

CAMPUS NEWS

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Council recommends finance should be sought for study

The University Council has recommended that financial assistance be sought to enable a cost-benefit study to be made of the effects of rationalising resources for higher education in the Wollongong area.

At its February meeting, the Council agreed that an approach for such assistance should be made to the N.S.W. Higher Education Board and the Universities Commission.

In reporting to Council, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor L. M. Birt, said: "Specifically, we need advice on the cost-benefit effects of rationalisation on (a) educational elements, (b) financial elements, and (c) staffing elements.

"Neither the University nor Wollongong Institute of Education has readily available the resources necessary to conduct the required investigation.

"Consequently, we will need to seek outside financial assistance to enable us to conduct the investigation."

Professor Birt said that the Director of the Institute of Education, Mr. M. Hale, supported these proposals.

(In the Universities Commission Report for the 1977-79 Triennium, Professor Birt said: "Such investigations into the rationalisation of the use of resources necessarily involve a major commitment of time and resources, and therefore require specific support from the Government.")

The Council decided to defer consideration of further action until the proposed investigation was completed.

It also asked the Vice-Chancellor to report on possible alternate lines of action if the Higher Education Board and the Universities Commission responded negatively.

These developments have arisen from a forum held on December 6 last year to discuss possibilities of association between the University and the Institute of Education.

Mr. B. Gillett, Director, South Coast Area, Department of Education, chaired the forum which was called by Professor Birt and Mr. Hale.

Mr. Gillett said the forum was a productive exercise and was attended by about 200 people from both institutions. It lasted for about two hours.

Submissions were received from staff and students of the Institute and the University.

The discussions initially centered on the education of teachers and led to consideration of:

- the role of the two institutions and their distinctive functions;
- the viability of each institution;
- some possible models of association; and
- areas of co-operation such as the sharing of facilities.

The forum agreed that there was a need to consider possible educational advantages of any form of association in tertiary education in Wollongong.

This was framed into this recommendation:

3 Major submissions tabled: Senate, Council

Three major submissions were considered at the February meetings of the Academic Senate and the University Council.

Senate and Council endorsed a draft of the University's submission to the Universities Commission covering the 1978-80 triennium.

This submission contains a report on developments in 1976 and proposals for 1978-80 covering major new academic developments, enrolments, and buildings and minor and site works.

In the light of Senate and Council comments, the preparation of the final submission will be completed by March 18 and circulated within the University. It will be forwarded to the Universities Commission on March 30.

Council decided that the submission should be treated as a planning document for the years 1978-80.

Senate and Council endorsed a draft of the University's submission to the Committee of Inquiry into Education and Training (the Williams Committee) as a general statement of principles.

The inquiry is concerned specifically with the provision of educational facilities and services and with the relationship between the education system and the labour market.

"The Chairman to approach the appropriate authorities i.e. the Director and the Vice-Chancellor, with a view to enquiring into the effects of possible moves towards co-operation between the two institutions on tertiary education at Wollongong, given the present resources of the two institutions; and that the Vice-Chancellor and Director be requested to bring this recommendation to the attention of their respective Councils."

A final draft of the submission will be circulated within the University on March 15, and forwarded to the Committee of Inquiry on March 24.

The Senate endorsed a document as its response to the Universities' Commission inquiry into study leave.

Universities have been asked to report on:

1. the place of study leave in relation to the functioning of universities;
2. the nature of existing study-leave schemes at universities, including information relating to eligibility for and conditions of study leave and information on the cost, both direct and indirect, of study leave;
3. the desirability of modifications to existing study-leave schemes and the possible nature of any such modifications; and
4. any other matters which the Commission considers relevant to the inquiry.

The submission has to reach the commission by February 28. The University Council endorsed the Academic Senate's submission to the committee.

First year withdrawals identified as problem

Several departmental chairmen have identified as a serious problem the high rate of first-year withdrawals and its possible connection with workload pressures, particularly where students take four 100-level subjects per session.

This is one of the comments contained in the second interim report of the Working Party on Student Workloads which the Academic Senate received at its December meeting last year.

The report said that the following departments had so far commented on the first interim report: Accountancy, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, English, Geography, History, and Philosophy of Science, Mathematics, Metallurgy, Philosophy, and Sociology.

All had indicated that they were aware that student workload was a matter with which they ought to be concerned.

