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UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

Wednesday, 22 May

CAMPUS NEWS

GRADUATION MAY 1996

Associate Professor Mem Fox and Dr Winifred Ward at the Graduation ceremony. Associate Professor Fox received the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters, honoris causa and Dr Ward was admitted as a Fellow of the University.

AVCC chief challenges PM to honour election promise

The University is holding nine graduation ceremonies this month to celebrate with the 2100 students who have completed their studies.

At the ceremony on 9 May for the Faculty of Education, the address was given by Executive Director of the Australian Vice-Chancellor's committee, Mr Frank Hambly.

Mr Hambly warned of the possibility of destructive times ahead for universities and challenged the Government to honour its pre-election promises.

Following are edited extracts from his address.

'The reports of major cuts to all Government spending and speculation that the universities will be severely affected are cause for serious concern.

'Other countries are waiting eagerly to take over'

'Their achievements, brought about by hard and dedicated work by university staff and others, are at risk.

'Simple calculations show that lopping $8 billion from government spending programs could lead to budget reductions of between five and 10 percent being imposed on universities.

'Such cuts would have a disastrous effect on university teaching and research, and would make it impossible to maintain a high quality education system for the growing number of people who want and can benefit from a university education.

'They would impact on all aspects of university administration, with class sizes, student numbers, salaries and research all being adversely affected.

'To put it into some sort of perspective – although I acknowledge that the cuts would not be applied in this way – $500 million could be slashed from universities: this represents

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AVCC director warns universities in jeopardy

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about 50,000 students or three or four reasonably sized universities.

'The cuts would have a devastating effect on the local communities, which have a special relationship with universities in their regions.

'If we have smaller universities this would also have a significant economic impact on local business.

'The Government must also consider the impact of substantial funding cuts on the international student market.

'If the universities were adversely affected by big funding cuts, international students could decide to go elsewhere for a quality education.

'Other countries such as the United States, Britain and Canada are waiting eagerly to take over in this highly competitive market.

'Not only would Australia lose the goodwill which the international students engender, this important revenue earner for Australia could be impaired.

'Finally, universities in this country are producing 100,000 graduates a year. Graduates are the backbone of the productive, technologically competent workforce that Australia must have as it enters the next century.

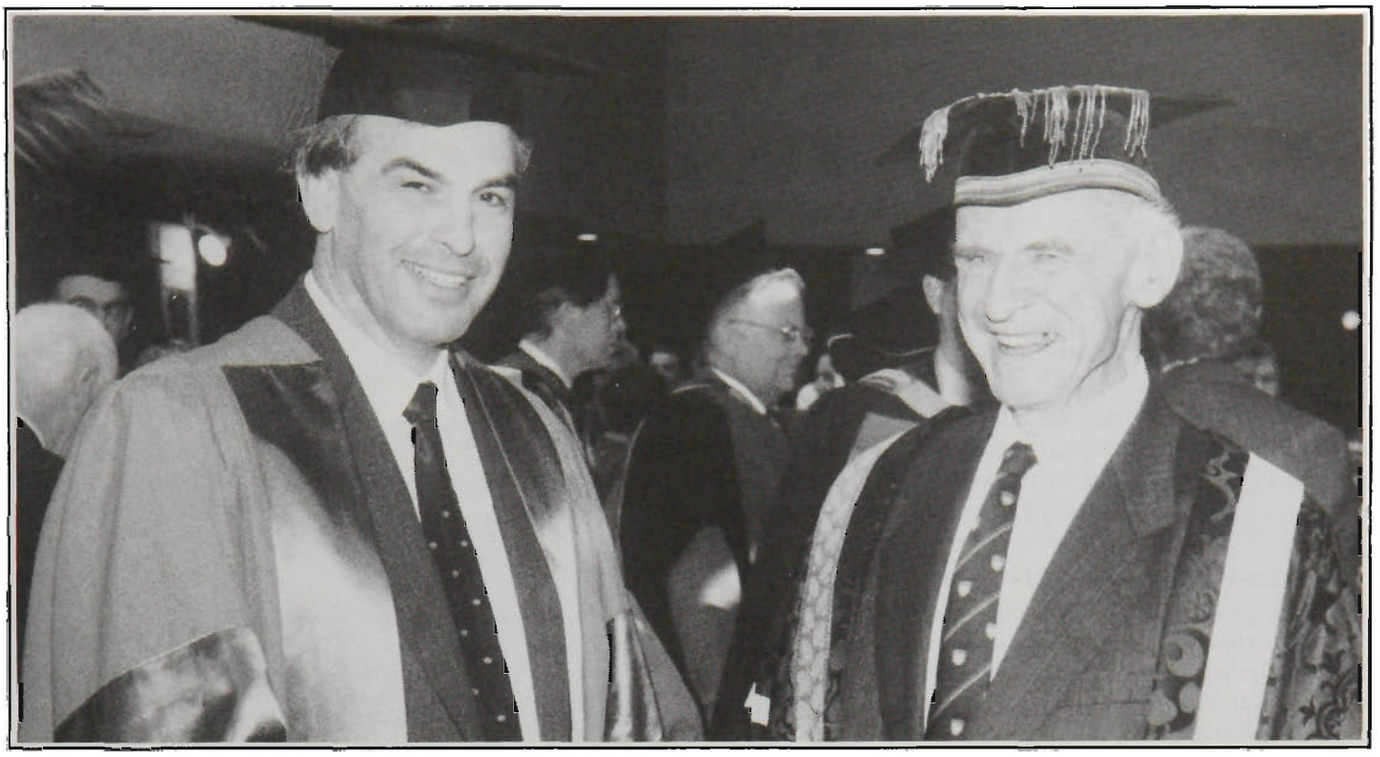
'Economic success will increasingly depend on higher levels of knowledge, understanding and skills.

