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Newsletter for  
The University of Newcastle



# UNIVERSITY NEWS

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## Graduation 1981

Graduation 1981 drew near-capacity audiences of families and friends of the new graduates. At the May 2 graduation ceremony and both the ceremonies on May 9, the Chancellor, Sir Bede Callaghan, admitted candidates to their degrees after the Deans had presented them to him.

Approximately 700 graduates and diplomates received awards either in person or *in absentia*.

The degrees conferred brought the graduate body of the University above the 7,000 mark. The first degrees in the University were conferred in 1966; prior to that students who attended the Newcastle University College were admitted to degrees in the University of New South Wales; and, in the case of the Faculty of Arts in the 1950's, the University of New England.

Professor Rupert Myers, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of New South Wales, who gave the Occasional Address at one of the ceremonies, referred specifically to the relations and friends of the graduates.



*Some of the features of conferring of degrees ceremonies this year were pre-graduation functions in some Faculties and post-graduation recitals by the Toronto Brass Band. The Faculties of Economics and Commerce, Education and Science accepted financial support from Convocation to stage the functions. Pictured are Professor R. Laura and graduates in the Faculty of Education moving to the Great Hall.*

He said: "Mrs. Myers and I know from personal experience with what pride, pleasure and relief parents see their children graduate. It is hard for students to succeed without the love, support and understanding of those close to them. So my first congratulations, and thanks, are to the parents, wives, husbands and friends of today's graduates".

This year's ceremonies contained such special moments as the admission of three eminent Australians to honorary degrees, the conferring of the rarely-awarded Doctor of Science degree and the awarding of a University Medal to a disabled student.

At the ceremony on May 2 degrees were conferred in the Faculty of Arts and the Occasional Address was delivered by The Honourable Ken Booth, M.P., Minister for Sport, Recreation and Tourism.

The Minister was admitted to the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters, after the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Professor J. Burrows, said that during more than 20 years as a State Parliamentarian "he has devoted himself to the well-being of our

community. ... He has done much to open up new fields of sport, recreation and tourism ... and, in particular, he has led the way towards protecting those who participate against misadventure and exploitation".

Professor Burrows said Mr. Booth was a former member of staff of the Newcastle University College, a Council appointee to the Union Board from 1963 to 1976 and a member of the Council of the University from its inception until 1980.

Among the candidates who were admitted to their awards at the Faculty of Arts ceremony were the first four to be awarded the Diploma in Arts.

At the first congregation of graduands on May 9, degrees were conferred in the Faculties of Architecture, Engineering and Mathematics.

Professor Myers, the first candidate to be presented to the Chancellor, received an honorary degree of Doctor of Engineering, and later gave the Occasional Address.

Explaining why the award was being made, the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Professor A.W. Roberts, referred to Professor Myers' academic leadership, his contributions to science, technology and the community and the awards he had received, and spoke of his service in many State and National spheres.

Professor Roberts continued: "Clearly Professor Myers is an Australian with a record of outstanding achievement and contributions in all aspects of academic, professional and public life".

Dr. Brian Belcher received the degree of Doctor of Science during the ceremony. It was only the second time that the degree has been awarded.

Dr. Belcher flew from Tokyo, where he is Minerals Marketing Manager of the BHP Company Limited, to receive the award.

The Doctor of Science degree was conferred upon him in recognition of his original contributions of outstanding merit to the analysis and characterisation of economic materials. Most of the work was carried out at the BHP

## Review of University finances - inside



## Occasional addresses

Central Research Laboratories, to which Dr. Belcher was attached for many years. The degree is a higher doctorate awarded on the basis of published work for especially meritorious achievements in an area of Science.

Later in the morning degrees were conferred upon students who had graduated in the Faculties of Economics and Commerce, Education and Science.

Sir James McNeill, Chairman of Directors and Director of Administration of the BHP Company Limited, was admitted to the honorary degree of Doctor of Science. Sir James delivered the Occasional Address.

The citation supporting the award to Sir James, read by the Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Commerce, Professor M.O. Jager, stated that Sir James was born in Hamilton, completed his education at Newcastle Boys' High School and joined the BHP Company in Newcastle in 1933 as a junior clerk.

Sir James held, in addition to his professional offices, offices in many major public bodies and commercial organisations, including the Council of Monash University.

Professor Jager said: "Mr. Chancellor, in recognition of the substantial contribution made by Sir James to the development of our country and the importance of the role of the BHP Company in the City of Newcastle it is my pleasure and privilege to welcome Sir James to membership of the University of his birth place and former home town".

Jill Cockburn, a paraplegic, was the last candidate presented by the Dean of the Faculty of Science (Professor B. Boettcher) for Bachelor of Science degrees. Miss Cockburn moved across the stage in a wheelchair and was admitted with Honours Class I in Psychology and the University Medal.

## Increased Enrolments

Enrolments of students as at April 30 totalled 4,391 an INCREASE of two per cent over the 4,302 in 1980.

There is a continued shift from full-time to part-time: 55 per cent full-time in 1979, 52 per cent in 1980 and 48 per cent in 1981.

Male students number 2,739 (62 per cent) and female students 1,652 (38 per cent), the same percentages as in 1980.

The greater number of our 155 overseas students came from Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia.

Others came from Canada, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Japan, Indonesia, Italy, The Middle East, New Zealand, Pakistan, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States of America and Western Samoa.



*The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Don George, and the Vice-Chancellor of the University of New South Wales, Professor Rupert Myers. Professor Myers, who will retire shortly, received an honorary degree and gave the Occasional Address at one of the conferring of degrees ceremonies.*

The opportunities and challenges facing the new graduates, the universities, the Hunter Region and the nation emerged as themes in the Occasional Addresses delivered at this year's Graduation Ceremonies.

The Hon. K.G. Booth, M.P., reflected on the experience he had gained whilst he had worked at Newcastle University College as a Welfare Officer and told the new Arts graduates that they were fortunate in that they were entering the workforce at a time when employment prospects in the Hunter Valley were vastly improved.

"I worked here from 1952 to 1960, when physical education was beginning to have a small, but significant, impact on our education and leisure patterns. There was an exposure to new ideas and programmes and an awareness of the importance of the framework we were carefully constructing. But most important was an exposure to people who were innovative and ready to accept new challenges.

"Selby Alley was one of these people, Mr. Booth said, a respected and able Student Counsellor, who had taught him to accept ideas from young people and to acknowledge the problems they faced.

The knowledge he had acquired through that association with the University - and later as a member of the Council - had served him well, especially in political life - first as a backbencher, and later as a Minister. And to his surprise his association with the University had taught him a lot about politics.

"It was largely through my association with two distinguished academics from here, Sir Phillip Baxter and Professor James Auchmuty, that I gained

additional insights into politics. Both were consummate politicians with sound judgement, the ability to compromise, and a sense of idealism coupled with a measure of realism that enabled innovative, challenging but sensible goals".

Mr. Booth referred to the fact that five years ago New South Wales had the highest level of unemployment in Australia. The Hunter Region was the most depressed area, he said, not only in New South Wales but in the whole of Australia.

"Against that cheerless backdrop, the State Government made a concerted effort for big new investment for the Hunter.

