

# THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG CAMPUS NEWS

A NEWSLETTER FOR STAFF AND STUDENTS

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## 'A HEARTLESS BUDGET ...'

**There will be a further deterioration of financial assistance available for tertiary students as a result of the new federal budget.**

"This is a heartless budget for tertiary students", the Chairman of the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee, Professor D.W. George, said.

"It suggests that the Government is out of touch with the needs and aspirations of young people and will confirm the widely held belief that the Government has no coherent policy on student assistance."

The Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee draws attention to the facts that -

- there will be no increase in the rates of TEAS allowances for students living at home or away from home in 1982 - the maximum rate will remain at \$32.21 a week for students living at home, and \$49.67 for students living away from home;
- based on movements in the Consumer Price Index, the real value of the at-home TEAS allowance has fallen by over 12 per cent and the away-from-home allowance by about 20 per cent since the inception of TEAS in 1974;
- the TEAS rates compare with the junior unemployment rate of \$36 a week - it

would be hoped that the Government would wish to make unemployment the least attractive option and would be offering every incentive to young people to undertake tertiary training, by at least matching TEAS rates with unemployment grants;

while the means test under TEAS has been liberalised by 7 per cent for 1982, the increases in wages and salaries have been in the order of 14 per cent over the past twelve months, and thus more students will be disqualified from eligibility for TEAS;

there will be no increases in living and other allowances under the Commonwealth Postgraduate Awards schemes in 1982 - the basic living allowance is \$4,620 a year;

based on movements in the Consumer Price Index the real value of the Postgraduate Award allowance has fallen by over 46 per cent since 1974;

the regrettable decision of 1978 to tax Commonwealth Postgraduate Awards has not been reversed, despite strong representations from many concerned parties;

these decisions come on top of the Government's announcement that tuition fees will be introduced for new students undertaking second and high qualifications from 1982;

following the Review of Commonwealth

Functions, the Government announced that a student loans scheme would be introduced from the beginning of 1982 as a supplement to TEAS and that changes in TEAS rates would take account of this additional form of assistance. The AVCC understands that the banks who are to fund the loans scheme have only recently been approached by the Government and there must be a real possibility that the student loans scheme will not be in place by 1982, to the further disadvantage of students;

the overseas students charge will be increased by an average of 10 per cent in 1982 when they will range from \$1700 to \$2500 a year depending on the course of study.

The Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee repeats its call to the Government for an inquiry into all aspects of student financing - TEAS, Commonwealth Postgraduate Awards, fees and loans. It strongly believes that the national interest demands that proper incentives be provided to encourage able students to enter tertiary education and to encourage the most able to pursue postgraduate studies. The lack of encouragement given by the Government in this budget is deplorable. Further, the AVCC is concerned that many students will be unable to devote their attention to their studies because of a preoccupation with the need to support themselves. Such a situation will serve fuel an attitude of hostility and frustration among young people - a development which the community would surely regret.

## R.F.X. CONNOR MEMORIAL LECTURE 1981

The University of Wollongong History Society will present the Third R.F.X. Connor Memorial Lecture on Friday, 30th October, 1981, at 8.00 p.m. at the University of Wollongong Union Hall.

The speaker will be Professor E.L. Wheel-

wright, Department of Economics, Sydney University.

Professor Wheelwright is a well-known political and economic analyst and contributor to many journals and news programmes. His publications include:

with Brian Fitzpatrick, *The Highest Bidder: a citizen's guide to problems of foreign investment in Australia*. (1965)

*Radical Political Economy: collected essays*. (1974)

*Capitalism, Socialism or Barbarism? The Australian Predicament: essays in contemporary political economy*. (1978)

Cost of tickets: \$2 (post free).

Tickets may be obtained from the Department of History, University of Wollongong.

# Universities are able to lead call to change

I am much honoured by your invitation to join in the celebration tonight of the anniversary of the first meeting of the Chancellor's Council, on this the second Friday in the month of August 1975, the effective founding of the University of Wollongong.

Your then Vice-Chancellor gave me licence to speak on any topic, whilst expressing particular interest in my views on the changing nature of government attitudes to tertiary education, from the time when I was Chairman of the Australian Universities Commission to the present.

I appreciated his thoughtfulness and his prior absolution for my being somewhat out of touch with all that has happened during the thirteen years since the fateful disappearance of Prime Minister Holt and my own consequential return to the less-than-cloistered atmosphere of departmental administration.

May I also say, in amelioration, that during those years I have been involved in other responsibilities including the environment, aborigines and the arts, as well as minerals and energy and, most recently, Australian international and domestic civil aviation. Whilst one's interest is not reduced the time available for indulging it is progressively lessened.

