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UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

Wednesday, 22 February

CAMPUS NEWS

Welcome to new students

More than 2000 new students are tentatively finding their way around campus this week during Orientation Week.

The campus community extends to you a warm and friendly welcome and hopes that the few years you spend at the University of Wollongong will be rewarding and unforgettable and that you will make life-long friends and colleagues.

The key to survival especially in the first few weeks is: read what we give you and if you don't know, ask!

There are plenty of staff willing to help you (if you strike a busy one, be patient).

If you are wondering what is in store for you, the University aims to send you off at graduation with certain skills and attributes over and above an extensive knowledge in your chosen field.

These are:

- Being equipped for continued learning, intellectual development, critical analysis and creativity.
- The ability to communicate clearly and fluently in writing.
- The capacity for teamwork.
- The ability to solve problems and make decisions.
- Being articulate and self-confident.
- Being computer and statistically literate.
- Having the desire for continuing intellectual development and creativity.
- Having a willingness to initiate and participate in change.
- Valuing truth, accuracy, honesty and ethical standards in personal and professional life.
- Accepting responsibilities and obligations as well as asserting rights.

- Appreciation of other cultures and customs.

There is one area where we would particularly ask for your cooperation.

During the first few weeks of the session, parking and road access to the University is usually under pressure.

Consider other methods of transport to the University other than driving – bus, bike, walking or share a car.

If you are travelling from the southern suburbs use the Robson Road route and take the pressure off the main entrance.

In the past we have found that any parking and access difficulties are resolved as students settle into a routine.

Also, please help to keep our beautiful campus clean. It is one of the attributes of this institution that has earned it an international reputation.

If you have any problems, there are many support facilities at the University.

In the early days familiarise yourself with what is available so if you do strike any difficulties you can seek help quickly.

If you have any outstanding achievements during your time here (sporting, academic, community involvement) *Campus News* would like to hear about it.

See the box at the back of this publication to find out how to contact us.

Valuable product from two waste materials

The GEM Engineering Research Centre in the Department of Civil and Mining Engineering has successfully brought to the commercialisation stage a project that converts two troublesome waste products into building bricks.

The bricks are highly suitable for the construction industry and have some qualities superior to traditional clay bricks.

The Biofly Brick Project uses sewerage sludge, a by-product from municipal waste treatment plants, and fly ash, and industrial by-product from coal-fired power stations, to produce bricks that are 20 percent lighter than traditional clay bricks and are equivalent in terms of strength and other properties.

Biofly bricks are also aesthetically pleasing.

The project has been sponsored by Pacific Power, the Water Board and Boral Resources. It is being coordinated by Dr Siva Sivakumar in the Department of Civil and Mining Engineering.

Negotiations are underway to commercialise the product.

Dr Siva Sivakumar and PhD student working on the project Fady Sidrak with the finished product

Assessment of new Australian drinking water guidelines

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and the Agricultural and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand (ARMCANZ) have developed a new set of Australian drinking water guidelines which will be published soon.

These new guidelines, developed as part of the National Water Quality Management Strategy, are significantly more comprehensive than the 1987 guidelines currently in effect.

NHMRC asked a group from the Environment Research Institute – Professors Dennis Calvert, Don Lewis, John Morrison and Paolo Ricci – to undertake an assessment of the new guidelines.

The assessment, involving an extensive public consultation exercise, addressed the social, economic and environmental impacts of implementing the new guidelines, with a special emphasis on health issues.

The review had as a major focues an assessment of comments made on the guidelines by water authorities, state and local government agencies, and by individuals and community groups interested in water issues in Australia.

Wide community input was being sought and more than 300 submissions received.

Overall, the response to the 1995 guidelines was very positive, with many contributors indicating that they were very satisfied with the documents.

In addition, many who suggested changes stated that their comments should be considered as a positive contribution to the process of reviewing the guidelines.

The range of issues raised in the submissions was considerable.