"Over the next five years some 20,000 new permanent jobs will be created for the Hunter Valley as a result of new development. Now the Hunter Valley is taking on a new National importance as a catalyst for recovery. Today it stands on the threshold of perhaps the greatest period of growth, progress and prosperity in its long and varied history".

Mr. Booth saw the University's strong orientation towards the Hunter Valley and its special relationship to the Region, as having provided the new graduates with many opportunities which would stand them in good stead in the following years and play their part in your future careers and development.

Professor Rupert Myers told Architecture, Engineering and Mathematics graduates that it was a very happy day for him personally, and for Mrs. Myers too. They had had a long, and, in the early days, very close association with Newcastle University and he had the very highest regard for it and attachment to it.



"Chancellor, as it turns out this is the very last regular graduation ceremony I shall be attending as a Vice-Chancellor", he said. "After almost 30 years as a professor, during which my University has had approaching 300 graduation ceremonies, most of which I have attended, I am, as you know preparing to embark on a new life outside".

During the period when there was much disruption of universities' activities and Vice-Chancellors had become the focus of attention, he had learned some lessons. Perhaps there were lessons for the graduates, too.

"One was that, when trouble is brewing, it is a good idea to prepare for the worst (for example when a 'demo' was being cooked up), but, having prepared for the worst one had the consolation of knowing that, as I would say with a simulated smile to my lieutenants as we waited anxiously for the next onslaught, 'the worst hardly ever happens'.

At the Faculty of Economics and Commerce, Education and Science ceremony, the audience was addressed by Sir James McNeill, who posed the questions: Where are we headed as a Nation? What kind of future do we foresee for the next generations of young men and women from the Newcastle Region?

He referred to the fact that Australia's resources had enabled us to become self-sufficient in food, fibres and most minerals of economic importance. We were a major source of supply to the world in base metals, bauxite, manganese ore, coal and iron ore. We were a net exporter of energy and of food.

Sections of our community had concerns ranging over issues such as the virtues of continued growth, the problems of urban congestion and pollution, the "quality of life" and other such aspects.

"But before this generation decides that some particular development is undesirable or unwarranted and should be opposed", Sir James said, "Some thought should be given to those who are not presently able to voice an opinion - the future generations. It is business and development which will create the opportunities for the young people of this country".

Sir James said that our two most significant shortfalls were in people and technology. Failure to do something about these would automatically assist the cause of those who would rather Australia did not proceed with further resource development.

Australia would not reach its full potential if we relied only on natural increase.

"I do not believe we have by any means reached the limit of our capacity to benefit from immigration".

"Another lesson was that when things started simmering it was as well to be out in front where you could be seen, could talk, to explain the facts of the case".

Australia had quickly moved from a position where more and much-needed graduates were demanded and funds were available to do the job to a position where funds were being squeezed and universities were being accused of producing too many graduates with degrees which suddenly were said to be irrelevant, though most of the students still seemed to want them.

"This phase, not really concluded yet and receiving a further stimulus in the 'Razor Gang' Report, is being quietly challenged by a new one for pride of place", he observed.

"We have long had good and cordial relations with general staff unions in our universities and with academic staff associations, but current developments involving the unionisation of academic and teaching staff are raising im-

portant and difficult issues for us all; indeed for the whole teaching profession.

The notion of a university being an independent, autonomous, self-governing corporation comprising a council, academics, students and graduates, is being put to the test, with one of the components, the academics who are really part of the corporation, moving to establish themselves as members of a trade union. Such a move can of course lead to those same members becoming adversaries of the Corporation.

"It is understandable", Professor Myers stressed "that in the present circumstances, some staff will be thinking of unionising. Nevertheless, great skill will be required in the management and governance of our universities and on the part of the emerging academic trade unions if, the atmosphere and spirit which must permeate good teaching and research are not to be diluted or destroyed by a concentration on narrow self interest and personal gain".

There could be few more important goals than to upgrade the educational standards of our communities, and especially in the technical disciplines where we seem to be lagging in numbers. Sir James said that in terms of percentages of our young people undergoing tertiary education of any kind we fall far short.

"It is true there are now twice as many young people completing tertiary courses as there were about 20 years ago. The number of young Australians going into tertiary education has increased to 24 per cent of the 20-24 years of age group; but in the United States of America the proportion has risen to 56 per cent. Other countries that have more young people in tertiary courses than we do include Canada, Japan, Denmark, Sweden, The Netherlands and New Zealand.

For Australia, how best to achieve a desired level of growth should be magnificently clear, Sir James asserted. Surely it was to develop and process the natural resources which we had in plenty; to add value to what nature had provided, whether in the form of rural products, mining products or the development of a great tourism industry.

Sir James continued: "To put the proposition for development in general terms, the only realistic prospect we have in this country to increase economic growth - and therefore income per head - is to have more and more of our people working in areas of high productivity. This means taking fullest advantage of our national endowments of minerals, just as it means realising to the full our capacity for other forms of primary production. The benefits extend to the whole community".



Sir James McNeill receives his honorary Doctor of Science degree from the Chancellor, Sir Bede Callaghan.



# Responses to Prime Minister's announcements

The Commonwealth Government's decisions arising from the Lynch Committee's review of Commonwealth functions have received wide publicity since they were outlined by the Prime Minister on April 30.

The following are comments from this University on the proposals and implications of the sections of the review relating to Education.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor George, commented that many of the decisions announced by the Prime Minister were most regrettable and are incompatible with the advice of the Tertiary Education Commission. It can only be concluded that little thought was given to the potential long-term impacts of the proposal changes.

Probably the two most damaging aspects are in the area of further limitation on TEAS and in the introduction of fees for higher degrees. Students from lower income families who make up a significant part of Newcastle's enrolment will be further disadvantaged in a way in which no new loan scheme can possibly compensate. Postgraduate students already undergo considerable financial losses in comparison with those who do not seek to enhance their research talents by postgraduate training and this further discouragement must damage the future overall development of Australia.

Professor George said that, as yet, there had not been any clarification of the Prime Minister's statement concerning the cessation of Commonwealth funding of the Newcastle College of Advanced Education and 29 other colleges.

The statement had been made in the context that "... the Commonwealth believes that the States have a primary responsibility for the administration and delivery of educational services" and the Prime Minister had gone on to say:

"At the tertiary level the Government has been concerned at the proliferation of separate institutions and proposes immediate action to reverse this trend to provide for more efficient use of resources. Arising from the recommendations of the Tertiary Education Commission, the Government will promote a major rationalisation and re-allocation of resources in higher education".

It was against this background that the integration of the Newcastle College of Advanced Education with the University had been mooted.

Quite clearly, Professor George said, the State Government will be giving the subject detailed consideration and this could well take time. If integration is to proceed, the University, for its part, stands ready to achieve whatever solutions will be the most beneficial not only to the University and the College, but also to the regional needs in tertiary education now and in the future.

The President of the Newcastle University Students' Association (Margaret Kavanagh), the President of the Staff Association (Dr. David Dockrill) and the President of the University's Sub-Division of the Public Service Association of New South Wales (Dr. David Kay) met to discuss the Prime Minister's statement to Parliament.

The Presidents of the three bodies issued the following statement:

"The Razor Gang's decisions on Higher Education have added to the uncertainty and low morale which has characterised university campuses in the last six years.