Nevertheless I hope that not wholly to disappoint those of you who have been so gracious and considerate by your presence here to express interest in the views I have on matters which you will be so much better informed than I.

By way of preface may I first say that I had asked for, and was given, a five year term of office as Chairman of the Australian University Commission believing that the maximum Statutory term of seven years was too long an initial commitment for any of those involved, including myself.

I did not, of course, anticipate that tragedy would reduce my term to little more than one year and, if I may be indulged momentarily, I regret that I was not able to complete the endeavours on which I embarked that New Year's day of 1967.

Secondly, the commencement of my own undergraduate studies at Melbourne University coincided with my posting to the Newcastle steelworks, an early unexpected turn of events in my life.

Readers of that most impressive publication of your University "Way Ahead" and the students here tonight may be disbelieving when I record that at that time, less than fifty years ago and in the span of a lifetime, Newcastle had no university, no library and the sole reference book that I could find was a copy of Arthur Mee's Childrens' Encyclopedia, in the boarding

house I inhabited with Bob, Ken and Don Hoskins who would be well known to old hands at the Kembla works.

Finally, may I dwell for a few moments longer on the inspiration offered to us all in "Way Ahead".

I am privileged to speak tonight on a campus the size of that of Melbourne - in my youth - and I can testify by his shouting to me across the small quadrangle at the outbreak of war that, to my great astonishment my Professor, too, knew my name as do your teachers here.

It is refreshing indeed, remembering that seal of doom for the part time student handed down by the Australian Universities Commission in its 1966 report, to read that you actively encourage them and of the importance your University so rightly

**The full text of the University Day Address by Sir Lenox Hewitt, O.B.E. at the University of Wollongong, 14th August, 1981.**

attaches to the complementarity of experience and teaching.

Of early morning and late evening classes, more anon, and I conclude by saluting the considerable weight which the University increasingly attaches to the teaching responsibilities of the academic staff.

Australians, and the Illawarra citizens in particular, are fortunate indeed in the enlightenment that is so clearly the mark of the University of Wollongong.

The substance of my continuing remarks, at first thought may seem somewhat at odds with those of my preface but they too are intended as a constructive contribution to the interaction between "town and gown" here construed in the widest sense, as the tax paying community and the tertiary education establishments.

If there is a theme in my views, it can be reduced to a word - "waste", and to its elimination.

I am not among those who share the view attributed to the present Prime Minister - himself a former Minister for Education and Science - that the educators are at fault, when surveying the material and spiritual waste of the educated and trained unemployed.

If there is fault, as I believe there to be, in this living evidence of mortal sin then it rests with those who were responsible for the education of this youth of our great country.

Within the last year or so I was discussing this our most critical problem with a young Singaporean, in Hong Kong. She was deeply perplexed and it took some minutes to clarify our differing appreciation of the circumstances.

In her country, as she explained it to me, resources were so limited that careful husbanding eliminated any possibility of waste.

Their future needs were carefully assessed and places of training provided accordingly.

Students were counselled about alternative training and careers. But once educated and trained, unemployment was not among the hazards of their life.

Planning, as such, is not so favoured at present in Australia.

I think we would do well, as a community, and our elected leaders in particular, to reflect on the consequences of our present philosophy and practices. Can we afford to indulge such material and spiritual waste? Are we discharging our responsibilities to the tertiary students of tomorrow, so many potentially the educated and trained unemployed of the thereafter?

The only qualification I would offer to this attribution of responsibility would be to the extent to which the universities are not enforcing appropriate standards of entry. Perhaps this has been corrected since 1966, when the failure of undergraduates at the end of their first year measured the frightful waste of the mis-placed.

My remaining views on the changing nature of government attitudes to tertiary education are also related to waste and to initiatives which were open to the universities.

It was inevitable, but a good deal later than I expected, that the tax paying community should become intolerant of what it perceived, or simply believed, to be waste in tertiary education expenditure.

Unfortunately, the weapon of their expression was blunt and it can be but little comfort to your institutions that the consequences are painful, too, in departmental administration.

# Musical premiere from Uni, W.I.E.

## THEATRE

The University of Wollongong and the Wollongong Institute of Education are joining forces to present the world premiere of an opera for young people written by one of Australia's most distinguished composers, Anne Boyd.

The opera, "The Little Mermaid", is based on the fairy tale written by Hans Christian Andersen.

Announcing the project, Mr. David Vance of Wollongong University and Mr. Rod Hollands, Head of Music Studies at the Wollongong Institute of Education said that the production is being funded by equal grants from the University and the Institute, plus a grant from the Premier's Department of N.S.W.

Students and staff from the University and the Institute will be involved in the production, as well as members from the community including students from local high schools and people who work in

professional theatre.

