



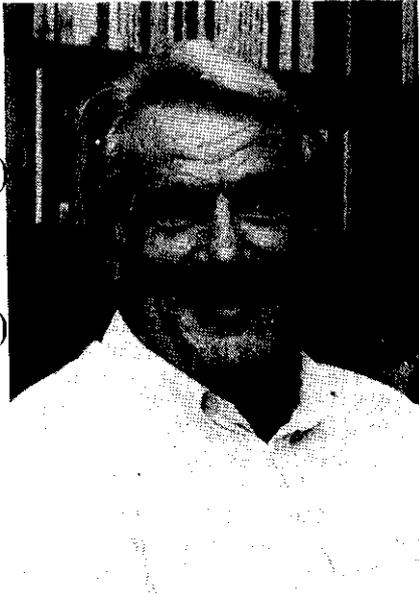
UNIVERSITY NEWS

Newsletter for the University of Newcastle

Volume 12, Number 2, March 3 to 17, 1986.

Registration NBH 3127

Actor Wins Award



Vic Rooney

Vic Rooney, who has had a lengthy acting career in Newcastle, is the winner of Convocation's 1985 Newton-John Award.

One Newton-John Award is made each year to an outstanding graduate of this University who has made a noteworthy contribution to the community. The Newton-John Award Scheme is named after Emeritus Professor Brin Newton-John, the University's first Vice-Principal.

Convocation commissions a Newcastle artist to execute a work of art and presents it to the winner at a dinner. This year's Newton-John Presentation Dinner will be held in the Southern Cross Lounge in The

Union on Friday, April 11. Tickets can be obtained from the Secretary of Convocation, C/- the Publicity Office.

Vic Rooney's contribution to theatre in Newcastle earned him a large personal reputation and a nomination for the Newton-John Award.

He was born at Waratah, very close to the bushland area which later became the University's site. His father worked in the Bloom Mill at the Steel Works. Apart from short sojourns elsewhere to make stage appearances, Vic has been associated with the local community all his life.

In his own words: "I received 'a good Catholic education' at Marist Brothers', Hamilton (now St Francis Xavier's). In those days, as at other all-boys schools, pupils were not encouraged to take an interest in the arts. The closest I came to taking part in a theatrical performance at school was singing in the school choir."

His acting career has included roles with the Hunter Valley Theatre Company, the Nimrod Company in Sydney and appearances in films. Highlights of his stage career were his roles as Essington Lewis in *Essington Lewis: I Am Work* and George in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*. For his performance as Alf Cook in *One Day of the Year*

he was awarded a CONDA last year.

Mr. Rooney, who taught English at Newcastle Boys' High for 16 years and now teaches at Maitland Girls' High School, was a mature student with the University. He was awarded the degree of Bachelor of Arts with honours in 1976. His association with the University spans many years. He played Rugby with University in the early 1960s and has contributed to activities in the Drama Department and such University events as the 1985 Mattara Fair.

Judges for the Newton-John Award are the Warden of Convocation, Father James Bromley, the President of the Hunter Valley Branch of the Australian Federation of University Women, Ms. Judy Cowley and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Don George.

They agreed with the following views of Mr. Rooney's nominator:

"He has indeed become one of the Hunter's finest actors and his decision to do most of his acting in this region, where he was born and bred, has assisted the arts to grow. He is obviously proud to be a Novocastrian. He is also a sensitive and compassionate teacher, who has had considerable influence for good on many young school students."

Inside: COUNCIL MATTERS

Restoring Aboriginal Tongue



Darkinoong elder, Mr. Tom Sales, explains at the Library the use of Aboriginal weapons to the Awabakal language class of Gateshead High school. Mesdames Norma Saxby, Doreen Alcorn, Rae Reed (mothers) and (students) Zorren Connors, Belinda Baker, Leslie Saxby, Dean Newlin and Mark Sutton.

The University will share in a pilot project at Gateshead High School to restore the Awabakal mother tongue to persons of Aboriginal descent residing in the Hunter Region.

The language restoration is part of a two-pronged programme to re-establish certain aspects of traditional culture. The other part of the plan is to create a mixed dancing group.

The programme has been largely initiated by the head Arts Teacher at the school (Mrs. Lyn Black) and the Aboriginal Teacher Assistant (Mrs. Clare Saggus), in consultation with the Aboriginal member of the NSW Education Commission (Mr. Bob Moore) and staff at the education resources centre at Adamstown.

The language class, conducted by Mr. Percy Haslam, the University's first Convocation Scholar, is unusual because it embraces the family unit. Teaching classes are for the Aboriginal students in Year 9. They will complete a two-year course in Year 10.

The class group includes parents, who attend three

classes a week at the school. So far, five mothers and two fathers have attended lessons. Some senior Aboriginal students have also sat in on lessons, as observers.

The programme will include field excursions to Aboriginal sites and to study the environment, and probably one visit to an Aboriginal community where there is a residue of traditional lifestyle.