"The decisions will involve increasing hardship for students at a time when student poverty is already increasing at an alarming rate. A loan scheme and a restricted TEAS scheme will only worsen this problem.

"The effectiveness of teaching and research will suffer because of the decline in post-

graduate students following the re-introduction of fees. The direction and autonomy of universities such as our own will be severely curtailed and damaged as they try to accommodate the Government's policies amalgamation.

"All told, the Government's assault on Higher Education will weaken rather than strengthen the university system in this country".

The three Presidents said that they were taking steps to inform members of the community about the effects of the Government's decisions, particularly on the University of Newcastle.

"Members of the Students' Association, the Staff Association and the PSA Sub-Division at the University can be assured that every effort will be made to protect their interests", they said.

After a meeting of Standing Committee of Convocation, at which the Prime Minister's statement to Parliament was considered, the Warden (Mr. Philip Miller) said his body resolved that in relation to the suggested incorporation of Newcastle College of Advanced Education within the University it believed that a small committee of the Council should be set up, whose members would be prepared to enter into negotiations with representatives of the College of Advanced Education and of the Department of Technical and Further Education and that the Premier (Mr. Wran) should be advised of this as soon as possible.

The Warden commented that at a future time, when more specific proposals were known, it may be appropriate for Standing Committee to call a general meeting of members of Convocation to discuss the proposals.

"With Australian tertiary education's falling student numbers, rationalisation appears inevitable; the main question is making best use of the resources available", Mr. Miller said.

"Any proposal for rationalisation will undoubtedly take several years to achieve requiring considerable co-operation and goodwill on the part of all concerned".

## MAY SENATE

The Vice-Chancellor reported that he had established a committee as requested to consider aspects of the proposed National Superannuation Scheme for Australian universities. The membership of the committee was Professors K.R. Dutton and R.G. Keats, Mr. L.W. Harris and Mr. D. Jones, with the Vice-Chancellor as Chairman; the Staff Association had been invited to nominate a member and had nominated Mr. W.G. Warren.

Senate was told that a summary of the recommendations of the Correy Report (Teachers for Tomorrow), prepared by Prof-

essors Laura and Short, had been circulated. It was resolved that the Senate record its displeasure at the inadequate period allowed between the publication of the Correy Report and the date for the submission of comments, the summary be circulated to Faculty Boards concerned for information and that the Senate adopt a document prepared by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Short, as the basis for a submission to the Higher Education Board and requests the Vice-Chancellor in consultation with the Deputy Chairman of Senate to prepare the final submission on its behalf.

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### STAFF ASSOCIATION'S MEETING

### SECOND TERM GENERAL MEETING

will be held in the Drama Theatre on June 5 at 1.05pm.

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# Historic Judgment

On May 5, 1981 Mr. Justice Macken handed down his judgment on the application by UASA for an award.

He first considered the jurisdictional objections to the making of any award. The question was whether the University was an employer in an "industry" and its academic staff employees in an "industry". After a review of authorities, his view was that this question was to be answered in the affirmative. Accordingly jurisdiction to make an award lay with the Industrial Commission. The University of Newcastle Act did not exclude this jurisdiction.

Referring to the draft agreement between the University Council and UASA which the Association sought to have incorporated into an award, his opinion was that it could not and should not be made into an award in its present state. Many of its provisions, covering such matters as tenure, dismissal procedures, probationary appointments, private work and Outside Studies Programmes, did not lend themselves to award regulation. He commented that if an award were to be sought which in any way resembled the general content of the draft agreement, an argument that no award should be made, as a matter of discretion, would seem to carry a great deal of weight. He observed that this question, however, could not be determined until a schedule had been filed containing the precise terms sought to be incorporated into an award.

Dr. David Dockrill, President of the Newcastle Division of UASA, said that Mr. Justice Macken's decision on the matter of jurisdiction was of great historic importance. It was this matter, and this matter alone, which had been before the Court in all the hearings to date. Council had agreed to leave consideration of the contents of the Draft Agreement until the jurisdictional issue had been settled. Mr. Justice Macken's remarks about the contents of the Draft Agreement have to be regarded as his opinions about matters which had not been argued before him. Unless UASA is able to secure University consent to the Draft Agreement, it will have to apply for an award. As the Draft Agreement simply states some of the conditions of work which currently apply in the University, it is to be hoped that further litigation can be avoided.

# In Japan

These students of Japanese IIA and IIB, and Senior Lecturer in Japanese, Dr. K. Ono, are presently visiting Kumamoto University in Japan. Located in Kumamoto in Kyushu, the southern-most main island of Japan, Kumamoto University and this University have a co-operative relationship through which, among other things, students of Japanese are able to participate in special seminars conducted in Japanese. The Newcastle University party left on May 11 and will return on May 28 after visiting Kumamoto University, some schools and cities and main scenic points. Their travel was sponsored jointly by the Japanese Association for International Education and the Japan-Australia Society.



Photo: Col News 11

# conference

During the vacation a conference dealing with the history, problems, and significance of negative theology is to be held at St. Paul's College, University of Sydney, on May 22, 23 and 24.

Negative theology is that tradition of philosophical and religious thought which maintains that the ultimate ground or principle of all things is beyond knowledge or incomprehensible. It is a method of thought which has received a wide variety of expressions, both religious and anti-religious, theistic and anti-theistic.

In the theistic tradition negative theology is often represented by the claim that God is best known by the knowledge of what he is not, the negative way of religious knowledge. Anti-theistic versions of negative theology generally reject theism as anthropomorphic in favour of a more radical version of learned ignorance about the ultimate ground of all things.

Most but not all versions of negative theology give an important place to mystical experience. In recent times agnosticism is the main secular form of negative theology.

Amongst the 22 scholars reading papers at the Conference, there are seven from the University and the region: Ron Laura, Godfrey Tanner, Daryl Palmer, Ralph Robinson, David Dockrill, Ray Williamson and John Wright.

The Conference is being organised by D.W. Dockrill (Secretary), R. Mortley (Macquarie), and E. Osborn (Melbourne).

The guest speaker will be Professor Jaroslav Pelikan, of Yale University, a distinguished historian of religious thought.

After the Conference Professor Pelikan will visit Newcastle at the invitation of the Departments of Classics, History and Philosophy, and the Committee for Religious Studies. Details of the seminars to be given by Professor Pelikan during his visit to the University of Newcastle are as follows:

## NEWCASTLE SEMINARS

MONDAY, MAY 25  
2 pm

The Significance of the Historical Study of Religious Ideas, Philosophy Seminar Room A110.

TUESDAY, MAY 26  
2 pm  
8 pm

The Writing of Intellectual History, ALG26.

The Reactions of Contemporaries to the Fall of the Roman Empire, B01.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27  
8 pm

How Changeless Truth has Changed, B01 (Public Lecture sponsored by the University and the Newcastle Theological Society.)