'If we are to maintain any semblance of international competitiveness, we must continue to give our most promising people a university education.

'I say to the Government: honour your election commitment to maintain levels of funding to universities.

'Australia has a high quality university system. Please keep the universities strong. They are precious.'

Graduation addresses for the first five ceremonies were also given by General Manager of Wollongong City Council, Mr Rod Oxley, Secretary, NSW Labour Council, Mr Peter Sams, Associate Professor Mem Fox and Emeritus Professor Hugh Bradlow.



Research Director of Telstra Research Laboratories and until recently Professor of Computer Engineering and Director of NorTel Technology Centre, Professor Hugh Bradlow, was welcomed back to the University by the Chancellor, Dr RM Hope. Professor Bradlow received an Emeritus Professorship at the graduation ceremony for the Faculties of Informatics and Creative Arts on Friday, 10 May and gave the occasional address at this ceremony.

Graduation awards

During the first week of graduation ceremonies awards were presented for distinguished achievement and commitment to the University.

Associate Professor Mem Fox received the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters, honoris causa.

Her nomination for the award was enthusiastically supported by scholars and organisations in Australia and overseas.

Associate Professor Fox is acclaimed as a teacher and scholar and one of the most significant figures on the international literacy scene.

Her colourful career, theory and practice combine to produce exhilarating scholarship and insightful, powerful children's stories - including *Possum Magic*, published in 1983 which has become a children's classic.

Her analysis of children's literature and the way children read has increased the profession's understanding of the language and gender bias in children's texts.

In 1990, Associate Professor Fox received the prestigious Dromkeen Medal for outstanding services to children's literature and the Advance Australia Award for 'making an outstanding contribution to the advancement and enrichment of Australia, its people and its way of life'.

In 1993, she was made a Member of the General Division of the Order of Australia for services to children's literature.

Dr Winifred Ward was admitted as a Fellow of the University. Dr Ward has served the University with great loyalty, devoting herself to several committees, notably those that link to the community.

She has been a member of the community involvement committee of the Friends of the University for the last 10 years and is a life member of the Alumni Campus Chapter.

She is member of the committees for the Ethel Hayton Fellowship and the Ethel Hayton Trophy Award.

She is a volunteer University tour guide and acts as a scribe for disabled students during examinations.

For six years until the end of 1995, she served as a member of the University Council.

Dr Ward entered the University of Wollongong as a mature-age student and was awarded first class Honours in history in 1985.

She continued her studies and, in her 70th year, was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1989.

Among her many involvements in the community, Dr Ward is a Foundation Counsellor and Referral Officer of Lifeline Illawarra, and a member of the Uniting Church NSW Synod Board for Responsibility.

