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HONORARY DOCTOR OF MUSIC TO PRIMA BALLERINA



A memorable start was made to the 1992 Graduation Ceremony when an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Music was conferred upon Prima Ballerina, Miss Marilyn Jones.

The Honorary Degree was conferred during the first session of the Graduation Ceremony on Friday, May 1 in recognition of Miss Jones' magnificent contribution to the art of dance in Australia.

The Dean of the Faculty of Music, Mr Michael Dudman, said it gave him great pleasure to present Miss Jones for admission to the honorary degree as she had established for herself a place of great eminence in her art.

He said that in our own time and country, the deep affection in which the art of ballet is held, simply demonstrates the ongoing popularity of dance as a strong strand in everyday life.

In her occasional address which delighted the graduates and their guests gathered in the Great Hall, Dr Jones said she was extremely proud to receive this honour and all the more so because it had been conferred by The University of Newcastle.

"I had a wonderful childhood here, so Newcastle is very special to me," Dr Jones said.

"I started my early ballet training here at five years of age, under the tuition of Tessa Maunder who taught me until I was 15 when I was fortunate to win a scholarship which enabled me to continue my studies at the Royal Ballet School in London.

"My first professional job as a dancer was with the Royal Ballet Company. I was then 17 and during my time with the Royal Ballet, the company toured the United States and Canada. Dame Margot Fonteyn was the Prima Ballerina and we, the younger dancers, loved it

when she performed, not only to see her dance but also, because she received so many curtain calls we would be paid overtime.

"At 19 I joined the Borovansky Ballet, a commercial company, and performed my first ballerina role of Princess Aurora in 'The Sleeping Beauty'. In Australia in the 1950's there were no subsidised companies. The Borovansky company had seasons of approximately 18 months at a time, touring Australia and New Zealand.

"From there, my husband, Garth Welch, and I were accepted into the Marquis De Quevas company, an international company based in Paris. The company toured Europe extensively and I had wonderful roles to perform and wonderful partners to dance them with, including Rudolf Nureyev who had recently defected from Russia.

"By 1962, at last a national Australian Ballet Company, funded by the Government, was formed. Dame Peggy van Praagh was the Company's first Artistic Director and Garth and I were invited back home to perform in the inaugural season in Sydney. Apart from guesting with the London Festival Ballet, I remained with the Australian Ballet until my retirement, one of several, might I add," she quipped.

Dr Jones treated her audience to a humorous insight into her early career.

She said that during the early days of the Australian Ballet Company there were hard times financially and during these periods the Company would be split into two groups to tour the country areas.

"Some of the halls we had to perform in were pretty appalling and on one occasion one of the dancers jumped and went through the floor up to his waist. The other dancers continued to dance

around him finishing the ballet. When the curtain came down, someone had to saw through the floor boards to get the poor dancer out," Dr Jones said.

"The Australian Ballet has become a company of international standard, touring continually since 1965. I have been with the company to many parts of the world including China, North and South America, Europe, South East Asia and the Soviet Union. It has been a very rewarding career," she said.

Dr Jones has also seen her two sons, Stanton and Damien, take up ballet as a career to become second generation dancers of the Australian Ballet.

At the moment, Dr Jones is performing in a ballet, written and choreographed by Stanton, called 'A Blessed Memory', currently enjoying a season at the Sydney Opera House. Stanton has dedicated the ballet to his mother and it tells the story of the parent/child relationship from birth to when the ties are broken. The ballet will also be performed in London in July.

Two years ago she was awarded an Australian Artists Creative Fellowship by the Australia Council which has enabled her to establish a new organisation, The Australian Institute of Classical Dance (A.I.C.D.). As the Artistic Director of this organisation, Dr Jones aims to assist, support and unite the classical ballet teachers of Australia and to provide an Australian system of assessment of students' standards.

"This honorary doctorate, which you have so graciously conferred on me, I see also as an honour for the art of classical dance, of which I am a representative.

"I thank you, both personally and on behalf of my art," Dr Jones concluded.

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FRONT COVER

This striking artwork was painted by renowned local artist and Muswellbrook art teacher, Max Watters (AM) in 1982. This oil painting, entitled "Farmhouses Jerry's Plains Road" forms part of the University collection. It was presented to the University by graduates of the Faculty of Economics and Commerce and University Staff of 1982 in the memory of Neal J. Dickinson.

SWATHED IN A CLOUD OF MAN MADE

Pollution is now recognised as a major problem confronting the human race. Whether global, such as greenhouse gases and fluorocarbons, or local, with PCB chemicals and heavy metals, the quality of life on planet Earth is under threat.

But the damage does not end at the boundary of our planet. The various national space agencies are starting to worry about the level of pollution in the region of space surrounding the Earth, extending almost as far as the Moon.

Four years ago, a Conference convened in Washington by the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration was shown alarming evidence of the dangers produced by the rising tide of junk in cislunar space. A video movie produced from radar tracking data showed our planet swathed in a cloud of man-made junk. The effect was just as if the Earth were a hive of bees.

The frightening aspect of this situation lies in the risk of collision between pieces of junk travelling in opposite directions at speeds up to fifteen kilometres per second. One collision can produce hundreds to thousands of fragments. Each extra fragment multiplies the chance of further collision, until the existing space junk is ground down to dust particles. It is an accelerating process which, according to some estimates, could take less than a century.

Tiny particles in orbit are far from harmless. A space shuttle mission nearly succumbed to the impact of a fleck of paint less than a millimetre in size. It bored its way almost completely through a window panel of the shuttle.

A dust cloud surrounding the Earth could make future space missions very difficult, if not impossible. This includes the proposed space station.

Scientists are concerned for another reason also. Man-made dust particles will contaminate samples of natural interplanetary dust which is not dense enough to pose much of a threat to space missions. Scientific investigation of the solar system environment will slow to a halt if the pollution near the Earth becomes much worse.

These concerns worried Professor Colin Keay, Associate Professor of Physics at The University of Newcastle, in 1988 when he was elected President of Commission 22 of the International Astronomical Union, the supreme world body for astronomy. Commission 22, with over 100 members, has the responsibility for matters related to all natural objects in the solar system smaller than comets and asteroids, ranging all the way down to interplanetary dust particles.

junk

Upon induction as President, Professor Keay drew attention to a number of problems facing his Commission. He suggested that the Commission should take the initiative in preventing the pollution of interplanetary space while there is still time to do so. The Commission members agreed unanimously and, at Professor Keay's suggestion, appointed Professor Iwan Williams, of London, as convener of a working group of senior international space experts, from all of the world's major space agencies, to achieve a consensus on the steps to be taken.

The replies were highly constructive and formed a basis for progress. While Professor Keay was Visiting Professor in London in 1990, the two Professors drafted a resolution for the General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union in Buenos Aires last year. Other related Commissions were invited to endorse the resolution and, when a proposal agreeable to everyone was reached, it went before the Closing Session of the Assembly and was adopted unanimously.

The final form of the Resolution on the Prevention of Interplanetary Pollution reads:

The 21st General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union, *recognising* that the pollution of the space environment in the close vicinity of the Earth is now of serious concern, and that pollution of the remainder of the Solar System is only a matter of time, *recommends* that steps be taken immediately to ensure that interplanetary space throughout the Solar Systems is protected as far as possible from all forms of pollution, *urges* the International Astronomical Union to establish an inter-Commission Working Group on the Prevention of Interplanetary Pollution and that the Working Group should consult widely with COSPAR, other relevant Unions, Space Agencies and the United Nations Committee for the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

The resolution is now in effect and it is expected that full international cooperation on this important issue will result. Commission 15 of the IAU, a large Commission which deals with planets and satellites, has elected Professor Keay to its ranks in recognition of his efforts in its interest.

Because of his leading role in international scientific affairs, Professor Keay has since 1985 been listed in the annual Yearbook of the International Council of Scientific Unions, which embraces Science, Engineering and Medical Science. He is the only Novocastrian among the sixty Australians listed in the yearbook.



photographic Competition

**ENTRIES CLOSE
JUNE 30TH, 1992**

further enquiries

Ph: 21 6444

Information and
Public Relations Unit

**ENGINEERING
EXPERTISE HELPS
HISTORIC HOUSE**

In an example of how modern engineering knowledge can be applied to everyday life, one University academic has been able to give specialised advice which has assisted in the preservation of an historic Hunter Valley house.

Professor Rob Melchers from the Department of Civil Engineering and Surveying, was approached by Mr Peter Capp, the owner of Windermere House at Lochinvar for advice on an ongoing problem of water seeping into the basement level of the house.

Windermere House, built with convict labour in 1821, is set in gentle country just outside of Lochinvar and is the oldest historic house in the Hunter Valley. It was built on a grant of land by Thomas Wright Melville Winder, an English sea captain who later became a successful businessman in the newly established colony. Winder is credited with growing the first grapes in the Valley.

Peter and his wife, Lorna and their daughters, Annabel and Phillipa, are the fourth and fifth generation of the Capp family to live in the house after Peter's great grandfather purchased the property in 1870.

When assessing the situation, Professor Melchers came up with the idea of digging 1.8 metre trenches around the house, placing agricultural drains, and installing heavy plastic sheeting at a 45 degree angle, to channel the water well away from the building.

The work was undertaken with funds provided by an indexed refundable grant of \$30,000 from the Heritage Commission of New South Wales, which has allowed the Capps to tackle the moisture problem.

"This situation has been causing considerable difficulties for us for some years," Peter said.

"We found that the moisture was having an effect on the handmade brick walls in the basement level. It was causing them to become powdery.

"This is the area where the convicts were housed in the 1820's and is of great historical significance. It was of the utmost importance to rectify the problem, not only to preserve the house, but also the history.

"The work that has been done appears to be working quite efficiently and it is proving to be worth the effort of having it done," he said.

Local contractors carried out the work which was completed within two months.

Professor Melchers is delighted to have been able to solve the problem and said it was yet another example of how the University is involved with the community.

WINDERMERE

A Gracious Remembrance

The first sight of the rusty, black-iron convict chains hanging on the whitewashed wall hits home and momentarily strikes you with the same sort of terror that the wearers must have experienced when they felt the weight of them for the first time.

The chains, some with very rudimentary links and others with perfectly symmetrical ones, are part of a collection of authentic memorabilia at one of the Hunter Valley's oldest and most historic houses, Windermere House.

Owners, and keepers of the history, Peter and Lorna Capp and their daughters, Annabel and Phillipa, are the fourth and fifth generation of the Capp family to live in the house which was built in 1821 with convict labour.

Located in gentle country just outside Lochinvar, Windermere House was built by Thomas White Melville Winder, 33 years of age at the time, an English sea captain, a man of vision and reputedly the son of Arthur Wellesley, the Duke of Wellington, and Lady Mary Melville.

The house is the subject of a labour of love for Peter, whose dream is to preserve the historic homestead.

Notwithstanding the \$30,000 loan from the Heritage Commission of New South Wales, Peter admits that finances have been a problem when it comes to preserving a house of this calibre. But if his ingenuity in solving problems is any indication, his dream should be realised.

He refers unconsciously to 'wings' of the house and such wondrous things as 'the butler's pantry', the 'smoking room' and the 'servants' quarters' of bygone days.

Peter says the house was originally built with four wings forming a central courtyard. Now there are only the East and South Wings, the others demolished after being damaged by fire in 1882.

He says it was completed before East Maitland and West Maitland were established in 1829. The area was then known as Wallis Plains.

"Many houses of that time were built in this fashion and it's said that it was to provide a safe place for children to play so they wouldn't be stolen by the Aborigines who felt that the white children weren't being brought up properly and were not being taught anything about life. However, there is no record of any children being taken from here," Peter says.

"It's interesting that some years before Winder established the house here, his father had been leading soldiers into battle in the Napoleonic Wars in Europe. Wellesley (the

Duke of Wellington) believed that by looking after an army well, they fought well. Here in Australia, 13,000 miles and six months apart, Winder had the same attitude and was treating the convicts well. In fact he was reprimanded by Governor Macquarie for doing so.