Dr. Nanra

*Surrinder K. Nanra, mother of two secondary school children, recently successfully completed a Ph.D. thesis in the field of transplant immunology through the Department of Biological Sciences. She acquired her basic education in Northern India and obtained the degrees of Bachelor of Science (majoring in Chemistry and Biology) and Bachelor of Teaching from the University of Punjab in 1959. She taught Science in secondary schools in Malaysia and Melbourne between 1962 and 1972. Mrs. Nanra re-entered university because it became apparent to her that considerable changes and advances had occurred in the field of Biological Sciences in the last decade and she desired to become involved in the field of medical science.*

Mrs. Nanra explained that the problems of renal disease and of renal failure, particularly where they were secondary to analgesic abuse, were known to be major problems in the

*Dr. Gayle Harlow was admitted to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by virtue of the work she completed in the Department of Biological Sciences. She is the first of our Ph.D. graduates to have wholly undertaken her undergraduate and postgraduate studies within the Department of Biological Sciences. She enrolled in the foundation year of the Department in Biology I in 1973, graduated with Bachelor of Science, Honours Class I in 1977 and completed her Ph.D. in 1980, working with Dr. P. Quinn on the development of preimplantation mouse embryos. She has had four research research papers from her Ph.D. and B.Sc. Honours work published in international scientific journals. Dr. Harlow summarised her Ph.D. project for*  
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Hunter Region. At the time of initiating the studies the field of renal transplantation was developing rapidly and it was predicted that it was only a matter of time before this form of treatment for renal failure would be established in Newcastle. This prompted her to undertake the present study, with a view to its ultimate application in the Hunter Region.

The field of study which was selected was the pattern of the mixed lymphocyte culture response in a related and an unrelated Australian population. The mixed lymphocyte culture technique (MLC) is a test in which white blood cells, called lymphocytes, from two individuals are cultured together in a special nutrient broth. Lymphocytes are the white blood cells that are important in immunity, including the possible rejection of a transplanted kidney. Genetic differences between the lymphocytes, which are reflected in differences in tissue matching, lead to stimulation of the cells to divide. The stimulation of cell division can be accurately measured by isotope techniques. This response in the MLC test, has been recognised as having a predictive value in the outcome of organ transplantation. It is considered that the degree to which lymphocytes of one person are stimulated to divide by the lymphocytes from another person (the latter lymphocytes being treated so that they will not divide) in the MLC test, reflects to some extent the degree to which the lymphocytes from the first person would react to reject a transplanted kidney from the second person, if a kidney transplantation was performed.

A prospective study of the MLC pattern in an Australian Caucasian population had not been performed previously. To study this, a standardised micro-

technique MLC method was established and was shown to be technically and biologically reproducible. MLC tests were performed in volunteer families. Different groups of responses, indicative of different degrees of tissue matching, were identified and these results were similar to those reported from other Caucasian populations in Europe and America. In an unrelated Australian population, the incidence of a low response in the MLC test, which would suggest a favourable transplant outcome, was found to occur in only 0.44 per cent of cases. This result is important since it indicates that, if kidney transplants were performed using patients and donors taken randomly from the Australian population, only about one kidney in 200 would be well-matched with the patient, and little drug therapy would be needed to avoid rejection of the kidney. On the other hand, with kidney transplantation between brothers and sisters, there is about 25 per cent probability of achieving a good match. Thus, the benefits to a transplant programme of using living related donors is clearly established. The data obtained in this study provide information of use and value to the Australian kidney transplantation programme. The routine use of the MLC test in matching patients for kidney transplantation is likely to improve the results currently being obtained with transplantation, and to provide a method of evaluating newer techniques of tissue matching and the use of drugs in transplantation. These results are also applicable to bone marrow transplantation.

Mrs. Nanra is at present employed in the Department of Nephrology, at the Royal Newcastle Hospital, working in several research projects related to renal diseases, in particular, the potential association between industrial toxins and renal disease.

Although the field of mammalian reproduction and development has expanded rapidly in the last two decades, a more thorough knowledge of the factors affecting the development of embryos up to and including the implantation stage would permit us to influence the fertility of mammals more successfully with regard to endangered species, those of domestic importance and to man.

One of the aims of the thesis was to apply and improve the techniques for culturing early embryos and to avoid the confounding effects of the maternal environment and to eliminate the need for surgical transfers to foster mothers in order to test the viability of the cultured embryos. These techniques may be later modified with minimal effort to suite the needs of other mammalian

species. Some of the factors in the culture environment studies were the oxygen level in the atmosphere and technical variables such as culture container, washing procedure and media storage conditions. The optimal oxygen level was found to be five per cent which corresponds with levels found in the reproductive tracts of other mammals such as the rat, rabbit and monkey. Embryos developing in higher levels of oxygen contained fewer cells but were still able to form normal sized foetuses if allowed to continue their development in the uterus of a foster mother. Although cultured embryos were viable, forming live foetuses in the uteri of foster mothers, their development was retarded by up to one day, suggesting that culture conditions still need to be improved.



# Review of University finances -

As foreshadowed in the last issue of *University NEWS*, the Council's decisions arising from its consideration of the Reports of the two Working Groups established to review the University's finances are now able to be advised to the University and are set out in the present supplement to the *NEWS*.

The numbers beside the individual decisions refer to the recommendations of the Working Groups but it should be noted that in some instances the determination of Council varies from the Working Group's recommendation.

It will be noted that the Council has agreed in principle with certain recommendations (see Section 4), but has deferred final agreement until it has considered any further advice which might be forthcoming. The next regular meeting of the Council will be held on June 19 and such advice should be received by the Secretary at least ten days prior to that date.

All these decisions, made by the Council at its meetings on March 6 and April 24, precede the Commonwealth Government's decisions in respect of tertiary education announced by the Prime Minister on April 30. In particular, the preparation of an academic plan for the University (recommendation 10.9) becomes both more urgent and less clear because of the major decision announced in respect of the future funding of the Newcastle College of Advanced Education and the possible merger of the College with the University. Other decisions, such as the introduction of fees for postgraduate and second degree students and the changed eligibility conditions for TEAS have most serious implications for future enrolments in the University and have yet to be fully assessed.

## 1. THE COUNCIL NOTED WITH AGREEMENT THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS

10.1 The University is seen as a distinctive institution in which general and professional studies are offered, and a balance between teaching and research maintained.

10.5 The financial support for the University is diminishing in real terms and there is considerable pressure on the University to reduce the range of its activities.

10.6 The Committee is unable to identify any department that could be phased out with financial advantage in a reasonable period.

10.10 Enrolments reached a peak in 1977 and have since declined sharply.

10.11 On all the available evidence it is predicted that non-medical student load (WSU) will continue to fall from 3,218 in 1980 to about 3,000 in 1984; the total student load including medical enrolments is expected to fall from 3,425 in 1980 to about 3,300 in 1984.

10.13 The number of non-medical academic staff (equivalent

full-time) was a little higher in 1979 than in 1977 despite the fall of 11.6 per cent in student load; there was a substantial drop (5.5 per cent) in the number of academic staff from 1979 to 1980.

10.14 As a consequence of the relatively high level of staffing, both academic and general, the proportion of the recurrent grant committed to salaries now approaches 86 per cent compared with 68.0 per cent in 1970 and 82.5 per cent in 1975. This leaves a diminishing amount to provide for all non-salary items.

11.15 A similar observation is made in respect of the proportion of expenditure by academic departments that is attributed to salary items: in 1975 about 5 per cent of the general recurrent grant for departments was available for non-salary items, but in 1980 this had fallen to something less than 3.7 per cent.

