

CAMPUS NEWS

University to place greater emphasis on environmental responsibility

The Planning and Development Committee of the University has agreed in principle to the development of an Environmental Management Plan.

This is in response to the need for greater global environmental responsibility and the need for best practice procedures to reduce rising costs for water and energy consumption.

Reducing operating and overhead costs for services will create an opportunity for funds to be used elsewhere.

Much expertise and input exist in the campus with many sustainable practices already being undertaken.

The establishment of an Environmental Management Plan will pull together internal and external expertise and provide a platform for wider adoption and implementation.

Some work along these lines has already been undertaken.

In 1995 Buildings and Grounds in association with the Green Jobs in In-

Campus Environment Forum
Monday 12 August 12.30-1.30pm
R107 Bld 67

dustry Plan supervised an energy consumption project.

(Green Jobs in Industry Plan is an initiative of the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Australian Council of Trade Unions).

It was concluded that savings to the University were possible through various simple measures.

Professor John Morrison, Environmental Research Institute, annually supervises a group of Master of Environmental Science students within the institute to undertake a major project relevant to the University Environment.

Past projects have included campus waste management, campus water usage and campus energy audits.

Outcomes of past projects undertaken by these students support the claim that

considerable financial savings are possible at this university through more sustainable management practices.

The Planning and Development Committee has agreed to a further investigation into potential cost saving sustainable practices (particularly in the area of energy and water conservation) to be carried out by Master of Environmental Science students under Professor Morrison's supervision.

The University of NSW Environmental Project Manager has been invited to present an overview of the UNSW program at a Campus Environment Forum on 12 August from 12.30-1.30pm in Room 107, Building 67.

The forum will be open to all members of the Campus community.

Outcomes of this forum will assist the University to identify mechanisms and processes for the implementation of a University Environmental Management Plan.

Improving construction methods in the Illawarra

Introducing the most advanced construction methods to the Illawarra building industry has become the goal of a former PhD student in the Department of Civil Engineering, Dr Masood Falamaki.

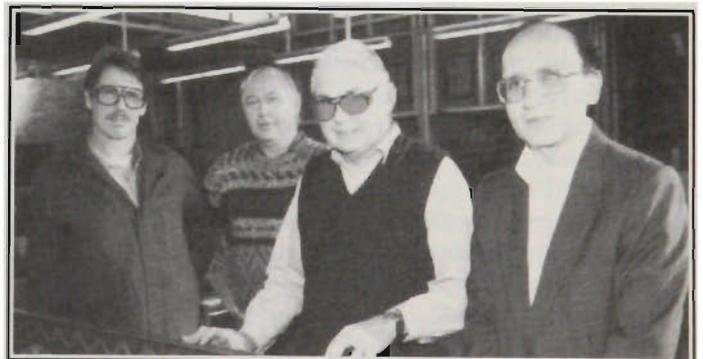
Dr Falamaki is the director of the Illawarra Building Research Centre which not only introduces new construction methods, but, if necessary, improves or modifies them to suit the needs of the region.

The centre is supported by local industries, especially Southern Steel Supplies Pty Ltd.

The centre also develops new construction techniques and has just embarked on a joint venture with TAFE to construct 50 castellated steel beams which compose the major part of composite steel and concrete slabs, together with 16 stair beams of the type used in most buildings.

The project has the support of Head of Studies of Engineering Services at TAFE, Mr Eric Whittaker, and the staff of the Metal Centre of TAFE.