Many focused on similar issues, but the nature of the submissions varied from specific comments on individual guidelines, to matters of general policy, to matters that related to water and health in general without being specific to the guidelines.

Some of the issues that received particular attention were microbiology, metals, organic chemicals, pesticides, monitoring, costs of compliance, range of applicability, relationship to other guidelines or standards, isolated community issues, and catchment protection.

As a result of the assessment, several changes have been recommended to the guideline values, and a significant number of editorial changes to clarify points have also been suggested.

Director of PAGE appointed

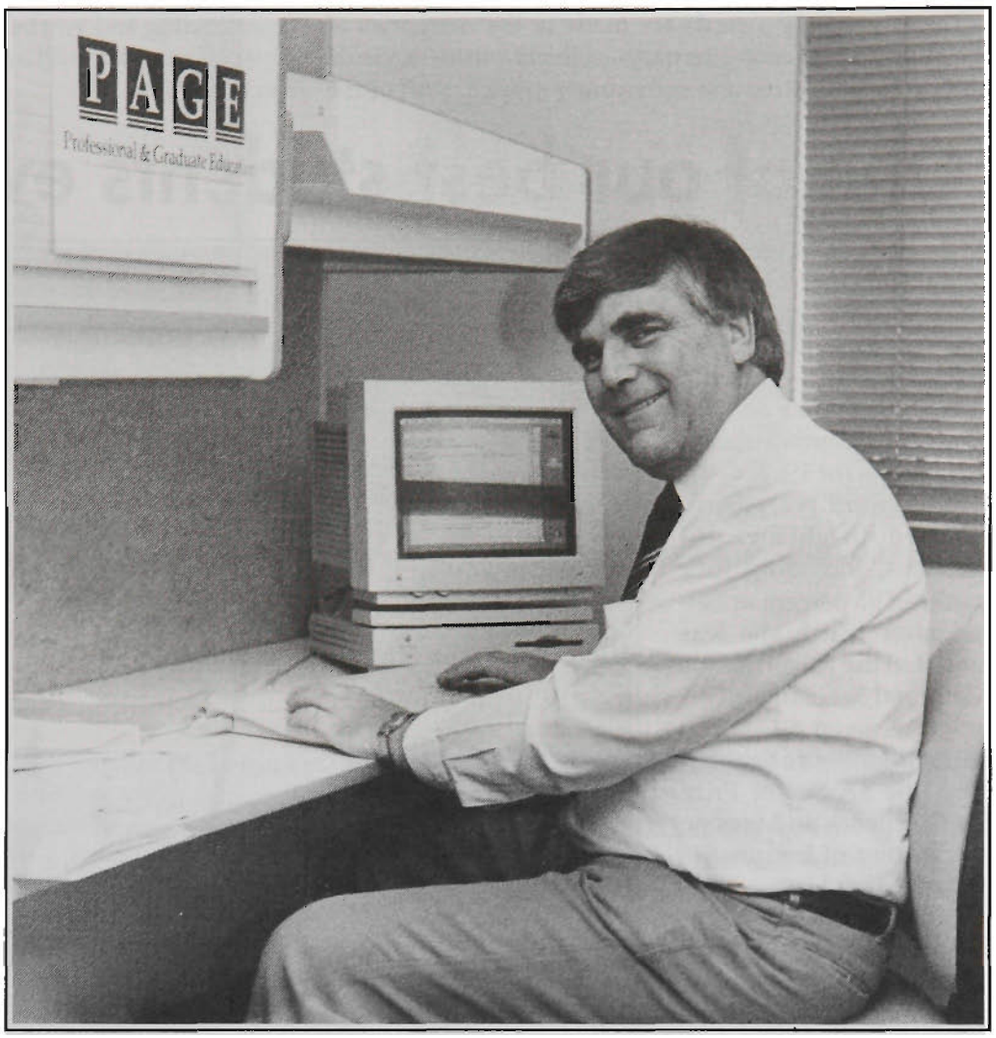
Dr Jim Beck has been appointed as Director of the Professional and Graduate Education Consortium (PAGE), a group of 13 universities across Australia and New Zealand which offers professional and postgraduate courses through distance education modes including lectures on SBS Television.

