Stuart Woodhouse, studying towards a Bachelor of Education (Primary) degree.

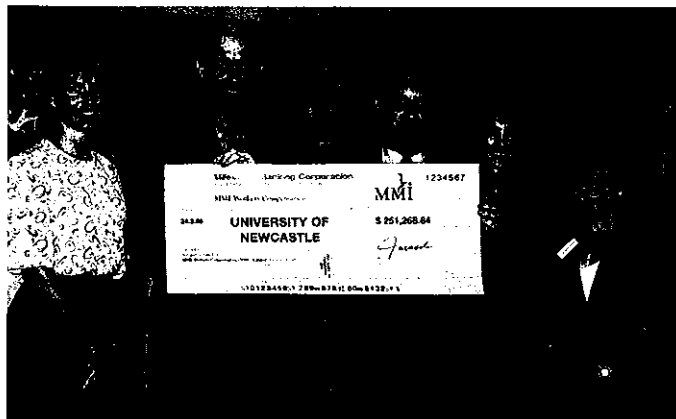
The University is currently providing training facilities for the Newcastle Knights rugby league team in what Bernie Curran describes as a purely business relationship. "Knights chairman, Michael Hill, is keen to develop a broader relationship with the University but they don't have the same sort of financial backing that the Mariners had."

Reward from good OH&S practices

An effective health and safety program and good claims management has earned the University a refund of more than a quarter of a million dollars on its workers compensation premium from 1997, and a reduction in its 1998 premium.

Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Brian English accepted the cheque from insurers MMI at a ceremony that served to recognise the achievements of the Organisational Health and Safety (OH&S) team. The team is headed by Hellen-Anne Wilson, and includes Shirley Sorensen, Workers Compensation Claims Officer.

"At a time when Universities are being forced to introduce cost savings, it's encouraging to learn this can be done without jeopardising worker safety," Professor English said.



The initiatives reaped a \$251,268.84 refund, and a 25 percent reduction in the 1998 premium. However, more importantly, the number of actual workers compensation claims had fallen by 20 percent.

"This has been achieved through effective health and safety programs and good claims management," Hellen-Anne

Wilson explained.

"The team has worked hard in the area of injury prevention, while also concentrating on dealing with cases more efficiently and effectively. The focus is very much on the reduction of the human and economic costs of injuries to University employees, the University itself, and the broader community."

• MMI representatives present the cheque to Professor English and OH&S staff members, Shirley Sorensen (far right) and Hellen-Anne Wilson (second from right).

Companies pay workers' compensation premiums a year in advance. Their insurer estimates what the premium for the coming year should be, using a formula set by WorkCover Authority and past claims history. At the end of the period this estimate is compared with the actual cost of the claims for the year, and a refund or invoice is issued for the balance.

MMI has worked closely with the OH&S team, conducting regular claims review meetings to identify the best strategies for each individual claim and worker to ensure pro-active claims management.

Business acts to stop brain drain



• Rob and Marilyn Chenery

Newcastle businessman Rob Chenery is financing a scheme he hopes will give tomorrow's leaders and business builders, particularly in the field of science, the opportunity to fulfil their ambitions in the Hunter region.

"Building a strong region has a lot to do with people," Rob said, "Competition between Universities these days has meant our brightest young people are being offered substantial financial assistance to move away and attend other Universities. They are leaving because they feel their opportunities are limited here - we need to show them there are many good reasons for staying in the Hunter."

Through the R&M Foundation, Rob and his wife Marilyn fund an annual scholarship to the Faculty of Science and Mathematics. One-time Chief Executive Officer of BHP Rod & Bar Division, Rob is now President of the Australian Business Chamber and director of several companies. Despite these commitments, he spends most of his time helping others - and challenges other businesspeople to do the same.

"There comes a time when you have to start thinking about giving something back to this community - something for now, and for the future. I want to know that the Hunter will be in safe hands because it has working for it people who grew up here, were educated here, and care about its well-being," he explained.

Aside from offering the financial assistance to allow a local student to further their studies at the University, Rob was involved in the actual selection process and was impressed with the first recipient of the Chenery Scholarship.