Action which they had taken included: (1) consultation with students about the distribution of assignments, the effectiveness of tutorials, lectures, and practical work, and the forms of assessment; (2) provision by the lecturer(s) concerned of prepared information at the beginning of the session relating to the conduct of a particular course, and the workload requirements of that course; (3) and the institution of course evaluation procedures in the form of end-of-session questionnaires.

After discussing the report, the Academic Senate requested its chairman, Professor G. Brinson, to convene a meeting of departmental chairmen (or their nominees), the working party chairman, the University Librarian, and the S.R.C. president (or his nominee) to discuss the matters raised in the report.

The Academic Senate deferred a proposal relating to the working party's functions, pending the outcome of the above meeting.

It resolved that the working party should continue to act as a consultative body concerned with student workloads and course evaluation and should maintain liaison with higher education research units in other universities to keep staff and students informed of developments in research and educational practice relating to workloads.

It decided that, at this stage, no general survey of student workloads be conducted within the University.

It noted a Department of English request that this year a workload study be conducted of students enrolled in its courses and requested the working party to provide further information about how this study could be carried out (including the resources required).

Mr. A. J. Anderson was elected working party chairman to replace Dr. B. J. Opie.

At its December meeting last year, the University Council asked the Vice-Chancellor to prepare a report providing details of the assessment methods of students' academic performances adopted by each academic department.

The report was to include a statement on how this information is made available to students and the extent to which provision is made for students to discuss their assessment in a subject with the academic staff member concerned.

S.R.C. ELECTIONS

The Students' Representative Council elections will be held on March 29 and 30.

Nominations have been called for the five executive positions and ten officers.

Nomination forms, which are available from the returning officer, Liz Keenan, at the S.R.C. Office, must be lodged before 3 p.m. on March 24. The five standing executives are not nominating this year.

The S.R.C. annual meeting will be held in the Common Room at 7.13 p.m. on March 31.

EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD Neil Thomas, of Goulburn, appears unperturbed by Dino, the Wollongong Technical College dinosaur, as he fills in his enrolment form for engineering in the Pentagon.

Dino was lent to the University, through the University's Department of Geology, for the enrolment period.



AUDIO-VISUAL TIPS & IDEAS

This column will become a regular feature of Campus News and is designed to provide readers, especially academic staff, with tips, ideas and information which may be of assistance to them.

Readers are invited to submit questions of general interest to Dr. John Panter (ext. 300). If possible, they will be answered in the subsequent edition of Campus News.

Most of us have been startled, if not horrified, on hearing ourselves on tape for the first time.

Have you ever wondered what you look and sound like when lecturing - what the students' eye-view of you is as a lecturer?

There is an easy way to find out. Have one or more of your lectures videotaped. The tape and play-back equipment will be loaned to you for the post-mortem, the tape being erased as soon as you have finished with it.

If you talk to the blackboard, mumble into your notes, or have any other lecturing peculiarities which you could lose quite happily, this is the way to discover them before your students tell you. Interested staff should contact Dr. Panter (ext. 300) or Mrs. Liz Hilton (ext. 426).

Staff who use white boards often complain that they are difficult to clean.

If Artline 500 felt pens are used there is no problem. Usually a duster or dry cloth will remove the marks, a damp cloth being necessary if the marks have been left on the board for some time.

Water-based felt pens are also satisfactory, but marks will need to be erased with a damp cloth.

Use of spirit-based pens is not recommended as they tend to leave a permanent mark even after erasure with alcohol.

Boards which are badly stained may respond to washing with a mild household bleach.

VICE-CHANCELLOR MEETING

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor L. M. Birt, will hold a meeting, to which all students and staff are invited, in Pentagon Lecture Theatre No. 1 at 12.30 p.m. on Thursday, March 17.

Professor Birt will report on enrolments for 1977 and prospects for the University this year.

Correction

In CAMPUS NEWS, Vol. 3 No. 1, in the article headed, "Campus Government: its operation at Wollongong", three lines were misplaced.

The lines, "of departments that meet regularly to discuss, for example, the structures of courses and similar matters.", was placed at the top of the second column.

It should have been placed at the end of the fifth paragraph in the first column.