The University of Wollongong is the founder and host university for the PAGE Consortium.

Dr Beck is the Director, Academic Services Projects at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) and has been the RMIT representative on the PAGE Board since its inception.

He has been seconded from his current position to the PAGE position for 12 months subject to review after six months.

Dr Beck will be based in Melbourne, but will visit Wollongong regularly. He will be supported by Ms Julie Sikora in the PAGE Office.



PAGE's new Director, Dr Jim Beck

Dr Beck's role will relate principally to marketing and coordinating the activities of the member universities, to the establishment of operating systems for the Consortium and liaison with relevant external agencies.

It is not anticipated that he will have a direct role in the University of Wollongong other than in its capacity as current host to, and member of, the PAGE Consortium.

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and Chair of the PAGE Management Board, Professor Christine Ewan, said that the Consortium's activities, the complex technical and educational context of its work, and the degree of interest being expressed by external groups for involvement in the Consortium's activities, mean that a full-time director is necessary to adequately guide the Consortium through its next phase.

'The opportunity to second someone with Jim Beck's background in the Consortium is an excellent short-term option until the future organisational structure of the Consortium and its funding is consolidated,' she said.

Dr Beck said that he felt very confident about the Consortium generally.

The range of offerings has increased to 30 courses in 18 months and nine of the original 12 members are producing programs.

'Universities have to get use to operating more and more collaboratively with each other, government and groups in society. The establishment of PAGE was timely and is viewed positively in Canberra,' he said.

'However PAGE has to consider some hard marketing and technical decisions.

'We are running out of broadcast time on SBS and need to look at options of cable TV and electronic networks which have some intrinsic advantages for customised delivery and learner participation.

'We have to place more emphasis on tailoring courses to markets and we need to expand more into the area of short professional courses.'

He said that he would visit each of the Consortium members to 'improve the rapport with course leaders and to rationalise learning support'.

'We want to get more interaction and communication with students and make available to them facilities on each campus such as libraries,' he said.

Production of University of Wollongong programs for distribution through the PAGE Consortium will continue to be the responsibility of Educational Media Services (EMS) headed by Associate Professor Sandra Wills and student administration matters will be handled by John McKelvey in the Office for Professional and Continuing Education.

ST GEORGE YOUTH ENDEAVOUR AWARDS

Each year the St George Bank presents the Youth Endeavour Awards to outstanding people in the Illawarra and Southern Highlands aged 16-25.

These quarterly awards are made in the categories of secondary achievement, tertiary academia, business, visual and performing arts, and community service. Staff of the University and TAFE can nominate students for the Tertiary Academia and Visual and Performing Arts categories.

If you know of any students who are doing something outstanding and you believe they deserve recognition for their efforts, please fill in a form or contact Gina Woodward (ext. 3027).

