Number 21, 1995

UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

Wednesday, 2 August

CAMPUS NEWS

Challenge to biodiversity assumptions

The Commonwealth Government recently committed itself to the creation of a comprehensive, repres- entative and adequate forest conservation reserve system.

The main objective is the conservation of Australia's biodiversity.

To this end, a broad benchmark of 15 percent of the pre-1750 distribution of each forest community is to be protected within conservation reserves.

This will involve taking an unspecified amount of privately-owned land into the existing reserve system to fill in the gaps in representativeness which currently exist.

Once these proposals are extended beyond forest communities to cover woodland and grassland communities, as it seems they must be if Australia is to meet its obligations under the United Nations' Convention on Biological Diversity, the amount of private land involved will be considerable.

The costs of purchase will be significant.

The Commonwealth is also to give greater recognition to off-reserve management.

Private landowners are going to be expected to play a greater role in managing their land so as to create buffers around core reserve areas, and connecting corridors between them.

This will require some modifications to existing uses, but the expectation is that viable economically-productive uses will continue to be available in these areas.

This is unlikely to be the case in core areas.

Hence the assumption that private landholders have no role to play in these areas – the land has to be taken into public ownership and managed by government nature conservation agencies.

ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH INSTITUTE

ERI

Professor David Farrier of the Centre for Natural Resources Law and Policy is questioning this assumption.

His earlier research has looked at the problems associated with existing legal and economic instruments used in an attempt to induce private landholders to be more sensitive to nature conservation.

He spent sabbatical leave in 1994 as a Visiting Fellow at the Natural Resources Law Center at the University of Colorado.

There he examined the impact of US wetlands and endangered species regulation, subsidies under the Farm Bills and conservation easements – voluntary agreements between private landowners and the Nature Conservancy.

Andrew Kelly of the Wollongong Centre has also recently spent time at the Colorado Center studying the role of local government in resource management.

In an article published in the Harvard Environmental Law Review, Professor Farrier concludes that command and control regulation simply does not work.

It is difficult to enforce because landowners have a direct incentive to 'shoot, shovel and shut up' when they find endangered species on their land.

On top of this, regulation cannot secure the positive management of the land which is needed in addition to restrictions imposed on land use. Hostile landholders make poor land managers.

Pure voluntarism, on the other hand, will allow a minority of uncooperative landowners, with strategic landholdings, to hold governments to ransom.

Rather than compensating landowners for restrictions placed on their land use, he argues that they should receive 'stewardship payments' from the state in return for managing the land to 'produce' biodiversity.

He is applying these ideas in Australia.

His argument that conservation areas on land taken into public ownership may not be the best way of delivering biodiversity conservation, even in relation to core areas, has attracted the interest of the Tasmanian Forests and Forestry Industry Council, who are running with it strongly at a political level.

He recently delivered a paper to a conference on the implementation of environmental treaties in the Asia-Pacific, held in Darwin, attended by several representatives from countries

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Challenge to biodiversity assumptions

From page one

in South-East Asia.

He argues that there is good evidence that the imported Western concept of the 'fortress' national park has failed in developing countries.

There are good reasons why its application should be questioned in Australia once we move away from a focus on the promotion of recreational values to one which emphasises the potential resources hidden in nature.

There are serious questions that need to be raised about the effectiveness of active conservation management in the current reserve system in light of the political vulnerability of nature conservation agencies, and the inevitable pressure placed on them to satisfy recreational demands.

These demands are likely to pose an ever-growing threat to biodiversity conservation values.

A case can be made for giving private landholders and other government agencies a greater stake in biodiversity conservation, and avoiding the frictions inevitably associated with locking up land in reserves.

Offering stewardship payments to those faced with legal restrictions on land use gives greater ownership of the issue of biodiversity conservation to landowners.

Stewardship payments are made in return for active management of land for biodiversity conservation in the context of region-wide management plans.

Directing funding to this end instead of taking private land into the public domain, and paying for its management by government agencies, recognises the importance of the knowledge of those on the land in a context of massive scientific certainty.

It serves the desirable political objective of sustaining rural communities by providing them with alternative sources of income, and giving them a stake in biodiversity conservation.

Only then are endangered species likely to be seen as assets rather than liabilities.