There will be a main cast of nine young singers which is supplemented by a mime chorus of fourteen who provide the strong element of movement and dance in the opera.

The Musical Director, David Vance, said that the principal role of the Little Mermaid demanded a child who was exceptionally talented both vocally and in dance.

The large orchestra incorporated a string section, a wind group and a large battery of percussion which included a range of Orff instruments, the latter functioning like a Balinese gamelan orchestra, he said.

Much of Anne Boyd's music drew upon the musical influences of Indonesia. In "The Little Mermaid" she provided a challenging score which introduced the orchestra to a number of contemporary techniques.

'The work uses a variety of Balinese scales which adds an exotic enchantment to the sound,' Mr. Vance said.

Mr. Rod Hollands commented that he saw the joint venture and the community involvement as a significant step in rationalising the arts/music resources in the Illawarra region, 'resources that have been fragmented for too long in this area'.

Director of "The Little Mermaid" will be Heather Pulsford who directed "Noye's Fludde" in 1979, and a recent production of "Fiddler on the Roof" at the Wollongong High School. Set design and costumes will be by William Pritchard, resident designer with Theatre South.

Performances will be held at the Technical College Theatre beginning on September 26. Performance dates are as follows:

September 26 -	at 8.00 p.m.
September 28 -	at 1.30 p.m. (Matinee for schools)
September 29 -	at 8.00 p.m.
September 20 -	at 1.30 p.m.
October 2 -	at 8.00 p.m.
October 3 -	at 2.30 p.m. and 8.00 p.m.

### ● From previous page

I believe in 1967 that there was ample room for increased efficiency - productivity, if you wish - in our universities. I hope that even now they will reflect upon what could be offered for the elimination of waste and in the improvement of their establishments.

May I re-state the initiatives which were commenced in my year of office as Chairman of the Australian Universities Commission and my regret at not seeing their conclusion.

You are, in Wollongong, offering classes starting from eight in the morning and finishing at nine in the evening. An impressive rate of daily utilisation, a feature of Melbourne University, in pre-war days.

Unfortunately, however, our academic year remains largely an anachronistic relic resulting in a degree of under-utilisation of buildings and facilities that would spell ruination for a business enterprise.

Instead of seeking increased utilisation, the tax paying community, by default, has suffered in the past the burden of further substantial investment in sister institutions.

One really must wonder why the governing bodies have not modernised the arrangements of the academic year. I believe that prospective undergraduates would welcome the opportunity to complete their course and enter the work force in shorter time. They are adults for whom the annual recreation leave of four weeks would be as appropriate during their tertiary training

as in their subsequent working life.

Reform, or modernisation as I term it, is long overdue and a university initiative preferable to the imposed or bludgeoning pinching which reflects the changing nature of government attitude.

More intensive utilisation of the "academic plant", to borrow from the jargon of the tourist industry, inevitably raises the apprehension of staff. But no one expects to run two shifts of a plant with the staff for one.

But in this area, too, the objective must be optimum utilisation, the elimination of waste.

Because too little was known of the facts the Commission commenced to survey in 1967 the number of hours which university teachers spent in front of their students - e.g. in lecturing and tutoring.

This was not, of course, to ignore or neglect the other calls for preparation, research, corrections and individual counselling. Rather was it an attempt to secure comparative data between departments, faculties and universities.

This initiative was not enthusiastically welcomed but the information was compiled since the alternative was open to the Commission itself to put the material together from published timetables.

One does not read of the push among academic staff for introduction of the

thirty five hour week. However I do not wish it to be inferred that I have a firmly held view on the scope of change today.

Suffice to say that the lack of illumination on the subject gives rise, I believe, to doubts that in turn are reflected in the attitudes of governments, and their constituents.

My suggestion is that these doubts be resolved by those who are most able to do so and upon your own initiative.

Because, if I may conclude in a wider and national context, it is doubts of this nature together with demonstrable under-utilisation of "plant" which are the root of our problems in Australia.

Effective management, "productivity" or, in return for our hire, the work we are capable of for ourselves, and elimination of the present bitter divisiveness are the real goals we must achieve.

Combined with our other resources of land, climate and minerals we would then indeed warrant the envy of the rest of the world.

You in the institutions like the University of Wollongong are able uniquely to lead the call, and by demonstration of stewardship to secure the change yet again, which I know you must seek in government attitudes to tertiary education.



## TAKE NOTE

Items for "Take Note" should be forwarded to the Public Relations Unit, Ground Floor, Administration Building, Ext. 962.

### SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS, GRANTS

THE SIR ROBERT MENZIES SCHOLARSHIPS are now being offered for the first time, tenable in the United Kingdom at Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, St. Andrew's or another appropriate University. Applications for the scholarships, one in law and one in medicine, must reach the Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Trust by October 31. The scholarships are available to all Australian graduates including senior graduates up to 35 years of age. For further details contact the PR Unit.