"He would let them off the chains while they worked so they could do a more efficient job. He also made sure they were given good rations, including corned meat and a pint of wine each day. The corned meat probably replaced their salt intake while the wine made sure they got a good sleep.

"There's no record of any daring escapes or bloody murders. That's a very good record for 47 convicts recorded at the time, both male and female. It was the largest number assigned to any one particular person," he says.

When Winder was first granted the land, there was a cedar forest, a very important commodity in the colony.

Initially the convicts spent their time winning the cedar and transporting it to ships, which by the way, were owned and operated by Winder. He operated a fleet of packet ships which plied up and down the coast, weaving this business in with his other commercial interests of the Lachlan and the Waterloo Flour Mills in Sydney and also bond stores.

He realised that the soil was very rich, fertile and suitable for growing grapes, and is credited with having planted the first grapes in the valley. He also planted wheat, oats, barley and maize as well as raising cattle, horses and sheep. Under his direction a dairy was fully operating by 1827.

He arranged that the convicts generate the cash flow by winning the timber, preparing the soil, planting the crops, reaping the harvest and looking after the stock. In their 'spare' time they built the house which was considered to be less necessary than the business.

"The whole exercise was organised over a period of six years which meant that by the time the property was established, the convicts' sentences were up and they were free men and women," Peter said.

"Bearing in mind that the house was twice its present size and the coach house had another storey then, there must have been a very large number of bricks made. And these were made by hand.

"There were also horse and cattle yards. The fencing for these was very labour intensive, first having to fell the timber, fashion the posts and rails and build the fences. And

ERE HOUSE

nder of Bygone Days

there was no fencing wire in those days. Fences like that would have taken a tremendous amount of doing.

"The convicts also tended the grapes, ran a cooper's shop, a blacksmith's shop, a harness shop and a wheelwright. Winder had carefully selected his convict labour with particular skills in mind, making sure that their skills were passed on to others.

"In terms of having a good life, I don't think the convicts enjoyed luxurious conditions, but they were well looked after and certainly weren't as badly off as others.

"Winder was on friendly terms with Governor Macquarie and the explorer, William Charles Wentworth, who both paid regular visits to the house.

"We find it interesting that in spite of the lack of parental push or money given to help him on his way, apart from a letter of introduction to the Governor, Winder, giving him due credit, was exceptionally enterprising and very capable. Even though he was well honoured with grants of land and friendship with the Governor, he worked very hard," he says.

The property was sold to a Mr Nott in 1851 who then resold it to a Mr Green in 1854. Peter's great-grandfather, Charles Solomon Capp, purchased the property from Mr Green in 1870 and from there the property has been passed down through the family.

Peter has lived at Windermere House all

his life and has inherited not only the trappings of a bygone gracious lifestyle, but vintage farm implements, a huge amount of memorabilia dating back to those first convict days and also many problems associated with maintaining the house. Peter and Lorna talk about the house with infectious enthusiasm. The ceilings are more than 12 feet high and the rooms are large with the lavish cedar joinery that is only found in old houses. The Capps have decorated with authentic colours and furnishings to keep the original feeling of the house.

Peter says an exercise conducted at the house in 1984 by an architecture student, found that all the windows, doors, and walls were perfectly symmetrical and absolutely precise in their measurements. The distance between windows and doors is exactly precise and is so geometrically correct that the walls are perfectly perpendicular and every floor is level throughout the house.

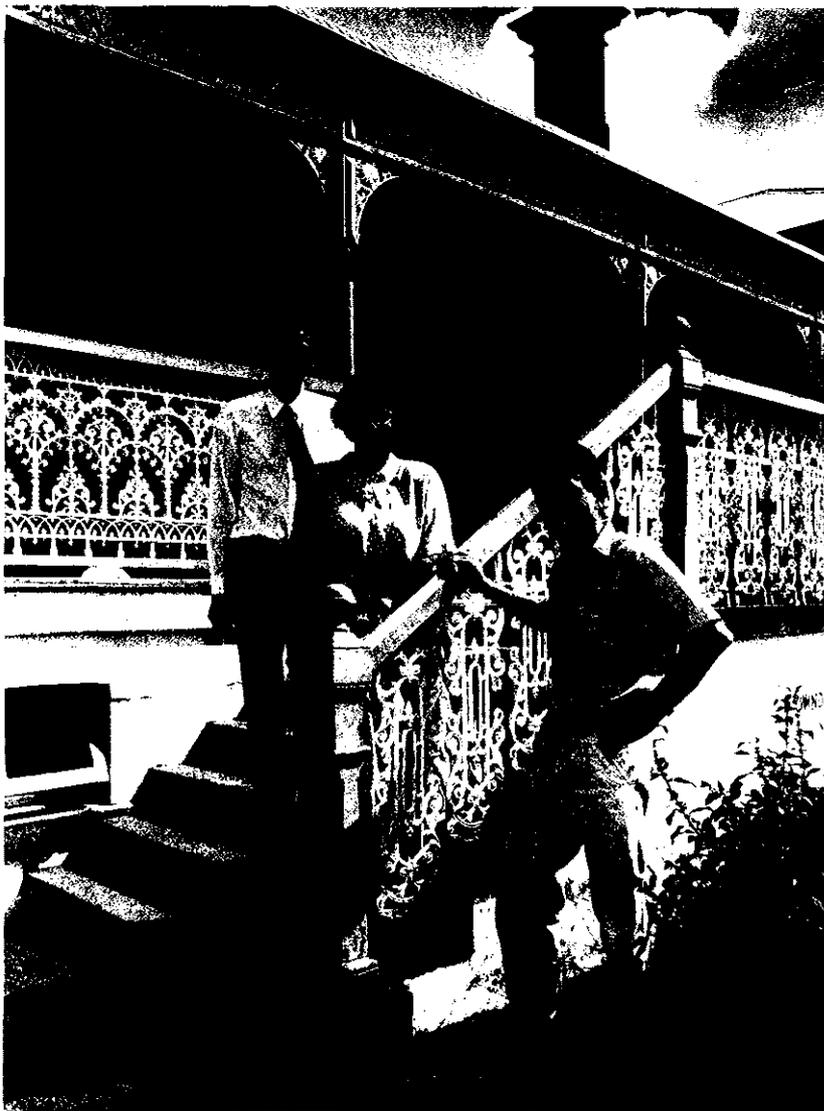
"It says a lot about the craftsmanship of those early convict builders," Peter says.

The house has not only survived the fire which destroyed half of it and most of its furniture and belongings in 1882, but also the Maitland Flood in 1955. Still it stands proudly as one of the reminders of the earliest days of the Hunter Valley.

Peter and Lorna hope to develop the house further so that they can show it to tour groups and visitors. They would like people to see their extensive collection of history, convict items, clothing, china, furniture, historic newspapers, books, medals and household implements.

"The convicts' living and sleeping quarters as well as reminders of the methods used to detain them are always of interest to visitors and provide an eye-opening view of how life was in the early days of settlement.

"We have both aspects here, the reminders from a grand lifestyle and the means by which it was created."



Professor Rob Melcher (r) with Peter and Lorna Capp at Windermere House.

ROLAND ROBINSON 1912-1992

'I gave these things the greater worth and turned to wandering the earth, and took for trade the tags of rhyme to justify myself to time'

Roland Robinson, 'Because I Wakened'.

Roland Robinson was everyone's idea of how a poet ought to be - passionate, mystical, a minstrel-like wanderer and an observant outsider, a person gifted with the ability to 'mesmerise people with the power of words'. In accepting the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters at The University of Newcastle in May 1991, he told the packed gathering that, stripped to the vanity of his attainment, 'verse and verse alone did he have to offer them'.

He then proceeded to entertain and to move his audience with a sparkling recitation from memory of several of his best regarded and most striking poems that illustrated the broad range of his undoubted accomplishment.

It was to be his last important public performance. Roland Robinson, poet, critic and collector of Aboriginal folklore, myths and legends, died on Saturday afternoon, 8 February 1992, aged 79, at Belmont Hospital near Lake Macquarie, where he had been bedridden for a number of weeks as the result of a heart condition. A series of small strokes had left him increasingly frail over the past few years, however his intellect remained as fertile, perceptive, compassionate and sharp as ever to the end.

He was buried at Belmont cemetery after a private funeral attended (in the Gaelic tradition) only by men on Monday, February 10.

A memorial service in his honour was held on the following Saturday at All Saint's Anglican Church, Belmont and was attended by friends he had accumulated from many parts of Australia over a long and a richly varied writing career.

Roland Robinson was born of English parents on June 12, 1912 in Balbriggan, Ireland, and had migrated with them to Australia at the age of nine. Throughout his life he retained a great affinity with the place of his birth, learning much about Irish oral traditions, and making a particular study of the Irish west coast and its folklore.

His mother, who had strong interests in literature and who played the mandolin, died soon after the family's arrival in Australia. For the rest of his life, Roland carried her mandolin as he travelled over the vast Australian continent on his lyrical wanderer's voyage of discovery. Without his mother, aspects of Roland's formative years were harsh, but, nevertheless, they fertilised his poetic imagination. He left school at fourteen because his father had obtained for him a job as a houseboy on a sheep property near dusty Coonamble on the western plains of New South Wales. His employers were to treat him harshly:

He used to have to scrub the floor and if he didn't do it properly the woman sat on a seat and switched him with a cane. He lived away from the house... and there was a cowbell on a string right across to where he slept down in the yard (to summon him to the house).

He was desperate, naturally, to leave such a miserable Dickensian situation. At sixteen he made his escape and obtained work elsewhere in the countryside as a boundary rider, station-hand and groom. He erected boundary fences, mustered and slaughtered sheep for the market, and learnt all he could about horses. Horses were to become a lifelong love and obsession with him. Despite, or maybe because of his isolated bush existence, he devoured every book he could lay his hands on. He began to give himself, unaided, a rich literary education. During a bad outbreak drought, however, he lost his job and at nineteen headed for the metropolis of Sydney. He later recalled that at the time he 'was hungry for music and art and literature' and wanted to make up for such a brief formal education. He did this by haunting the Sydney Library on 'a voyage of discovery'.

Roland obtained a night job in a hosiery factory in Rushcutter's Bay and read authors like Tolstoy and William Morris during the day. He soon became an activist in the textiles union and helped lead a nation-wide strike for better working conditions. But after the union executive advised the hard pressed, striking workers to return to their jobs immediately without any real gains, he became disillusioned with the selfishness and double-dealing of the union bosses and returned to outdoor work in the bush.

With the Second World War fast approaching, he took a courageous public stance as a conscientious objector. When he was called up he refused to be examined and was imprisoned in the local lock-up, after refusing to pay a fine of one pound. His decision arose basically from his early childhood impressions of the human impact of the Great War:

My most vivid childhood memories are of women crying. It seemed that every woman had lost someone in that dreadful trench war and I certainly wasn't going to war.

He was bailed out by a friend and soon after took part in a debate on conscientious objection at the University of Tasmania.

Roland was sent to the Northern Territory as a labourer in the Civic Construction Corps in the last years of World War 11. By this time he was writing verse and was an active



Dr Roland Robinson AO receiving his honorary degree of Doctor of Letters from Professor Keith Morgan (l) and Justice Elizabeth Evatt (r).

member of the Jindyworobak movement, which was nationalist, bush and Aboriginal-oriented and whose leading spirit was his friend the Adelaide poet Rex Ingamells. The Jindys were opposed to the Europeo-centric outlook that prevailed in Australia's literary world. Roland claimed that the Australian poet's urgent task was to drive out the 'imported menagerie' or 'satyrs, fauns, nymphs, pans, elves, pixies and fairies' that inhabited the imagined Australian bush under the influence of poets like Hugh McCrae and artists like Norman Lindsay and to 'reinstate the indigenous inhabitants'. During his years in the Top End, Roland met for the first time fellow Jindyworobak poet William Hart-Smith at Thirteen Mile Camp and the author WE (Bill) Harney. Both became life-long friends.

Roland Robinson stayed for some time at Deep Well, a small fettler's camp eighty kilometres south of Alice Springs. Drawn from his experience there, his poem Deep Well, evokes the flashing colour images, the isolated spirit and mystical sensuous beauty of the place.