This work is part of the research carried out by members of the Centre for Natural Resources Law and Policy, which examines the role of legal mechanisms as simply one kind of instrument to achieve environmental policy objectives.

Wollongong academic to deliver keynote address

Associate Professor in the Department of Materials Engineering, Dr Tara Chandra, has been invited to deliver the keynote lecture at the prestigious fourth international symposium sponsored by the Japan Ministry of Science and Technology and the US-based Society for the Advancement of Materials and Process Engineering (SAMPE) in Tokyo in September.

The conference is expected to be attended by delegates from 32 countries and attendance is in the vicinity of 2800.

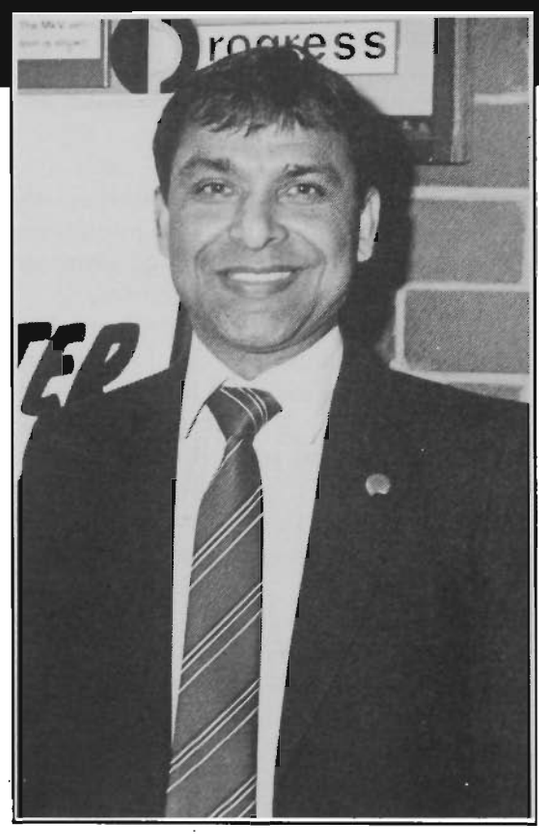
The conference is on the Future of Advanced Materials and Professor Chandra is one of eight internationally invited speakers at this forum.

Professor Chandra will present his talk on high temperature deformation of aluminium-based metal/matrix composites – the work he and his research group have been involved in at the University of Wollongong for the last six years.

In July last year, Professor Chandra was also invited by Duralcan, USA, the largest producer of these materials in the world, to be involved in research work supported by a consortium of Government departments and industries in the USA.

During his stay in Tokyo, Professor Chandra has also been invited to visit the US Air Force Far East headquarters for a panel discussion on superplastic processing of Ti alloys – the work Professor Chandra did about eight years ago in USA and Canada.

Professor Chandra has also been nominated to organise THERMEC'97, an international conference on Thermomechanical Processing in Wollongong in July 1997.



Associate Professor Tara Chandra

The first THERMEC conference was held in 1988 in Tokyo and was a great success.

THERMEC'97 will be co-sponsored by professional bodies from Japan, Canada, France, Germany, USA, UK, Italy, India, Russia and Australia.

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Challenging opportunities for students

Masters student in Environmental Science, Martin Parmenter was one of 30 specially selected 'challengers' between the ages of 18 and 25 from Australia who undertook development work in the Solomon Islands under the banner of Youth Challenge Australia (YCA).

On 1 May this year he set off for the Solomon Islands to link with Canadian and local challengers for what proved to be the adventure of a lifetime.

YCA is a subsidiary branch of Youth Challenge International (YCI) which was founded in 1991 and is based at the University of Technology in Sydney.

Martin Parmenter in Solomon Islands uniform

YCA's mission statement is 'to promote young people's active, responsible and continued participation in local and global development'.

Before leaving for the Solomons there were two main challenges to be faced.

The first was to be selected from a wide range of applicants from all over Australia.

The selection process included a two-day field test during which each candidate's ability to analyse problems and implement solutions in a cooperative and commonsense manner was evaluated along with group skills.

The second challenge was the preparation. All challengers were required to actively participate in the project preparation by assisting in the procurement of the necessary equipment and supplies and by personally fundraising $4200.

The third challenge was the project itself.