Recently, the students and their parents visited the University Library to examine Mr. Haslam's collection of weapons and artefacts that were used tribally by members of the Awabakal and Wonarua Tribes and to view seven albums of photographs. Also present were two Aboriginal community leaders, Mr. Ken McBride, sen, Chairman of the Koe-inba Aboriginal Sites Protection Committee, and Mr. Tom Sales, elder of the Darkinoong people of the Central Coast. The party later visited Mr. Haslam's smaller collection in his room.

It was generally agreed that time was too short to permit a full inspection and appreciation of the material at the

University, and that more visits should be planned. Both students and parents were surprised and impressed by the two collections. They were happy to learn that valid source material in the form of relics and history of the region was available to Aboriginal students. This was particularly important because of the absence of the Aboriginal museum in the region.

Mrs. Black said the project would be funded under the disadvantaged school studies scheme. A grant would be sought to take the dancers to meet traditional dancers in the north of Australia.

Mr. Haslam said a cycle of 160 years was nearing completion. The Awabakal language was the first to be published, this having been the work of pioneering Lake Macquarie Missionary, Rev L. E. Threlkeld, who began the first land-granted mission station at Belmont in 1825. The class was actually using a copy of his first publication of 1827.

A further link will be the weekly language lessons in the Awabakal Voices programme over Station 2NUR at 9 a.m. on Sundays.

Mr. Haslam said he had been preparing a primer on the language, but there was a funding problem. The Anglican Church in Newcastle had donated \$1,100, but now there was a possibility that the language project could be extended to other schools and areas of teaching. This amount would not cover the cost of publishing a complete teaching aid in adequate numbers. A grant of \$5,000 to \$10,000 would ensure publication of a primer worthy of the project.

"It would be wonderful if by 1988 we could return to Aborigines something European society took away from them," he said. "This was a vital facet of their identity—their mother tongue".

Early Days "A Bit of a Shock"



Mr. Harris

The University's transition from Tighes Hill to Shortland was "a bit of a shock", says the retiring Bursar Mr. Lou Harris.

"The first decade, during which we set the scene for the University's growth, were very difficult years.

Vic The initial shock was due to the lantana, mosquitoes and power lines, but we could see the site's potential."

Mr. Harris joined the staff of Newcastle University College as accountant in September, 1963 and became the University's first Bursar in May, 1966, about a year after it became an autonomous institution.

"Our facilities were at an absolute minimum as were our staff numbers", he says. "However when autonomy came, there was great enthusiasm, because we were now going our own way."

Mr. Harris says there was an understandable priority - first make the required number of academic appointments. It was bad luck for the administrators, who had to "hop

in" and accept additional duties. However, that was "fair enough". "We had the problem explained to us and the Vice-Chancellor, the late James Auchmuty, alleviated staffing difficulties as soon as he could."

Working for the University had been an enlightening experience with several highlights, including the support which had resulted in a large amount of money being raised for the construction of the Great Hall and the decision to establish the Medical School.

Mr. Harris will be farewelled by staff associates and friends at a luncheon at Comsteel Bowling Club (between No. 2 Oval and the Electricity Commission) on March 6 at 12.15 p.m.

"That caused a lot of concern, because we knew it would have a tremendous financial impact on the rest of the institution."

Mr. Harris thinks it's a pity that the University and Newcastle CAE have not been amalgamated.

"Certainly, amalgamation would have caused some problems, but I take a view not everyone takes - if there are problems in the first five years what do they matter in the life of a university, which goes on forever?

"I believe amalgamation would be a good thing, with the University having a great deal to offer, and a lot to gain from the CAE.

"There is no need for educational standards to fall. In fact, there is validity in the

argument that amalgamation had potential to improve the educational facilities available to people in the Hunter Region".

Mr Harris sees as critical to any amalgamation process the need for the people involved to display altruism and trust.

He intends to redesign the garden of his New Lambton Heights home, play a little bit of golf, visit places like New Zealand, and dabble in investments during his retirement.

Lou will also devote some time to writing his family history. The Harrises are Welsh. One ancestor on this side of the family was a pioneer settler in Maitland. On his mother's side his near of kin are the Hennessys, of Tipperary, Ireland.

Mr Harris' wife, Joan, is well-known in the University community, having been an active member of the University Women's Group (formerly the Faculty Wives).

MARGINAL WORK

The Women's Directorate of the Department of Industrial Relations is conducting a seminar on Marginal work and its Effects on Women Workers on Wednesday, March 12, between 5 and 8 p.m. in the City Hall.

Marginal work is work not covered by industrial awards, with low rates of pay and often carried out in the workers own homes.

The seminar would be of interest to anyone concerned about the experiences of women in the workplace and any staff and students who have been, or may in the future be, engaged in this type of work.

Registration forms may be obtained from the EEO Unit, Ext. 317.

GOLD IN ACTIVE VOLCANOES



Controlled release of steam from a 750m vertical drill hole into the Lihir volcano.



Professor Ian Plimer, Professor of Geology, has recently acquired support from Kennecott Explorations (Australia) for research on the formation of gold ore deposits associated with present day active volcanism.

The initial work for this project was on Lihir, an island almost on the equator in the Bismarck Archipelago of Papua-New Guinea.