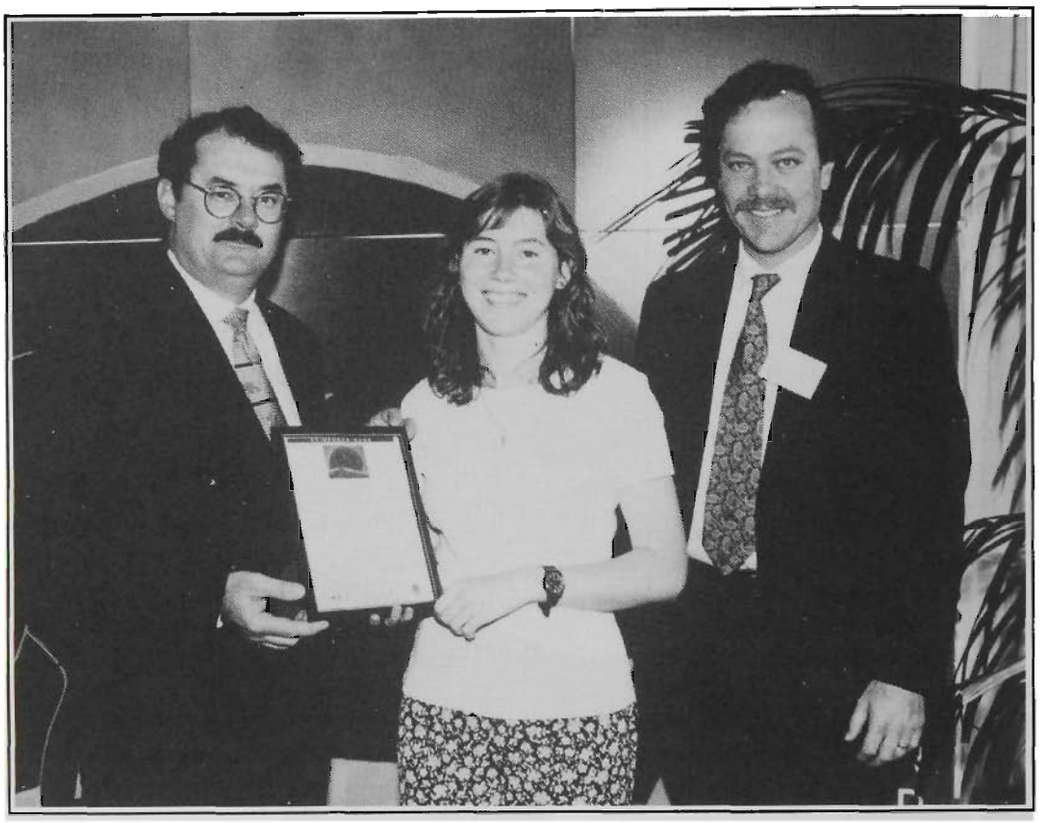
'One of our best students ever . . .'

At the end of last year after completing her Honours year in the Bachelor of Mathematics, Renee Janssen was named winner of the fourth quarter Tertiary Academia Youth Endeavour Award for 1994.

In her third year, Renee obtained straight high distinctions, including four marks of 95 percent or better, after which she was awarded the Austin Keane Memorial Scholarship.

She received a Campus Alumni Honours Scholarship, the SA Senior Prize for Excellence and was on the Faculty of Informatics Dean's Merit List.

According to her nominator, Professor Phil Broadbridge: 'Renee is one of the most gifted students to enrol in the Bachelor of Mathematics program.



Malcolm Heard, representing sponsor Kell Heard McEwan, winner of the fourth quarter academia award, Renee Janssen, and her nominator, Professor Philip Broadbridge.

'In her Honours Research Project she courageously chose an ill-defined problem, but has already made significant advances in applied theory with application to resource allocation theory.

'Renee's work showed a high degree of originality and independence.

'Renee has worked as a casual tutor in the department, where she has proven to be an excellent role model for younger students. She is a self-starter, and goes about all of her work quietly and confidently.'

Having achieved very strong results in Applied Statistics, as well as in Mathematics, Renee is now working for the Australian Bureau of Statistics in Canberra.

She said she enjoyed her time at the University of Wollongong and the support from the lecturers was very important.

Renee's younger sister Marni is also studying at the University of Wollongong and is beginning her second year of Bachelor of Arts majoring in Geography.

Vice-Chancellor's Awards for

The Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Teaching encourage and reward outstanding performance in teaching by academic staff of the University.

Up to four awards will be available annually, each valued at $2000. Recipients will receive suitably inscribed certificates.

Nominations of worthy staff members can be made by University staff members or students.

Former students of the University may also participate in the scheme by nominating an academic staff member who has taught them.

Each nomination requires the support of three eligible members of the University community.