Upon arriving in the capital Honiara the challengers were introduced to the Solomon culture, briefed on the projects that were to follow and given a crash course in pidgin that was to be the basic form of communication for the next three months.

The 80 or so challengers were split into five groups of about 15 trying to maintain a cultural and gender mix while making optimum use of the various skills and knowledge of all those involved.

Before being sent out to the various project sites they attended an opening ceremony and an official welcome on behalf of the Solomon Island Government and had an opportunity to meet and thank the major sponsors of the program.

After a horrendous 36-hour boat trip across the open ocean they arrived at the Island of Makira where they were to undertake their project work.

Martin said: 'Our first project was to undertake a malaria education campaign in the villages around Star Harbour at the eastern most tip of the Island.

'For this we came up with a short play and song about how to prevent malaria.

'We also worked with local representatives from the Ministry of Health in taking blood slides to ascertain the malaria incidence rate.

'Ten villages were covered by our education campaign and if past trends are to continue there should be a dramatic reduction in malaria cases into the next year.

'Our second project involved the construction of a kindergarten at a vocational training centre for boys run by the Roman Catholic Church at a place called Styvernberg.

'Most of the materials for this project, mostly timber, were gathered from the forests surrounding the school.'

Martin said the group was assisted in the construction of the kindergarten by the second and fourth year carpentry classes.

The kindergarten was 10m by 6m with a tin roof and gravel floor replacing much smaller hut made from bamboo and palm leaves.

Araqui (white people) in the Solomons are viewed as being superior in some ways due to a perceived wealth and abundance of knowledge.

This perception is understandable, however, Martin said: 'I feel that I have come away from the Solomons having learnt just as much as I could have taught and shared with them.

'I am very proud of my involvement with the University of Wollongong and gained great satisfaction in sharing the knowledge I have gained with those who have not had the opportunities that I have had.

'I would like to extend my thanks to those who have helped me with my participation in this project especially Bushcraft Equipment and the Dapto branch of the Country Women's Association.

'I now face my fourth and final challenge, transforming my personal experiences into positive civic and social action by undertaking 130 hours of community service work in my local community.

'I would highly recommend the Youth Challenge experience to anyone who can find the time in pursuit of youth development and cultural exchange.'

Anybody interested can contact Martin Parmenter on (042) 612249, or YCA Head Office on (02) 330 5512.

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CD-ROM databases available campus-wide

Library News

Access to the following databases is available from your desktop: Medline, CINAHL, ERIC, Psyclit and Sociofile.

These CD-ROM databases have been available for some time from the Library.

Their availability on the campus network represents further progress towards the Library's goal of extending access to information resources from individual desktops wherever possible.

Instead of competing for workstations in the Library, users will have the convenience of searching from desktop or office.

It will be possible to download directly to the hard drive, cut and paste into applications, use referencing software more easily, print more conveniently and not be limited by Library hours.

It will also be faster in most cases, as databases will be loaded on a file server which allows faster searching than CD-ROM.

In addition, it will not be necessary to run the same search several times over several disks.

The software being used was developed by a company called Silverplatter and is known as Electronic Reference Library (ERL).

ERL allows remote access to databases by users of DOS, Windows, Macintosh and UNIX platforms.

The system is based on client server software, which means that you need to obtain the right client (a piece of software) for your needs.

There are Mac, UNIX, Windows and DOS clients. The DOS client looks identical to the previous Silverplatter search software.

The other clients make use of graphical interfaces for added convenience. The software enables 'customising' of displays and has print and download options to suit individual needs.

Details of system requirements of the various clients and instructions for downloading and installing them will be found by following a link from the Library page on the CWIS.

If you do not have access to the CWIS, contact the Library.

It is planned to make the databases ABI/Inform and AUSTROM available as soon as possible.

The timing depends on these databases being available in an appropriate form.

AUSTROM is likely to be available within weeks. ABI/Inform will be made available as soon as possible.

Enquiries, contact Electronic Services Librarian, Mr Neil Grant, ext 3547.

Computer artist to hold seminar

The Department of Computer Science is holding a series of seminars that will be of interest to the general academic community.

The first seminar in the series will be delivered on 4 August in Room 67.107 in the McKinnon Building from 1-2.30pm by Simon Biggs, a young Australian artist-computer programmer who lives and works in Europe.

He has been at the forefront of developments in Computer Art.