10.16 There is a pressing need to reduce salary expenditure not only as the means of balancing the recurrent funds budget

but also in order to allow adequate funds for non-salary items.

10.17 The Committee has used student/staff ratios and target ratios established by Senate, as the measure of adequacy of staff establishment.

10.19 Despite the disadvantages, for the present the University must rely on casual vacancies and elimination of untenured positions and part-time staff for the major part of a staff adjustment programme aimed to reduce the total number of academic positions.

10.32 For the immediate future the necessary and only appropriate source of significant financial savings is reduction in salary expenditure, using casual vacancies and the elimination of untenured positions and part-time staff.

10.33 The Committee sees no prospects of further savings in non-salary expenditure in academic areas.



## 2. COUNCIL DECIDED THAT THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS SHOULD BE FURTHER INVESTIGATED BY THE BODIES OR GROUPS INDICATED

### *Academic Services*

10.2 Research is a necessary and natural concomitant of teaching throughout the University, and this necessitates the maintenance of at least a basic level of support for research in all departments.

Investigation: Vice-Chancellor

10.3 Members of the academic staff are expected to engage in research and the pursuit of scholarship with no less sense of obligation than they fulfil their teaching commitments.

Investigation: Vice-Chancellor

10.4 The University of Newcastle should be developed as a regional university with special emphasis on the following characteristics:

- (a) it should give weight to the needs of the region in its development of courses and research activities;
- (b) it should provide a wide range of educational opportunities for the people of its region;
- (c) it should seek to provide community services appropriate to the University and to its region.

Investigation: Council, after it has received proposals on the future direction the University should take.

10.8 Should the circumstances of any department change, the possibility of its discontinuation should be considered in the context of an overall strategy for the development of the University's academic programme.

Investigation: Senate/Administration/Council.

10.18 The existing target student/staff ratios should be reviewed in the light of present circumstances.

Investigation: Senate

10.26 The use to which the Special Research Grant has been put raises two questions for critical examination by the University. First, does the distribution represent a proper distribution of the funds with respect to the intentions of the Commission? Secondly, does this use of the funds represent the most effective use of the funds for the development of the general research climate of the University? These matters should be examined, taking into account the research developments subsequent to the award of a grant under IRAC and the research activity in individual departments.

Investigation: Senate

10.31 The situation with respect to private practice and consulting should be reviewed. In particular, consideration should be given to the institution of conditions under which a member of staff would be allowed to practise while holding a fractional appointment with the University requiring the fulfilment of teaching obligations. In addition, the University should also explore the possibility of establishing specialised service units to undertake investigations for fees that would help towards salary costs rather than supplementing the salaries of staff members.

Investigation: Administration/Senate

10.36 The University should seek to achieve an academic structure that provides greater flexibility in the allocation and use of resources.

Investigation: Senate

10.37 The faculty structure of the University should be reviewed to take into account the changes in circumstances since 1968.

Investigation: Senate

10.38 Consideration should be given to the consolidation of workshops and similar service facilities.

Investigation: Administration/Faculty concerned

10.39 The existing committee structure for providing advice to the Vice-Chancellor and Senate on budgeting, allocations, staffing and planning should be reviewed, and modified to bring the various functions more closely together.

Investigation: Vice-Chancellor

### *Non-Academic Services*

4. That the possibility of relocating the Counselling, Health and Careers and Student Employment Services be kept under review, with the aim of rationalising the secretarial services provided. Should such relocation be undertaken, the Group recommends that the level of secretarial services be reviewed at that time with the aim of improving cost-effectiveness.

Investigation: Administration

26. That consideration be given to the amendment of the University legislation to enable the filling of casual vacancies on Council caused by the resignation of Convocation-elected members to be handled in a more economical manner than at present required.

Investigation: Administration/Convocation

28. The Working Group supports the recommendations of the Committee Established to Report on Matters Associated with the Position of Vice-Principal, as outlined in doc. C.129:80, in particular with respect to a review during 1981 of the structure and duties of the offices of Vice-Principal and Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

Investigation: Administration

31. That the University review the areas of responsibility of Sub-Deans and the Faculty Secretariat with a view to determining whether any duplication currently exists and, if so, whether it can be eliminated.

Investigation: Administration

32. That a review be undertaken of charges by the Printery with a view to increases which could support the costs not only of materials, but also of labour.

Investigation: Administration

33. That an investigation be undertaken of the feasibility of establishing a Central Registry to serve the needs of the University administration as a whole, together with the most suitable arrangements for the control and staffing of such a Registry should it prove feasible.

Investigation: Administration

34. That a cost/benefit study be undertaken of the possibility of combining the separate data processing units of the Secretary's and the Bursar's Divisions, with a view to adding flexibility to the services available and to providing for a more economical functioning of the combined unit.

Investigation: Administration

35. That a cost/benefit study be undertaken of purchasing procedures in respect of possible standardisation and bulk purchase and/or lease of selected brands of equipment and other supplies to determine whether cost savings can be achieved.

Investigation: Administration

43. That a review of the security arrangements of the University be undertaken with a view to affecting cost savings wherever possible.

Investigation: Administration



### 3. COUNCIL AGREED IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION

#### *Academic Activities*

10.7 Departments must be prepared for the elimination of some subjects in order to reduce teaching commitments.

10.12 Strong efforts should be made to increase enrolments although recognising that any increases are unlikely to effect the level of recurrent funding before the 1985-87 triennium.

10.21 The filling of a Chair in a department should be seen as providing an opportunity for an intensive review of the work of the department.

10.27 The University should fully exploit the use of TEC funds to promote new projects and encourage the less experienced researchers, and ensure that sound advice is available in the preparation of applications for other types of research grant.

10.29 The work generated for the Bursar's Division in managing research grants should be fully recognised in assessing the need for staff for the Division.

10.34 Planning budgets should be produced for 1982-84 on the basis of reduction of recurrent grant at the rate of one per cent per annum at constant cost levels, exclusive of provision for the Medical School.

10.35 A minimum of \$100,000 a year be provided in each of the next five years from the Vice-Chancellor's Discretionary Fund to provide short-term support

for a limited number of new ventures in teaching and research - income to be used before capital.

#### *Non-Academic Services*

1. In view of the reduction already effected in Counselling Service staff and the need to sustain this service above the "disaster" level, the Working

Group recommends no change at this time designed to effect cost savings to the University.

2. Insofar as the University Health Service can make an important contribution to the academic progress of students and in view of the value of a preventative medical service in this regard, the Working Group recommends no change in the present basic level of staffing and financing of the Health Service.

3. The Working Group sees no prospect of a reduction in activity of the Careers and Student Employment Service that would produce cost savings to the University, and in view of the current concern for graduate employment the Group recommends that this service continue.

7. That the University grant of \$5,000 continue to be paid to the Sports Union.

19. In view of the current financial situation and the need to repay the loan required to up-

grade the kitchen facilities, the Working Group recommends no change in the present level of support to the Staff House Club.

20. That the Executive Committee of the Staff House Club be urged

to continue and if possible increase its efforts to ensure that the functioning of the Club is as economical as possible.

22. The Board of Community Programmes should submit an annual report to the Council, detailing all of the activities of the Department, including financial details of these activities.