Your input is invaluable, however there are limitations.

You may only be involved in one nomination per year and self-nominations will not be accepted.

Nominations should be made on official forms (available from Personnel Services, Faculty Offices and

Joint winners Duncan Fisher and Virginia Wheway (centre) are congratulated by their nominators Professor David Griffiths (left) and Associate Professor Bill Zealey (right).

And the winners are . . .

A Grand Final luncheon in December at the Novotel Northbeach saw two of our students, Virginia Wheway and Duncan Fisher, named as joint winners in the Tertiary Academia category for the 1994 St George Youth Endeavour Awards.

After the judging panel came to a tie on their votes, the expertise of the University's Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton was called upon, but he too could not decide between these outstanding students.

With thanks to the generosity of sponsors Kell Heard McKewan Solicitors it was decided that both Virginia and Duncan would be named as the overall winners.

Virginia, 23 is studying part-time for a Bachelor of Mathematics while working as a Development officer in Statistics for BHP.

She has achieved straight High Distinctions throughout her degree.

Virginia was nominated by Professor David Griffiths, Head of the Statistics Department.

Virginia has presented papers at an international conference and also excels in other areas beyond academia.

She has been awarded a gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, a prestigious Queen's Award, and was the University's strongest applicant for a Rhodes scholarship in the last seven years.

She is also Secretary of the Illawarra Statistics Group and is involved in Rotary as a youth leader.

Virginia said she has enjoyed the opportunities given to her by the Department to teach other students, especially in speaking to girls about working in non-traditional careers. She is very grateful for her BHP sponsorship.

After completing his undergraduate physics degree, and gaining all High Distinctions except for one Distinction in Geology, Duncan Fisher has undertaking postgraduate work in Physics.

In 1993 he achieved First Class Honours by thesis and coursework, received the University medal and a postgraduate scholarship.

Of Duncan's performance, Faculty representatives said it is rare to see such high marks in both practical and theoretical work.

Duncan said he was very pleased and astonished to receive the award and thanked his nominator Associate Professor Bill Zealey.

He also thanked all the sponsors who have decided to look towards the University and reward the people involved for their achievements.

'I took an unfashionable subject and I find that this area requires a lot of good people,' he said.

Excellence in Teaching

the SRC Office) and must include in half a page, your reasons for making the nomination. Only one form will be accepted from any group of three nominators.

Nominations should reach the relevant Faculty Dean by 28 February.

The dean will then lodge a formal submission of no more than two nominees from the faculty.

Nominees, relevant department heads and deans will all provide information for the dean's submission.

A more detailed description of the procedure is available in the document entitled Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, available from Personnel Services Branch, Faculty Offices and the Public Information File Server under Staff Matters, Academic Staff, VC Awards. Presentation will take place on University Day.

The awards will be administered by the Personnel Services Branch.

Enquiries: Susan Branch (ext. 3276).

Introduction to Tertiary Teaching course

An Introduction to Tertiary Teaching course is offered jointly by the Faculty of Education and the Centre for Staff Development.

All academic staff and suitably qualified general staff (degree or equivalent and concurrent involvement in teaching) are invited to attend.

The Autumn session course lasts 14 weeks and is offered in two classes: Wednesdays 1.30-4.30pm and Thursdays 9.30am-12.30pm, starting from 1 and 2 March.

The course deals with what are considered as essentials for the university teacher striving to promote student learning.

This includes planning and preparing, delivering lectures, conducting various small group activities, using modern technology, preparing resources and assessing student performance.

It also aims to open discussion on a range of issues related to the teaching role in the University.

Participants in the course are expected to attend weekly classes and complete three major assignments:

- a reflective journal which chronicles events and issues related to teaching,
- a subject design or evaluation paper, and
- a portfolio of teaching resources, articles, ideas and comments.

These are integrated with a Teaching Development Program where each participant is assisted in the immediate refinement of their teaching through a series of direct observations and discussions by a member of the ITT team or some other support person, usually a colleague nominated by the participant.