During the seminar Mr Biggs will cover the areas where he has expertise and his own product to show.

This will include computer animation, interactive immersive environments and remote sensing, CD-ROM and the World Wide Web.

He will also cover certain other producers' works, especially on CD-ROM and WWW, given his experience with curating these media recently in Berlin.

There will be a section on his interactive immersive environments, tapes, CD-ROM's and Internet-based work.

He will show some example work including documentation of the interactve environments on tape and slide, and some excerpts of a CD-ROM.

Those attending will also visit Mr Biggs' web site. In conjunction with this, he will describe the ideas and references involved in the work, as well as the techniques used.

He will focus on the issues around interface design, comparing the distinct characteristics of CD-ROM, Internet and expanded concepts of interfacing as exemplified in the interactive environmental work.

Finally, there will be a look at several leading artists' work with CD-ROM and the Internet from around the world.

Mr Biggs will discuss this within the framework of international developments in the field.

Ethel Hayton Fellowship in 'Spiritual, Religious and Contemplative Studies'

Suggestions are invited from staff as to suitable scholars to approach for selection as the 1996 Ethel Hayton Fellow.

The Fellowship was established in memory of Ethel Hayton, a prominent citizen and a founder of the University of Wollongong, to raise the level of public consciousness of the importance of society's value system to its effective functioning.

The first fellow, Dr John May, from the Irish School of Ecumenics in Dublin, was resident at the University Lodge for some 10 weeks in 1994.

He delivered a series of eight lectures on 'The Ethics of Multiculturalism: Conflict and Peace in an Inter religious Ethos', in addition to six seminars dealing with case studies.

To cultivate what Ethel described as a 'spiritual desert' in the city, the Fellowship Committee is considering its choice of Fellow for 1996.

Speakers sought should be able to provide a vibrant stimulus to debate concerning global, non-sectarian issues in philosophy or comparative religion or the links between science and religion.

While there are already some names under consideration, the committee felt it should seek further suggestions from the academic and general staff community on campus. Enquiries: David Muscio, ext. 3073.

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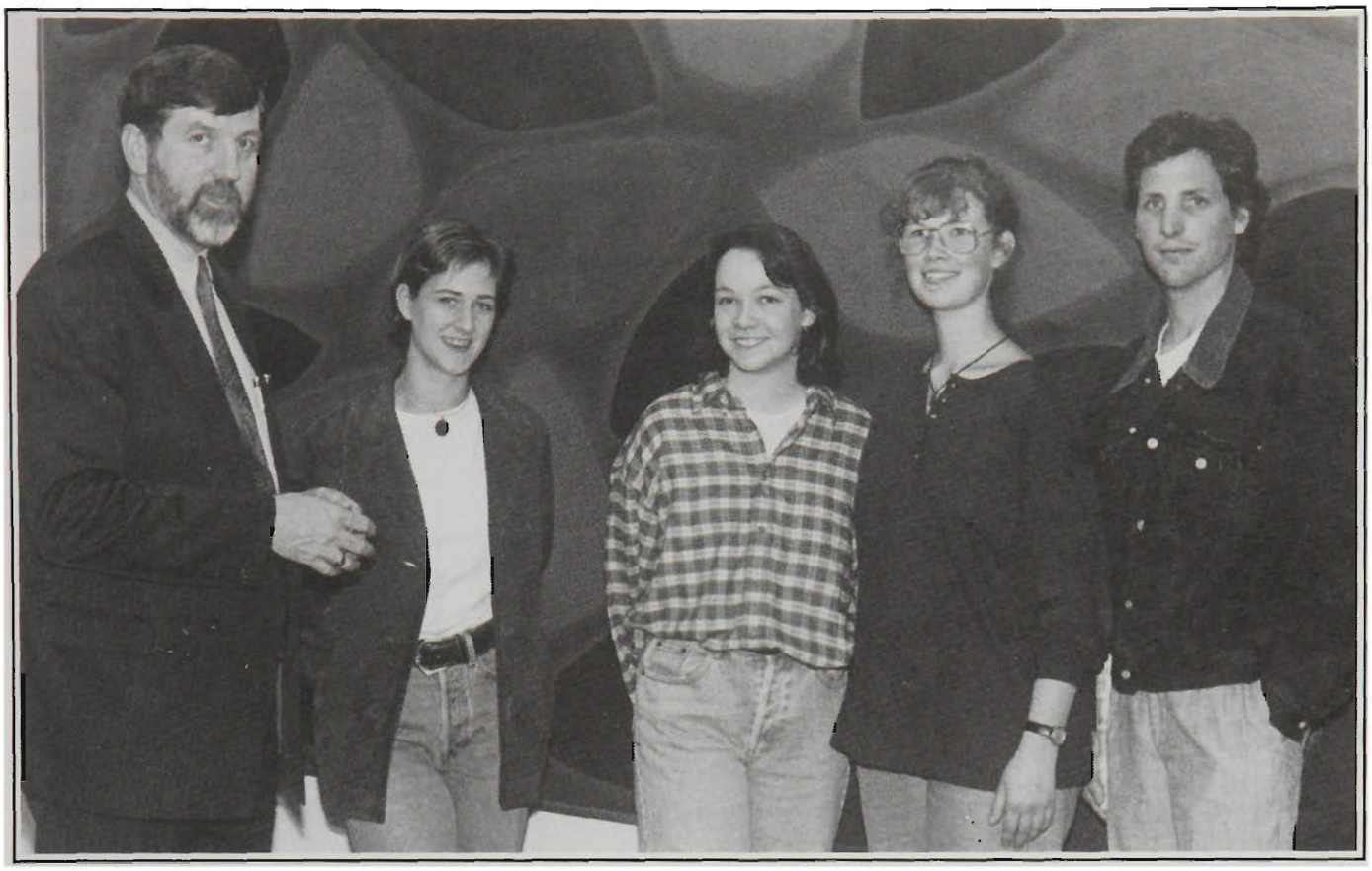