Lihir is a giant active volcano, part of which is beneath the sea. The volcano recently exploded, ejecting more than 1200 metres of rocks into the air and allowing the sea to enter the volcano. Molten rocks in the centre of the volcano are being cooled by seawater and rainwater (some 10 metres per annum). The waters are heated and rise up fractures, appearing on the surface as geysers and hot springs.

The hot springs carry gold in solution which is precipitated in the rocks where the water boils and in sinters and mud pools around the hot springs. The hot springs are extremely acid (pH 1.6) and react with hot volcanic rocks, greatly alter the rocks, change in chemistry and, as a result, precipitate gold.

The purpose of the research is to understand the fundamental physics and chemistry of volcanic systems, the process of hot fluids reacting with hot rocks, the mechanism of gold solution and deposition, and the relationship between high pressure boiling and ore deposition. Geology in such a young and active area is not only a first-hand glimpse into Earth processes which have been going on for thousands of millions of years, but can be quite hazardous, as Professor Plimer's burns testify.

At Lihir, the rocks are still very hot, shallow drilling has encountered steam and superheated CO₂ and the identified deposit is one of the largest gold resources discovered this century. As many gold deposits are in areas of ancient volcanoes, an understanding of a gold deposit currently forming in an active volcano will be invaluable in the search for new gold deposits.

Scholarship

The English Speaking Union offers a scholarship to graduates at the beginning of their professional careers who are residents of NSW or the ACT and who wish to pursue further studies overseas.

Applicants must be 35 years of age or younger, intend returning to Australia and be judged as being worthwhile representatives of Australia. The

scholarship is valued at up to \$5,000 but may be awarded to two applicants as a lesser amount.

Application forms are available from The Secretary, ESU Scholarships, The English Speaking Union (NSW Branch) Ltd., St. James, P.O. E156, Sydney NSW 2000. Applications close 18 April 1986.

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Professor Ian Plimer, Department of Geology, has been appointed to the Consultative Committee of the CSIRO Institute of Energy and Earth Resources, the Examinations Committee of the Board of Senior School Studies and the editorial board of a new Springer Verlag series on the earth sciences.

Staff Happenings

Appointments

Mrs. J. E. Bentley, Tutor in Law.

Dr. M. D. Glikman, Lecturer in Medicine.

Dr. R. J. Price, Professional Officer in Psychology.

Resignations

Dr. G. B. Johnston, Profession-

al Officer in Electron Microscope Unit.

Mr. R. F. Peters, Tutor in Psychology.

A/Prof. C. E. Engel, Associate Professor in Medicine.

Prof. K. E. Lindgren, Professor in Law.

Dr. G. R. Dowling, Senior Lecturer in Commerce.

STAFF ASSOCIATION

The University's Staff Association invites all members of the academic staff who are not members (full-or part-time) to join the Association. For membership information please telephone the Secretary Pran Chopra (Ext. 641) or Lyn Turner (Ext. 610).

The Staff Association's annual general meeting will be held on March 25 (Tuesday) at 1.05 p.m. in V01 (Mathematics building). All are welcome to attend.

AGAMEMNON

For its first 1986 production, the Department of Drama will present Agamemnon, the first play in Aeschylus' trilogy, The Oresteia, first performed at Athens in 458BC.

The Drama Department's production completes Michael Ewans' sequence of productions of the whole trilogy in his own new translations (the second and third plays, The Libation Bearers and The Eumenides were staged in Newcastle in 1983 and 1985).

Once again the production team includes composer Michael Lonsdale, choreographer Ellen Carayianides, lighting designer Glenn Stuart Beatty, and set designer Gary Pedler. The costumes for Agamemnon are designed by Cathi Abrahams.

The central roles of the Elders of Argos are taken by Andrew O'Callaghan, Mark Copping, Anton Denby, Philip Hancock, David Owens and Stephen Williams. Vanessa Turton plays Klytaimestra, Barry O'Connor

plays Agamemnon, and Jan Hunt takes the role of the trojan prophetess Cassandra. Also in the cast are Bruce Copping as Aigisthos, Steve Happ as the Herald and Michelle Taylor as the Lookout.

Agamemnon will be performed in the Drama Studio from March 12 to 15 and March 19 to 22 at 8.15 p.m. and on March 23 at 5 p.m. Reservations can be made by phoning the Drama Department, Ext. 705. Admission is free.

DR PARADICE BECOMES DIRECTOR

The Chairman of The Hunter Valley Research Foundation, Professor Michael Carter, announced the appointment of the new Director of Research for the Foundation.

He is Dr. W. E. J. (Wej) Paradice, who was previously Acting Director of Research of the Foundation, a position which he occupied since the retirement of Professor Cyril Renwick in June, 1985.

Dr. Paradice has a strong attachment to the Hunter Region - he originally comes from the Scone area, where his family still live. He completed his undergraduate training at the

University of New England where he studied natural resource planning and management with specific emphasis on water resources. He completed a Master of Science in the College of Forestry and Natural Resources at Colorado State University, and a Doctor of Philosophy in the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Science at the University of Idaho.

Dr. Paradice's studies and research were based around natural resource planning and management issues, and included investigations into both the

physical and social concerns of resource allocation.