She has been a lay preacher for 48 years and is an Elder of the Wollongong Wesley Mission.

She was District Commissioner of the Girl Guides Association and has been secretary to the Farmborough Grove Village Board of Management for 21 years.

Encouraging results at intervarsity debating tournament

During Easter eight students represented the University in Adelaide at the Intervarsity Debating Tournament.

This annual competition is a novice tournament and provides an excellent opportunity for first-time debaters to compete at a national level.

The three-day tournament involved an intense schedule of unprepared debates on topical issues, ranging from government and politics to mass media and popular culture.

The debate demanded a comprehensive understanding of current affairs, general knowledge and ability to work under pressure, with only half an hour to prepare for each debate.

Speaking times were around eight minutes and competition was strong.

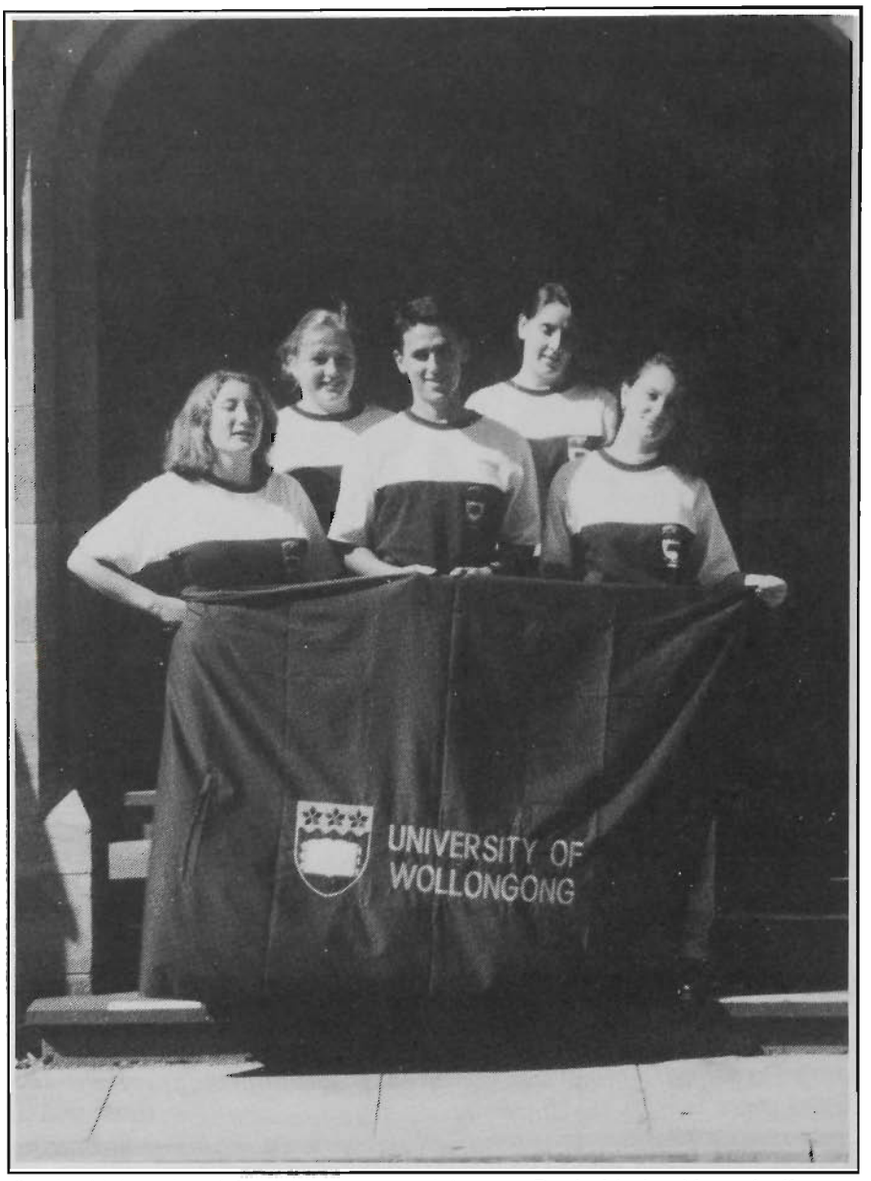
A light relief came for all debaters in round four which was a choice of three comic debates.