The construction of the prefabricated beams is being supervised by senior head teacher in the Department of Metal

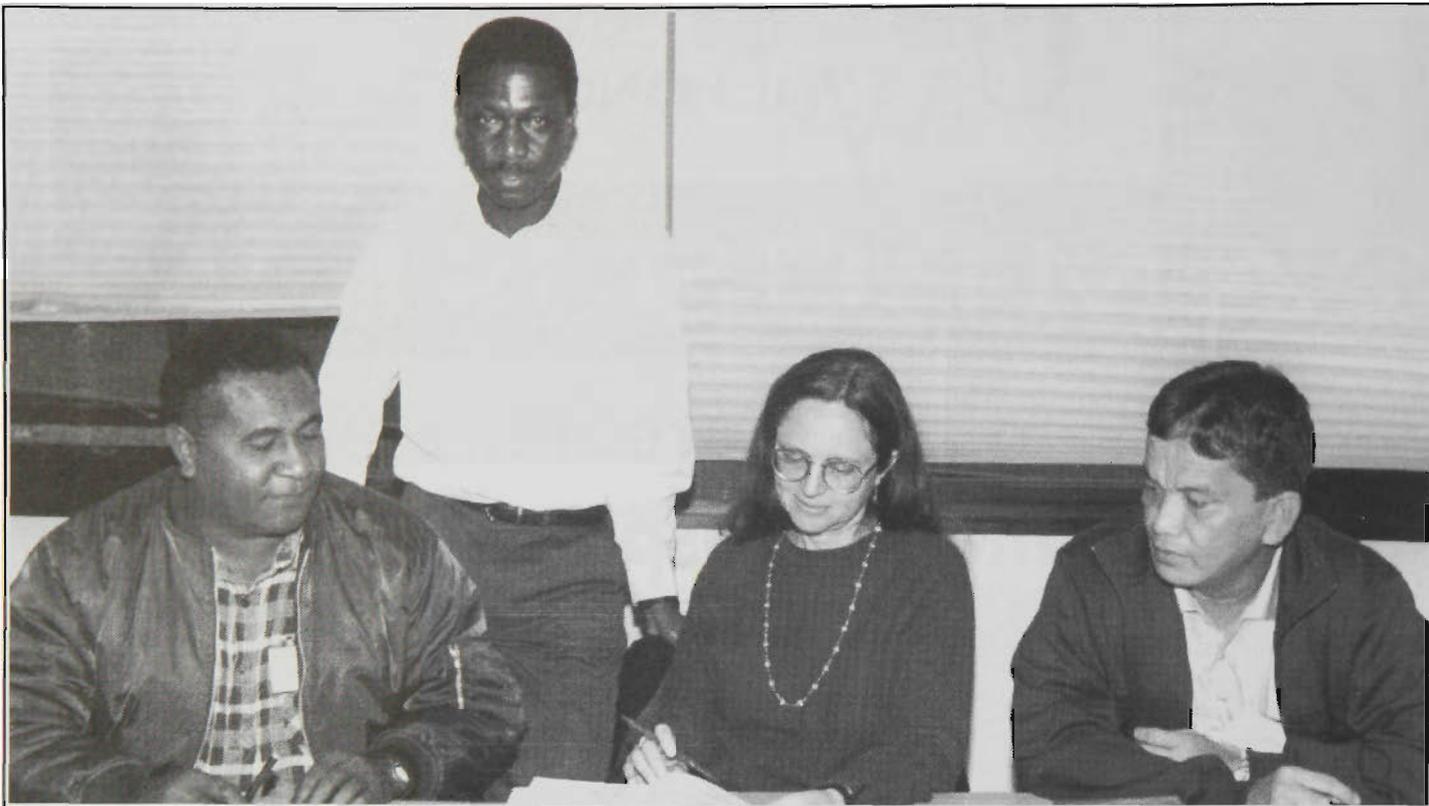


Tony Day, Jim Gamble and Tony Pavey from TAFE inspect the castellated steel beams with Dr Masood Falamaki.

Fabrication and Welding, Mr Tony Pavey.

Dr Falamaki graduated from Shiraz University and obtained his MSc from the University of Manchester.

After completing his PhD at Wollongong, he worked as a post-doctoral research associate in the Department of Civil and Mining Engineering.



Consortium on research strategies in Accounting and Finance

The Accounting and Finance Department's annual Doctoral Consortium provides a challenging forum to discuss current research strategies in Accounting and Finance.