At the Foundation he has continued his research in the natural resources area. He has also become very much involved in broader social and economic research issues investigated by the Foundation. Regional planning, resource allocation, and market research are areas in which Dr. Paradice has undertaken projects.

COUNCIL MATTERS

Council appointed Dr. I. Wallschutzky Head of the Department of Commerce until December 31, 1986.

Professor J. Burrows was appointed Head of the Department of English for two years from February 22.

Assoc. Professor W. Doniela was appointed Head of the Department of Philosophy for one year from February 14.



The Hon. R. D. Dyer, M.L.C., Chairman of the University Government Review Committee, submitted a report of the Committee's meeting on January 21. Mr Dyer said the Committee had originally made seven recommendations dealing with University Government and the Council had decided that members of the University be invited to comment on them. After 38 submissions were received, the issues raised were given careful consideration by the committee.

Council adopted the following new policies as recommended by the committee:

- That candidature for the position of Dean of a Faculty be available to all permanent members of academic staff eligible for appointment as Head of Departments within that Faculty.
- That candidature for the Headship of a Department be widened to include the Professors, Associate Professors and Senior Lecturers within the Department.
- That membership of Departmental Boards be enlarged to include all Professional Officers in the Department and also one member elected by and from among the general staff of the Department.

- That all full-time members of staff who are members of the Departmental Board be entitled to vote in any election held within a Department to determine its nominee as Head.

- That the membership of any Selection Committee for an academic appointment be extended to include the Head of the Department concerned and one other member of the full-time academic staff of the Department (elected by and from the members of the Departmental Board), provided neither is an applicant for the position.



The Vice-Chancellor, Professor D. George, and Professor A. W. Roberts, Professor of Industrial Engineering, have been appointed to the Board of the Hunter Technology Development Centre.

The HTDC, which will be funded through the Steel Cities Assistance Plan, has been set up by the State Government to seek to promote and facilitate the broadening of the Hunter Region's industrial base through the development and application of advanced technology.



The Vice-Chancellor drew Council's attention to his previous suggestion that a history of the University and its predecessor should be commissioned.

He said he had invited Dr. D. Wright, head of the Department of History, to prepare a manuscript. Dr. Wright was an Australian historian of some note. Dr. Wright had accepted the invitation and would commence work around mid-year when his current ARGS - funded research could be placed on "hold".

Council endorsed in principle the proposal from Convocation that the University mount a simple ceremony for the presentation of testamurs in Singapore and asked the Vice-Chancellor to report on the matter.

The Warden of Convocation, Father James Bromley, informed Council that Convocation had modified its original proposal for a Graduation Ceremony to be held in Singapore. "We now propose that the Graduands of Singapore and elsewhere in that region should be admitted to their degrees either in person or in absentia in the usual way, but a simpler ceremony for the presentation for the testamurs and welcome to membership of Convocation should be held in Singapore as soon as may be convenient after the formal graduation ceremonies on campus in May".

Father Bromley told the Council that the proposal had stemmed from views put to him by graduating students from Singapore at a farewell dinner last December. "It received an overwhelming response and, in later discussion, I learnt that the ceremony could involve between 2,000 and 3,000 people."

In discussion, it was submitted that Convocation might wish to organise a tour of Singapore and Malaysia so that interested members of Convocation and staff could attend the ceremony, and, although some Singaporean graduates who had resided in Edwards Hall supported the proposal, they wanted the University to prepare a list of all Singaporean graduates before they gave assistance.

The Vice-Chancellor pointed out that the Secretary's Division was "hard at it" preparing for this year's Graduation Ceremonies. That being the case, the University could not undertake a ceremony in Singapore this year.

The Chancellor, Sir Bede Callaghan, reported that the number of applicants for appointment as the new Vice-Chancellor to replace Professor Don George, who retires at the end of this year, had been reduced to six. The short list included three candidates from outside Australia.

The selection Committee would interview the candidates soon, Sir Bede said, and it was hoped to recommend Professor George's successor by the April meeting of Council.

Council was told that arrangements would be made for a portrait of the Vice-Chancellor to be commissioned.



Following a recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunity, Council decided to move to avoid the use of sexist terminology in University legislation and other publications. It adopted the policy that the official title of those persons heading Committees, Boards and other bodies throughout the University be altered to be sure they are gender-free.

The ACEO advised that since August, 1983, in amending or originating By-laws and regulations, every attention was paid to the use of non-sexist terminology. Changes had also been made in many University publications.

One highly visible and important way that the University could demonstrate its commitment in this area would be to ensure that the official titles of those persons heading committees or other working groups were gender-free.

With respect to University Regulations, the committee said, the implementation of the new policy would be carried out by a process of progressive amendment and whenever the University's Act or a By-law was amended, opportunity would be taken to implement the policy.

When asked to comment about the issue of gender-free language, the EEO Co-ordinator, Monica Hayes, said that an important part of the process of providing equal opportunities for women was to modify our use of language when it ignored, or excluded, women.

"The use of terms such as man, he, his to indicate both men and women is becoming less and less acceptable," she said "as, due to changes in our perceptions and expectations, they no longer clearly indicate that women are included. Appropriate alternative are being sought for titles of occupations and offices which appear to assume that the employee, or office bearer, is male.