"Nathan Brownlowe is a well-rounded person, and that was as important to me as his good academic record. He showed the sorts of qualities we should be looking for in our future leaders," he said.

Nathan is a former Merewether High School student who has commenced a Combined Bachelor of Mathematics and Bachelor of Science Degree this year. He agrees the scholarship - \$5,000 a year for four years - will certainly help him get through.

HSC Study Days

The University is cooperating with secondary schools to produce a program of HSC Study Days for 1998. The program is scheduled to run in the first week of July. Schools have indicated an interest in the following subject/discipline areas:

Health	Music	Drama	Geography	History
Business Studies	Mathematics	Art	Engineering Science	English

An HSC Study Day coordinating group will set up teams for each discipline area comprising academics and teachers. The next meeting of the HSC Study Days working group will be held on Monday, May 11 at 9.30am. For information contact:

Hilary Winchester, ext 5125; Ralph Robinson, ext 5557; Sandra Sirasch, ext 6443.

etcetera

May Graduation Ceremonies

Staff are invited to attend the May Graduation Ceremonies which will take place as detailed below at both the Callaghan Campus and Central Coast Campus. If you wish to attend a Ceremony at Callaghan or have any enquiries about Graduation please contact Joanne Beveridge or Robert Milan in Examinations and Graduation on (02) 4921 6356 or (02) 4921 6490. For enquiries about the Central Coast Ceremony please contact Karynlee Mossman in Student Administration on (02) 4348 4047.

CALLAGHAN

Friday 1 May 1998

10.30 am

Faculty of Arts & Social Science (BA(Psych) & BA(CommStud))
Faculty of Science & Mathematics (Bachelor, Master, PhD)
Occasional Address: Dr John Wamsley

2.30pm

Faculty of Arts & Social Science (Diploma, Bachelor, Master, PhD)
Honorary Degree & Occasional Address:
Hon Bruce Baird, Doctor of the University

Thursday 7 May 1998

10.30am

Faculty of Art & Design (Bachelor, Grad. Dip, Master)
Faculty of Education (BEd (all Secondary education except Special Ed), Dip Ed (Secondary education))
Honorary Degree & Occasional Address:
Dr Peter Hendry AO, Doctor of the University

2.30pm

Faculty of Education (DipTeach, BEd (specialisation in Primary Ed., Early Childhood Ed., all Special Ed., BEdStud., DipEd (Primary Ed.), Grad Cert., Grad. Dip., Master., PhD)
Faculty of Economics & Commerce (Diploma, BInfoSc, BLA, Grad Cert., Grad Dip., MBA, PhD)
Honorary Degree & Occasional Address:
Dr Marinus Carel Eduard van Gendt, Doctor of the University

6.00pm

Faculty of Economics & Commerce (BBus, BCom, BEc, BCom(Hons), BEc(Hons))

Faculty of Music (Diploma, Bachelor, Bachelor(Hons) Master)
Honorary Degree, Occasional Address & Musical Interlude:

Conjoint Professor John Harding, Doctor of Music, honoris causa

Friday 8 May 1998

10.30 am

Faculty of Engineering (Bachelor, Grad Dip., Master, PhD)
Occasional Address: Mr Graham Burgess

2.30pm

Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences (Diploma, Bachelor, Grad Cert., Grad Dip., Master, PhD)
Faculty of Law (Bachelor, Bachelor/Diploma)
Honorary Degree & Occasional Address:
Hon Justice Michael McHugh AC, Doctor of Laws, honoris causa

6.00pm

Faculty of Nursing (Bachelor, Grad Dip., Master)
Architecture (Bachelor, Master)
Honorary Degree:
Ms Robyn Wamsley, Master of Nursing, honoris causa
Occasional Address: Mr Douglas White

CENTRAL COAST CAMPUS

Friday 15 May 1998

10.00am

Awards from the Faculties of:
Arts and Social Science, (BA)
Economic & Commerce, (BBus, BCom, Grad Dip, MBA)
Education, (Bed, Grad Dip, Master, PhD)
Nursing, (Bachelor)
Science & Mathematics, (BSc (Hons))

The Telstra 1998 National Business Directory

Several copies of this publication have been distributed to Principal Officers, Deans of Faculty and Heads of Department/Discipline on the Callaghan and city campuses.