In this round points were specifically awarded for humour and absurd propositions.

As each Wollongong representative received commendable speaker scores they qualify to enter the Intervarsity Debating Championships which are sponsored by The Australian newspaper and held in July this year.

The debating team welcomes all new debaters.

Internal competitions are held every Tuesday and free training workshops in adjudication and all aspects of debating are held every Wednesday during the lunch hour.



On the University of Adelaide campus debaters: Back: Marina Yastreboff (president), Joanne Mason. Front: Lily Marinovic, Vladimir Yastreboff, Hannah Couch (chief adjudicator and trainer). Absent David Birrell, Wade RJ McInerney and Andrew Justice.

Mathematics student to study at Cambridge University

Mr Ha V. Hoang, a student in the Mathematics Department, has been elected to a Gulbenkian Research Studentship at the University of Cambridge, England.

This studentship is one of only three worldwide scholarships offered by Churchill College. It provides the entire financial support to complete the Ph.D., covering living allowance and all university fees.

Ha Hoang is supported by the Australian Development Assistance Bureau and he began his studies in the Mathematics Department in 1993, after his arrival in Autralia from his homeland, Vietnam.

Throughout his undergraduate career Ha has obtained outstanding examination results at Wollongong.

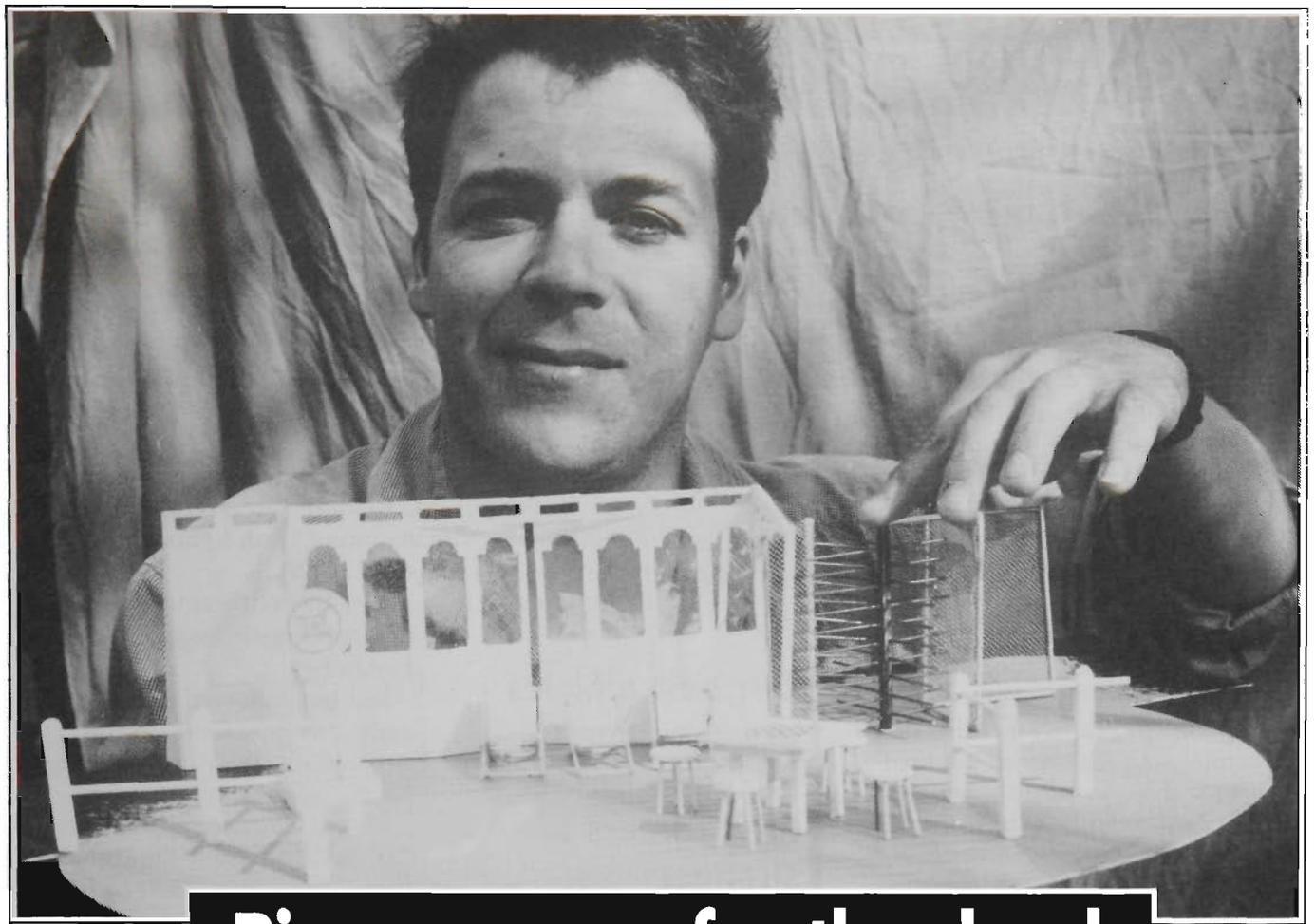
As part of his Honours he has a written a project entitled 'The Polubarinova-Kochina analytic differential equation method for free boundary problems', under the supervision of Associate Professor James M. Hill.