"While some of the alternative developed may not meet with universal approval at first, they are appearing with increasing frequency and gaining wide acceptance.

"The three-day conference held recently at Macquarie University is an indicator that our language is not fixed and unalterable. Changes may be stimulated in many different ways and the move towards gender-free language simply reflects the changing attitudes of, and towards, women and their status in society."



Last October, Council decided to ask the Board of Trustees of Edwards Hall to report on the current state of discipline in the Hall and advise on how any

problems that existed at the Hall could be resolved.

Council had before it the Board's nine-page report. The Board recommended that Council make such legislative amendments as were necessary in order -

- That the Warden be given the authority to terminate the residence of any person residing within the Hall on the advice of the residential staff and the Convener of the Hall Discipline Advisory Committee.
- That a person whose residence has been thus terminated may appeal against that decision to the Board of Trustees, any such appeal to be by way of a rehearing; and
- That the Board of Trustees shall make the final decision with respect to an appeal or other matter relating to discipline within the Hall.

Council approved the recommendations.



Council was told the Vice-Chancellor has made available from Discretionary Funds the salary for a three-year appointment of a full-time Convocation Officer, to be located in the Secretary's Division. A further three-year appointment would be added to the Secretary's Division Staff to overcome delays in preparation of Annual Reports.

**THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S
FIRST TERM MEETING WITH STAFF**
will be held in
B01 LECTURE THEATRE
on
TUESDAY, 18 MARCH, 1.05pm
(Second and Third Term Meetings will be held on
June 10 and September 23.)

Schoolboys Beat University

It is now traditional for the University to play host to the Combined High Schools, Hunter Region cricketers each February. Two vastly different University teams were assembled on Monday, February 18 and Tuesday February 19 at the No. 1 Oval, but the schoolboys triumphed with two remarkably similar results.

The University Cricket Club President, Alan Northey, had selected a veterans' side from the University staff and other friends of the club, leavened by two somewhat more fleet-footed student pace bowlers, Rod Stockwell and Mitch Mitcherson. The CHS bowling was economical and accurate, especially from D. Lewis and D. Sealey, and T. Weekes captured 4 for 21; Steve Hatherall (43)

and David Yarrow (21) contributed most to the President's XI modest score of 134. The CHS openers (P. Franklin 50, D. Brown 39) set the side on its winning way to 3-136. Norman Talbot was the only University bowler to take wickets (3 for 53).

By a curious coincidence, the Tuesday match against the University of Newcastle followed a precisely similar course. Again University batted first and was going steadily at lunch, but immediately afterwards several wickets fell. Tony Fort (59) and Adam Dwyer (21) produced more than half the 139 scored and accurate bowling gave figures of 2-40 to B. Hill, 4-49 to D. Lewis, and 2-24 to D. Sealey. In the Schoolboys' innings the openers

were again highly professional (P. Franklin 48, D. Brown 37), with B Ward (31 n.o.) finishing the job. Again only three wickets fell before the target was reached, and again (assisted by a run-out) N. Talbot was the only wicket-taker this time Nick Talbot (2 for 11).

Perhaps the University XIs did not put the CHS batsman under sufficient pressure, partly because of the excellence of the University Oval batting strip. Still, it is clear that the Hunter CHS boys have competence and quality in the right admixture; they will give a splendid account of themselves in the state-wide games at Bathurst.

Casual work for students

Our students have many skills and talents.

Do you need a job done?

Have you been putting off doing....?

Do you know of someone else who could gainfully use the services of a student?

Throughout 1986 many students will be seeking casual/part-time employment in such areas as research assistant, laboratory attendant/demonstrators, field assistant, coaching and odd jobs.

Why not telephone extension 466 (Careers & Student Employment Office) to fill your vacancy and help a student?

CUBAN DOCTORS

Three Cuban medical specialists who are visiting Australia will give a lecture at this University.

They are Dr. Harley Borges, Dr. Andres Sanz and Dr. Juan Mirabal. They are professors at the University of Havana Medical School and Chiefs of their respective specialities (burns and acute emergencies, pediatrics and community health) in the Ministry of Health.

On Monday, March 3, at 5 p.m. in the Medical Lecture Theatre they will give a lecture on Cuba's innovative system of Medical Education.

Although only a small third world nation, Cuba leads the way in many aspects of community medical care. In Cuba itself there is one doctor for every 600 people and they are evenly spread over the entire population.

Study in Norway

The Norwegian Government is offering bursaries for one year's residence at Norwegian Folk High Schools, or other non-specialist schools for young people.

A bursary will cover meals and accommodation, necessary book purchases, school excursions and some pocket money. Supplementary grants may be made to cover short study tours and/or short courses preceding or following the main course of study.

The cost of travel must normally be paid for the applicant. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and special consideration will be given to applications which document an active interest in social, cultural or humanitarian activities.

Application forms may be obtained from: The Secretary, Department of Education, (Norwegian Government Bursaries), P.O. Box 826, WODEN ACT, 2606.

The closing date for applications is March 15.