24. That Convocation continue to receive the present level of financial and staffing support.

27. That in order to allow for periodic review of the senior administration of the University, the By-laws be amended to make the office of the Vice-Chancellor and Vice-Principal fixed term appointments.

29. That an internal auditor responsible directly to the Vice-Chancellor be appointed.

40. That for all future major building projects the salaries of the staff attached to the Planner's Division providing professional services for any of those projects be met from capital funds allocated to the project, subject to the approval of the Tertiary Education Commission, where such services would normally be provided by external consultants.

### 4. COUNCIL FORESHADOWED AGREEMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS, SUCH AGREEMENT TO BE SUBJECT TO THE CONSIDERATIONS OF ANY FURTHER ADVICE RECEIVED AFTER PUBLICITY OF COUNCIL'S INTENTIONS

#### *Academic Activities*

10.20 There should be at least one professor in each of the major disciplines, in general represented by an academic department.

Council wishes to emphasise the importance it attaches to the academic leadership role of professors but intimates that it has no proposals at this stage to amend the Regulations relating to the Headship of Departments. Council, however, has asked the By-laws and Constitutions Committee for a report on the question of the By-laws definition of the responsibilities of Professors.

10.22 The practice of maintaining frozen positions on the University's staff establishment should cease. Any position that has remained frozen for twelve months should be removed from the establishment.

10.23 For the next three years (unless extended) any academic appointments, other than to chairs, should be for a fixed term unless a clear case of ongoing academic need can be demonstrated. While in recognition of ongoing academic needs appointments to chairs will be with tenure, the possibility of a fixed term appointment will be considered in each case of a vacant chair.

Council has sought from the By-laws and Constitutions Committee a report on the position of a Professor appointed "with tenure".

10.24 Where the level of staffing in a department falls below that considered reasonable for existing enrolments it may be necessary to control the number enrolled in certain subjects to maintain academic standards.

10.25 It may be necessary for academic staff in some departments that are "over-staffed" in terms of the standards adopted to accept a reduced level of support staff.

10.30 Where University equipment and technical staff are used in providing services for non-university clients, charges should be based on real costs, and the income derived go into earmarked departmental funds to support further research, conference travel etc.

#### *Non-Academic Services*

5. That University funding of Sports Union expenditure on power and lighting cease in 1981. This recommendation, if adopted, will save the University \$10,000 per year in 1981 and subsequent years.



6. That commencing in 1982 the Sports Union be responsible for cleaning services provided to sporting facilities. This recommendation is estimated to save the University \$17,000 per annum in 1982 and subsequent years.

8. That the Sports Union accept full responsibility for building maintenance of all buildings associated with sporting facilities from 1983. This proposal will save the University \$3,500 per annum.

9. That the Sports Union be responsible for 50 per cent of the total cost of grounds maintenance at the ovals (excluding normal staff salaries) and the total cost of overtime worked from the beginning of 1981. This proposal will save the University \$8,500 per annum.

10. That the Sports Union be responsible for 50 per cent of the cost of purchase and replacement of equipment used for the maintenance of sporting areas from 1983. This proposal will save the University \$4,000 per annum.

11. That in future all sporting facilities funds be administered by the Sports Union Executive together with the funds derived from all other sources.

12. That any professional services requested by the Sports Union Executive of the University Administration should be provided only if in the opinion of the Head of the Administrative Division concerned such services can be provided without adversely affecting the Division's normal activities.

13. That the annual grant to the Union be reduced to \$9,000 from the beginning of 1981.

14. That any professional services requested by the Union Board of the University Administration should be provided only if, in the opinion of the Head of the Administrative Division concerned, such services can be provided without adversely affecting the Division's normal activities.

15. That the University support for Edwards Hall (Warden's salary, general maintenance of Hall surrounds and accounting services from the Central Administration of the University) be subject to a service fee of 6 per cent of the Hall income derived from student residential fees.

16. That the service fee be progressively applied as follows:  
4 per cent in 1981  
5 per cent in 1982  
6 per cent in 1983.

17. That any professional services requested by Edwards Hall Board of Trustees of the University Administration should be provided only if, in the opinion of the Head of the Administrative Division concerned, such services can be provided without adversely affecting the Division's normal activities.

18. That the Child Care Centre pay for such maintenance of the grounds used by the Centre as may be deemed by the University to be in excess of normal maintenance.

21. The contingency funds of the Department of Community Programmes should be reduced to 25 per cent of the Department's total income, excluding recurrent funding, and the balance of funds held at December 31, 1979 of \$29,947 should be transferred to Central Funds.

23. The Working Group recommends that the University's maximum contribution to the operation of the radio station should be no more than 0.22 per cent of University general recurrent funds and that community support (funds and labour) should be used for any additional costs involved in the functioning of the radio station.

25. That the University effect changes to its By-laws to extend the terms of office of Convocation-elected members of Council from two years to four years.

30. That while the organisation (timetabling, room preparation, etc.) of examinations should remain the responsibility of the Examinations Branch of the Secretary's Division, the University require of academic staff, as part of their normal duties, the invigilation of examinations for which their department is responsible.

39. That the responsibility of the Bursar's Division for account services to the Sporting Facilities Fund be terminated and that the Fund operate as a section of Sports Union funding.

41. That the name of the Planner's Division be changed to Property Division and that the University Planner review the titles of the senior staff in the Planner's Division for the Vice-Chancellor's consideration.

#### *Council Member's Submission*

During consideration of the reports of the Working Groups, a member of Council, Mr. A. Forsythe, raised a number of issues which had not necessarily been fully covered by the Working Groups.

Council has asked the Vice-Chancellor to investigate these issues, particularly the following:

- a proposal that academic staff make a report through the Vice-Chancellor to Council on aspects of their work;
- the effect of the accumulation of long-service leave;
- possible problems of over-staffing.

#### *Personal Chairs*

Council has deferred further consideration of its policy in respect of appointment to Personal Chairs, pending the receipt of a report from the By-laws and Constitutions Committee on the definition of the responsibilities of Professors (see 10.20 in section 4 above).



# FREE REPORTS

The internal cells of the early embryo ultimately develop into the foetus while the external cells form the placenta. A long term aim of this work was to discover how a cell recognises its position and surrounding environment and responds at the molecular level. Firstly, it was necessary to determine when the internal cells became committed to form foetal cells. Immunological and biochemical techniques were used to isolate the internal cells. Their ability to form derivatives normally attributed to the external cells was followed by further culture.

It was found that, when exposed to an external position, cells which were previously on the interior of the embryo, could change their fate up to the time of implantation.

The ability of the embryos to withstand immunological destruction by antibodies depended on whether they had been recently recovered from the reproductive tract or had been cultured. This result has far reaching implications concerning the ability of the mother to carry an immunologically foreign embryo and further studies on this aspect of my work are continuing in the Department.



Dr. Harlow



Dr. Wibberley

At present more than 85 per cent of the world's electricity is produced by coal-fired power stations. In Australia alone this is approximately equivalent to 35 million tonnes of coal per annum.

This is the introductory statement of Dr. Louis James Wibberley, Post-doctoral Fellow in Chemical Engineering, in his exposition of the research task undertaken by him for his Ph.D. degree. He investigated Alkali Ash Reactions and Deposit Formation in Pulverised Coal-fired Boilers.