Japanese companies do not have union troubles

A Civil Engineering graduand, Mr. Phillip King, who late last year visited Japan under the Mitsui Educational Foundation, said that the main industrial difference between Australia and Japan was the relationship between management and employees.

Mr. King, a student at the University between 1973-76, said companies in Japan would do anything to keep their employees happy.

"They provide housing, food, education and all social benefits to all their staff," he said. "Consequently, there are no union troubles and productivity is extremely high. The system works, mainly because of the Japanese philosophy and outlook on life."

Mr. King and four other Australian university students were selected to visit Japan for four weeks during November and December to promote a better understanding between the two countries.

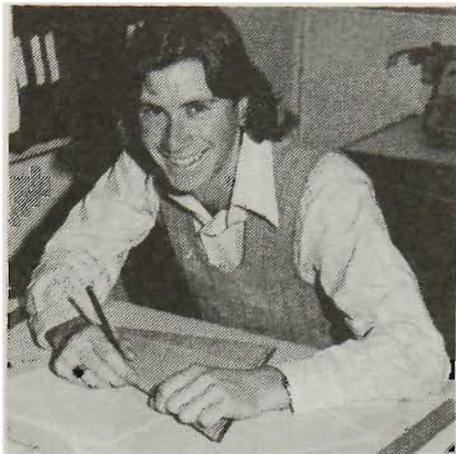
The Foundation was originally funded by Mitsui and Co. (Australia) Ltd. with a \$200,000-grant, the income from which is used for sending students to Japan.

Mr. King said Mitsui had given the students the "red carpet treatment". "We could not have been treated better," he said. "During the four weeks, the company representatives showed us as much of the country as was possible.

"We went to ship-building yards, assembly plants, seminars, talked with leading businessmen as well as seeing the rural areas and many beauty spots."

He said the Japanese were extremely friendly people. "What I gained most, personally, was a look at a completely different way of life. I thank Mitsui for giving me the opportunity."

Mr. King said he could see too many problems for Australia to overcome before it competed with Japanese companies on the international market for finished manufactured goods.



MR. Phillip King.

"Because of high wages and lower productivity Australian industries cannot compare with Japanese prices," he said. "But Japan totally relies on countries like Australia for primary products."

He said more and more Australian companies were becoming the biggest natural-resources suppliers to Japan.

Mr. King said most Japanese knew little of Australia, except as a trading country. "They were fascinated by the Australian way of life, especially the concept of driving for three days without seeing anybody."

He said he would like to return to Japan to see more of the country and to renew friendships with people he met during his stay.

New A.V.C.C. chairman

The Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee has appointed Emeritus Professor Sir Zelman Cowen, C.M.G., Q.C., Vice-Chancellor of the University of Queensland, as its chairman this year and in 1978.

He succeeds Professor David Derham, C.M.G., M.B.E., Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, who was chairman for the last two years.

Sir Zelman is a graduate of the Universities of Melbourne and Oxford. He was Rhodes Scholar for Victoria for 1941 and was Vinerian Scholar at Oxford in 1947.

He has held academic appointments in Oxford, Melbourne, Chicago, Harvard and a number of other American Universities and was appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University of Queensland in 1970.

He served in the R.A.N. during the Second World War, and is a member of the English, Victorian and Queensland bars and is a Queen's Counsel.

A.V.C.C. deputy chairman this year is Professor R. H. Myers, Vice-Chancellor of the University of New South Wales.

Persona now on sale

The University of Wollongong Psychology Society journal, *PERSONA*, in its current issue features an article by American psychologist, Don Wismer.

Other contributors are psychology lecturer, Dr. Don Diespecker; sociology lecturer, Mr. Robin Horne; and students, John Clarke, Brian O'Neill, and Ana Maria Tych.

Editor, Brian O'Neill, said the issue featured a cartoon centre-fold as well as other cartoons.

He said that *Persona*, which costs 60c, not only was a psychology students' magazine but was also a magazine for all students.

"It will be sold at the Union Building each lunch-time and at psychology lectures," he said.

Metallurgy colloquium

Dr. J. B. See, of the National Institute of Metallurgy (N.I.M.) in Johannesburg, will give a colloquium at 3 p.m. on March 24 in Room 134 in the Metallurgy Building.

His topic will be "Research on Ferro-Alloys".

The lecture will deal with the research on ferro-alloys in the Pyrometallurgy Research Group of the N.I.M. and the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa.