Geography & Engineering Chairs filled

The appointment of two new Professors of the University has been announced by the Vice-Chancellor.

Dr. Robert E. Melchers has been appointed to the Chair of Civil Engineering.

Dr. Melchers, who is 40 years of age, undertook his first tertiary training at the Caulfield Institute of Technology (1962-65) from which he obtained a Diploma of Civil Engineering. He then proceeded to Monash University where he gained his B.E. degree with First Class Honours in 1967 and his Master of Engineering Sciences degree in 1969, for his thesis entitled "Plastic Design and Analysis of Reinforced Concrete Shells". His Doctorate of Philosophy was obtained from Cambridge University in 1971 for his thesis entitled "Optimal Fibre-Reinforced Plates". He also holds a Dip. Ed. (teaching in tertiary institutions) from Monash University which he completed part-time in 1977.

Dr. Melchers' present appointment is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Civil Engineering at Monash University which he joined as a Lecturer in 1975. Previously to this, he was a project engineer with Gutteridge, Haskins and Davey (1972-74), involved in a wide range of projects involving both structural design and other civil works. In 1980 he was a von Humboldt Fellow at the Technische Universität, München and from November, 1984 to May, 1985 he was a Visiting Research Fellow at Imperial College, London.

Professor Melchers will take up duty on March 1.

Dr. Eric A. Colhoun has been appointed to the Chair of Geography.

Dr. Colhoun, who is 45 years of age, is presently Reader in Geography at the University of Tasmania. He obtained his B.A.

degree with First Class Honours at Queen's University, Belfast in 1962 and then undertook his first postgraduate training at the University of Wisconsin from which he obtained his M.S. in 1963. Returning to Queen's, he completed his Ph.D. in 1968 for his thesis entitled "The Glacial Geomorphology of the Sperrin Mountains and Adjacent Areas in Co. Tyrone, Co. Londonderry, and Co. Donegal, Northern Ireland". The Board of Trinity College, Dublin, awarded him the M.A. degree *de jure officio* in 1969 for services to the College, at which he was Lecturer in Geography from 1967-72. From 1972-77 he was Senior Lecturer in Geography at the University of Tasmania and in 1978 was promoted to Reader.

Dr. Colhoun's contributions in teaching and research cover a wide field, with special interests in biogeography (soils and vegetation) and climatology. In recent years he has concentrated on understanding the evolution of landscapes during the Quaternary Period by integrating geomorphological studies with biogeographical studies (particularly vegetation history determined by pollen analysis), to obtain models of paleoclimatic change. His main regions of concern have been environments from New Guinea to Tasmania, New Zealand, southern South America, and Antarctica where he currently is working. His researches have been supported by the ARGS, The Royal Society of London, a Fulbright Travelling Scholarship and a Nuffield Foundation Commonwealth Bursary. He was a Council member of the Royal Society of Tasmania 1975-80 (Vice-President, 1978-79) and is President of the Australasian Quaternary Association, 1985-87.

Professor Colhoun will take up duty around the middle of the year.

Moving on

Mr. Albert Dykman, Leading Hand Gardener and, from all accounts, a true gentleman, will retire on March 18 after 17 years working outdoors on campus.

Albert will be honoured by his workmates and friends at a farewell luncheon in the Godfrey Tanner Room in the Union on March 18 at 12.15 p.m.

If you would like to go contact Julie Kiem, C/- the Property Division Office (Ext. 202) by Friday, March 14.

26 Films — \$25

The Newcastle Film Society is back in business.

This year, in the Lyrique Theatre, members of the Society will see films by Rainer Werner Fassbinder and Federico Fellini, by the Taviani brothers and Eric Rohmer, films from France, Hungary and the two Germanies, from the Republic of Ireland and the People's Republic of China.

The first screening for 1986 will be on March 9. **Courage Fuyons**, a zany comedy made by Yves Robert, the French Director, in 1979, will be shown.

In the whole year, 26 films will be screened on Sunday nights starting at 7.30.

To join the Newcastle Film Society send \$25 for a subscription to the Secretary, P.O. Box 122, Jesmond, 2299.

V.C. Discusses Staff Question

How do we in Newcastle, a medium-sized university in a smaller city and still relatively young, attract outstanding academic leaders?

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor George, addresses this key issue and other issues in his annual report to the Council on the experiences of the University in the past year. He notes the fact that as he will retire this year it is his final report of this kind.

Professor George tells the Council that American universities traditionally obtain academics outstanding in their disciplines by cash incentives, both to the individual personally and through the research facilities promised and provided. In Australia, only the ANU's School of Advanced Studies offers anything like similar incentives.

"However, there is the opportunity with staff appointments to be bold and inventive and resource allocation within the University is, within limits, a *tour own* disposal. A large number of Chairs is to be filled this year and the role of the Professor in providing academic leadership is not in dispute, even if differing views on University government may have tended to isolate the Professors from other academic staff.

"If we can provide an environment where scholarship is seen to be valued in tangible as well as less tangible ways, we can count on having a reputation exciting and attractive enough to recruit top young men and women to our staff, even if they move on to more prestigious centres later in their careers."