Professor Tony Tinker, from Baruch College, City University of New York and editor of *Critical Perspectives*, makes a welcome return to the department as one of the main speakers together with Professor Lesley Oakes from the University of New Mexico and Professor Tyson from St John Fisher College, Rochester, New York.

The department fosters alternative and multidisciplinary approaches to research and encourages participation in what promises to be a stimulating exchange of ideas.

The consortium will be held on Friday 19 July in the Kemira Room, Union Building. The cost is \$25 per person, which includes lunch and morning and afternoon teas.

Registration forms available at the department. RSVP by 12 July.

Inquiries: Dr Bob Williams, Department of Accounting and Finance, phone (042) 213 616 or (042) 213 718, fax. (042) 214 297.

Email: r.b.williams@uow.edu.au

Lieutenant Sepeti J Vakararawa (Department of Defence, Fiji); lecturer Professor Martin Tsamenyi (Faculty of Law, University of Wollongong); Ms Glenys Haren (Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage) and Major Jorsni Bin Haji Lamat (Ministry of Defence, Brunei).

Law of the Sea course casts a wide net

Participants from Singapore, Fiji, Brunei and Australia have just left the campus after a 10-day course on the Law of the Sea offered by the Centre for Maritime Policy.

Those attending were mostly naval officers with some from the Air Force, and civilians from the Department of Defence, and State and Federal Departments of Fisheries and Environment.

They came to Wollongong as it is the only short course of its kind offered in Australia.

It is the fifth time the centre has offered this course which is growing rapidly in reputation.

The course is seen as timely training for the new arrangements under the United Nations 1994 Convention on the Law of the Sea and the subsequent National Oceans Policy which is being developed to manage Australia's exclusive economic zone and other offshore areas.

The Centre for Maritime Policy undertakes multidisciplinary, policy-orientated research, teaching and consulting on maritime security, maritime law, shipping, marine environment and resource issues with a particular focus on Australia, Asia and the Pacific.

Marilyn plays Liszt on CD

A new CD by pianist Marilyn Meier in the Faculty of Creative Arts, titled 'Liszt Legends, is available at the Union Bookshop and Redback Music (Crown Street Mall).

The works are all by Franz Liszt: Two Legends (St Francis of Assisi preaching to the birds, St Francis of Paule walking on the waves), Consolations, Liebestraeume and Hungarian Rhapsody No. 12.

The cover is a photograph of Marilyn and a piano on the beach in the Kingdom of Tonga. (A real grand piano on a beach, unlike in the movie 'The Piano'.)

Cambourne claims outdated reading methods being dumped on Australian schools

Australian literacy experts have slammed a slick US campaign aimed at selling 'outdated' American teaching methods to Australian schools

Brian Gray from the University of Canberra, Phil Cormack of the University of South Australia and Brian Cambourne from the University of Wollongong say the Spalding method is not suitable for Australian schools.

Based on a program developed by US educators Romalda and Walter Spalding in the 1950s, the method is based on 110 'phonograms' or letter sounds that must be learned by rote in only nine weeks of instruction.

Mr Gray questioned the validity and reliability of the research on which the Spalding method is based.

He said although it was being 'promoted as a holistic approach which is adequate for developing comprehension and understanding about written

texts, Australian educators should be wary of being taken in by these extravagant claims'.

Mr Cambourne rejected claims made by the promoters of the Spalding method, that Australia was in a literacy crisis.

'Just because America is having a literacy crisis doesn't mean that Australia is having one too,' he said.

'That is about as scientific as claiming that the beating of tom-toms is what causes an eclipse of the sun to pass.'

Mr Cormack said that there had been a history in Australia of new programs being marketed by their proponents through raising the spectre of a literacy crisis that, allegedly, the new approach would solve.

'This program represents an attempt to narrow the literacy curriculum at a time when new forms of reading and

writing are entering our lives everyday,' Mr Cormack said.