The post-1973 world-wide return to coal as a fuel for electricity generation has, Dr. Wibberley says, led to an increased dependence on lower quality coals. This has prompted renewed interest in the problems of pulverised coal firing, in particular that of the formation of ash deposits on boiler tubes caused by the mineral matter in the coal.

The problem of the formation of ash deposits has been compounded by a continuous increase in boiler size and, to a lesser extent, in steam temperature and further compounded when new designs are based on empirical design criteria derived from experience with smaller units.

Dr. Wibberley explained that during pulverised coal combustion, the mineral matter contained in the coal is released into the furnace gases as fine ash particles called 'fly ash' and as vaporised ash components.

"While most of the fly ash is carried out of the furnace in the flue gases," he says, "some of this ash may adhere to the boiler tubes to form an insulating and often corrosive deposit."

"Normally, much of the deposited material is removed while the boiler is operating by periodic 'soot-blowing'. However, in cases of severe deposit formation resisting the normal cleaning methods, the boiler must be frequently shut down for extensive manual cleaning."

He says that in general, the process of deposit formation is unclear, especially with re-

spect to the role of the alkalis (sodium and potassium) contained in the coal.

Previous research suggests that most deposits form either from sticky fly ash particles

adhering to the hot boiler tubes or from fly ash particles collecting on a sticky liquid film formed on the tubes from alkali vapours in the furnace gases.

The present thesis details a theoretical and experimental study of the thermodynamic and kinetic limitations of the formation of sticky fly ash particles and their effect on the formation of deposits.

The objective of Dr. Wibberley's research was to provide new information to assist engineers combat the problem of deposits in existing boilers and to enable improved alleviatory measures to be incorporated into the design of future installations.

The research has contributed to a more precise understanding of the complex process of fly ash accumulating on boiler tubes and, although other factors require consideration, some further understanding of the problems of pulverised-coal firing have been achieved."

## SPORT

University Squash Club is now accepting entries for the 1981 Spring Competition to run from early August to November. Students, staff and graduates are eligible to play for the University.

Meetings will be held at the Squash Courts at the times below to organise the teams:

WOMEN - 6.30 pm, Monday, June 1.

MEN - 7.30 pm, Monday, June 1.

New players *must* attend these meetings to sign official registration forms. Representatives of all existing or proposed teams should also attend. Anyone not represented will not be considered.

For further information, or if you genuinely cannot attend the meeting, please contact the Secretary, David Morrison, through the Amenities Office, or telephone 49 7595 after 6.30 pm.



# Volunteers abroad

A field officer for the Australian Volunteers Abroad (AVA) 1982 Programme will be at the University on Thursday, June 25 to talk with students interested in the work performed by AVA.

Members of the University community may be interested in the following AVA Programme:

## VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENTS

It operates in various countries throughout South East Asia, East Africa and the Pacific. Overseas employers notify the Bureau late each year of positions for which they require Volunteers and the Bureau offers the most suitable persons from those selected for the next AVA Programme. This means that people interested in volunteering apply for the whole AVA Programme, not for a specific country or particular job. In finalising placements due consideration is given to personal interest and preferences.

## QUALIFICATIONS

Most overseas employers require Volunteers to have recognised trade, commercial or professional skills; some opportunities may also be available for experienced people who have practical skills but lack formal qualifications. Preference is given to Volunteers with relevant work experience.

## LENGTH OF TERM

All Volunteers must be prepared to serve a full two year term.

## OBLIGATIONS

Volunteers must be prepared to serve their two year term in the project to which they are assigned. Every effort is made to take into account personal interests and to match capabilities to particular assignments.

## MINIMUM AGE

Twenty years on January 1 prior to departure overseas.

## DEPARTURE AND BRIEFING

Volunteers leave for their assignments in mid-January of each year. Those selected must be available from the beginning of January to attend a ten-day residential Briefing Course in Melbourne. At the conclusion of this Course the Volunteers depart for overseas as a group.

## HOW TO APPLY

Candidates are required to complete the official application form and to lodge it with the Melbourne office of the Overseas Service Bureau. AVA application forms are available from the Bureau Offices in Sydney and Melbourne or at the Careers and Student Employment Office.

Applications should be lodged by July.



Professor Kung (left), Head of the Department of Psychology (Assoc. Professor B. Fenelon) and Professor Xu on an inspection in the Department of Psychology.

## Visiting Chinese Professors

"Allow me in the name of the Institute of Psychology, Professor Xu and myself, to express how much we appreciate and value the warm friendship you have given us," said Professor Kung Wei-yao at a welcoming reception at the University on May 4.

"It is a great pleasure to be with you", she said.

Professor Kung and Professor Xu, leading psychologists from the Institute of Psychology of the Chinese Academy of Science in Peking, have begun a visit to the University lasting nine weeks. During their stay, they will mix with members of staff and exchange ideas about their areas of research.

Their visit is an outcome of contacts made in Peking by Professor J.A. Keats and Dr. D. Keats, of the University's Department of Psychology, and a visit paid to the University by a delegation of psychologists from China in August, 1978.

Professor Xu has had many years' experience working as a clinical psychologist in hospitals (psychiatric) in China. She continues her clinical practice along with research at the Institute of Psychology.

Professor Xu's research on the question of psychological factors including suggestibility of patients undergoing acupuncture anaesthesia (carried out with patients undergoing thoracic surgery) is particularly interesting.

She is a grandmother, and wife of a distinguished developmental psychologist (now leading a delegation of Chinese psychologists to the United States of America) - they met as students at University. Professor Xu will work with Professor B. Fenelon on clinical and physiological psychology.

Professor Kung (also spelled Gong) is a developmental psychologist and a colleague in cross-cultural co-operative study of role of language in cognitive development with Professor and Dr. Keats of the Department of Psychology, University of Newcastle.

She took her M.A. at California. Her husband is a distinguished Professor of Hydraulic Engineering. She has a daughter at university and a son, married, also studying at university. Professor Kung will work with Dr. Keats on the role of language in children's thinking.

The University's Standing Committee on Asian Studies held the reception to introduce the Chinese psychologists to members of the University. The Vice-Chancellor (Professor D. George) officially welcomed them.

Responding to the welcome, Professor Kung said: "It is on a kind of informal cultural exchange programme we are here. Such a programme does a great deal to promote friendship and understanding between our two peoples. It also gives us a chance to learn from you."

"In China we have a proverb, 饮水思源, that means when you drink water, think of its source. We people from the Institute always talk about what Professor Keats and Dr. Keats did for us. We would like also to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to Professor Keats and Dr. Keats for their enthusiasm in promoting Sino-Australia friendship and science exchange. They came to China in 1978, and then, under Professor Keats' suggestion and arrangement, the Institute of Psychology of the Chinese Academy of Science sent a group of scientists to visit Australia. Since then, personal interviews between psychologists of our two countries have become frequent. We believe that the friendship bridge between Sino-Australia psychologists must be continued and well developed", Professor Kung said.

The visit also gave them an opportunity to see for themselves the achievements of the Australian people.



## Guide welcomed

The University's special guide to the campus for disabled people has received a good response from the organisers of the International Year of Disabled Persons and the New South Wales Advisory Council on the Handicapped.