ITC Managing Director, Mr Jim Langridge, with scholarship recipients Angela Lenn, Caitlin Walsh, Natalie Jones and Alan Love.

ITC scholarships for study abroad

When Alan Love came to Australia 10 years ago the last thing on his mind was returning to his home in Huntington Beach, California as a University of Wollongong exchange student with his Australian wife and child.

Originally visiting the east coast of Australia as a freelance photographer and film maker, he loved it here and met his wife to be in Wollongong.

As a Bachelor of Science (Human Movement) student, Alan has been given the opportunity through an Illawarra Technology Corporation (ITC) exchange scholarship to return to California and study at the University of California, Irvine.

He will be making the most of his exchange by taking his family with him to spend time with his parents.

Also going to California as part of the Student Exchange program is Angela Lenn, an Arts/Law student originally from Sydney.

Having already visited San Francisco on a family holiday, Angela is looking forward to living on-campus and studying at the University of California, Berkeley.

Natalie Jones will be presenting a public recital in the Hope Theatre on 3 August at 8pm before she leaves for Indiana. She will be accompanied by David Howie, a pianist from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. The performance is free. All welcome.

Joining in the big adventure to the United States is Caitlin Walsh, a second year science student.

Caitlin has never been overseas before nor has she ever been on a plane. Caitlin will spend six months at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, taking health science subjects.

One of her aims is to develop a new and international perspective on her degree.

This international perspective and the opportunity to find a springboard into the world of performing is what has driven Creative Arts student Natalie Jones to Bloomington, Indiana for the remainder of this year.

As the first music student from Wollongong to go on exchange and the first exchange for Bloomington in their music department, she auditioned there last year to prove she was capable of studying at a music school that has one of the best reputations, especially for voice studies which is Natalie's major.

Natalie is also looking at postgraduate study in the US and will take time in her exchange to explore the options available.

Alan, Angela, Caitlin and Natalie were presented recently with their scholarships by the Managing Director of ITC, Mr Jim Langridge.

Other scholarship recipients who had already left for overseas include Emma Calgaro, an Arts student who is now in Illinois; Graham Fairbank and Richard Walter, both Materials Engineering students also in Illinois; Environmental Science student Emma Morice in North Carolina, Chapel Hill; and Gabrielle Rowe now studying Arts in Orléans, France.

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ICIS invites new members

The Illawarra Committee for International Students (ICIS) was formed in 1985 through the initiative of the Department of Foreign Affairs and with the help of the Friends of Wollongong University.

It provides services that contribute to the welfare of international students and organises activities in which international students and the Australian community can interact and become aware of each other's cultures.