AUSTRALIAN COMPUTER RESEARCH BOARD research grants available for 1982 in support of specific research projects. Applications for grants (up to \$5000) must reach the Board at P.O. Box 225, Dickson, A.C.T. by September 14.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE Senior Research and Research Grants tenable for one year and renewable for a possible further two years. For further details contact The Registrar, National University of Singapore, Singapore 0511.

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY AGRICULTURAL SCHOLARSHIPS - applications invited from graduates who wish to continue studies in the Faculty of Agriculture. Research in the following disciplines within agriculture is undertaken by the eight departments in the Faculty - agronomy, animal husbandry, biometry, chemistry, economics, entomology, extension, genetics and plant breeding, horticulture, microbiology, plant pathology, soil science. The scholarships provide a stipend of \$4620 plus other allowances. Up to seven awards may be made. Further information and application forms are available from the Registrar, Scholarships Section, University of Sydney, N.S.W. 2006, with whom applications close on October 31.

Wollongong and Sydney newspapers and magazines are now available from the Union Shop.

Staff and students are also reminded of the Higher Education supplements in Wednesday's edition of The Australian and in The National Times.

RICHARD CLAUDE MANKIN SCHOLARSHIP - Applications are invited from graduates wishing to undertake research related to water conservation. The award will be at postdoctoral level (\$17083-\$19072 per annum) or postgraduate level (\$4620 per annum plus allowances where appropriate). Further information and application forms are available from The Registrar, (Scholarships Section), University of Sydney, N.S.W. 2006 with whom applications close on October 31.

AUSTRALIAN COMPUTER RESEARCH BOARD GRANTS for 1982 - Contact the Australian Computer Research Board, P.O. Box 225, Dickson, A.C.T. by September 14.

N.S.W. RHODES SCHOLAR 1982 - REMINDER that applications close September 25.

### MISCELLANEOUS

TKA Films will present four films to suit all tastes - from art, nature lovers, students of psychic phenomenon and religion, on Sunday, September 13 at 2 p.m., 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Vista Theatre, Woonona.

SHELL ART captures the magnificent and priceless works of Chris Starr of Bellambi. It reveals the skill and patience needed to transform minute sea shells into award-winning examples of floral arrangements, jewellery boxes etc. - the result is a colourful fantasia!

TULIP TIME on wide screen, is a picturesque story of Bowral's annual love affair with the tulip.

It deals with the history of this magnificent flower immersed, as it is, in Dutch folklore. It features the Promusica Dutch-Australian Choir among others. The film takes you among some of the most beautiful gardens in Australia.

OUR LADY OF KURSK takes viewers back to the often turbulent history of one of the world's most revered and miraculous Russian Icons. The icon of Our Lady of Kursk has left more than 700 years of miracles in the wake of its travels throughout the world.

COSMIC ART - From whence does it come? What motivates it? Is it so? Is it good or evil? Why does it compel artists to bring us its messages of wisdom, life and Cosmic laws?

Professor Brin Newton-John mediates a panel of experts who attempt to unravel the mysteries of these "cosmic messages".

The experts comprise a psychologist, theologian, ecologist and an authority on the occult, magic and mythology.

This TKA FILM RETROSPECTIVE also will include a forum (after each session) in the lounge for movie enthusiasts who may have questions about the films.

TKA FILMS currently is seeking out talented people who may be able to contribute to its future productions. Tickets Adults \$4, Children \$2. Tel. 831120.

### "SALE BY TENDER"

The University is offering the following items for sale by tender to staff and students.

- (a) 16 only Olympus "H" microscopes which have a reserve price of \$50.00 each.
- (b) 6 only Dissection microscopes, 10 x monocular - no reserve price.

These items may be inspected by contacting Ms. Ann Lee in the Biology Department.

Please forward any tenders to the Supply Officer, Administration Building, in a sealed envelope marked "Tender-Microscopes" by Friday, 18th September.

### UNIVERSITY TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sports Centre Wednesday, September 16 from 7.00 p.m.

for:

All members of the University.  
All members of University Table Tennis teams.

Singles matches: played in 3 divisions.  
Doubles matches: played in 2 divisions.  
Top players are eligible only for the higher divisions.

Fees: \$1 for up to 3 events.

Be there before 7.30 p.m. to be included in the draw or contact Dr. M.W. Bunder, Department of Mathematics, by September 17.

### ILLAWARRA DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Summer Competition (September 28 - December 3). If you are interested in joining a University team - at whatever level - contact Dr. M.W. Bunder, Department of Mathematics, by September 17.

Campus News is published by the Public Relations Unit, Ground Floor, Administration Building, Ext. 962.