Professor George notes that innovation in academic circles is surprisingly rare and here also he believes we have opportunities to put Newcastle on the map.

"No single development other than the new Medical School

could have so elevated awareness of us world-wide, but many other initiatives are receiving attention.

The proposed developments in Aviation, the new Chair in Biostatistics, strengths now in Computer Science as well as Computer Engineering, a fresh start in

Materials Science and an enhanced TUNRA, coupled with the Technology Development Centre, are all indicators of a lively environment and will I hope receive Council's full support.

The Vice-Chancellor points out that the main factor that clearly determines the stature of a University is the quality of its students and their achievements in their future careers. "With the public publication of the cut-off marks at entry for all those tertiary institutions in the state that are members of UCAC, there is no disguising that the predicted performance (based on school achievement) of our students falls below that of the older and more prestigious universities in Sydney. There is not a lot we can do about this, apart from pointing to the advantages of a smaller and more intimate campus.

"Time will solve much of this difficulty, but with appropriate support for Convocation I am hopeful that we can better publicise the achievements of our graduates. The Deputy Chancellor's report to Council on his visit with Dr. Blackmore to Singapore last year indicated the extent to which our S.E. Asian graduates have achieved distinction in their own countries.

"Possibly the only techniques which work in our unusual environment are example and peer-group pressure, but the Vice-Chancellor's responsibility is clear if the problem goes beyond acceptable limits. Heads of Departments are far more likely to know of poor performance than the central administration and are responsible to Council through the Vice-Chancellor for the comp-



The Vice-Chancellor

etent administration of their areas.

"Students possibly are in the best position of all to evaluate performance of staff and should be listened to, but there is the inhibiting fear of retribution against which they need protection. Well known, also, is the subsequent reflection by graduates that lecturer A or professor B actually gave them a much better appreciation of the subject than they realised at the time.

"I wonder if we have made enough use of the Council itself in influencing staff performance at all levels. The innovation of 25 years long service medals in itself has been a good thing, but does not differentiate between quality of service. However, it does indicate an interest in staff at least at a more personal level.

"In my time here I can only say that the relations between Council and academic, in general, staff have been very cordial and positive.

I believe Council has also greatly assisted management by its clear insistence on team effort, to minimize the inevitable 'them and us' syndrome in a university."

Being a Vice-Chancellor is a great learning experience, Professor George says, as well as a great privilege. Universities are remarkable institutions and the chief executive is called upon to defend them, warts and all. He takes pride and pleasure in the enthusiasm and dedication of the vast majority of staff and in the accomplishments of students.

Keyboard Workshops

Late in 1985, an occupational therapist conducted some workshops, which were organised by the University. Work practices, posture, health and a variety of other topics were considered.

Three more workshops have already been held this year, but interest has been so great that some staff have still missed out. At least two more workshops will be planned for March/April.

Any member of staff whose name is not on the waiting list, is invited to contact the Staff Office if they wish to attend. The workshops at this

stage, are designed for those staff whose official duties include at least 10 hours a week on some form of keyboard.

Advertisements

For Sale

Triumph TR7, 1980. mechanically sound, air conditioned, AM/FM stereo, British racing green. \$7,700 o.n.o. Phone: 59 4664.

Sewing table \$15, 6 teachests \$2 each or \$10 the lot, large wall mirror \$10, juice extractor \$15, vertical grill \$15, battery kitchen clock \$5. Phone ext. 471 or 57 3696.

By Tender

11

Macintosh Computer, 128k, with 1 x 400K external disk drive, Imagewriter I and security Kit.

Macintosh XL Computer (Lisa 2/10), with 1 x MByte Memory and 10 MByte hard disk, and including Lisa Office System, Macworks XL, Lisa Pascal.

Telephone Mr. J. Lambert on 68 5305 for further information.

Tenders should be forwarded in a sealed envelope marked "tender for Macintosh", addressed to Purchasing Officer, University of Newcastle, NSW 2308. The closing date for tenders is 11.30 a.m. on 21st March, 1986.

The University reserves the right to reject all tenders.

Dialectics

In the recent *History of Philosophy in Australia*, Professor Selwyn Grave describes *Dialectic*, the journal of the Newcastle University Philosophy Club, as "the most substantial of the departmentally-produced journals of philosophy in Australia and the longest in existence" (p.206.). This is a worthy recognition; indeed, the Philosophy Club has just brought out the twenty-fifth volume of the journal.

Dialectic was founded in 1967, one year after the formation of the Newcastle University Philosophy Club in 1966. Starting off as an irregular roneoed publication of some 60 pages, in the earlier years *Dialectic* normally contained a selection from the papers given by visitors, staff and students to the Philosophy Club. A few special 'student *Dialectics*' followed on later occasions, consisting of outstanding essays written for some particular upper-year options in the Department.

A landmark in *Dialectic's* history was the publication by Dr. Brian Birchall of an edited version of some articles and lectures on education from the

literary estate of Professor John Anderson, a controversial philosopher at Sydney University. Apart from being immediately sold out, this issue attracted a donation of \$500 from Miss Ruth Walker, a Sydney philosopher and a former student of Anderson's, for further editions of a similar nature. Although this project raises copyright questions, it is hoped that they will be satisfactorily solved and more editing of Andersoniana will continue.