Staff who successfully complete the ITT course may apply for eight credit points of advance standing towards a nest of postgraduate subjects in the Faculty of Education.

To date several have received the Graduate Certificate in Higher Education (24 credit points) and the Graduate Diploma in Adult Education (48 credit points).

Others have proceeded to the Master of Education (Adult Education) degree and one has flagged the intention of doing a Master of Education (Honours) course.

Enrolment in the ITT course is conducted by the Centre for Staff Development.

Additional information and enrolment forms are available from and should be returned to Val Roberts (ext. 3618).

Liz Ellis (ext. 4101) and Max Gillett (ext. 4277) are responsible for the presentation of the course.

Interested staff should enrol before 27 February.

NEW BUS SERVICE
Sutherland – Wollongong

A new bus service for commuters travelling between Wollongong and Sutherland will start on February 22.

Designed to assist University of Wollongong students living in Southern Sydney and Illawarra commuters, buses from Sutherland will arrive at the University in time for lectures each day.

The pick-up points in Sydney will be railway stations en route to Sutherland. This direct service should take approx. 50 minutes one way.

For further information please contact Dion's Bus Service.

Tel 042 - 28 9860.

Library's program of orientation happenings

The Library will be conducting a full program of orientation activities as well as library skills classes in the first two weeks of the Autumn session.

Activities will include an information booth, and library survival and catalogue classes.

Staff at the information booth will be able to assist with any general questions about the Library and its services.

Library survival classes are geared to making students familiar with the Library and its catalogue.

Attendance at a library survival class and completion of a short written test is one way of fulfilling the Library component of the University's Computer Literacy requirement.

General catalogue classes will also be conducted.

The program is:

Orientation Week (22-24 February): Information booth, 10am-4pm; Library survival classes, on the half hour 9.30am-2.30pm; Catalogue classes, 10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm

Week 1 (27 February-3 March): Information booth, 10am-4pm; Library survival classes, on the half hour 9.30am-2.30pm; Catalogue classes, 10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm (4.30pm Wednesday & Thursday)

Week 2 (6-10 March): Library survival classes, Tuesday-Thursday, 8.30am, 12.30pm and 4.30pm; Catalogue classes, Monday-Friday, 10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm (4.30pm Monday & Tuesday)

All students and staff are welcome.

Two eucalypt walks established on campus

Two eucalypt walks have been established on campus by staff in the Janet Cosh Herbarium in the Department of Biological Sciences.

More than 40 species of eucalypt have been identified and marked by Master of Science (honours) student in Biological Sciences, Gary Leonard.