At the University of Cambridge he will continue his studies in the area of Theoretical Solid Mechanics, under the supervision of Professor John Willis, a distinguished Applied Mathematician who has research interests in Continuum Mechanics.

Ha's election to the Gulbenkian Research Studentship follows recommendation of him by Associate Professor Hill and by the Head of the Mathematics Department, Professor P. Broadbridge.

Ha's acceptance at Cambridge is an indication of the high international profile and continuing international recognition of the Mathematics Department and its staff. Ha is the third student from this department to undertake Ph. D. studies at the University of Cambridge.

A few years ago Geoff Aldis and Michael Jennings, who were students in the Mathematics Department also supervised by Associate Professor Hill, were awarded Commonwealth Scholarships to study in the same department in Cambridge University.



Pier pressure for the dead

Coledale set designer and graduate from the Faculty of Creative Arts, Tim Moore, (pictured above) is the brains behind the innovative set design of Theatre South's latest production Not So D.O.A.

Not So D.O.A. (Dead on Arrival) is a black comedy that takes you into the limbo-like atmosphere of the afterlife from the comfort of your own theatre seat.

It won best new play at Sydney's prestigious Theatrefest competition last year and is a life-affirming play about four dead people trying to reconnect with life.

Mr Moore said: 'The script sets the play in no place; a timeless abstract space. I decided to set the play somewhere recognisable and literal. Something for the text to work with/against.'

After reading the original script about five or six times, Mr Moore decided to set the play on an old pier, which was once used as an amusement park.

It is here the dead fluidly enter through a one-way turnstile and become anchored in the wharf of the afterlife.

Mr Moore said his set combined old and new style architecture to conjure up the feeling the place has a strong sense of history.

'Piers are places where you can go a reflect on life,' he said.

'Living by the sea is living on the edge, a place where two elements meet and blend into one another. It is a place where significant change happens.'

Not So D.O.A. opened in Wollongong on May 16 and runs to June 1.

The co-production with Riverina Theatre Company stars Peter Corbett, Faye Montgomery, John Saunders and Andrew James.

Direction by Des Davis, lighting by Peter Gossner.

For bookings, ring Brenda Cunningham-Lewis on (042) 296 144.

The Campus Alumni Bookshop

is open on the second and fourth weekends of each month (Saturday and Sunday 1-5pm). Come and browse through a wide selection of preloved textbooks and fiction. Location: 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.

University sports awards night

The University sports awards night was held in the Union Function Centre recently.

Guest speaker was University graduate and ironman Jonathan Crowe.

Blues

Sporting Blues are awarded by University sporting organisations all over the world to recognise sporting achievement by students.

In some cases the University may be represented at the highest levels, but in Wollongong's case this is rarely so.

Our best athletes are sometimes forced to further their careers in stronger competitions, perhaps even at professional, interstate or international level.

Although it is preferable to offer the student athlete every opportunity to progress to elite level while representing the University, in Australia the combined pressures of minimal government financial support and high academic standards have forced many athletes to choose between the two.

A University Blue is a highly prestigious and valued award which is not given lightly.

Minimum standards are set and must be achieved consistently to deserve recognition.