In more recent years *Dialectic* has provided a home for several sets of proceedings of philosophy conferences. Associate Professor Bill Doniela has edited two collections of papers from Phenomenology conferences and a few months ago Dr. John Lee produced a 200-page volume of proceedings of the Greek Philosophy Conference held in Newcastle in 1984. At a time when the publishing industry is beset by problems, philosophy conferences and societies in Australia are increasingly turning to *Dialectic* for a relatively inexpensive though modest distribution of their work. Foreseeable further volumes of this kind include two collections of recent conference proceedings on Hegel

and on Phenomenology.

Despite its growing academic stature *Dialectic* is essentially a student enterprise, encouraged, of course, by the Department of Philosophy. Most of *Dialectic's* editors have been students, though by now many of them have progressed to academic positions. The first three founding editors, Brian Birchall, Narelle Evans and Peter Harris, have been followed by David Marley, Barbara Lord, Bill Warren, David Kibble, Peter Jenkins, Sandra Pelnens, Robert Britts, Stuart Callan, Sharon Ryan, Judith Thomas. Support in editorial matters has also been generously forthcoming from Philosophy staff. Some half a dozen issues, for example, have been edited by Bill Doniela.

Dialectic is distributed, through Auchmuty Library, to the libraries of all Australian universities. A few public libraries maintain complete sets as a result of legal privilege. Locally, copies of *Dialectic* are obtainable from the Philosophy Department office. As the journal is subsidised, the low price of \$2 to \$3 per issue is a pleasant surprise.

JAMES COOK'S V.C.

Professor Raymund Marshall Golding will succeed Professor Ken Back as Vice-Chancellor of James Cook University of North Queensland.

Professor Golding is currently Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of New South Wales.

He was born in New Zealand and attended Auckland University, graduating in 1957 with an MSc degree with First Class Honours.

Since 1978 Professor Golding has been head of the School of Chemistry at the University of NSW. As Pro-Vice-Chancellor, his main areas of responsibility have been personnel, budget planning, oversight of finance and forward planning.

Musica Viva Youthpass

It's never been cheaper for young people to attend Musica Viva concerts.

Youthpass enables anyone aged 25 or under to see the Musica Viva concerts of his or her choice at just \$4 per concert!

A book of four Youthpasses can be bought from the Civic Theatre, 375 Hunter Street, Newcastle, for \$16.

The 1986 Musica Viva programme is:

19 March Musica Antiqua
Cologne

23 April Canberra Wind
Soloists with
Susan Teicher,
piano

6 May Musikverein
Quartet
14 July Elder Quartet
1 September Ridge Quartet
22 September Assad Brothers
8 October Vienna Chamber
Ensemble
12 November Australian
Chamber
Orchestra with
Arnan Wiesel,
piano

All concerts will be held
the Civic Theatre (phone
21977).

Diary of Events

Monday, March 3, 7-9 p.m.
Society for Uniting Nations
Multi-cultural Dance Night (SUN
Dance), Common Room. Admission
\$1.

Tuesday, March 4, 1-2 p.m.
Lunch-time concert featuring
Dickerson and Marsh (court-
yard). Admission free
7-10 p.m. Entertainment in the
bar (admission free).

Wednesday, March 5, 1-2 p.m.
Entertainment in the Courtyard
(free).

7-10 p.m.
Over to You: students' chance
to entertain in the bar.
Hosts: John Robinson and Bill
Keir.

Thursday, March 6, Noon - 2p.m.
Movie: **The Killing Fields,**
Common Room (Donation 50¢).

7-10 p.m.
Entertainment in the Bar,
Admission free.

Friday, March 7, 1 p.m.
Film Buffs Club. Open to all
students who like quality film
from the National Library
Archives, Common Room.

Monday, March 10
Multicultural Night: Food,
music and dance from various
Asian countries. All welcomed
to attend.

Tuesday, March 11, 1-2 p.m.
Lunchtime concert featuring
Rage (Courtyard). Admission
free.

7-10 p.m. Entertainment in the
Bar. Admission free.

**Wednesday, March 12, 11 a.m.-3
p.m.**
Market Day: Sell or swap your
old goodies. (No food or
alcohol to be sold.) Tables,
\$2.

7-10 p.m.
Entertainment in the Bar
featuring Anthony and Rick.
Admission free.

Thursday, March 13, Noon-2 p.m.
Movie: **Star Man,** Common Room
(Donation 50¢).

7-10 p.m.
Entertainment in the P
Admission free.

Friday, March 14, noon
Department of Chemistry
seminar, speaker Dr. D.
O'Connor, of the Department of
Physics, "Clean Chemistry - a
Surface Physics Approach" Room
GG05, Chemistry.

1-2 p.m.
Film Buffs Club, Common Room.

Thursday, March 20, 1.30 p.m.
Department of Philosophy sem-
inar, speaker John Alexander,
"I realise [my] life as I
intelligently direct [my]
energy here and now to Being
Aware of the creative unity of
What Is in art, love and
death." Room A 110, McMullin
Building.