I am at Deep Well where the fettlers' car travels towards the cool blue rising wave that is the Ooraminna Range, and starts those pure birds screaming from the scrub to swerve, reveal their pristine blush in wings and breasts, to scatter, settle and flower the desert-oak.

Roland was to spend some years in the 1940's working in the vicinity of the Roper River, which was to produce notable and emotionally striking poems like Black Cockatoos in which he announces his credo as a lyrical poet:

'so shall I find me harsh and blendless words/or barbarous beauty enough to sing this land'.

Roland's first collection of verse - Beyond the Grass-tree Spears - was published in 1944 and received a good critical reception. It was followed by Language of the Sand in 1949 which established him as a major lyrical poet. Several other volumes of verse were to follow, including the prize-winning Tumult of the Swans in 1953. Each poem that Robinson produced was sculpted with a deep sense of place which harmonised with the texture and character of its subject. He

THE MINSTREL POET

searched always for fresh language that would bring his responses alive on the page: sight, hearing, taste, smell and 'the great colour images of this land'.

At Woodenbong, a New South Wales village and Aboriginal settlement on the Mount Lindesay Highway near the Queensland border, Roland gathered much Aboriginal lore from members of the Bandjalang tribe and with their permission transcribed some of it into English verse which was published. He did the same in the Shoalhaven district on the south coast of New South Wales with the Walbangas and the Wandandiaris, whose oral traditions were recorded and celebrated in his book *Black-Feller, White-Feller* published in 1958. Robinson's collecting work among Aborigines bore other fruit in the field of prose with the publication of *Aboriginal Myths and Legends* in 1966 which was reprinted several times and became a standard text, widely used in schools, colleges and universities. It was a much appreciated, well-received pioneering work and it was followed by *Altjeringa* and other *Aboriginal Poems* in 1970, and *Australian Aborigines in Colour and Wandjina* in 1971.

As well as being one of the founding members of the Jindyworobak club, throughout his life Roland Robinson supported, with great generosity, the work of young Australian poets. He established the Lyrebird Writers Group which published several collections of verse under his editorship and was a distinguished editor of *Poetry Australia* for many years. He was also a President of the Poetry Society of Australia.

During a long nomadic lifetime before settling in Belmont (a suburb of Lake Macquarie) in the late 1970s, Roland Robinson worked in various colourful and unusual occupations: he was a country jockey at picnic races, a breaker and trainer of horses, a dancer who toured with the Kirsova Ballet Company after which he was a ballet critic with *The Sydney Morning Herald*, an artist's model, the groundsman at the Woollahra Golf Course for many years, and a book reviewer for both *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Newcastle Herald*. He was a tall distinguished-looking man, with a flowing mane of white hair, piercing blue eyes and fiery eyebrows. He married twice, but had no children. He once said 'my poems are my children' - and these were many and distinguished, but like many Australian writers he had to earn his living by other means. He won the inaugural first prize in the National Book Council Award for Australian Literature in 1974 (the Banjo Award) for his 1973 autobiography *Drift of Things* and in 1982 was awarded an Emeritus Fellowship by the Literature Board of the Australia Council. There were Liter-

ature Board Grants in 1973 and 1977 and a Fellowship in 1976. In 1988 he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his services to literature as well as the highly prestigious Patrick White Award, and finally, in 1991 the Honorary Doctorate at Newcastle. Such richly deserved honours came late. Roland Robinson was at the very core of the poetic reawakening in the Second World War years in Australia - a reawakening that directed Australians unself-consciously towards their own landscape: 'a barbaric country of burning colour' with 'corroding blood-red hills' and 'sanded rivers the Gulf rain fills'. Life after death had no terrors for the lyrical voyager.

He was able to write his own epitaph in 'I'll wake somewhere':

Where do I lie?

break the wind that hurls the star-shoals across the night?

Earth reels under me. I'll wake somewhere, I know, again to hear honey eaters' songs shaken out from ridges of grass-tree spears.

I'll set out again for mountains at the end of the world. Where casuarinas fringe the turquoise sea. I'll find my cave, scrawl my verses in charcoal on the walls.

J.R.

PROFESSOR CLARKE - THE 1991 EXXON DISTINGUISHED LECTURER AT 'OLE MISS'

Deputy President of the Academic Senate, Professor Frank Clarke, undertook a quick trip to the United States during the first two weeks of December to fulfil lecturing commitments to Doctoral candidates at the University of Mississippi. Professor Clarke was invited by the Graduate School at "Ole Miss" to be its 1991 Exxon Distinguished Lecturer. Whilst in the US Professor Clarke also presented a paper at the Research Methodology conference conducted by the Academy of Accounting Historians, held at the University of Mississippi.

In transit, the Deputy President visited the Chinese University in Hong Kong. In Britain he collected materials on the privatisation of public enterprises and on creative accounting by failed companies pursuant to research projects to be funded by ARC and RMC grants in 1992. At "Ole Miss" Professor Clarke also discussed potential staff and student exchange programmes with The University of Newcastle.

TUNRA win Contract for OTC



OTC's Sydney Satellite Earth Station

TUNRA, the University's commercial company, has won a development contract for OTC worth \$200,000 in association with the Centre for Industrial Control Science (CICS).

The project involves the development of a prototype antenna tracking controller for an unstaffed earth station in the Cook Islands.

OTC has a contract to supply and install six satellite earth stations in the Cook Islands to provide automatic telephone services to six remote island communities. Each station will use solar power.

The satellites will service OTC's PACT - Pacific Area Cooperative Telecommunications - network, whose members include Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Niue, Nauru, Tuvalu and New Zealand, as well as Australia and the Cook Islands. Rarotonga is the switching hub of the network's satellite links.

The Chief Executive Officer of TUNRA, Mr Karel Grezl, said the OTC development built on the success of TUNRA and CICS in winning a \$1.2 million contract from AWA Defence and Baulderstone Hornibrook to design, build, install, commission and support an antenna tracking project near Geraldton in Western Australia.

Mr Grezl said the production systems for the West Australian project, which were ordered under a 1990 contract, had been assembled and were being shipped now.

He said a market survey had been commissioned by Austrade to identify demand for antenna tracking controllers. Future opportunities were expected to be largely outside Australia, making the developments significant in terms of Australia's balance of trade.

SECONDMENT FOR PROFESSOR WARD



Professor Ward, Professor of History at the University of Newcastle, has been invited to take the position of Chief Historian in a new unit being set up under the aegis of the Minister of Justice in Wellington, New Zealand, to process Maori claims to Crown land. Under the Treaty of Waitangi Act, Maori New Zealanders can bring claims against the Crown for breaches of the Treaty of Waitangi since 1840 when the Treaty was signed between the first British governor and Maori chiefs. The Maori believe that many of the Crown's acquisitions of their land during colonisation were in breach of the Treaty.

Recently the New Zealand government transformed most of its instrumentalities into private corporations which are now selling off land in surplus of their requirements, much of it valuable urban land. Efforts have been made in the Waitangi Tribunal, set up in 1975, to hear Maori claims regarding this land. Progress has been slow and corporations have customers ready and willing to buy much of the surplus land. They can still sell, but only with a memorial on the title noting that Maori claims against the land might eventually be found valid. This of course diminishes the value of the land. It is therefore in the interests of both Maori and Crown to clear the land of the Maori claims and sell it at full market value.

To speed things up an agreement has been signed between the Maori Congress, a pan-tribal organisation with nineteenth century antecedents and the Queen represented by the New Zealand Minister of Justice, to establish a Joint Working Party to fast-track claims respecting the more important and valuable lands and, on the basis of historical research into the Maori claims, establish whether or not at least a prima facie case exists. Maori and Crown

representatives on the Working Party will be negotiating compensation on the basis of the historical report and sell the land with a clear title (unless, that is, the Maori wish to retain it themselves).

Professor Ward, who is New Zealand's leading authority on early colonisation as it affected Maori land, is one of very few historians who was acceptable to both Maori and Crown to fill the post of Chief Historian to the Joint Working Party. He will conduct much of the research himself and supervise a small team of fellow historians, some of whom he hopes will be Maori. He will retain links with the Waitangi Tribunal itself for which he has been a consultant historian

for the past four years. It is expected that two part-time research Masters students will begin work on New Zealand related topics in the Department of History, and visit Wellington for archival work while Professor Ward is there. Professor Ward says he does not expect an easy year and will probably be very glad to return to academic life in January 1993. This is the first time that Maori and Crown representatives have really sat down together systematically to redress the grievances relating to land arising from colonisation. The invitation to assist the process is both a privilege and an opportunity for important and enriching responsibility.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ABORIGINAL STUDENTS

The University Scholarships Committee has recently approved the conditions for The Jack Doherty Undergraduate Scholarships for Koori Students.

Established by the Newcastle Aboriginal Support Group, the Scholarships are named after the Group's founder and late President, Mr Jack Doherty.

The Scholarships will be offered to three Aboriginal students at The University of Newcastle who have successfully completed their first year of study, to assist and encourage them to continue with their studies.

The Support Group, which consists of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people working together towards equity for Kooris, would like to see the number of Aboriginal students who graduate from University increase. A total of 44 Koori students have graduated since the University's inception,

with another 11 due to graduate this year.

Warden of Convocation, Mr Vic Levi, says compared to the thousands of non-Aboriginal Australians who have taken out degrees from this University, there is certainly room for improvement. He believes that while this situation is improving since the establishment of the Wollotuka Aboriginal Centre at the University, scholarships like these will certainly be an incentive for Aboriginal students.

Jack Doherty retired from his position as Head of the Physical Sciences Department of the former Newcastle College of Advanced Education in 1976. Jack died at the end of 1990 at the age of 76. Founder of the Newcastle Aboriginal Support Group in 1980, he was held in high regard by the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community. Members of the Support Group remember him for always being able to look at both

sides of issues without emotional involvement. Since Jack saw education as the key to Aboriginal advancement, the Newcastle Aboriginal Support Group has chosen to continue his work by offering the Scholarship.

The Support Group is seeking donations towards the scholarships, so that they may be offered to three 1993 continuing students. You may like to consider donating. All donations are tax deductible.

To send your donation or for further details, please write to Newcastle Aboriginal Support Group, PO Box 79, Broadmeadow, 2292 or telephone Mr Rodney Knock on 63 6143. If you are donating, please make your cheque payable to The University of Newcastle and attach a note requesting the University to use your donation for the Jack Doherty Undergraduate Scholarships for Koori students.

A LOVE AFFAIR WITH LITERATURE



Dr Miller and Professor Hammond at Grantchester near Cambridge.

Dr E.G. Miller came to this University in 1980. He began a degree in Arts, because, as he recounts: "he wanted to get on 'first name' terms with some of the great minds which have surfaced through the ages," and particularly in the field of humanities.

He had enjoyed a successful career, first as an engineer, then later as a senior manager in a multicultural company concerned locally with making glass. That particular operation, Leonora Glass, was to be closed in 1982 due to competition from overseas. Its closure ended this country's ability to manufacture hand-made glass on a commercial scale.

Miller did not wish to become part of some executive scrap-heap. Because much of his life had included a strong 'work ethos', he remembers: "that he recognised that his spare time pursuits such as golf (poor), bowls (indifferent) or sailing (fair) would not be sufficient for fulfilment." He had been to the University first in 1978 to promote the manufacture and sale of a commemorative giftware (which is still being sold by Convocation).

This visit probably inspired his idea in 1980 to enrol as a part-time first-year student in English. This experience taught him how to integrate into the student society, to concentrate upon a narrow and deep degree, and to compete with the preponderance of bright minds around by applying the lessons learned in the market-place regarding work. He recognised poetry as the most important medium in literature for him.

A return to Latin and then Classical Studies resulted in 1984, with Honours I, after an inspiring introduction to ancient epics like *Homer & Virgil*. The following year, 1985, brought another happy honours year in English, with Blake, Eliot and Milton. These double Honours earned him a good BA in 1986.