This year's Blues were awarded to:

Robert Messiter (Rugby): Represented Illawarra U/19; captain of South Province U/19; represented NSW Country U/19; Represented NSW U/19, which won the 1995 Australian championships; represented Australia in an U/19 Test against NZ.

Sally Johnston (Hockey): Silver medal, Australian University Games, Darwin; Chosen in 1995 AUSF 'Green and Gold' team; member of winning team in Sydney Women's Hockey League 1995; 1995 National Australia Bank Scholarship holder; 1995 University of Wollongong women's hockey coach, AUG Manager; co-captain of NSW U/18 team; Australian U/18 squad, reserve for final team; NSW U/21 squad.

Rob Battocchio (Triathlon): fourth in Australian University titles 1994 and fifth in 1995; Chosen in 1995 AUSF 'Green and Gold' team; winner of triathlons in Venice, Pesaro and the Lavorone; winner of South Coast Triathlon series, NSW Aquathon title; winner NSW half marathon U/20 title; winner of Australian Junior Triathlon series.

Joshua Taylor (Golf): Chosen in 1993 and 1995 AUSF 'Green and Gold' teams; third 1993, fourth 1995 at the Australian University Golf Championships; AUSF team to World Universities Golf Championships 1994; Vice-Chancellor's Cup winner 1993, 1995 and 1996; Eastern Conference Champion 1994 and 1995.

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National Australia Bank Sportsperson of the Year

Track and field athlete **Kylie Watkins** is the National Australia Bank Sportsperson of the Year.

Kylie was the 1995 bronze medallist in the Australian U/20 400m titles, and a member of the 1994 U/20 4 x 400m relay winning team.

Even though a first year at Wollongong University in 1995, Kylie was able to disappear overseas and compete in the Australian junior team to Europe in June, where she was captain.

She won the Irish junior 400m title as well as several other placings in England, Italy and Finland.

She has followed all this up in early 1996 by becoming the U/20 Australian 800m champion and NSW Open 800m champion.

District Commercial Manager for the NAB, Mr Phil Diprose, presented Kylie with $500 and a trophy.

1995 Australian Universities Champions

Jackie Graham became the third Wollongong surfer in a row to win the women's event.

Kate Skarratt (1993) and Yvonne Rogencamp (1994) have both gone on to be ranked in the World's top 16.

Kane Organ was third in the men's, **Jeremy Smith** won the longboard and other placings across the event left Wollongong with one of the largest winning margins in AUC history.