For additional copies phone David Heggart on extension 6662.

The Department of Drama in association with the Australian National Playwrights' Centre will offer MASTERCLASSES in Dramaturgy & Scriptwriting

On Saturday May 23 and Sunday May 24, 1998

Issues covered by the weekend will include:

Script development, marketing opportunities, agents, industry issues, how to get your plays on - Cost \$50 Students \$30

For further information, contact Carl Caulfield, email: dmjet@cc.newcastle.edu.au
Ext 5005, fax 6927

Shakespeare Festival Feast and Fair Stratford on Avon - May 8 and 9, 1998

Bookings through Ticketek 02 49 212121

Or Gloucester Tourist Information Centre - Bus Tours Accommodation, Festival Packages, Gloucester Tourist Information

WANTED: LARGE interdepartmental envelopes. Please send to Rose Roohan, Marketing and Media Services, Chancellery Building. Small Internal Envelopes - about 400 to give away from Civil, Surveying and Environmental Engineering - please contact Amanda on amanda@mail.newcastle.edu.au or x6058.

CLASSIFIED ADS

ACCOMMODATION WANTED
Accommodation wanted: One/two bedroom house/flat for visiting overseas academic June and July, 1998 only. Preferably in inner city area near public transport to University. Phone Shirley 49 216858 at Family Action Centre.

HOUSE SITTING

Going on sabbatical or study leave? Need a housesitter?

Young, non-smoking, professional couple. Call Adrian and Tiffany on Ext 6151 or (02) 4988 6688, email: eeab@ee.newcastle.edu.au

Experienced mature female housesitter, excellent references, short or long term, please phone/fax (02) 4961 1393

FOR SALE

Toshiba TFP 25 Fax Machine 2 years old, good condition \$150 ono. ALSO Triumph-Adler Electric Typewriter good working order, \$100 ono Please contact 49 216296 week days 8.30am - 12.30pm.

Corporate wardrobe items: original print skirt size 12 \$20.00; navy pants size 12 \$20.00; white t top, original print trim size 10 \$10.00; all in good in condition

phone Anne or Glen on ext 5940

Motor Vehicle Entry Permits

Several issues relating to the correct use and display of parking permits have recently come to the attention of patrol officers.

Some of the old style electrostatic

pouches that held permits were peeling from windscreens and dropping from view of the patrol officers who had no option but to infringe the vehicle. A new electrostatic permit which adheres itself direct to the windscreen (no pouch required) has been introduced for 1998, and it is these types of permits that should now be used. Please, if you are using the old style electrostatic pouch for affixing your permit to the windscreen.....**don't!** Discard the pouch and affix, direct to the windscreen, the new style electrostatic permit. The pouch falling from the windscreen can be no excuse for requesting the waiving of an infringement.

Please ensure that the permit you have is current - it should read 1998. Last year's permits should be destroyed along with the aforementioned pouches.

Some vehicles parked in staff car parks are not displaying a 1998 staff validation sticker, which is essential where staff are using scratch and display or dispenser-issued permits. Permits issued in 1997 are not valid for 1998. It is your responsibility to renew any permit when the current one expires.

For information about motor vehicle entry permits please contact Leanne on ext 6661 or fax 6515.

"Sorry Book"

A national sorry day will be held on 26 May 1998, one year after the tabling in Parliament of 'the Stolen Generation' report. If you wish to apologise for past injustices to the Indigenous People and commit yourself to reconciliation, there will be a sorry book on campus, the week commencing April 27. The book will be at the NUSA office, Shortland Union.