ICIS has a link with AusAid (formerly AIDAB), the section of the Department of Foreign Affairs responsible for Australia's overseas aid programs. AusAid and the University provide the funds that enable ICIS to run its services.

ICIS is not a government department. It is a voluntary organisation in which all of its members give their time and energy because they support the aims and activities of ICIS.

On 17 August ICIS will hold its Annual General Meeting at 6pm in Function Room 3 of the Union Building. A light supper will be provided.

Staff, students and any interested members of the community are invited to attend.

ICIS is an active, progressive organisation committed to the welfare of international students and it welcomes contact with any individuals who share its aims.

Inquiries: Ann-Maree Biddle, ICIS, Ground Floor Union Building, University of Wollongong, phone 213 158 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9.30am-2.30pm).

Cricket Scholarships for 1995/1996

The University of Wollongong Cricket Club is offering several cricket scholarships for the 1995/96 season.

These scholarships range in value from $400 to $1000 and are to be used to meet educational expenses.

Applicants should include a copy of their CV/playing record, plus the contact details for two referees.

Closing date for applications is 1 September.

Applications should be forwarded to Dr John Pemberton, Secretary, University of Wollongong Cricket Club, c/- Department of Geology, University of Wollongong, Northfields Ave 2522.

Further details may be obtained from Dr Pemberton, phone (042) 213 425, or Mr Barry Reid, phone (042) 617 313.

High accolades for Brian Cambourne from literacy association

Professor Brian Cambourne, from the Faculty of Education, has been awarded the Garth Boomer Award for his outstanding contribution in the field of literacy education.

He will be presented with a citation of merit from the Australian Literacy Educators' Association which states that 'Brian Cambourne is one of Australia's leading educators and has contributed to the Australian Reading Association for almost 20 years.

'His writing and research have been a major influence in Australia throughout this time and are well known throughout the English-speaking world.'

The Reading Association of Sydney (RAS) commented that they believed Professor Cambourne had made an outstanding contribution in the field of literacy.

The Association said his influence on students, teachers, colleagues and parents through lectures, writings and research had been exemplary.

'We at RAS appreciate his dedication and tireless efforts and we have enjoyed his encouragement and inspiration in abundance over the years,' the Association said.

Peter Fitzsimons speaks at Engineering Alumni dinner

The Engineering Chapter of the University of Wollongong Alumni Association held its annual Dinner/Dance on Saturday, 22 July at Carringtons at the Belmore in Wollongong.

More than 90 people, mostly engineering graduates and other alumni from the University, attended this major event at which the celebrity guest speaker was Mr Peter Fitzsimons, well-known columnist, best-selling author, former Rugby international and raconteur.

Other guests included Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Peter Robinson; President of the Alumni Association, Mrs Ruth Procter; Immediate Past President of the Alumni Association, Mr Keith Phipps; and President of the Engineering Chapter of the Alumni Association, Mr Mark Bell.

The function was made possible by the generous sponsorship of four divisions of Brambles:

- Brambles Industrial Services, Port Kembla
- Brambles Forklifts
- Gardner Perrott
- Wreckair Hire

Representatives from these companies attended the dinner.