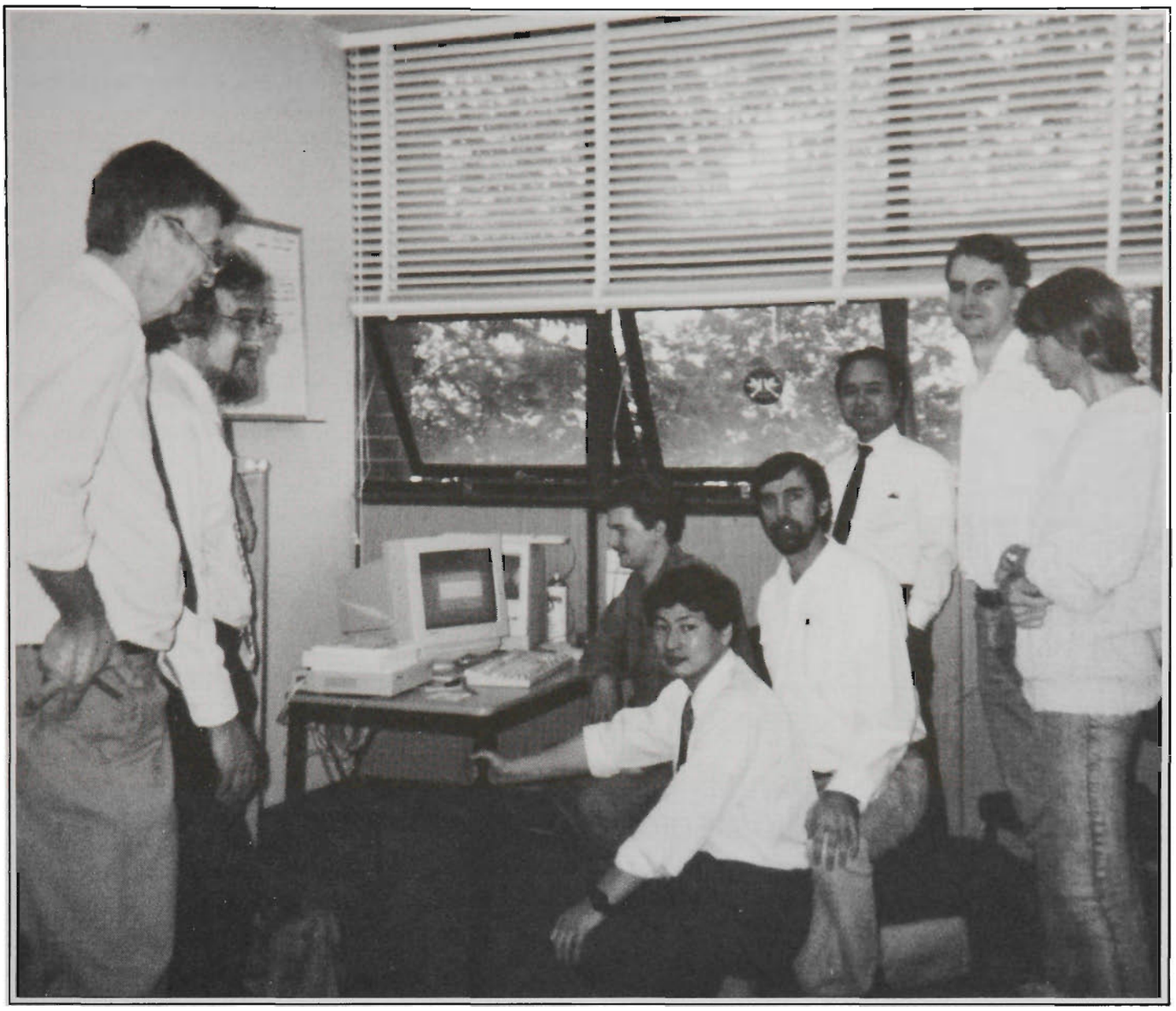
1996 *National Australia Bank* Sports Scholarship

Jonathon Hall (Cycling/Duathlon/Triathlon): A member of the 1994 Commonwealth Games Team, NSW and Australian cycling teams, AIS scholarship holder 1993-4, Australian Open team to the World Duathlon Championships.

Scholarship holders for 1994 and 1995, hockey players Brad Wilsmore and Sally Johnston are continuing.

Sally's feats are mentioned above and Brad, along with his brother Brent, have become the first Illawarra players to make the National League.

In his two years of playing and coaching for our club he has helped them rise form last in first grade to third in the Club Championship.



Phase#1 project team: Associate Professor Greg Doherty, Dr Eric Clayton (ANSTO, Lucas Heights), Shane Richards, Mr Nubuo Watanabe (Fujitsu), John Fulcher (project team leader), Dr Kazuo Asakawa (Fujitsu), Warrick Bradney and Koren Ward.

Strategic international link

The Japanese fifth-generation Computer Project of the 1980s was superceded in the 1990s by the Real-World Computing Project (RWCP), funded by the Japanese Goverment (through MITI).

A central focus of this research effort is the massive parallelism to be gained from neural computing – in other words models of computing based on the workings of the human brain (biological neural networks).

The University has received funding under the umbrella of RWCP to undertake fundamental research into neural networks, via Fujitsu Laboratories, Japan.

Senior lecturer in Computer Science, Mr John Fulcher, has received a research contract to investigate polynomial higher-order neural networks, with a view to applying such techniques to economic modelling and financial forecasting.

This sponsorship constitutes second-phase research funding and is a direct outcome of the success of an earlier (phase#1, 1994) project.

Together with Dr Ming Zhang of the Department of Computing and Information Systems at the University of Western Sydney, Macarthur, Mr Fulcher was awarded a 12-month $55,000 (open-ended) research grant.

Liaison is with Dr. Kazuhiro Matsuo of the Institute for Social Information Sciences, Fujitsu Laboratories.

A secondary focus of this research is to upgrade the PHONN software developed during phase#1, with the assistance of Shane Richards and Warrick Bradney of the Department of Computer Science.

This link with Fujitsu Research Laboratories strengthens pre-established links between the Department of Computer Science and Japanese research institutions, in particular ones created by Dr Alex Zelinsky.