The lecture will be of interest to students and the users of ferro-alloys in the steel industry.

Dr. See, a graduate of the University of New South Wales, spent several years on the faculty of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology before going to N.I.M. as leader of the Pyrometallurgy Research Group.

His current work embraces various aspects of pyrometallurgy and heat transfer of ferro-alloys.

2500 Volumes missing in Library stocktake

A comprehensive stocktake in the Library has revealed that about 2500 volumes of monographs and bound serials are missing.

University Librarian, Mr. J. C. Hazell, said that during January the Library had undertaken its first comprehensive stocktake for some years.

He said: "This loss does not represent an annual loss, but does mean that about two-and-a-half percent of the collection is missing.

"Many books are now being re-ordered, but quite clearly this is a serious matter."

Mr. Hazell said that, since the opening of the Library extensions at the beginning of last year, security had been virtually non-existent.

He said: "Plans are in hand to install the

Tattle-Tape electronic security system within two to three months.

"This will provide the kind of exit control that has been sought for some time.

"I ask students and staff to act responsibly in using their Library. Thefts - illegal borrowings if you like - are indictable offences and are not to be tolerated.

"But more importantly, the unofficial removal of material in demand must affect the capacity of students and academic staff to carry out their studies.

"The Library is a facility for all University personnel and deserves to be treated with respect."

Former student here is now on lecturing staff

A former Wollongong University College student who won a medal for his outstanding undergraduate work in mechanical engineering two years ago has been appointed a lecturer in the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

He is Mr. Arnold McLean who believes being a contemporary of his students will be to his advantage.

Mr. McLean, 25, of Figtree, said he could fully appreciate the work load of students, especially those doing the course part-time.

In 1975, he won the University of New South Wales Medal in Engineering, after gaining A-grade passes in all subjects in his final year.

As a lecturer, he hopes to get away from the teaching atmosphere and move towards self-study. "Lecturers should supply views, with the student himself undertaking the detailed investigation for a deeper understanding and appreciation of engineering," he said. "Too many students tend to study engineering to pass exams and not take enough interest in the work."

For the last two years, Mr. McLean has been a Commonwealth postgraduate research student in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. During that time, he was also a part-time lecturer and tutor.

He hopes to complete his Ph.D. in the area of storage and flow of bulk solids. Aspects of this research have resulted in several publications and lectures at other universities.



MR. Arnold McLean

Off campus, his main interest is in agriculture. Until last year, he had a hobby farm at Figtree. This year he decided to sell it, as he will not have enough time for many outside interests.

He assumed duties on February 1.

Two are among top five percent



S.R.C. Education Officer, Michael Halls, hands first-year student, Russell Turner, his sample bag before he enters the Pentagon to enrol. Russell gained 492 out of a possible 500 in his Higher School Certificate.

Two young men, whose Higher School Certificate passes were among the top five per cent in N.S.W., have enrolled at the University of Wollongong.

Michael Smith, 19, of Nethercote, near Eden, and Russell Turner, 17, of Cooma, are both sons of farmers. Michael gained an aggregate mark of 495 out of a possible 500 and Russell's aggregate was 492. The eldest of nine children, Michael will study electrical engineering fulltime. He passed four-unit maths and science and two-unit industrial arts and English in his H.S.C. at Eden High School.

Russell will study for his Bachelor of Science degree while working part-time at Australian Iron and Steel Computer centre.

His degree course will involve two years of part-time study and two years fulltime, before he becomes a systems analyst programmer at the steelworks.

He gained full marks in his H.S.C. four-unit maths and extremely high results in four-unit science and two-unit economics and English.

Russell was one of ten young people from country schools who visited the University last year as part of the schools liaison programme.



FIRST-YEAR students checking their subjects in the Calendar when enrolling in the Pentagon.



SCHOOLS Liaison Officer, Mrs. Dorothy Schneid, assists a first-year student with his enrolment paper.



SOME of the first-year students who enrolled in the Pentagon after first-round offers were made.



MR. Peter Tatham (left), of the Australian Iron and Steel staff training department, discusses career opportunities with Geoffrey Rankin, 18, of Balgownie, before Geoffrey enrolled in first-year metallurgy.



A first-year enrollee.

CREATIVE DESIGN COMPETITION: 1976

The Creative Design Competition, forming part of the subject, MECH 122 Design 1, was held again last year.