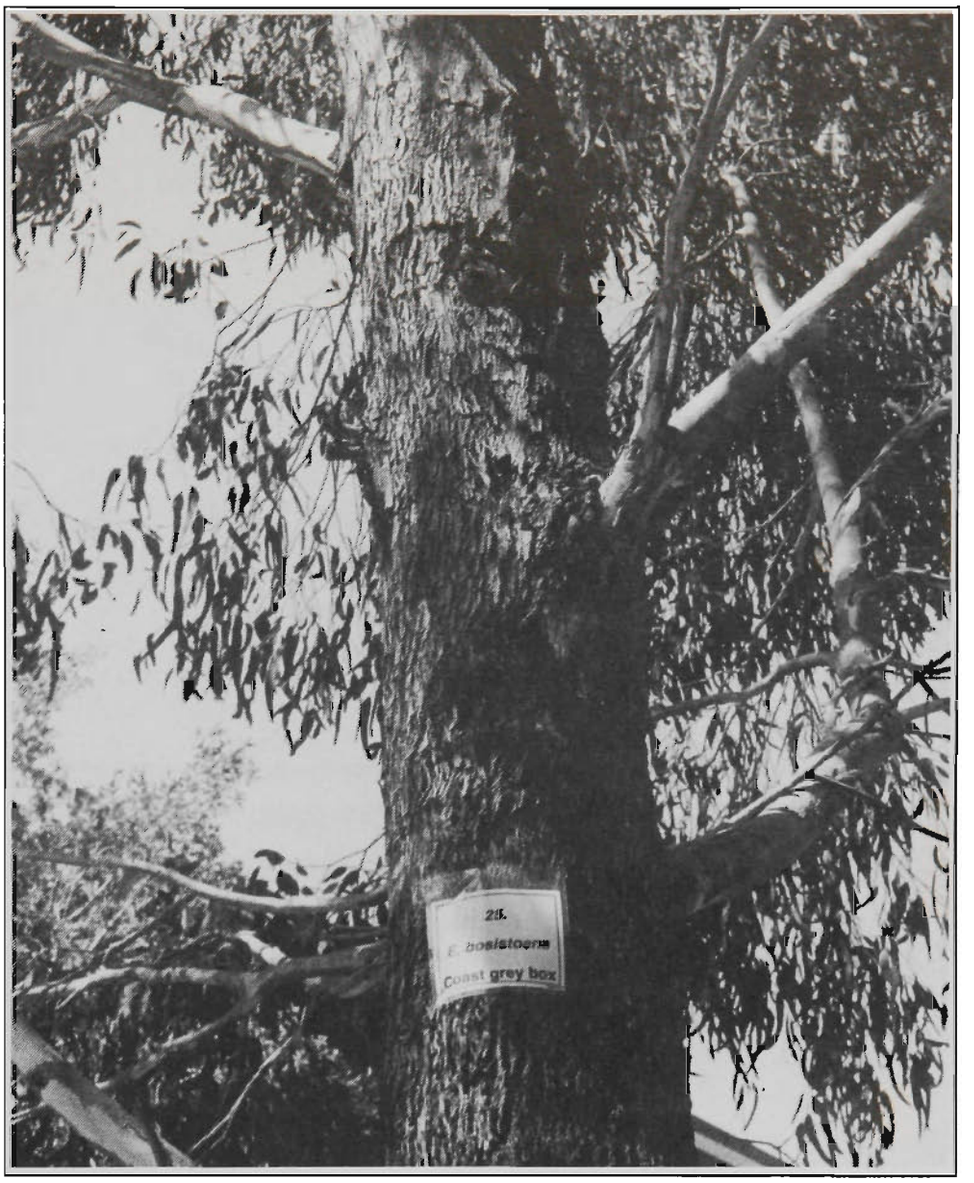
Visitors, staff and students can go on a short walk (wheelchair friendly) or choose a longer one.

A brochure with a map, which is available from the department or the University's main enquiries counter, indicates which species are native to the immediate area and gives some background to the planting of the trees on the campus.

In 1975 the University's Landscape Supervisor, Leon Fuller, began a program of propagating and planting indigenous trees and shrubs.

The policy has been maintained by subsequent landscape staff and reinforced by Bruce Mackenzie's landscape master plan which was completed in 1979.

As a result, the native tree plantings on the campus are well established and form part of the Keira Green Corridor which is being developed from the escarpment to the coast.



A specimen on one of the two eucalypt walks on campus

New aid for hearing impaired

The University has installed a hearing loop in one of its main theatres for the use of anyone with a hearing impairement who is attending lectures, conferences or performances.

This development is the next stage in the University's commitment to improving facilities for the disadvantaged and improving access to higher education.

The device consists simply of a loop of wire that is installed in a duct that runs around the floor of the theatre and encloses the front half of the theatre.

An amplifier drives the loop with electrical energy. Sound from any source in the theatre can be heard by the hearing impaired provided that they have a 'T' switch facility on their hearing aid and sit within the area that the loop encloses.

More than 84 percent of hearing aids have this 'T' facility. For any student who does not have a 'T' facility on their hearing aid, a small transducer unit that allows one to listen via the loop is available upon request

If you have a hearing impaired student in your lectures and you use theatre 20.1, you will need to use a microphone during your lectures for the loop to work.