Dr Zelinsky spent study leave with Professor Yuta of Tsukuba University in 1991, and as an RWCP-sponsored visitor at Electro-Technical Laboratory from 1993-1995.

He was instrumental in attracting an Australian Government Targeted Institutional Link Scheme (TILS) grant.

General

Meeting dates for the Human Research Ethics Committee and the Animal Ethics Committee for this year are: Human Research Ethics Committee: 23 July, 20 August, 22 October, 19 November, 17 December. Animal Ethics Committee: 22 May, 21 August, 20 November. Agenda items are due two weeks before meetings. Enquiries Karen McRae, Office of Research, by email or on ext. 4457 on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

31 May: 7pm Union Function Room. Women's Issues Group; Annual Dinner. Speaker Dr Meredith Bergman, Member of the NSW Upper House. Bookings 843 741.

Creative Arts

Creative Arts productions '96

What's On

Each year students and staff in the Faculty of Creative Arts produce a diverse range of performances. They are presented in numerous venues across the campus depending on the nature of the performance.

Following is the provisional timetable for this year. Watch *Campus News* for confirmation and more details.

Stretching Exercise – 5-8 June, directed by Janys Hayes and/or Jeff Kevin, Black Box Production, Hope Theatre.

Graduation Production – 11-14 September, Hope Theatre and 18-21 September, Newtown HSPA, director Janys Hayes, producer Jeff Kevin and assistant producer Jacqui Clarke.

Classic Production (Shakespeare, Marlowe, Jonson etc) – 23-26 October, directed by John Senczuk and Jeff Kevin, Performance Space, Black Box Production.

Australian One-Act Plays or excerpts – 4-8 November, Kate Newey, Sharon Bell, Peter Shepherd possibly to direct. Performance Space.

Art of Lunch

Every Thursday during session, from 12.35pm-1.25pm.

23 May: Union Hall Foyer – Music Ensemble students present choral and chamber works currently under study.

30 May: Union Hall Foyer – Elekra String Quartet present a program of contemporary works.

6 June: Union Hall Foyer – 3rd year and Honours Music Performance students present works under study. Will include instrumental and vocal performances.

Venues are the Hope Theatre, Union Hall Foyer and Faculty of Creative Arts Music Auditorium. Brochures and information are available from Marilyn Meier, ext. 3990, and Jenny Fullerton, ext. 3996.

University Social Club

Become a member and enjoy a variety of social events. A chance to meet others across the campus. Contact Jim McKee by email or ext. 3376.

Stop Press

BIOACTIVE MOLECULES RESEARCH CENTRE

ONE-DAY SYMPOSIUM – METALS IN BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE

FRIDAY, 14 JUNE 1996, University Bistro 9.30 am

PROGRAM

9.30-10.15am:	Dr Stephen Ralph, Department of Chemistry, University of Wollongong, 'Metals in Medicine: New Frontiers for an Old Cure.'
10.15-11am:	Dr Vincent Murray, School of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics, University of NSW, 'The Sequence Selectivity of Cisplatin and Analogues in Cells; and the use of Bleomycin to Examine the Microstructure of Chromatin'.
11-11.30am:	Break
11.30am-12.15pm:	Dr Paul Harnett, Westmead Institute for Cancer Research. 'DNA Repair and Cisplatin Resistance'.
12.15-1.15pm:	Lunch
1.15-2pm:	Dr Margaret Harding, School of Chemistry, University of Sydney, 'Antitumour Metallocenes'.
2-2.45pm:	Dr Andrew Katsifis, Radiopharmaceutical Division, ANSTO, 'Radionuclides in Nuclear Medicine and Biology'.
2.45-3pm:	Break
3-3.45pm:	Associate Professor Ross Lilley, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Wollongong, 'Rubisco: the metal-activated carboxylase responsible for entry of fixed carbon to the biosphere'.
4pm:	Drinks

To assist in catering, contact one of the following people if you will be attending: Associate Professor Stephen Pyne, phone (042) 213 511 or e-mail s.pyne@uow.au.edu, or Dr Geoff Wickham, phone (042) 214 418, or Dr Stephen Ralph, phone (042) 214 286. Department of Chemistry, University of Wollongong, NSW 2522. Fax (042) 214 287.

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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