Then began the 'journeyman's' task of his first postgraduate work. Realising that epic poetry was his speciality, Miller directed his research around the overt and covert anti-pathy toward Islam in the Italian and Portuguese epic poems of the cinquecento. This work resulted in the award of an MA in 1989 for his thesis on *Orlando Furioso*.



There were other things going on during this decade of study. In 1982 he was President of the English Society and in 1984 of the Classics Society. A continuing support for the Language and Literature Board in the Faculty of Arts resulted in his becoming Chairman of this body in 1991.

Wishing to be continually aware of the opinions of his peers, Dr Miller presented papers on Prudentius at the IXth Patristic Congress at Oxford in 1987, on Dante and Plato at AULLA in 1989, and each year on various epics at the Sydney College of Divinity conferences.

Other publications have included sundry mediocre verse and a piece on Henry Lawson and the Erl-Konig for ABC Radio Helicon.

After the MA, Dr Miller intensified his study of the Italian language with private study assisted by Mrs L. Moelle, and by Mr B. Wales of the Italian Dept, University of New England. His aim since 1980, was to work on Dante's *Divine Comedy*. With the encouragement of Professor R.G. Tanner, a preliminary thesis was submitted to an eminent Dante scholar, Professor Patrick Boyde of St John's College, Cambridge. His severe criticism brought about a major

change in the direction of Miller's research. More emphasis was placed upon a Platonist rather than an Aristotelian reading of the epic. The influence of Plato's allegories of the Cave, the Sun, and the Divided Line was identified by textual analysis. The arguments were greatly assisted by research into the Platonist ideas surviving in Cicero, Plotinus, Bonaventura, Boethius, St. Augustine, and, particularly in the Cappadocian fathers, such as Gregory of Nyssa.

Examiners of the completed thesis included Professors of Classics and Philosophy at two major British universities. A pleasing result received from another eminent 'dantesca', Professor P. Boitani in Rome. He suggested that Dr Miller's work, particularly in the *Paradiso* 'goes beyond past criticism... and it shows originality in its parallel... with Plato's Divided Line. All three examiners were interested in the 'binary structure' of the poem as argued by Miller.

Dr Miller, after six years experience as a part-time Tutor in Classics has been a full-time member of the staff of that department as a Tutor since March 1991. He lectures on a variety of subjects but prefers to concentrate upon literary subjects such as epic poetry and ancient comedy.

His four children have all been graduates of this university: three as teachers and one as medical practitioner. Dr Miller has a deep loyalty to this university which is exemplified, in part, by having taught at the Central Coast Campus since the first year of its inception. In teaching he recognises a familiar 'hunger for learning'.

He sees himself as a continuing student for the remainder of his life: a 'lifer' was the term applied by a close friend, Professor N.G.L. Hammond of Clare College, Cambridge. He is the first to see himself as lucky; one who has exchanged a successful engineering and senior management life for a love affair with literature.

He lives happily at the lake with Ruby - his beloved wife of nearly forty years. But there are other odd interests: he has been a Rotarian, on and off, since 1966; he is chairman of the Toronto Private Hospital Board; and lately has become an ordinary seaman in the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol.

CENTRE FOR LEGAL EDUCATION ESTABLISHED

The Law Foundation of New South Wales' latest initiative, the Centre for Legal Education, was launched by the Chief Justice, The Hon Mr Justice Gleeson, SC, at a function at the Law Society of New South Wales on April 30, 1992.

With the formation of the Centre for Legal Education, the Law Foundation has achieved a long-awaited ambition.

The challenges now facing legal education demand both good ideas and decisive action. However, ideas and actions sometimes cannot go hand in hand.

Over the last 20 years distinguished lawyers have produced numerous reports on legal education which contained good ideas. However, many remain to be implemented.

Five of the current, pressing questions in legal education are:

How can a law degree satisfy both the requirement of the University to provide general academic training and the requirement of the profession that it be preparation for practice?

How can law graduates be prepared for practice in a way that is both economical and reliable?

Should law graduates be required to work in a legal environment before being admitted as solicitors?

How can we ensure that lawyers are equipped with the proper ethical attitudes?

How do we deal with the enormous growth in the number of law graduates expected within the next few years?

These are among the questions which have been addressed by the Bowen, Brown and Pearce Reports, but the persistent hard work required for the implementation of their recommendations has yet to be done.

The Centre for Legal Education will have the resources to undertake or manage much of this work.

Its agenda is to be a research and policy development unit for all of the bodies involved in legal education, and to be a resource centre, collecting and disseminating information necessary for the development of policy. In addition it will generally encourage and support developments in legal education.

On top of the need for reforms in legal education come the particular pressures of the rapidly growing numbers seeking entry to the profession. In 1992 there will be 1,285 graduates from New South Wales law schools - in 1999 there will be a staggering increase of 62% in numbers graduating.

Add to these numbers:

the effect on the system of the new or proposed law schools in Canberra, Newcastle, New England and Western Sydney, as well as Bond University;

increasing numbers of foreign lawyers seeking admission;

new legislation opening up the possibility of much freer entry to the New South Wales jurisdiction; and

the increasing popularity of the BAB/SAB courses - 2400 enrolled currently.

The legal profession is faced with fundamental questions including:

what the study of law should achieve; what resources are required; and

how to take account of the inevitable diversity of careers to which law graduates will go.

The Centre for Legal Education, under its director Christopher Roper, has set itself an exciting agenda. Proposals for a number of practical research projects are being developed in conjunction with other bodies. At the same time statistics are being collected which will form a databank of relevant statistics for policy makers and researchers.

By the end of the Centre's first year it hopes to have a rapidly growing library of material on legal education, both that published and that hidden away in files and archives. This material may not stop the reinvention of the wheel but it will at least give researchers a solid base from which to work. A newsletter reporting on all recent publications and developments in legal education is about to be published. This digest will become a useful resource both in New South Wales and beyond.

Several projects in the Asian region have already begun. The Centre is acting as the secretariat for the legal education committee for Lawasia. It is involved in the design and presentation of a seminar for law societies and bar associations in developing countries on how to establish a continuing legal education programme. It is also compiling a directory of law courses throughout the Lawasia region: information which so far is unavailable.

The Centre is currently operating from the Law Foundation premises.

You are invited to contact Christopher Roper on (02) 2995621 for more information.

Call for Nominations for the 1992 Convocation Medal for Professional Excellence

The Convocation Medal is awarded annually to a graduate of the University of Newcastle (including graduates of the former Hunter Institute of Higher Education, the former Newcastle College of Advanced Education and the Newcastle branch of the Conservatorium of Music) with the most outstanding record of professional excellence that can be found.

The Selection Committee will look at the curriculum vitae of possible grantees, but in particular will be seeking a discovery, a new understanding or a new development, which has significantly advanced some particular field. The graduate can be working anywhere in the world.

The award may have to be announced in absentia, but it will be given much publicity. The medal will be forwarded, and the names of winners will be recorded on a plaque at the University for all time. The award will not be made in any year in which the Committee is of the opinion that no work notified to it has reached the high standard required for this medal.

Call for Nominations for the 1992 Newton-John Award

The Standing Committee of Convocation invites nominations for the 1992 Newton-John Award.

The Award recognises graduates of the University of Newcastle who have made a substantial contribution by way of innovation or creativity in any field, towards enhancing the quality of life in the community.

The Award was instituted in 1974 with selection being based on the following criteria:

Graduates of the University of Newcastle or graduates of the University of New South Wales or the University of New England who spent at least three years as students of the Newcastle University College are eligible to be nominated for the Award.

The Award is given for innovation or creativity in any field with the emphasis on originality, or lasting value or aesthetic value or benefit to the community.

Any graduate who would like to be considered for either of these 1992 awards, or any person who would like to put forward a nomination, is invited to forward all relevant information including a curriculum vitae, to the Convocation Officer, University of Newcastle, NSW 2308, by August 31, 1992. All information received will be treated as strictly confidential by the Selection Committee.

For further information telephone (049) 21 6464.

NO ESCAPING THE TOXINS OF THE 20TH CENTURY

Traces of pesticides reach even the supposedly pristine environment of the Antarctic, where penguins have been found with body fat tainted by organochlorines. And, in the air, water and soil of our everyday environment exist constant low levels of contamination from a range of chemicals used in industry and agriculture.

The direct effects on the human body of large doses of toxins have been well documented. But the impacts of long-term exposure to the almost routine levels of potentially poisonous substances now found in the environment are less clear.

It is questions about this enduring low-level of exposure that the Bioanalytical Research Group (BRG) hopes to answer with its latest research initiatives in the area of environmental medicine.

The BRG consists of Dr Hugh Dunstan, Dr Ray Murdoch, Associate Professor Tim Roberts, Dr Brian Conroy and Ms Pam Lake. It was formed within the University's Department of Biological Sciences in 1990 chiefly to expand the University's cell biology research and to give environmental research the cellular and molecular perspectives it was missing.

The group's program of environmental medicine arose after Hugh Dunstan saw an ABC television program last year that voiced concerns about the effects of routine agricultural chemical use on rural populations. Dr Dunstan approached a Sydney medical practitioner who appeared on the program, Dr Mark Donohoe, about the potential of the BRG's expertise for research in the area.

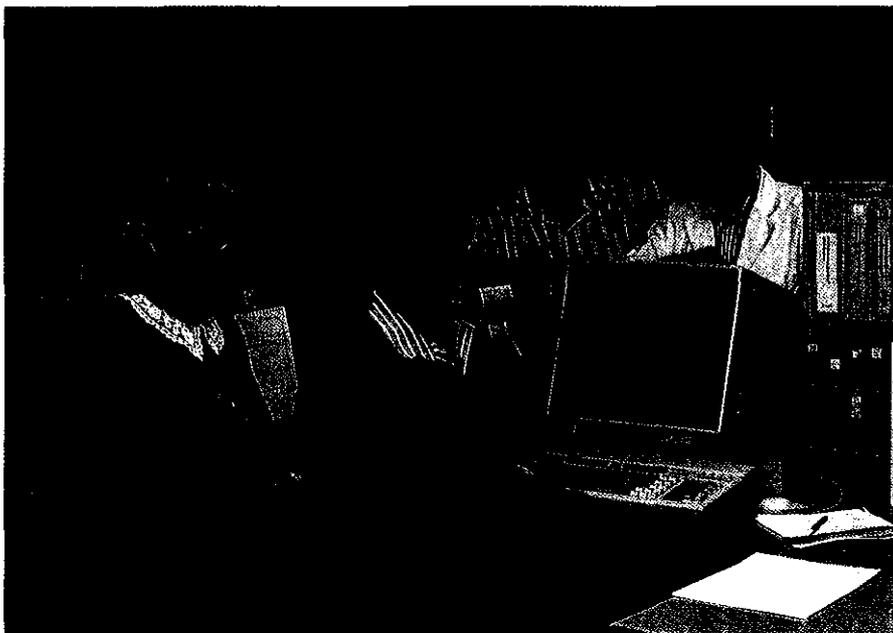
At the time, the BRG had embarked on research supported by the Hunter Water Board to investigate the effect of water pollution on marine and freshwater plants and animals.

Dr Donohoe and a number of like-minded Sydney associates have since formed Environmental Health Technologies (EHT), a company which has provided the BRG with a \$105,000 grant to start up its environmental medicine research program.

At the core of the research are the many thousands of complex biochemical reactions that take place inside every human cell. The end-products of these reactions are molecules such as amino acids or sugars which form the basis for the performance of the human body.

For any particular cell type, a profile can be built up of the biochemical pathways, reactions and end-products that occur under normal circumstances. It is then possible to identify what, if any, effects the presence of a contaminating pollutant might be having in a cell.

The BRG has particular capabilities for this type of cell profiling. A \$150,000 machine known as a gas chromatograph/mass spectrometer (GC^{MS}) provides the technology to assess samples. Dr Dunstan



Mrs Pam Lake (l), Dr Hugh Dunstan, Dr Brian Conroy and Dr Ray Murdoch from the Bioanalytical Research Group.

has the analytical expertise, developed at Oxford and Melbourne Universities during the past decade.