However, course changes resulting from the implementation of a separate Department of Mechanical Engineering, with only mechanical engineering students taking the course, altered the competition's original concept.

Previously, the competition had involved all first-year engineering and applied science students.

The competition, which has been held annually since 1970, originated from an awareness of the discontent which industry and the community experience with many young engineers.

It is designed to confront students with "real-life" engineering problems.

This year twelve groups of three students each set out to probe a broad range of design problems, most of which were self-posed.

The students' enthusiasm and effort were most gratifying and, it is felt, eased them into many facets of engineering.

They gathered information; formulated a plan of attack; designed models; presented the whole gambit in written reports; and finally stood up in front of a group comprising their peers, academic staff, and engineers and managers from local industries to defend their approach to the problems and their final solutions.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering awarded a number of merit certificates (book prizes) and a perpetual trophy went to the final winners.

The Engineering Society participated again and presented its annual prizes: a perpetual trophy to the group with the "Best Realisation of a Concept" and small individual trophies to that group's members.

The involvement of a number of outside groups, including the local news media, helped to emphasize to the students the need for communication and, in turn, made the final presentation night one for community involvement.

The way a couple of the groups handled WIN-4 news interviews was a credit to them and served well to make engineering students' activities at the University of Wollongong known to the public at large and to prospective students.

Mr. John Montagner,
Dept. of Mechanical Engineering.



"POWER GENERATION" won the University Engineering Society trophy for the "Best Realisation of a Concept" at the final judging of the 1976 Creative Design Competition. Project team members, Frank Hendriks (left) and John Burrows, display the design in the University grounds.



"JACK BRACK" project team members, Peter Brown (left) and Graeme Wilkinson. Their design, which is a bracket to stabilise a jack on an incline, was one of the projects presented at the final judging of the 1976 Creative Design Competition.



"PARK PROBE", an ultrasonic device to aid vehicle parking, won the 1976 Creative Design Competition. Project team members (from left), Phillip Healy, Stephen Begner, and Philip Barber tested the probe, which is attached to the back of a tricycle, in a University car park. The team won the Department of Mechanical Engineering Creative Design Trophy.



"ZOT", an adjustable golf club, was one of the designs presented at the final judging of the 1976 Creative Design Competition. Project team members, Roderick Pruks (left) and John Rawle, try out the club in the University grounds.

Big influx new staff

The University of Wollongong has had an influx of new academic staff this year.

Already the University has made fourteen appointments and has advertised eight other academic positions.

Ten new academics have joined the staff so far this year and another four will take up appointments during the next few months.

Appointments have been made to the Departments of Accountancy (2), Biology, English, European Languages, Geography, History (2), Mechanical Engineering (2), Philosophy, Physics (2), and Sociology.

Recruitment action is proceeding for the filling of eight academic posts in the Departments of Accountancy, Electrical Engineering (2), English, European Languages, Mechanical Engineering, Philosophy and Psychology.

The new appointees come from Australia, Canada, Germany, and the United States, and bring the total number of academic staff to 155.

Some of the new staff members are introduced below. Others will be introduced in the April 6 edition of CAMPUS NEWS.

Former pupil now colleague



MR. Garry Tibbits.

New Zealander, Mr. Garry Tibbits, is now a colleague of his former lecturer, Professor John Ryan, chairman of the University's Department of Accountancy.

Mr. Tibbits, 31, who assumed duties as an accountancy lecturer on January 10, was Professor Ryan's student at the University of Auckland eight years ago.

He has been a temporary lecturer and teaching fellow at the University of New England, Armidale, since he came to Australia from New Zealand three years ago. Previously, he was a junior lecturer and part-time tutor at the University of Auckland.

His academic background has been supplemented by seven years accounting experience in industry.

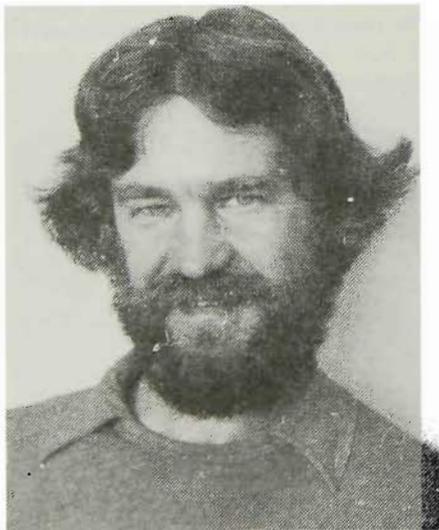
Mr. Tibbits is currently researching "inter-firm comparisons for small business" and hopes to submit a thesis on this topic for his Ph.D. He is particularly interested in the behavioural impact of accounting.