The 'Sorry book' project is an initiative of ANT, co-ordinated by ANTaR

and they can be contacted on (02) 98101382. Pat Healion RSM, ext 5571, Chaplain Fax 7401, email: copah@cc.newcastle.edu.au

Building a safer workplace

Maintaining a safe workplace requires the constant effort of all staff in all workplaces throughout the University. Regardless of how well buildings are designed, health and safety depends on people using the spaces as they were intended to be used. The University and its employees are required to comply with the Occupational Health and Safety Act (1983), which includes the necessity to act responsibly and ensure

you care for yourself and others. If you're concerned about a potential hazard in your area, contact your Supervisor or the Manager, Organisational Health and Safety, Human Resource Management (HRM) branch. In many cases, your concern can be dealt with by a maintenance requisition to Physical Planning and Estates (PP&E) e.g replacing a broken power point but it may be necessary to document a situation for further consideration by the Senior Architect/Planner or the Director, Estates & Services. To help staff monitor buildings and grounds safety, a checklist has been developed to help identify potential hazards. It is available from the Director, Estates & Services, Ext 6563. The Buildings & Grounds Safety Audit Committee exists to monitor safety in buildings and grounds. Contact details are:

- Don Foster (chair) - x6563
- Kathy Allan - x5411
- Maya Guest - x6677
- John Johnston - x6503
- John O'Donohue - x6509
- Fair Work Practice Rep. - x6547

Learning & development training courses for April/May
Organisational and administration skills

Effective business writing: reports, letters and memos.

Friday, 24th April (first session)
Friday, 1st May (second session)
2:00pm to 5:00pm

Fast-tracking your clerical/administration qualifications using recognition of prior learning (rpl).

Wednesday, 29th April
12:00noon to 1:00pm

For more information contact Bob Wiltshire, IESD on ext.6570.

Effective time management
Friday, 1st May, (Central Coast Campus)
Friday, 22nd May, (Callaghan Campus)
9:00am to 5:00pm

N.B. Some pre-work necessary, so register early!

Academic career development series
Introduction: The Current Climate
Wednesday, 15th April
1:00pm to 3:00pm

Presenters: Professor Roger Holmes, Vice-Chancellor
Professor Brian English, Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Developing and preparing a creative achievements profile
Monday, 20th April
12:00noon to 2:00pm

Presenters: Professor Graham Goodwin, Fac. of Engineering, Member Promotions Committee
Assoc. Prof. Michael Ewans, Fac. of Music, Drama Dept.

Allan Chawner, Dept. of Fine Art
Developing and preparing a research and scholarship profile - 1
Tuesday, 28th April
12:00noon to 2:00pm

Presenters: Professor Ron MacDonald, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research
Assoc. Prof. Rick Middleton, Dept. Electrical Engineering
Assoc. Prof. Jenny Gore, Faculty of Education, Member Promotions Committee

Policies, principles, procedures
Technical Aspects: Do's and Don'ts
Callaghan - Wednesday, 6th May
12:00noon to 2:00pm

Central Coast - Thursday, 21st May
9:00am to 11:00am

Presenters: Professor Brian English, Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Paul Drinkwater, Coordinator Secretariat Services, Secretary to the Promotions Committee

Developing and preparing a research and scholarship profile - 2
Thursday, 7 May
12:00noon to 2:00pm

Presenters: Professor Irena Madjar, Fac. of Nursing, Member Promotions Committee
Assoc. Prof. Peter Hempenstall, Dept. of History

Developing and preparing a university governance profile
Monday, 11th May
12:00noon to 2:00pm

Presenters: Assoc. Prof. Hilary Winchester, President of Academic Senate, Member Promotions Committee
Dr. Wayne Reynolds, Dept. of History, NTEU Branch President

Developing and preparing a teaching portfolio
Friday, 15th May
10:00am to 12:00pm

Presenter: Kevin Markwell, Dept. Leisure & Tourism, Excellence in Teaching Award

Developing and preparing a community contributions profile
Monday, 25th May
12:00noon to 2:00pm

Presenters: Professor Jenny Graham, Pro Vice-Chancellor External Relations

Dr. Bernie Curran, Director Community & Alumni Relations
Professor Graham Goodwin, Fac. of Engineering, Member Promotions Committee

Last year's successful applicants - helpful hints

Monday, 1 June
12:00noon to 2:00pm

Presenters: Last Year's Successful Applicants: Levels B,C,D
Critical thinking: discussion and definition working group

Wednesday, 13th May (First Meeting)
12:30pm to 1:30pm

Coordinator: Dr. Anita van der Wal, Ext. 5890
alaev@cc.newcastle.edu.au

For more information on any of these courses, please visit our web site:
<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/services/calt/training/sdtrain.html>.