Dr Dunstan is using the GC-MS to determine levels of pollutants such as pesticides and PCB's in human cell samples supplied by the Sydney doctors. By comparing the profiles of contaminated cells with those of normal cells, he hopes to identify the extent to which toxins in the samples are interfering with normal cellular biochemical reactions.

Dr Murdoch will be able to provide further detailed interpretations of the results. He has a particular understanding of the substances, known as enzymes, that control the reaction within cells.

Working closely with Dr Dunstan, he should be able to identify whether pollutants interfere with the cell by de-activating specific target enzymes. Compensations for these disturbances could prove to be effective in countering cell contamination.

At the same time, Professor Roberts will establish the effects of the contamination on the human immune system. It has been recorded in the scientific literature that as little as 10 molecules of dioxin can interfere with the division of cells important to the immune system.

Professor Roberts hopes to identify the minimum levels at which other common pollutants start to interfere with human immunity.

The potential of the research is enormous. The BRG's work in this area could provide the basis for directly relating medical effects with environmental cause. For example, it is possible - some medical practitioners would say probable - that the cause of a range of cancers and baffling 20th century maladies such as chronic fatigue syndrome may lie in trace levels of environmental contaminants.

It may also prove possible to predict the response of an individual's immune system to low level exposures of toxins in the workplace. For example, a person's immune system may show particular susceptibilities to certain toxins. This sort of information could be used to identify the suitability of people to work in high risk jobs that involve greater than normal exposure to solvents, pesticides or other chemicals.

The BRG hopes to eventually conduct analyses of samples on a commercial basis and to plough any money raised back into research.

Dr Dunstan is confident of continued funding for the research from EHT. He hopes that a continued relationship with the company will also attract Australian Research Council funding through the Collaborative Research Grants Program which matches industry input on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

OF WIND AND REMAINS

"If they had not been the Algonquians, the Indians of the north would have called this place the 'Land of the Wind' (the 'Land of the Wind')."

"For the wind is the life of the land, and the life of the land is the life of the people." The wind is the life of the land.

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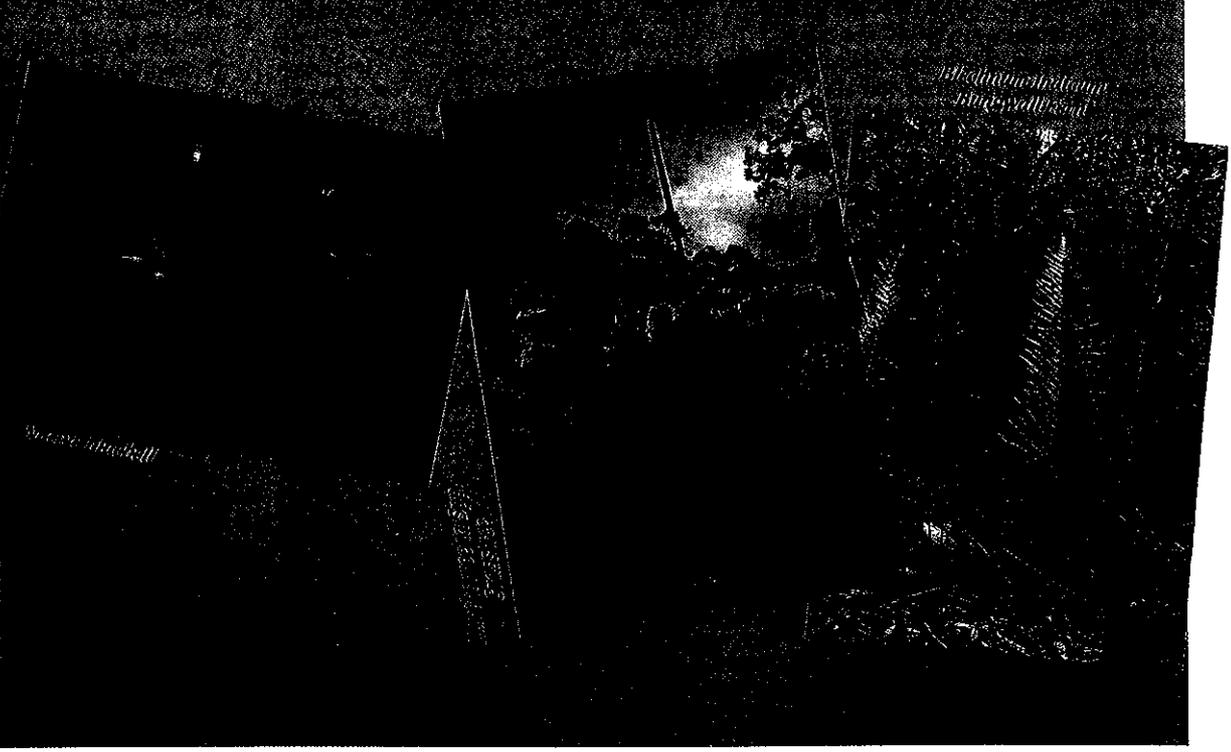
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MEDICAL RESEARCHER WANTS HEART ATTACK VICTIMS TO ASK QUESTIONS

Dr Jonathan S. Silberberg's advice is dramatic. "The first step - get the information. If it's uncertain, check it against death records."

The statement sounds extreme, but then so is the toll of heart disease, both in terms of the high mortality statistics and the human suffering left in its wake.

Dr Silberberg, a senior lecturer in the University's Faculty of Medicine is also a clinical cardiologist at the John Hunter Hospital's Cardiovascular Unit.

With responsibilities in research as well as teaching, Dr Silberberg and his co-researchers are developing a scoring system which enables relevant family medical history regarding heart disease and its symptoms to be calculated, thus providing a clearer picture of the degree of risk that a person faces.

The team has devised a straight-forward questionnaire to enable medical practitioners to ask suitable questions and encourage patients to trace their family history with direct emphasis on gathering specific information about the pointers to heart disease symptoms.

Their research comes in the wake of alarming statistics which indicate that one person in two will suffer a heart attack at some time in their life.

Dr Silberberg, the principal investigator, and two other researchers, Dr John Wlodarczyk, the statistician with the Department of Respiratory Medicine at the John Hunter Hospital, and Associate Professor Michael Hensley from the Discipline of Community Medicine, have been working on the project for the past two and a half years. They see a horizon of five years before the research is completed.

They are working with a \$54,000 grant over two years from the National Heart Foundation.

"There is a real need to improve the nation's health by educating people about healthy lifestyle, but we still need to know why some people are more susceptible than others.

"For instance when a person smokes, then you have an explanation. But if a person has had a heart attack and there is no clear explanation such as smoking, high cholesterol, high blood pressure or stress, then we need to look at other factors such as family history.

"We ask the question 'What is the process in this family that leads to heart disease despite being at apparently low risk?'

"We find that most people are unaware of their family's medical history until they actually ask the questions about their

family," Dr Silberberg says.

"As well as the need to define high risk people, there is also the need to rationalise the exploding health care costs connected with heart disease," Dr Silberberg says.

It is usual to define either a 'positive' family history where the risk would be considered high, and a 'negative' family history which most likely would indicate a low risk. However, the 'negative' family could still be what Dr Silberberg refers to as 'protective'.

"We need to get away from Yes/No definitions and start really questioning. We want to know what is the meaning of a strong family history in terms of metabolic processes, and how these can be measured.

"We also need to know about the shared environment, not only in relation to smoking, but diet and food preparation," he says.

A strong family history is when several first degree relatives have been affected (the precise number depends on how many relatives there are), when disease developed at a young age, when cases have included females and when the affected persons did not smoke. (Coronary disease is less common in females and nonsmokers).



A 'protective' family history is when the family is large, yet few have developed disease, when most members have lived to a ripe old age and when no disease develops despite a large number of smokers.

However, Dr Silberberg warns of imitations. Large families about which the person knows nothing are uninformative, not negative. Likewise some other event, eg, war, may have intervened before coronary heart disease might reasonably have developed.

The research team have developed a step-by-step guide to evaluating family history of coronary heart disease beginning with:

1. Mapping out the first degree relatives such as parents, brothers and sisters, children.
2. Checking that they are all blood relatives. If not, discount them altogether; if half-relatives, their information is only worth half that of a full relative.
3. For each family member, ask: are they alive or dead? If alive, how old are they? Do they smoke? What medical problems have they had? If dead, at what age did they die? Did they smoke? How did they die? What other medical problems did they have? At what age did these first become evident?
4. Review all the 'No' responses. Do they really mean 'Don't Know'?
5. Repeat steps 1 to 4 for second degree relatives, grandparents, aunts and uncles. This adds information but the genetic similarity is only half as strong.

The validation study links into another University of Newcastle project, the Monica Project, which is tracing the pattern of coronary heart disease in the Hunter Region. This linking provides an efficient means of gaining cases to study.

With 360 cases from the Monica Project and 720 controls chosen randomly from the electoral roll, Dr Silberberg plans to study 1080 people and their family's measurement of the heart disease risk scale, gaining a clearer picture on risk.

Half of the actual coronary heart disease cases will be male and half females and will be in three age groups, under 45 years, from 45 to 55 years and from 55 to 65 years.

"We are hoping to build an accurate and reliable road map for preventing heart disease where the costs and benefits of each route are clearly mapped out, also providing adequate information about previously neglected areas," Dr Silberberg says.

"Family history is cheap and available. If a person is serious about heart disease prevention, it could be very worthwhile for them to take the trouble to find out about their family's health history," he says.

Warden's COLUMN

It gives me great pleasure to report on the outstanding success of this year's Convocation Annual Dinner and presentation of the Newton-John Award and Convocation medals.

More than 130 guests from a wide cross section of the community attended the dinner in the University Union on March 27.

The presence of our former Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Brin-Newton John, the man who inspired the award which bears his name, helped to make the function an even more memorable occasion.

Our 17th Newton John Award winner, Marjorie Biggins, proved to be one of the most popular choices and a large group of her family and friends came along to help her celebrate. They included her husband, Associate Professor Dennis Biggins, and their three children, Penny, Felicity and Jonathon, who are also well known in their own fields of music, ABC journalism and theatre and radio respectively.

The two Convocation Medal recipients, our University's own Dean for Research, Professor Ron MacDonald, and Associate Professor Marlene Norst, a friend and former colleague of Professor Newton John, were also very popular winners.

Other highlights of the dinner were the presentation of a special award in recognition of the continuing standard of excellence of Dr William Coleborne, the first person to receive a degree from our University in its own name after it gained autonomy, and the conferring of life membership of Convocation on the University's former Information Officer, Mr John Armstrong.

I will take this opportunity to pay tribute to both men for their support of Convocation over many years. John served as Convocation Secretary for 15 years and there were times when the organisation could well have foundered had it not been for his dedication and hard work.

Two new initiatives have been introduced by Convocation this year for our students. Your management committee combined together with the University Union and the Students' Representative Council to stage a barbecue for new students at the Union during Orientation week.

The other initiative was the presentation of Convocation Book Prizes to five students nominated by the Deans of their faculties. The prizes went to Brett John Pollard and Mark Robert Chase (Architecture), Mark William Tinson (Art, Design & Communications), Kylie Ball (Arts) and Gai Suzanne Clothier (Economics).

Hopefully, we will sustain these awards annually.



I would like to place on record my appreciation of the excellent work done by our Convocation Officer, Margaret Wells, who has just taken leave of absence to complete her Law degree at Macquarie University. Margaret has been a tower of strength for both Convocation and the University and I look forward to her rejoining us in about eight months time.

Her replacement, Alison Kinder, is no stranger to students and staff at the University. Alison has been a long serving student leader on campus and is the current President of the University Union. She has already fitted in well in her new role for Convocation.

The two Graduation Balls organised by Convocation this year proved to be tremendous successes. More than 300 Graduates and friends attended the first Ball on Saturday, May 2 and nearly 700 attended the second Ball held the following Saturday. Last year the two Balls attracted a crowd of 300 each.

I was pleased to hear that the University Scholarships Committee has approved the conditions for the Jack Doherty Undergraduate Scholarships for Koori students at our university.

My congratulations to the Newcastle Aboriginal Support Group who established the scholarships and named them after the group's founder, Mr Jack Doherty.