As a residential college tutor at New England, Mr. Tibbits was closely involved with his students. This involvement has developed strong views in regard to students' need for career advice, particularly at the stage at which they are planning their university programme, and the benefits which first-year students obtain if their natural reluctance to approach staff for assistance can be overcome.

His publications include "Business Goals, Objectives and Identities"; "Synergy - A Key to Strategy Formulation"; "Overhead Allocation as an aid to Pricing and Resource Commitment in a Jobbing Organisation"; and "The Entrepreneur Manager".

While in Wollongong, he hopes to join the University Rugby Union Club, as he has played socially at New England and in New Zealand.

From migrant to lecturer



DR. Harry Beran

The new lecturer in the Department of Philosophy, Dr. Harry Beran, spoke little English and could not find employment when he migrated to Australia from Austria twenty years ago.

Dr. Beran, who left school at thirteen, studied for his leaving certificate at night after finally gaining a job as a clerk for Nestle Co. Ltd. in Sydney.

At the age of twenty-nine, he started studying part-time at the University of Sydney and, after a year, continued fulltime for five years to gain his B.A. (Hons.) and Ph.D. degrees.

He has been appointed the University's first political theorist.

His Ph.D. thesis, entitled "The Consent Theory of Political Obligation and Authority," is currently being revised, as his examiners considered it worth publishing as a book. He has published articles on moral, educational, and political philosophy in Australian and American Philosophy journals.

Dr. Beran, 41, comes to Wollongong from Armidale, after lecturing in philosophy at the University of New England for six years.

He said he came to Australia in 1957 to find out about other countries and to learn English. "Australia wanted people and was supposed to have jobs," he said. "But I was refused assisted passage because I spoke no English, and a clerk needs English.

"I tried to get all sorts of jobs for some time without success."

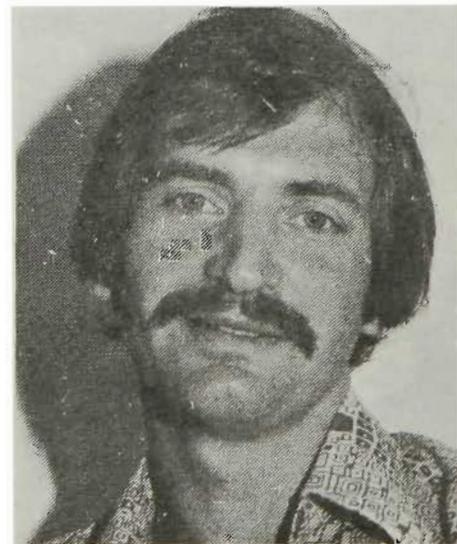
Dr. Beran said his table-tennis prowess eventually helped him get a job. "I joined a table tennis club and then I had a ready way of meeting people," he said. "The people at the club got me a job at Nestles."

He worked his way up to a managerial position with the company before he left in 1964.

He said he had chosen philosophy because he wanted to understand people and society, especially morality, religion and politics.

"This questioning attitude may have had something to do with my being a precocious ten-year-old in Vienna at the end of World War II, a time of moral and social disintegration," he said.

Great value in work overseas



DR. Philip Simmonds

The new lecturer in the Department of Physics, Dr. Philip Simmonds, believes that for stimulation and innovation it is almost essential to work in other countries.

Dr. Simmonds, 30, gained his experience at the Clarendon Laboratory at Oxford University, England, and the Max Planck Institute, Germany.

Continued from previous page.

"As an Australian, it was of great benefit to me to work at a German institute, which attracted physics experts from all over the world," he said. "By discussing ideas with these people, I gained a broad outlook."

Dr. Simmonds is basically interested in studying the effects of interactions between visible and infrared light with semi-conducting materials. He is currently researching the absorption of light by impurities.