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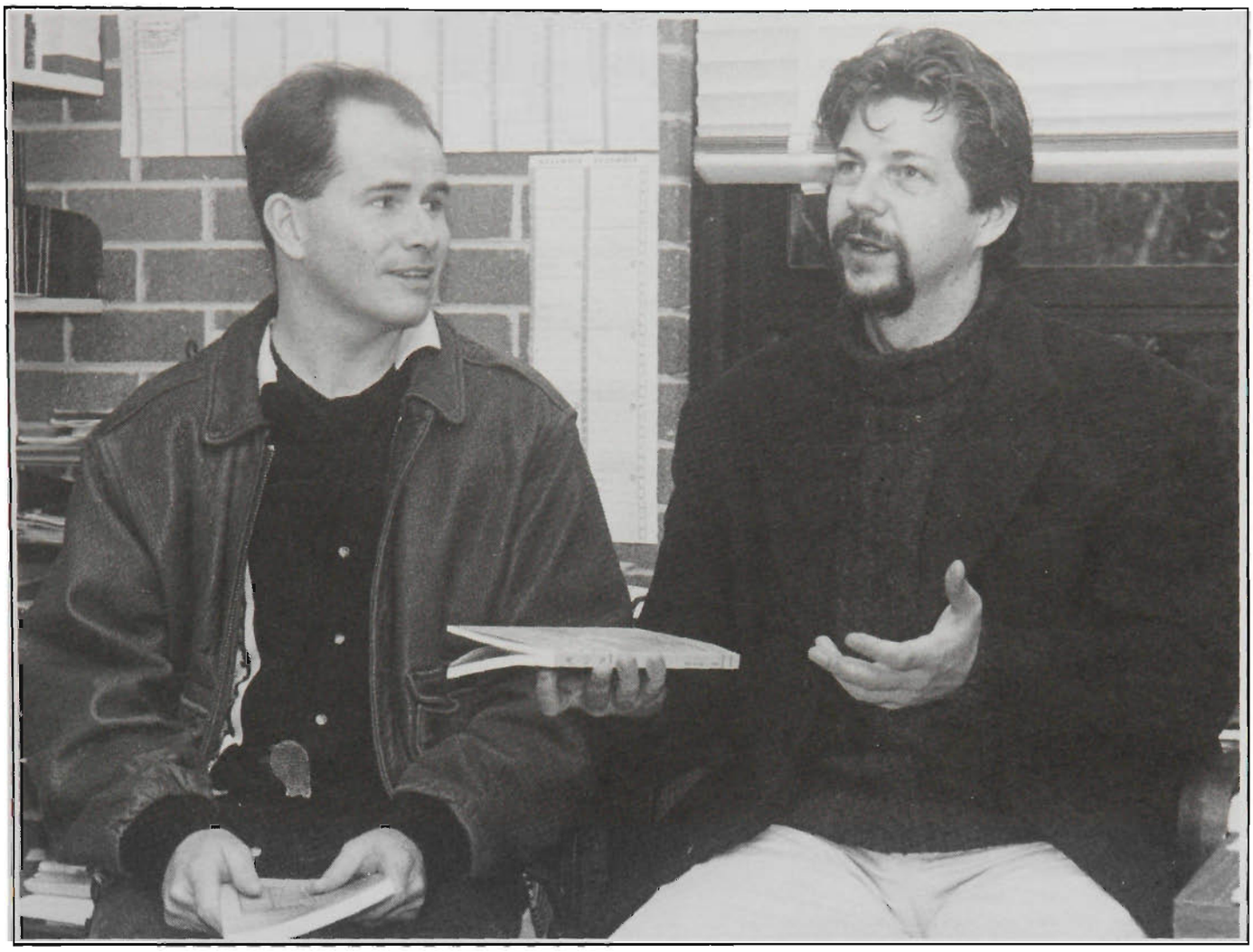

Luke McNamara and Gerry Turcotte inspect the newly arrived edition of Australian-Canadian Studies.

Release of *Australian-Canadian Studies*

Mr Luke McNamara from the Faculty of Law and Dr Gerry Turcotte from the Department of English recently ~~have~~ produced the new issue of *Australian–Canadian Studies* (*ACS*), a journal devoted to the comparative study of Canada, Australia and New Zealand through the humanities and the social sciences.

Vol. 13, No. 1 of the journal is the seventh issue to be produced at the University of Wollongong.

Several were independently edited by Dr Turcotte, in the Department of English, but most were jointly edited with Law, first with Professor Bruce Ziff, and, since 1993, with Mr McNamara.

ACS is the flagship of the Association for Canadian Studies in Australia and New Zealand, which funds several tens of thousands of dollars worth of grants for the study of Canadian literature in Australia each year.

ACSANZ recently has held an inter-disciplinary conference at La Trobe University, and is organising another to be held at the University of Tasmania in July 1996.

The current issue of *Australian–Canadian Studies* features an article by Tamsin Solomon on 'Antisemitism as Free Speech: judicial responses to Hate Propaganda', as well as a comparison of the refugee record of Canada and Australia in response to the Holocaust. These articles, examining hate propaganda and antisemitism, are also joined by works on applied anthropology and Aboriginal peoples, a study of tourism organisations in Australia and Canada, and studies of school accountability and penny capitalism.