IT TRAINING

Courses are offered in the following programs:

Access 2.0	Access 97
Eudora	Excel 5.0
Excel 97	Netscape
Powerpoint 4.0	Powerpoint 97
Windows 95	Word 6.0
Word 97	Introduction to Computers

To register for a course, please call Tanya Maddison on ext. 8634. Your place will be reserved for you and you will be sent a 'training registration' form. All sections of this form must be filled out and a Purchase Requisition or Internal Transfer Requisition for the cost of the course must be attached (Urgent Purchase Orders cannot be accepted). Your place will be confirmed to you by letter. If you need to cancel your place, please do so at least four days beforehand. If you have any questions please call Tanya on ext. 8634.

For a detailed schedule and further information regarding courses see our internet site: <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/services/itd/training/frame2.html>

The Learning & Development Program Invites you to a special seminar on: Mature Age Students
Thursday 30 April, 9:30am - 12:30pm

Treehouse, Shortland Union
The seminar aims to clarify some of the issues of performance of mature age students at our University. It will examine the Open Foundation and other enabling programs, and some important conclusions from a study of mature age students recently conducted in our University. The sessions will be presented by Dr Ralph Robinson, Enabling Programs Unit, Dr Jennifer Archer and Dr Robert Cantwell, Faculty of Education

STATISTICAL AND EVALUATION SERVICES
(Member of Information and Education Services Division)

- Services Offered:**
- Program evaluation strategies (x8633)
 - Student evaluation of subjects and teaching (x6522)
 - Specialised survey design, implementation and analysis (x8633)
 - Statistical software advice and support (x5517)
 - Advice and support for staff and postgraduate students using surveys in their research (x8633)
 - Conduct of focus groups (x8633)
 - Data entry (x5381)

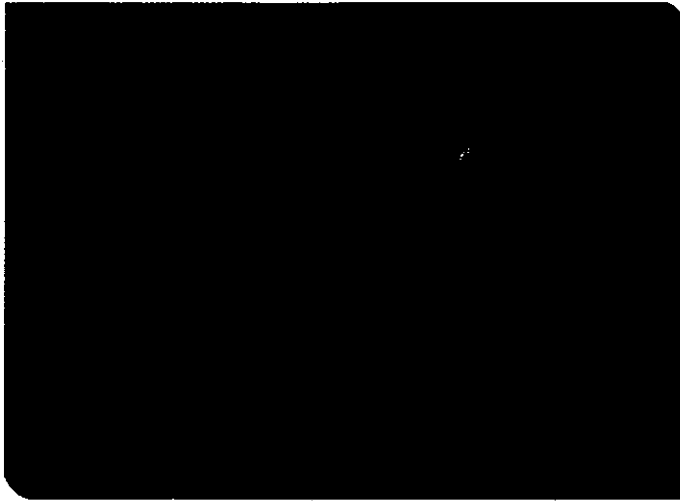
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Conferences & Seminars
Announcements about forthcoming conferences and seminars can be accessed on the Web at <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/news/announce.html>

or by following the pathway as follows:
University home page>Staff and students>Information for Staff>Staff News and Events>Announcements.

OPEN DAY
Sunday, August 9, 1998
10am - 4pm
Central Coast Campus
Chittaway Road, Ourimbah
Ext 4139
Saturday, August 22, 1998
10am - 4pm
Callaghan Campus
University Drive Callaghan
Hands-on displays, demonstrations, music, food, course information, entertainment, drama, fun and lots of advice if you want to get serious.

Tighes Hill reunion



Former staff and students from the 1950's and 60's attended a Tighes Hill reunion as part of this year's Convocation Annual Dinner celebrations.