Inside the pamphlet is a map which shows the location of University buildings and which highlights the car parking bays set aside for handicapped students, the best routes of access and points of entry to buildings for people in wheelchairs and the special toilet for handicapped people.

The Executive Director of the IYDP New South Wales Secretariat, Marilla Eidlitz, wrote to the Vice-Chancellor conveying appreciation and thanks of all handicapped persons for the thought and detailed work which had obviously been necessary. No doubt members of the student body had also been involved in the project and she asked that her thanks be conveyed to them also.

"It is most gratifying to realise that Educational facilities such as the University of Newcastle are making a deliberate effort to enable students with disabilities to have the same educational opportunities as others", she said.

The Chairman of the New South Wales Advisory Council on the Handicapped, Mr. V.J. Higgins, asked in a letter to Professor George that the Vice-Chancellor convey to the Council, the Board of Trustees, and particularly the students, of Edwards Hall his own thanks, those of the members of the Advisory Council and, more importantly, those of present and future students with disabilities for the thought and consideration given to the needs disabled students had in order to avail themselves of the same educational facilities as others. The University was to be congratulated on the initiative it has taken in this matter.

The Guide for the Disabled is available from the Publicity Office on the middle floor of the McMullin Building (G57, telephone Extension 328).

## Staff House News

The Committee would like to thank the members who responded to the recent questionnaire. The replies were very informative and will help in both the long and short-term planning for the Club.

Many of the issues raised concerned the appearance of the Staff House, especially the dining room, and steps have been taken to brighten up this area.

A further area in which many useful comments were received concerned the catering and these have been passed on to the caterer.



Photo: Newcastle Star

Jim Downie, aged 67, is congratulated by The Hon. Ken Booth, recipient of an honorary degree. Jim's mother, Bertha (at right), aged 91, was present.

## Degree for Pioneer

One of the University's first Open Foundation students graduated with a B.A. degree on May 2.

He is a student who had not had any formal education for almost half a century.

Jim Downie, well-known as a Rotarian and former Mayfield businessman, was admitted to the Open Foundation course in 1975.

"Although I left the old Newcastle High School in fourth year, my self-education never ceased", said Mr. Downie.

"I had to leave school because of the depression. Very few people could find work, but a bloke my father knew got me a job as an office boy with D. Mitchell and Co., wholesale merchants in Perkins Street, Newcastle. I continued my studies at night classes at Newcastle Technical College in the Thirties".

At the end of his service in the Australian Army in the Second World War, he shared the task of making arrangements

for 300,000 Japanese prisoners of war on Rabaul. Having joined the A.I.F. as a Gunner, in 1941 he was discharged in 1946 with the rank of Captain.

Jim Downie's continuing education picked up as a result of trips overseas in 1948-49, 1962 and 1972. He has maintained communication with many of the contacts he made overseas.

The Flying Angel Mission to Seamen, the YMCA, Mayfield Rotary Club and Mayfield Uniting Church are some of the community organisations he has worked for, while from 1950 until 1962 he ran his own hardware business in Mayfield. He was Manager of a company in Perth from 1963 until he retired in the mid-Seventies, during which period he was active in Western Australian Rotary and Youth circles.

"Studying at University was not as traumatic for me as for other mature-age people because I had been writing for years and had trained myself to express myself, even to write poetry", he said.

"I majored in English and never failed in essays".

## Art exhibition

An exhibition of work by seven Hunter Valley Artists will be held in the University Staff House from June 2 until July 4. Members and their guests are invited to the opening of the Exhibition on Tuesday, June 2 at 4.30 to 7 pm.

The artists whose work will be exhibited are: John Archer, Ruth Chapman, Chris. Graham, Bruce Rowland, Ed. Rush and Lesley Tilley.



# Advertisements

## FOR SALE

The following used MOTOR VEHICLES are offered for sale:

HOLDEN BELMONT PANEL VAN,  
6 cyl. manual (HTY-684) Administration.

HOLDEN KINGSWOOD STATION SEDAN  
8 cyl. manual (JJP-129) Biology.

HOLDEN KINGSWOOD STATION SEDAN  
6 cyl. manual (JHP-360) Physics.

HOLDEN BELMONT HX UTILITY  
6 cyl. automatic (JFT-327) Civil Engg.

HOLDEN 1 TON TRUCK  
6 cyl. automatic (JFT-247) Administration.

FORD FALCON XD STATION SEDAN  
6 cyl. automatic (KGZ-639) Mechanical Engineering.

MAZDA 808 STATION SEDAN  
4 cyl. manual (JPR-109) Community Programmes.

VOLKSWAGEN KOMBI VAN  
4 cyl. 2000cc manual (JPQ-479) Admin.

Tender forms can be obtained from the Purchasing Section, Room 157 McMullin Building, and further information by telephoning Mr. R. Richardson on 68 0401, Extension 371.

Tenders must be forwarded in a sealed envelope marked "Tender for Vehicle" to the Purchasing Section, University of Newcastle, N.S.W. 2308, and will be accepted up until 11.30 am on May 22.

The University reserves the right to reject all or any of the tenders.

L.J. Caldwell,  
ASSISTANT BURSAR.

## FOR RENT

Two students required to share house in a very pleasant area of Merewether. Own study-bedrooms. Share lounge, family room, kitchen, extensive balcony with sweeping view. \$20 per week each. Available from the beginning of Second Term. Please telephone Extension 361 or 63 4117.

From mid-August 1981 until early June 1982 a fully furnished 4-5 bedroom home, two bathrooms, double garage, etc., at Merewether Beach to suitable obsessive tenants. Please telephone Extension 657.

Waterfront home at Toronto (Carey Bay) with boatshed and jetty. Four bedrooms, available until December. Please telephone 69 3164 or Extension 213.

## MAZDA 1300 WAGON

Late 1975 with moderate kms, radio, excellent condition, economical and of distinctive appearance. \$3,000 or nearest offer. Please telephone Extension 361 or 63 4117.

## HOME - NORTH LAMBTON

Modern weatherboard home with superb views. Five minutes from University. Two bedrooms (room for third), very spacious lounge room, entrance hall, kitchen and separate dining area. Drive-through two car garage underneath and additional shower and toilet. Good inclusions. Large block of land. Exterior newly painted. Large verandah on three sides. Price negotiable. Please telephone 49 7951 after 5.30 pm.

## TWO TICKETS FOR JENUFA

At the Sydney Opera House two tickets for Saturday matinee, September 5 - Jenufa by Janacek. Excellent seats in E row of stalls. \$18 each. Please telephone Elaine Sheehan, Extension 699.

## HOME - WARNERS BAY HEIGHTS

Cavity brick split level home. Twenty squares, private bushland setting of three quarters of an acre. Three bedrooms plus study. Large living/dining, natural timber kitchen with dishwasher and eating area. Huge rumpus room. \$116,000. Please telephone Anne 52 4568 (after hours).

## HONDA SCAMP

\$1,100 or nearest offer. Please telephone Margaret Hamilton on Extension 254.

Available for one year from August 16 until August 12, 1982. Suit well-healed visiting academic. For details please telephone Brian Williams on Extension 681 or please leave a message on Extension 526.

Share fully furnished house New Lambton with two postgraduate students \$30 per week. Please telephone 52 2842.