After gaining his B.Sc. (Hons.) at the University of Western Australia in 1970, he was awarded a Gleddon Research Fellowship to study at Oxford.

He obtained his Ph.D. at Oxford and returned to Australia as a temporary lecturer at the University of Western Australia, in 1974.

Seven of his publications have appeared in physics journals in England, Germany and Australia. Another three are in preparation.

"In Wollongong, I will be teaching general physics, but will specialise in solid-state physics," he said.

His hobbies include playing the piano, squash, tennis and cricket. Dr. Simmonds said he intended joining the University Cricket Club. He assumed duties on January 6.

Sociologist keen to form new society



MS. Kay Salleh

Ms. Kay Salleh, a new lecturer in the University's Department of Sociology, is keen to start a group on campus to discuss "Social Responsibility in Science".

She hopes to encourage students to form a society to discuss issues such as genetic engineering, chemical and biological warfare, and nuclear technology.

Ms. Salleh came to Wollongong after working on research and needs assessment in Aboriginal communities.

She gained her B.A. (Hons. 1) in psychology at the University of Tasmania in 1967. After a period of tutoring and postgraduate work in Tasmania on the psychology of acculturation, she moved to fulltime study of sociology at the Australian National University, where she gained her M.A. in sociology.

"While studying at the A.N.U., new interests began to evolve," she said. "The reading I did there brought me headlong into philosophical questions about social science itself and, so, my research orientation changed.

"I set out to find a 'model' that would take account of contradiction in human behaviour."

Ms. Salleh said she does not think enough is made of absurdity and paradox in conventional sociology.

"Like most of my generation in the discipline, I guess I see sociology as a form of 'consciousness raising'," she said.

The sociologist's task is to see through the varieties of social 'mystification' and help untangle the knots that society has put on the individual.

Ms. Salleh has always been actively involved in community projects such as residents' action, women's health, and social responsibility in science.

"There are elements of de-mystification in all of these," she said. Anyone interested in forming a group on campus for "Social Responsibility in Science" can contact her on ext. 474 at the University.

City Council considers University tip report

Wollongong City Council has considered a University of Wollongong research report on leachate formation from refuse deposited at Russell Vale tip.

Dr. J. Ellis, Department of Chemistry, and Dr. R. N. Chowdhury, Department of Civil Engineering, prepared the 77-page report after their investigations between April and September last year.

The University won the right at public tender to conduct the study.

The purpose of the study was to identify the leachate chemically and bacteriologically; to determine ground-water flow rates and directions; and to recommend procedures for future site management.

More than 500 chemical and bacteriological analyses were made on water samples gathered from the site and its environs.

The University investigators determined the present dispersal pattern of leachate and ground water, and formulated a detailed list of recommendations.

Implementation of these will limit the formation of leachate, which is formed mainly by percolation of rain water through fill material, and will prevent pollution of the creeks flowing through the site.

In addition, the capacity of the site and, therefore, its useful lifetime as a sanitary landfill operation will be extended.

City Health Surveyor, Mr. J. Wapies, said: "The report and its findings will greatly assist Wollongong City Council in the future management of sanitary landfill sites in the city."

Engineer presents paper to international gathering

Dr. R. N. Chowdhury, senior lecturer, Department of Civil Engineering, presented a paper to the International Conference on Finite Element Methods in Engineering which was held at the University of Adelaide from December 6 to 8 last year.

Academics and engineers from several countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, and Japan, presented papers.

This is the second such international conference to be held in Australia.

On December 8 and 9, Dr. Chowdhury visited Launceston and Hobart.

A Geological Survey of Tasmania senior official, Mr. P. C. Stevenson, took Dr. Chowdhury on a tour of the Tamar Valley north of Launceston.

They inspected natural slopes and several land slip areas.

Dr. Chowdhury said that problems of slope instability were discussed and also issues arising out of land-stability zoning procedures adopted in some areas.

He said: "Mr. Stevenson and I had the opportunity to exchange information on our research work and to compare and contrast the types of failures and their mechanisms.

"The success of my visit was in great measure due to the co-operation of Mr. Stevenson, who made available all maps, reports and papers relevant to the area."

Non-book material

A librarian has been appointed to look after the Library's collection of non-book material.

He is Mr. Keith Gaymer who can be contacted in the non-book area on the second floor or through the Reference Desk (ext. 287).