All three university researchers agreed there was 'no rigorous evidence' that literacy standards had fallen in Australia.

'However, there is evidence that demands for literacy competence have risen greatly in the community,' they said.

'Helping students deal with is this inflation in literacy demands will not be solved by returning to methodologies that allowed failure to occur in the past.'

Mr Cambourne expressed concern at this means of promoting such programs.

'There is some evidence that groups are trying to manufacture a crisis in the public's mind by sending anecdotal second- and third-hand stories and doubtful research results to media outlets about a so-called literacy crisis, but rigorous research suggests the opposite,' he said.

Jan Turbill and her academic gown make an impact in the USA

Dr Jan Turbill from the Faculty of Education has just returned from spending the Spring Session as a visiting 'professor' at Hamline University in St Paul, Minnesota, USA.

Her many teaching efforts at Hamline were rewarded by her being voted by graduate students as the Graduate Teacher of the Year.

This honour was awarded at the Honorary Dinner by the President of the University, Professor Larry Osnes.

Commencement Day, or Graduation as we call it, was held May 18 in two ceremonies.

Dr Turbill attended both ceremonies and her Wollongong academic gown was at the centre of attention during the refreshments.

Many came and asked what university the gown represented and several commented they would like such a gown. (Maybe this is a marketing device we need to take more seriously.)

She worked with many teachers and was astounded by their commitment and professionalism.

Dr Turbill ran one class within the undergraduate program on Literacy Development in the Elementary School.

This subject required Dr Turbill to work closely with the teachers at the Hancock-Hamline Collaborative Magnet School where she also ran a five-week Continuing Education Course

with the teachers on Assessment and Evaluation in Literacy.

Other Continuing Education Course taught were a five-week course on 'the teaching of writing' and two short weekend courses.

Dr Turbill ran an on-campus subject in the Graduate School and worked within all four of the off-campus learning communities.

Hamline University, founded in 1854, is a private university and includes the Graduate School, a School of Law, and an undergraduate College of Liberal Arts.

The Graduate School programs include Graduate Continuing Studies for Teachers, a Master of Arts in Education, Graduate Liberal Studies, and Graduate Public Administration.

Each program must make its own way financially and also contribute financially to the institution.

The Graduate School has been very successful in making both this financial contribution to Hamline and intellectual contribution to the greater community.

The Graduate Continuing Studies program offers year-round coursework that is widely acclaimed among K-12 educators in Minnesota and neighbouring states.

Each year more than 8000 teachers attend classes that support, enhance, and challenge their practice.

Many of the short courses Hamline University has been successfully providing through its Graduate Continuing Studies and Literacy and Learning have been presented by Associate Professor Brian Cambourne (also from the Faculty of Education at the University of Wollongong) and Jan Turbill in the last five years.

The Hamline Summer Institute in Language and Learning, now in its fifth year, has developed a national reputation and brings in speakers from the UK and Australia as well as the USA each year.

Dr Turbill experienced the coldest day in St Paul on record (-60F with wind chill factor) and tornado warnings during her time at Hamline.

She believes that working in such an active and entrepreneurial university has provided many ideas for encouraging and supporting teachers' learning at the graduate level.

As well there are some interesting opportunities for 'selling' the Masters in Education (Literacy Specialisation) through Hamline University using multimedia technology.

AUCTION

Postcard Position



430 GIPPS ROAD, MOUNT KEIRA

Masterbuilt Bulli Clinker residence situated in one of Mount Keira's finest locations and set on a large 850m² garden block. The property enjoys spectacular coastline views and features 3 double bedrooms, built-in 'robes, en-suite, separate entrance, spacious living areas, study & double garage with workshop. Outside enjoy the covered entertaining area overlooking the manicured gardens which features a century-old turpentine, tree ferns, and azaleas.

AUCTION DETAILS: Saturday 20th July at 10:30am
ON SITE, 430 Gipps Road, Mount Keira



**INSPECTIONS
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

Contact: Warren Hayes
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