"Before the University moved to the Shortland site and became autonomous in 1965, it was a college of the University of New South Wales based at Tighes Hill," Director of Community and Alumni Relations, Bernie Curran said.

"To tie in with the Annual Awards Dinner, Convocation has organised a reunion of former staff and students and good detective work succeeded in tracking down quite a lot of people."

Graduates from the era have excelled both personally and professionally and include the Clerk of the House of Representatives, Ian Harris, Federal Minister for Newcastle, Allan Morris, and Managing Director of Howard Smith Ltd, Ken Moss. Ken was presented with the 1997 Convocation Medal for Professional Excellence at the dinner.

Also honoured on the night was Managing Director of Energy Australia, Paul Broad, winner of the 1997 Newton-John Award. The dinner and reunion was held in the Brennan Room on March 14, with a recovery barbeque held at the Tighes Hill campus the following day.



• Paul Broad, with the painting he had commissioned as his prize for the Newton-John Award, and above, people attending the recovery barbeque at the Tighes Hill campus on March 15 enjoy an exhibition of memorabilia.

Unbriefs

The New South Wales branch of the Co-Operative Education will support the main University scheme to help financially disadvantaged students continue their studies. The branch awarded \$12,000 in grants to students to help them to buy textbooks for their studies. Students were selected by an eligibility and Student Support Panel.

Students in the Faculty of Health, Behavioural and Society Sciences are helping to combat the anti-hepatitis B virus. The virus is a common blood-borne infection which can cause liver disease. The virus is spread through blood, semen and other body fluids. The virus is not spread through food, water, air, or casual contact. The virus is not spread through sexual contact with a partner who is not infected. The virus is not spread through sharing needles or syringes. The virus is not spread through sharing razors or toothbrushes. The virus is not spread through sharing towels or clothing. The virus is not spread through sharing food or drink. The virus is not spread through sharing personal items. The virus is not spread through sharing books or papers. The virus is not spread through sharing tools or equipment. The virus is not spread through sharing vehicles. The virus is not spread through sharing housing. The virus is not spread through sharing schools or workplaces. The virus is not spread through sharing public places. The virus is not spread through sharing community facilities. The virus is not spread through sharing religious or cultural activities. The virus is not spread through sharing sports or recreation. The virus is not spread through sharing travel. The virus is not spread through sharing education. The virus is not spread through sharing employment. The virus is not spread through sharing social life. The virus is not spread through sharing family life. The virus is not spread through sharing personal life. The virus is not spread through sharing anything else.

Delighted to provide you with the Tighes Hill reunion information, we are also pleased to announce that the 1997 Convocation Medal for Professional Excellence was awarded to Paul Broad, Managing Director of Energy Australia. The award was presented to him at the Annual Awards Dinner on March 14, 1997. The award is given to graduates who have achieved outstanding professional excellence in their careers. Paul Broad is a graduate of the University of Newcastle and has worked for Energy Australia since 1985. He has held several senior positions at the company and has been instrumental in the development of the company's business strategy. He is a member of the Australian Institute of Management and the Australian Institute of Business. He is also a past president of the Newcastle University Alumni Association.

Simon Fraser University in Canada Professor Borwein honoured for his ability to explain complex mathematical concepts in an entertaining and easy-to-understand manner. He was sponsored by GIDAC (Centre for Integrated Dynamics and Control) in the Faculty of Engineering.

Australia Day honours: congratulations to Emeritus Professor Peter Böttlinger, Foundation Professor of Biological Sciences, who was awarded the Order of Australia (AM) for contributions to biological science and education. Associate Professor John Dore, a conjoint member of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, who received the Order of Australia (AM) for services to medicine and to the community of the Hunter, and the Reverend Peter Broad, conductor of the University Choir from 1979-1997, awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for contributions to school music. Kevin Gammon, PhD student at the University, was named Young Citizen of the Year by the City of Newcastle Australia Day Committee.

Christopher Basche, honours graduate of the University, won the 1998 Tourism Scholarship, an initiative of the Tourism Council of Australia and the Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable Tourism.