The scholarships will assist three Aboriginal students who have successfully completed their first year of study and will prove to be an excellent incentive for all Aboriginal students.

Our "Where are you now?" segment in Uninews has proved very popular but we need to hear from more members of Convocation. Don't be shy. Please let us know where you are and what you are doing these days.

Finally, I would like to remind you that we still need funds for our appeal to build a common room for students at International House on campus. My thanks go to all those who have already made a donation. However, we are still well short of our \$200,000 target so please help if you can.

Vic Levi Warden of Convocation

NEWCASTLE'S GRADUATE BECOMES CAMBRIDGE FELLOW



Dr Janice Muir, who was awarded a PhD from the University of Newcastle in 1988, has been made a Fellow of Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge University.

Janice completed her PhD, on the effect of stress on behaviour and development, under the supervision of Dr Peter Pfister from the Department of Psychology.

In 1988 she moved to Cambridge to take up a position with Dr Trevor Robbins in the Department of Experimental Psychology.

Dr Muir is currently investigating the neural systems which are affected in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. The aim is to understand more fully the contribution of neural changes to the cognitive deficits observed in these patients. Using animal models, and behavioural tasks analogous to those used to test actual patients, Dr Muir is attempting to identify the underlying causes of the memory and attentional problems which these people suffer.

In the past few years Dr Muir's work has taken her regularly to Sweden, where she is involved in an ongoing collaborative project with Professor Anders Bjorklund at Lund University.

This work focuses on aged animals, which show remarkably similar neural changes to those that occur in aging humans, and on the possibility of brain repair to alleviate age-related impairments.

Dr Muir is one of very few scholars whose degrees come from other countries to be accepted by one of the prestigious Cambridge Colleges.

"I'm delighted to be accepted as a Fellow," she said.

"It's a great honour, and Lucy Cavendish is a College with a growing reputation for women in science."

THE CONVOCATION SHOP

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The University of Newcastle
Tel. (049) 21 6464

P R O F E S S O R

ALAN ROBERTS

AM

A PROFILE



From an apprenticeship at Cockatoo Island to the directorship of Australia's leading Engineering School is a journey longer than Alan Roberts probably contemplated at the age of 16.

With his Leaving Certificate in his pocket, but unable to afford the cost of University in 1947, the young Alan Roberts began making the daily journey from his home at Leichhardt to the naval dockyard, where Daring class destroyers were being built and passenger ships converted into troop carriers for the war were being refurbished for their civilian life.

"It was a golden age of engineering," he says, "and Cockatoo was a great place to be indentured.

"It was probably in the tradition of British dockyards. The foremen didn't wear bowler hats, but they did wear suits and felt hats, and they looked after their apprentices. It had an apprentice training school, one of the first in the country."

While still indentured, Professor Roberts completed his professional qualification in mechanical engineering at Sydney Technical College and was enticed to work at the new University of Technology as a professional officer.

That was his first step on the path which led to his being made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Australia Day Honours this year.

Over the past 40 years, Professor Roberts, Director of the School of Engineering at the University of Newcastle, has accumulated an impressive number of degrees and awards.

In 1951 he was awarded the Diploma in Mechanical Engineering with Honours and five years later received a Bachelor of Engineering Degree with Honours Class I.

He continued his studies and in 1962 was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of New South Wales. In the same year, Professor Roberts received the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, United Kingdom, *Engineering Applied to Agriculture Award* and five years later was awarded the Medal of the Institution of Engineers, Australia.

Over the next 25 years, Professor Roberts

was to receive awards and distinctions from many national and international bodies, who recognised and rewarded his outstanding contributions to the field of Mechanical Engineering. The following awards have been bestowed upon him: *The Sir George Julius Medal*, Institute of Engineers, Australia, 1982; the *Award of Distinction*, 10th Anniversary International Conference on Powders and Bulk Solids, Chicago, United States of America, 1986; the *A.G.M. Mitchell Award and Medal*, Institution of Engineers, Australia, 1989.

He was elected Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (FTS) in 1989, and in 1992 was awarded an AM (Member of the Order of Australia - General Division) for services to mechanical engineering, particularly in the field of bulk materials technology, research and technology.

Professor Roberts is currently the Director of the Institute of Bulk Handling (Newcastle University) and has been Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at Newcastle University since 1974. He has also held the position of Director of TUNRA since 1974 and is the current Director of the Hunter Technology Development Centre.

And, if all that isn't enough, Professor Roberts has written six books and design manuals and has published over 300 research and conference papers in the field of bulk materials handling. His commitment to this field is highlighted by the fact that he has been supervising and administering a program of research in this field for the past 32 years.

Professor Roberts says that considerable interest has been shown, by industry in Australia and overseas, in the bulk solids handling research at Newcastle.

"Over the past 10 years over 400 projects for some 250 companies have been undertaken. These projects have been concerned with the design and analysis of bulk materials storage and handling systems," he said.

The projects have been administered by TUNRA, the University's Research Company. Professor Alan Roberts

DID YOU GRADUATE IN THE 60'S

If so, would you be interested in attending a 1960's Reunion for everyone who studied at the University of Newcastle and graduated during the '60's???

Convocation is planning to hold the First University of Newcastle Reunion for the students and lecturers of that time. Unfortunately, we do not have current mailing addresses for everyone who graduated during the 60's.

If you know of anyone who graduated during this time, could you please let us know of their whereabouts or how we might contact them so that we may send invitation to them. If you are interested in attending, please advise:

Alison Kinder
Convocation Office
Box 12
Hunter Building
University of Newcastle 2308
Ph: (049) 21 6464

ROBERT PATTERSON - POWER STATIONS ARE HIS SPECIALITY

Power is a commodity that Robert Patterson is accustomed to.

Not power in the hackneyed phraseology of modern day usage, but real power, electricity, the kind we can't do without.

Bob, who graduated from The University of Newcastle with a Bachelor of Engineering (Chemical Engineering) in 1969, is the Manager of Bayswater Power Station, the largest installation of Pacific Power (previously the Electricity Commission of New South Wales).

Bayswater, one of six thermal power stations within Pacific Power, produces 35 per cent of the State's electricity.

Appointed to the position of Manager in August 1990, Bob's whole career has been with the Electricity Commission, having gained a traineeship with the authority in 1963.

He attended university on a part-time basis for six years from 1963 to 1968 with an honours year completed as a full-time student in 1969. Eighteen hours per week over four nights as well as a full working week, not to mention personal study time, was a pretty tight schedule to maintain. In fact it did not allow him to become too involved in the social atmosphere of the campus, a point he mentions by describing himself as being on the 'sidelines' as a part-timer.

During this time he worked mostly at Central Coast Power Stations and even the old Zaara Street Power Station at Newcastle's east end.

In 1970 he was posted to the Commission's Head Office in Sydney where he gained first-hand knowledge of the administration and design functions of the organisation and in 1972 returned to Vales Point where he was responsible for monitoring turbine efficiency and plant condition.

In 1985 he went back to Munmorah Power Station as the Turbine Operations Engineer. It was similar work, but involved a higher level of responsibility for plant operations and operator training.

"Then in 1977 I went to Eraring, at that time the largest power station in the State. It was not exactly a step up, however a very challenging job because it entailed commissioning a brand new plant, starting from square one. This happened in all sorts of ways from staff training, preparing operating manuals, commissioning of plant and testing of plant and debugging of control systems.

"It was an engineer's dream," Bob said.

"There was a lot of commissioning work and testing of models on what was then the first plant simulator in the Electricity Commission. It was set up as a room identical to the power station's control room in every way, but completely computer based. The plant operators used the simulator to practise run ups, shut downs, emergency situations and



fault conditions. It was the first simulator in operation in a power station in Australia and therefore an innovation for Eraring.

"It was a high point of my career.

"From there I became involved in maintenance at Eraring. In those days it was recognised that plant performance in the commission and plant maintenance was in a very run-down state due to inflexibility of resourcing maintenance. We weren't able to use contract labour and we weren't using shift work.

"Whilst Maintenance Engineer at Eraring, we tried to turn that situation around. During that time we changed a lot of our work practises and processes to improve plant availability. Resourcing maintenance is now very flexible and effective.

"It had to be done!

"We knew we had a problem and we knew that if we kept going the way we were going, that we would need to build more plant. So we changed.

"Maintenance was put onto a shiftwork footing and outside resources such as contractors and a supplementary maintenance group were introduced. These were able to go to different power station sites where the resources were needed.

"Over a period of about three years we have pulled the availability up to much higher figures, an improvement across all power stations in the State from about 56 per cent to about 85 per cent since 1988. Our force outage rate has decreased and we have been able to lower the spinning reserve, the power we have to keep in store for unprecedented extra demand or emergencies," he said.

In the period from 1988 to taking up his current position at Bayswater in 1990, Bob was heavily involved in the local arm of industrial relations in the Commission.

He mainly concentrated on designing various multi-skilling programs for the workforce and negotiating those packages with the unions. With more than a dozen unions involved, as well as liaison with the New South Wales Labour Council, this was a major exercise. It has paid dividends not only creating a more skilled workforce, but increasing productivity as well.

Bob says these policies are now being fully implemented with the emphasis being on multi-skilling. This has been achieved with substantial assistance from TAFE who helped with the design of the self-paced training modules.

At present Bob is involved in preparation for the development of the East Coast Grid where Bayswater and the other power stations have begun competing for market share in Australia's first electricity market. Power stations are now dispatched on the basis of merit order based on minimum operating cost.

He says the industry is faced with major economic challenges in the 90's and Bayswater is positioned extremely well to compete in this open market.

As for his continued involvement in power stations, Bob said that is where his expertise lies.

"My specialty is power stations. That's where I find the greatest challenge," he said.

Laughter and Bach

The Convocation Dinner on March 27 was a nostalgic night for the majority of the people present.

Some re-visited "their University" as part of the annual presentation of awards to outstanding graduates. And some attended because they are close friends of those who accepted awards - Mrs Marjorie Biggins (the 1991 Newton-John Award), Dr William Coleborne (the Special Award for Continuing Excellence), Associate Professor Marlene Norst and Professor Ron MacDonald (1991 Convocation Medals). Mr John Armstrong, who was the University's Information Officer, and who retired recently, received an award for his contribution to the growth of Convocation's activities in the seventies and eighties. In this article he recalls some of the big changes in the early years and some of the campus's real personalities.

"By 1970, when I was an enthusiastic new arrival at Shortland, the University was five years old.

A major building program had been underway since 1964 aimed at accelerating the transition from Tighes Hill.

The Staff House had become a useful meeting place for academics and the design had earned the architects a Blacket Award.

Materialising at the top of the site was a building which would later become an important University and community amenity. The Great Hall was being funded by a very successful public appeal.

The University looked forward to providing students with live-in accommodation on the campus, rather than in hostels, boarding houses or private homes. Work had begun on the first Hall of Residence (Edwards Hall).

Despite the physical development, the University remained a most attractive swathe of natural bushland.



When you walked up from the carparks, there was no Great Hall, no Mathematics Block, Social Sciences Building or Drama Theatre.

West of the Library, there was a large grove of eucalypts where the Biological

Sciences and Medical Sciences buildings would be erected in the future.

The plan of the Shortland site showed an area which resembled a shark's bite, inscribed "Teachers' College Site", in the centre.

When the engineering students transferred from Tighes Hill, they staged a mock funeral procession consisting of about 100 students and some 60 cars. A police escort had to be provided. Inscribed "Tighes Hill, RIP", a cardboard coffin was carried around the University by the students before it was cremated in the Union Courtyard.

When student numbers increased from 1600 in 1965 to 2000 in 1970 (about half were part-timers), the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Brin Newton-John, suggested that a Staff/Student Consultative Committee be formed to achieve greater student participation in University affairs. Professor Newton-John said that as the University had grown to the point where "grapevines tend to get tangled" there was a need for a campus newspaper "to distribute factual information about ourselves to ourselves."