An expanded reviews section examines works as diverse as Judy Chicago's *Holocaust Project* and Paul Bartrop's *Australia and the Holocaust*, to works on Christian activism, women and their doctors in Victorian Canada and essays on crime in English literature.

Several contributors to the issue are from the University of Wollongong, including Associate Professor Rebecca Albury (Sociology) and Dr Paul Sharrad (English) — although most are drawn from as far afield as Vancouver, Alberta and Aberystwyth.

Award to study in the UK

Dr Katherine Newey, from the Department of English, has been awarded a Travelling Fellowship from the Australian Academy of the Humanities to undertake research in the UK on 19th century women playwrights in the English theatre.

She was one of only eight award winners.

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General

The Campus Alumni Bookshop will open on the second and fourth weekends of each month. Come and browse through a wide selection of preloved textbooks and fiction. Campus East, Cowper Street, Fairy Meadow (opposite Science Centre). All proceeds directed towards campus projects. Donations of material are invited. Enquiries to Alumni Office, phone 213 249 or 291 951.

15 August: 7.30pm, Function Centre, Union Building. Women's Issues Group. Liz Jeneid, Faculty of Creative Arts speaking on 'Intersections' and Judy Stubbs 'A View of Life in Cambodia'. All welcome. Members $2.50; non-members $3.50 Enquiries: Moira Bowman, phone 843 741.

Long Gallery

Exhibition program for 1995:

4-27 August: Artists make Furniture. To be opened at 7pm, 4 August by the Curator, Australian Decorative Arts & Design - Powerhouse Museum, Grace Cochrane.

What's On

1-24 September: Postgraduate works: Eileen Dillon Smith, Marcie McConville, Enis Tan, Taskin Gencag, Mohammad Kazem Hassanvand, Helena Go, Alan Spackman.

2 October–5 November: Archaeologies: Structures of Time, Diana Wood Conroy and Sharon Marcus. Reciphering: Katharine Nix. Pathways: Paper works by Ian Arcus.

13 November – 10 December: BCA graduating exhibition

Cell and Molecular Evening Seminar Series

Conducted by the Department of Biological Sciences and Biological Macromolecules Research Centre.

7 August: Professor Rolland Skollay (Centenary Institute), The Life Technologies seminar on T cell immunology.

14 August: Dr Simon Easterbrook Smith (University of Sydney), The BioRad seminar on complement regulation.

11 September: Professor Adrian Gibbs (Australian National University), The Bresatec seminar on virus evolution.

Held on Mondays from 6pm in the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Wollongong, Building 35, Room 105.

Enquiries, phone: (042) 213 013, fax: (042) 214 135.

Union Activities

All members of the Union, students and staff are invited to attend..

7 August: Union Art Award.

4-8 September: Union Week.

9 September: Union Dinner.

Stop Press

Open Day

Volunteers wanted to welcome guests and distribute brochures at the entrance and Union Office.

You will be needed for no more than two hours.

See Jan Miller at the Union Enquiry Office

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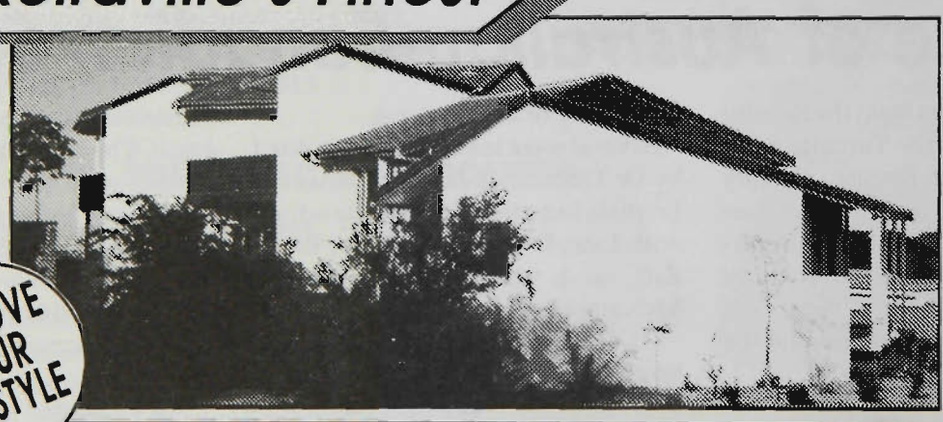

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