The collection includes films, slides, audio-tapes and cassettes, and maps and microforms, together with equipment for using the material.

Mr. Gaymer will be happy to show people around the collection.

CRICKET CLUB ANNUAL DINNER

The University Cricket Club will hold the first of its annual dinner-presentation nights in the Union Common Room on Friday, March 25, at 7 p.m.

The cost is \$7 a person and includes pre-dinner drinks and a three-course meal.

Other refreshment expenses will have to be borne by patrons.

A guest speaker will give a light-hearted speech on the baiting of bowlers and the scoring of a maiden... century!

All cricketers and their wives and/or companions, as well as non-cricketers, are invited to attend.

Those interested in attending should contact Paul Carr (ext. 438) or Ian Dunn (ext. 429).

The Cricket Club is one of the progressive sporting and social clubs on the campus and currently fields four sides in the Illawarra District Cricket Competition.

All new students as well as other interested people are invited to play cricket with the club in the 1977-78 season.

Government to establish new education commission

The Commonwealth Minister for Education, Senator Carrick, has announced that the Government had decided to establish a post-secondary education commission.

The new commission will replace the Universities Commission, the Commission on Advanced Education, and the Technical and Further Education Commission.

It will be a statutory body and will advise the Minister on financial assistance to institutions at all post-secondary levels.

Senator Carrick said that the decision to establish the commission was a result of the Government's pre-election education policy which drew attention to problems of co-ordination between the existing commissions.

He said: "Within the structure of the new commission, the legislation will provide for a separate universities council, advanced education council, and technical and further education council.

"One of the important purposes of the councils will be to ensure that the needs of each sector are identified and presented for consideration by the Government.

"The councils will have the right of investigation and will be expected to conduct detailed negotiations with institutions and authorities.

"They will be regarded as important and authoritative sources of advice in their own sector. The views of the councils will be reflected in the commission's reports."

Senator Carrick said that the commission itself would comprise a fulltime chairman, three fulltime members and five part-time members. The fulltime members would also be chairmen of the councils.

The councils themselves would comprise seven or eight part-time members. Membership of the commission and councils would be announced later.

He said that the new commission would permit a truly co-ordinated approach to the development and funding of all post-secondary education and would provide a more effective means for preventing wasteful duplication and overlap.

The structure of the commission would also be compatible with changes in similar machinery already made or under consideration in a number of states.

The commission would be more effective than the arrangements proposed by the Labor Government because it would cover the area of technical and further education and it would give greater recognition through the status of the councils to the special requirement of each sector.

"It is the Government's firm intention to pay special attention to technical and further education, particularly in the allocation of resources, and in the development of co-operative arrangements with the states," Senator Carrick said.

A Bill to establish the new commission and councils will be introduced during this year's autumn sittings of Parliament.

Campus child-care will assist mother of two



CIVIL Engineering undergraduate, Mrs. Caroline Devine, with her children, Brendan, 3½, and Alison, 2, outside the Kids' Uni.

Child-care facilities at the University of Wollongong will assist a 25 year-old mother of two pre-school children to fulfil her ambition to be a civil engineer.

Mrs. Caroline Devine, of Gwynneville, is the only woman enrolled this year in civil engineering.

She will study surveying, design, engineering construction, chemistry, mathematics, mechanics and structures.

Mrs. Devine, whose children are aged three years and two years, left school after fourth year to do a secretarial course.

"After working in a bank for four years, I realised I wanted a job in which I would work outdoors," she said. "I was able to enroll at Wollongong University under the Special Admissions Programme and, after a lot of thought, I decided civil engineering was ideally suited for me."

Mrs. Devine, who is the University Parents' Club president, said she passed first-year mathematics last year, but had to drop out of physics as she was missing lectures because of the time she spent helping to establish the child-care centre.

She said parents should take an active interest in the child-care centre, known as the Kids' Uni.

"More and more women with children are coming to university," Mrs. Devine said. "There is still a lack of understanding by many people, in the community, who cannot understand why a woman with two children would want to go to university rather than play tennis or golf."

Mrs. Devine said Kids' Uni was a co-operative venture involving students and staff from the University, Institute of Education, and Wollongong Technical College, who paid fees or put in hours minding the children.

"Some other universities have priced-out students by charging high fees," she said. "At 50c an hour, almost everyone can afford to use our facilities."