By the end of 1970, I had been editor of this news sheet, University News (later Bulletin), for about four months. I went to meetings of Faculty Boards, Senate and Council. By covering all the main campus issues as they arose and running Letters to the Editor, the journal proved to be a communications landmark in the history of the University. Most people agree that the period 1970 to 1975 was a time of hope.

Students at a number of universities were making protests against the Vietnam War and other political issues.

Women students wore mini skirts; men grew their hair long; staff stopped wearing ties; and jeans became almost universal. (Some even wore thongs.)

In this atmosphere, Professor Godfrey Tanner compromised - he wore shorts and sandals, but enjoyed wearing a traditional academic robe to lectures.

Marijuana was freely available, as you realised when you visited the SRC Office and breathed in the smoke.

Movements for sexual freedom arrived in Newcastle about this time. Students began "living together" in Edwards Hall after a move to segregate men and women in separate living blocks had failed. We even saw "unisex" toilets introduced in the Union.

The SRC's officers had high expectations of change. In addition to striving for a greater role in decision-making they organised courtyard meetings on course content, overcrowding of lecture rooms, the introduction of assessments and other

matters.

If it was considered that the University was dragging its heels, the students marched up the hill to see Professor Newton-John.

At least once, I remember, they were particularly angry and occupied the Administration.

Every 20-year-old was compelled to register for national service (The Draft). As most of our students were aged 17-22, a large group of students and staff took part in the anti-war movement and could be seen in the Moratorium marches.

From here on, the process of democratisation gathered speed at the University. Membership of Faculty Boards, Senate and Council was eventually widened to include students.

My original links with the University went back to the fifties and sixties, when I worked as a journalist on The Newcastle Morning Herald. I covered meetings of the Lord Mayor's Committee for the Establishment of an Autonomous University of Newcastle and met Professor James Auchmuty.



Professor James Auchmuty

Professor Auchmuty was an Assistant Professor of History at Farouk University in Alexandria before he was expelled from Egypt following the people's revolution.

He lost everything in the flight from Egypt and lived briefly in a Housing Commission home at Stockton.

Being a particularly visible and audible Vice-Chancellor, Auchmuty cottoned onto anybody who was willing to talk about his wonderful, new University.

He claimed that for the first 10 years of the

in the Trees

Rugby Club's existence he watched more University Rugby games than any other living and breathing person.

He was first and foremost, however, a scholar - an intellectual from Trinity College Dublin who was still writing history papers when he died in 1981.

There were eccentricities in his dress: he was renowned for his bright waistcoats and the carnations in his lapels.

Although he did not suffer fools gladly, he could be a most charming chief executive and kept a well-stocked bar.

The outdoors on campus provided a pleasant environment for study and the atmosphere was very relaxing. James Auchmuty's laughter and Brin Newton-John's music (usually Bach) made walking near their offices an entertaining experience.

Auchmuty was the Chairman of the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee for three years. Despite the pressure of all his duties, he liked to teach a unit of the History Honours course. In 1971, I was one of his students.

With other honours students I went to the Vice-Chancellor's office late on Monday afternoons and waited in the vestibule.

When James had found his notes and put on his moth-eaten academic gown, Ms Nancy Perkins, his secretary, announced: "Professor is ready for you now."

We took our seats in the hallowed office, the walls of which were covered with books, including the complete works of the great British historians - Gibbons, Macaulay, Carlyle, Lecky, Toynbee and others.

If you were naive enough to ask which books by one of the historians you should read, he replied: "The lot, of course."

The extraordinary influence the staff had on the students at this time can be attributed to the fact that the University was so much smaller than to-day and everybody knew everybody else.

One reason why we knew each other was the acceptance by the University that it had a responsibility for the physical as well as mental health of staff and students.

Recreation facilities were key items in the building program.

Inter-Faculty cricket competitions were held for many years. In 1970, 10 teams took part. I remember the Administration defeated Commerce/Economics team, Darryl Doherty scoring 83 runs.

Staff members were given concessional leave during the week so that they could take part in the matches, which were played on the University's wickets.

The English Society held dinners in the Staff House and they were riotous affairs,

with the Talbot Prize being awarded for the best poetry.

In 1970, the prize was given for epitaphs, and this one won:

Here lies the body of Norman Talbot
Who could bowl quite well
And others said he could bat.

But for all the exercise, he never grew thinner,
Because of all the booze that he drank at dinner.

The History Society also held dinners, at which great historians gave great addresses, or that was the intention. Professor Manning Clark agreed to come from the ANU to be the guest speaker.



Professor Manning Clark

He arrived early and enjoyed drinks with Professor Geoffrey Cranfield and members of the History staff during the day.

At the dinner, he sat at the high table and, as the evening progressed, he enjoyed some Hunter reds and was seen by everybody to put his hand on the shoulder of the woman sitting next to him. (We should not disclose her name.)

He looked very bedraggled when he gave his address, which was truly uproarious.

A NEW LINK

An historic event took place on campus recently which 'bridged the creek' in a physical sense as well as a metaphorical one.

It was the official opening of the new footbridges which will make the journey between the eastern and western sides of the campus much shorter and take pedestrians on a mini 'bushwalk' at the same time.

The footbridges which were constructed by C & W Constructions, link the paths at the back of the Chancellor and the Shortland Union (just near the Co-op Bookshop) and obviate the need to negotiate the traffic on the campus ringroad.

When cutting the ribbon to officially open the bridges, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Morgan, said the 'bridging' was something that had been talked about for many years and he was pleased that it had finally happened.

"The engineers, designers and builders have managed to maintain the bushland setting and natural beauty of the area and congratulations must go to them," Professor Morgan said.

The opening was attended by representatives of the University Council, the University's Department of Physical Planning and Estates, C & W Constructions and also those who had been involved in the actual construction.



Remembering all this about a period of the University's life when the campus was still thickly timbered and "small" was, indeed, "beautiful", I'll try in the future to find a way of persuading my grandchildren to go to small educational institutions."

COUNCIL'S HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE UNDERWAY

In August of 1991 the Council of the University established a Human Resources Committee which meets bi-monthly to pursue its charter of establishing comprehensive policies in relation to Human Resources. The committee, chaired by one of the two lay members of Council, includes one academic staff elected member of Council, the general staff elected member of Council, the EEO Coordinator, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) and the Deputy President of Academic Senate.

The Committee has already made significant progress in its short life. A program initiated by the Committee, aimed at encouraging staff to undertake further study, has met with Support from Council. The program will provide concessions, concerning general fees and HECS charges, for staff as a training and development initiative.

While specific and individual staff concerns already have appropriate forums for inquiry and resolution, the committee is interested in hearing from staff and staff groups on broader issues related to staffing policies to enable it to fulfil one of its terms of reference in keeping the Council informed on current staffing matters.

The committee can be contacted through the Secretary, Ms C. Wood, Level 2, Chancellery.



Dr Chelakara S. Subramanian

Dr Chelakara S. Subramanian (PhD, 1983) is an Assoc. Professor at the Florida Institute of Technology. Since graduation he was Adjunct Research Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Naval Post-graduate School, Monterey, California (1991); Senior Design Engineer and Group Manager with the British Maritime Technology, Wallsend Research Station, Newcastle Upon Tyne, United Kingdom.

Mr Paul Szyjan

Mr Paul Szyjan (BScArch, 1976, BArch, 1979) is Director of Dryka Szyjan Architects and was the winner of two international architects competitions.

Mark Lennard

Mark Lennard (BSurv., 1985) is Regional Manager - Art Gallery and Workshops in Alice Springs. Mark organises exhibitions both nationally and internationally. He has travelled abroad and worked on cultural exchanges and co-written and published a book on Aboriginal Paintings of Central Australia.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Mrs Julie Sutton

Mrs Julie Sutton (nee Goffet) (BA, DipEd) has been a language teacher in State schools for the past 24 years. She was elected in 1980 to the Warringah Shire Council and in 1989 served two terms as Deputy Shire President. Julie stood unsuccessfully against Mr Terrey Metherell in State elections, Quel dommage!



Usman Bakar

Usman Bakar (MedStud, 1988) is a Lecturer at IKIP Padang. Since graduating Mr Usman Bakar has been a Lecturer in Biochemistry at the Faculty of Education and Teacher Training, a researcher in Science Education and a staff member in the Public Service at the Institute of College and Teacher Training at IKIP, Padang.

Mr Robert (Bob) Cameron

Mr Robert (Bob) Cameron (MBA, 1985) is the Managing Director of Preston Coal Co. Pty. Ltd. Early in 1989 Bob left Coal & Allied to form a consortium to buy Preston Coal Company from R.W. Miller (Holdings) Pty. Ltd. The consortium, known as Preston Coal Holdings Pty. Ltd., took over operation of Preston Colliery at Curlewis (near Gunnedah), producing 350,000 tonnes of high grade steaming and blending coal per annum for local and export markets.

So where are you now? We would like to hear from more members of convocation. Don't be shy. Please let us know where you are and what you are doing these days. Phone us on (049) 21 6464.

NEWCASTLE'S INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF THE *Arts*

UNIVERSITY PLANNER AND ARCHITECT RECEIVES HONORARY AWARD

In his Occasional Address given at the final graduation ceremony on Saturday, May 9, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Keith Morgan, quoted from a Government discussion paper before presenting his own vision of our region's cultural and artistic future.

The quotation came from a paper dealing with the efficiency and effectiveness of Universities under the title of "The Quality of Higher Education" and not, as Professor Morgan pointed out, "from the romantic vision of an academic idealist".

The quote reads "Universities are central to development of a civilised society that can lay claim to being intelligent; a socially just and culturally rich society that will expect to be wisely governed and led; and one which will have the capacity to learn from the past while creating and moving toward a new vision".

Before presenting his own vision, Professor Morgan outlined the responsibility of Newcastle University to the cultural affairs of our Region. He stated that two-thirds of our students are drawn from the Region and that over 80% of all those in the Region attending University come to the University of Newcastle. He emphasised the potential strength of the University in "developing cultural studies and making contributions to the Regional community in these areas".

Professor Morgan told of the great artistic and cultural strengths of our Region. "In music, theatre, the fine arts of painting and sculpture, poetry and dance, this region has a proud record of tradition and achievement," he said.

"But like so many other aspects of our life here, it is maintained as a well-kept secret," he added.

Professor Morgan called upon the City to host an International Festival of the Arts in 1997 - the Bicentenary of the European arrival in the Hunter, adding that we did not necessarily have to wait until then.

"Indeed this year will see at least two major music festivals at the Cathedral and the University Conservatorium and the Hunter Orchestra will present a full season; there will be important exhibitions at the Regional Gallery, the Museum and the University; the Hunter Valley Theatre Company will provide a continuing focus and the Mattara Poetry Festival will attract widespread interest; Hunter Opera and Hunter Dance Company are both active," he added.

"For 1997 all of this and more can be readily co-ordinated into a major Regional Festival. But my ambition would be larger than this. I wish to propose that for 1997 our objective should be not just for an outstanding Regional Festival, or even a National

Festival but for a major International Festival of the Arts to celebrate our Bicentenary. I suggest that this would be both appropriate, timely and achievable," he said.

Professor Morgan stated that there are good reasons to justify his high ambitions. "The Bicentenary of Newcastle and the Hunter should be celebrated nationally, internationally and regionally," he said. "We should be remiss if we failed to acknowledge the significance of 1997 in the history of Australia as well as the Hunter Region".

Professor Morgan also emphasised our Region's importance in the generation of wealth for the nation. "But of critical importance in economic development is recognition of the depth of cultural and artistic life," he said.

Could such a vision be transformed into reality?

"In logistical terms it is indeed all possible but there is certainly no time to waste: an immediate decision would be needed," he encouraged. "There would even be time to build the necessary hotels and provide the airport facilities," he added optimistically.

In terms of financial feasibility he outlined that "studies of the economics of spending on the Arts indicate that this is one of the most effective means of stimulating economic activity and growth and in addition it carries one of the most substantial multipliers of return on investment.

"The economics, if not the accounting, is entirely encouraging," he added.

Professor Morgan stated that the role of the University in realising such a vision is obvious. And the benefits for the University, the City and the Region are numerous.