Academy of Science Award

Dr Norman Barisci (Intelligent Polymers Research Laboratory IPRL) has won a prestigious Academy of Science Visiting Fellowship Award.

This will allow Dr Barisci to spend some time working on a collaborative project in Professor Aizawa's laboratory at Tokyo Institute of Technology in Japan.

The project involves development of a new generation of biosensing materials based on smart polymers.

Analysis of non-English language newspapers

The Centre for Multicultural Studies has completed a report, *Content Analysis of Australian Non-English Language Newspapers* .

The report studied the content of 25 newspapers in five language groups, Arabic, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish and Vietnamese.

The report was launched in December by the Minister for Administrative Services, Frank Walker, who said this document would enable media planners, journalists and advertisers to adopt a more sensitive and professional approach to reaching audiences from non-English speaking backgrounds.

'Non-English language newspapers in Australia are an important segment of the media which has been ignored for too long,' Mr Walker said.

'This is largely because media planners and advertisers haven't been aware of its potential and are often confused by the range and diversity of publications.

'The major finding is that there is no such thing as the ethnic press. Different publications have different functions, contain widely different mixes of contents and have different goals.

'The most frequently mentioned objective was to inform and educate readers about Australia.

'This was done by informing them about events and processes in Australia, government policies and activities, Australian rules and laws, Australian politics, society and the economy, and presenting issues from the point of view of the readers' culture and historical background.'

This study was the first of its kind and it was strongly supported by the editors of the newspapers surveyed.

It was undertaken by Michael Morrissey and Rogelia Pe-Pua from the Centre for Multicultural Studies.

It was commissioned by the Office of Government Information and Advertising and is sold through Australian Government Publishing Service bookshops for $95.95.

Next year two other publications will be available: one covering Italian, Serbian, Croatian, Macedonian and Turkish, and the other Greek, Lebanese, Maltese and Polish newspapers.

Union Activities

23 February: Clubs & Societies Market Day Entertainment at lunch.

27 February-3 March: Welcome Week.

28 February: Exhibition opening at Food for Thought.

1 March: Comedy at lunch.

2 March: Clubs and Societies Market Day. Entertainment at lunch. Garden Party - big band night.

20-21 March: Opening night for CDs - guest speaker, giveaways to launch CDs on Wollongong University campus.

3-7 April: Heritage Week.

4 April: Exhibition and smorgasbord in the Bistro.

6 April: Market Day with bush band.

27 April: Band Competition Heat 1, Uni Tavern.

1-5 May: International Week.

What's On

11 May: Band Competition Heat 2, Uni Tavern.

25 May: Band Competition Heat 3, Uni Tavern.

27 July: Band Competition Final.

7 August: Union Art Award.

4-8 September: Union Week.

8 September: Union Dinner.

General

25-26 February: The Campus Alumni Bookshop will open on the second and fourth weekend of each month. Come and browse through a wide selection of preloved textbooks and fiction. Next sale 25-26 February 1-5pm, Campus East, Cowper Street, Fairy Meadow (opposite Science Centre). All proceeds directed towards Campus projects. Donations of material are invited. Enquiries to Alumni Office (042) 21 3249 or 29 1951.

Stop Press

Alumni Association AGM

Saturday 4 March 6pm McKinnon Building (theatre 104). Guest speaker: Wollongong graduate, The Hon Stephen Martin MP, who will share some of his insights into Australian politics and Parliament. Refreshments afterwards in the Food for Thought restaurant. All welcome. RSVP (042) 213 249 before 27 February

Campus News is published weekly on Wednesdays. Send material, preferably by Microsoft Mail or on disk, to E-Mail account 'Campus News' by noon on Monday of the week before that of publication.
For any other enquiries contact the Editor, Gillian Curtis (042) 21 3926.
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