"Almost certainly there would be no way of preventing the achievement of the Festival providing continuing and long term social, economic and academic advantage for the future," Professor Morgan concluded confidently.

He further encouraged all graduands to aspire to an ambitious vision - a vision which will create a society that is socially just, culturally rich and wisely governed and led. A society that has the capacity to learn "while creating and moving towards a new vision".

"This is a challenge which my generation sets you, and sets it with confidence," he said.

"There is much for you to do. You will need commitment and determination. Please do not fail us now."



An Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University was awarded to a "true Novocastrian", Mr Don Morris. Dr Morris was educated at Mayfield East Primary School and Newcastle Boys' High School and joined the firm of Rodd and Hay as trainee architect upon leaving school. He pursued his studies, obtaining the Diploma in Architecture and the degree of Architecture from the University of New South Wales as a student of Newcastle University College.

Dr Morris was appointed University Planner in 1975, a position he held until 1988. He contributed greatly to the University campus and in the words of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Keith Morgan, "This campus, the most beautiful bushland campus in Australia, owes its character to the policy he (Dr Morris) pursued so successfully ... He sought to maintain the forest cover within the building precincts throughout the then campus of the University."

In accepting the award, Dr Morris acknowledged the support and contribution made by many others throughout his time at the University, in particular, Professor Eric Parker, the University's first Planner "who was unfailing in his support and encouragement of my efforts to protect the bushland character of the University site," Dr Morris said.

"I believe this award is an acknowledgment by this University of the value it places upon its landscape and the effort which is necessary to maintain the natural character of this landscape.

"The challenge facing the University is to find the funds to enable the constantly increasing area of man-modified site to be maintained in a way which will ensure the ongoing viability of natural forest cover."

Dr Morris wished the graduands well, reminding them that "learning is a life-time occupation. The real challenge," he said, "is to encourage and facilitate this ongoing learning process in yourselves and others."

HINDSIGHT, FORESIGHT & INSIGHT



In introducing Professor Betty Anderson, A/Professor McEniery outlined the many achievements of this remarkable and inspirational woman.

Professor Anderson, nurse educator, theorist, curriculum developer and consultant, has sought to gain recognition for the Discipline of Nursing. She has fought to overcome the many obstacles which stand in the way of the Discipline of Nursing being recognised as both a practice and an academic discipline.

Professor Anderson's commitment to nurse education took her, in 1958, to India and Bangladesh where she worked until 1966. There she was involved in hospital construction and in the implementation of a three year nurse training program in the Bengali language.

From 1969 to 1977 she developed, implemented and managed a combined degree and general nurse training course in conjunction with the University of NSW and also undertook curriculum development research for the transfer of Nurse Education into the tertiary sector.

Professor Anderson was Head of the Department of Health Studies at the former Newcastle College of Advanced Education from 1977 to 1984 and was the first Senior Lecturer and Course Director of Nurse Teacher Education.

She was awarded an AM (Member of the Order of Australia) in June 1986 for her services to nurse education and has continued to excel in this field since that time.

In the words of Assoc. Professor McEniery, "Betty Anderson is highly respected by the nursing profession for her futuristic and innovative approaches to nurse education and problem based learning which have provided guidance for the teaching and learn task in nursing".

In accepting her Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science, Professor Anderson said that she was deeply honoured to be receiving the award and acknowledged the efforts of those who worked "unbeknowns" to her to submit the proposal on her behalf.

In her Occasional Address, entitled "Hindsight, Foresight and Insight", she reflected on the past, discussed the present and suggested a focus for the future of the nursing profession. She reminded graduands that growth is a long and cumulative process, that is not haphazard but results from having a "vision for the future informed by reflection and a clear sense of identity".

Despite her many outstanding achievements, Professor Anderson assured the

graduands that she felt at one with them in accepting her Honorary Degree.

"I feel at home among you", she told them. She challenged them all to reflect on their own past and present so that they, too, may look forward and create a "vision for the profession of nursing".

Professor Anderson, when reflecting on her own memories, said jokingly that she was a little surprised when she realised that she could make comment about the past six decades. "Time passes so quickly," she said with a knowing smile.

Although she recognises that each period of the future will "generate multiple and varied activities", she nevertheless believes that the 90's will demand a "clarification of our vision and identity".

"It is important for the future passage that clear goals and deliberate strategies be devised which take account of the here and now but also of the living and working in the 21st Century," she said, reminding them that the majority of their major contributions to professionalism will be made in that century rather than this one.

And in case any of the graduands doubted their own ability to influence to course of the future, Professor Anderson quoted Senator Tate in saying that "history does confirm that one person can change the course of history when that person captures the imagination and support of others".

She told them that by working together they could realise the changes which inevitably need to be made in the health care industry.

Professor Anderson continued her very poignant and inspirational address by reminding graduands that the "ups and downs, mistakes and achievements, disappointments and thrills alike will contribute to the definition of your identity as a person and as a professional. Of uttermost importance are not the events but your response to them," she said.

Professor Anderson acknowledged that in today's world, graduands will need to be optimistic, describing optimism as a "way of thinking about one's own behaviour and that of one's own community in a way that encourages initiative, persistence and bold dreaming."

No doubt, Professor Anderson has continued to view life optimistically, enabling her to fulfil her own visions and pass her knowledge onto others. She congratulated graduands, extending to them her 'fervent wish' that they may feel the exhilaration of victory.

Mr Lenny de Silva, or "Uncle Len", as he is fondly and respectfully referred to by his people, was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters, in absentia. His wife, Ethel, accepted the award on his behalf, as Dr de Silva was, sadly, in hospital at the time of the graduation ceremony.

In her introductory speech at the Graduation Ceremony held on Saturday, May 2, Professor Lois Bryson, Dean of the Faculty of Social Science, depicted Dr de Silva as a "wise educator with much to teach the non-Aboriginal as well as Aboriginal Community." "Len de Silva's life and achievements are the very epitome of a University's scholarly commitment," she said.

"Non-Aboriginal Australia has been slow to recognise the wisdom and importance of Aboriginal knowledge.

This award is a small step towards such a recognition and is especially timely because next year, 1993, has been declared, internationally, the Year of Indigenous People," Professor Bryson concluded.

Dr Bill Jonas of the Wollotuka Aboriginal Centre, delivered the Occasional Address at the same ceremony, outlining that Aboriginals are still "the most disadvantaged group in Australian society in socio-economic terms."

But things are improving for Australian Aboriginals.

"There has been a great resurgence of interest in Aboriginal people's culture by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people," Dr Jonas said.

"Aboriginal people are obtaining tertiary qualifications in increasing numbers. This can be directly related to the introduction of enclaves and support systems that started over ten years ago, and to the innovative thinking and practices of institutions such as this one," he said.

Dr Jonas made a plea to all new graduands: "We must not and we will not see a return to the conditions which Aboriginal people have endured in the past."

"You are the community leaders of the near future. You have been trained in the skills of critical enquiry to help you search for meaning and truth.

"I ask you now, as you continue to learn the many lessons that await you, to always apply what you have learned about critical enquiry and the search for truth into all situations where you can contribute to remedying dispossession and to overcoming inequalities," Dr Jonas said.

TEAMWORK HONoured AT GRADUATION CEREMONY

*HONORARY DOCTOR
OF SCIENCE TO
HUNTER VIGNERON*



Harold William Tulloch, a well known Hunter Vigneron, has made an outstanding contribution to the wine industry both in South Australia and the Hunter Valley. In presenting Harold Tulloch for his award, A/Professor David Finlay, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Mathematics described him as "the father of grapevine clonal research in Australia".

According to Professor Finlay, Dr Tulloch was one of the first people in Australia to recognise the link between good quality wine and premium quality fruit.

Dr Tulloch said that the University's Hunter Wine Research Committee, established by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Keith Morgan, could now become instrumental in helping to maintain the Hunter's reputation as a maker of premium quality wines.

"The industry is very important to this region and it has grown enormously in the past 20 years," Dr Tulloch said. "There has been an increase in demand for premium quality wines in Australia and an expansion in wine exports and viticulture research has provided a means by which we can take advantage of these things."

Dr Tulloch has undertaken extensive research into vine breeding and selection. His research led to drastic improvements in grape quality, eliminating a troublesome vine virus and bad wine types through more informed selection.

"I have received a great deal of satisfaction and pleasure from research work and had some reluctance when leaving this field to start a small vineyard and winery of my own at Mt View after the Tulloch family winery was sold in 1969," he said.

In establishing his vineyard, Mt View Estate, Dr Tulloch set to work himself - putting in the posts, running the wire and planting the vines. He built the winery almost completely by himself and waters, weeds, prunes and sprays his vines each year.

needs and environmental concern there has emerged an idea of a training program for developing countries on the logistics and economics of coal for power generation.

"It is the development of that idea that I believe is being recognised here today," he said.

Mary and Larry Beeston, who helped to forge Newcastle's cultural heritage, were admitted to the Honorary Degree of Master of Arts, on Saturday, May 2.

The Beestons, according to Associate Professor Graham Gilchrist, Dean of the Faculty of Art, Design and Communication, "have not rested on their laurels but have continued to be as involved and committed as practising artists with the same enthusiasm now as when they were younger."

The Beestons worked together to produce the magnificent Hunter Tapestry, a 47 square metre masterpiece which adorns the Great Hall of the University.

Their search for inspiration and technical detail as exemplified in The Hunter Tapestry, led to their undertaking research and study tours to Scandinavia, Britain, Mexico, Thailand, Nepal, India, Kashmir, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey, Greece and Japan.

In her Occasional Address, Mrs Beeston expressed their deep appreciation of the honour awarded upon them.

"No artist is ever completely satisfied with work done, always there is the determination to do better, to reach higher, probe deeper, take a step forward, break fresh ground, achieve the impossible. This award is and will remain a stimulus for us, especially when the going gets tough. It presents a continuous challenge for us to prove ourselves worthy of it," she said.

The Beestons see the award as "recognition of the contribution to the life and culture of our community by the artists and craftsmen of whom we are but a small part."

Mrs Beeston told listeners about her father's vision of a University of Technology in Newcastle. "I wish he could have seen our University as it is today, bigger and broader in its scope than he ever dreamed of, and set in its beautiful campus which was part of his vision," she said.

Mary and Larry Beeston congratulated the new graduands, advising them to keep their sense of discovery.

"It's easy to get discouraged, and that's fatal ... You learn that survival depends on determination and persistence above all.

"Now you have an opportunity to prove yourself. Go for it with all your heart."

A befitting conclusion from two very great achievers.



UNIVERSITY HONOURS "A TRUE ACHIEVER"

In his introductory speech, Dr Dunlop, Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Commerce, shared with listeners the many great achievements of Dr John Wilcox AM, who was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science at the Graduation Ceremony held on Friday, May 8.

Dr Wilcox, who began his working career as a telegram messenger in the Postmaster General's Department, was to become a driving force in Australia's coal industry. In the words of Dr Dunlop, "Once a telegram messenger, he now plays a very important role in Australia's coal industry as a very honoured "messenger" to Australia's trading partners, bringing the news and knowledge of this nation's capacity to train others in all aspects of coal technology, to export coal to meet exact requirements and to assist developing countries".

In 1992, Dr Wilcox's contribution to Australia's coal industry was recognised when he was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for services to the Australian Coal Industry.

Dr Dunlop described Dr Wilcox as a "true achiever" and a "friend of this University".

In accepting his Honorary Degree, Dr Wilcox said that he felt humbled and moved by the ceremony. "In a person's lifetime, truly outstanding events can be counted on the fingers of one hand," he said. "This is one such event in my lifetime."

Dr Wilcox outlined the development of Australia's coal industry, which, he says, has emerged as one of the most efficient and safest coal mining industries in the world.

"It follows that Australia relies very heavily on this industry for the nation's economic well-being.

"This is very significant today for two reasons. On the one hand, we live in an age of acute concern about the environment and coal is perceived to be a dirty form of energy. On the other hand, despite the potential shortage of oil, the concern about nuclear energy and the limitation of hydro-electricity, we have a world-wide burgeoning demand for energy," he said.

Out of this conflict between economic

