Ken McKinnon steps down
Education Faculty wins multimedia awards
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Coastal threat
FROM THE PRESIDENT...

So much seems to have happened since I last wrote this column that I find it difficult to know just where to begin.

For some time I have been keen to see new chapters created in areas away from Wollongong, both in Australia and overseas. To this end I visited Melbourne in mid-September to attend a cocktail reception for our alumni living in Victoria.

The response following our mailout was greater than we had expected, with about 20 alumni accepting the invitation. Professor Bill Lovegrove, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research), travelled to Melbourne to speak about current developments at the University, and his informal talk, at times hilarious, was very well accepted by those present.

By the end of the evening a steering committee was formed and I trust that 1995 will see the formal establishment of a Victorian Chapter. Many thanks to Michael Halls for his invaluable assistance to date.

In early October Juliet and I attended the annual conference of the Australian University Alumni Council in Perth, so we decided to organise a similar cocktail reception for our alumni there. This was held just before the conference, and although we don't have a huge number of alumni in Western Australia, we were able to meet up with five Wollongong graduates.

Again a small steering committee was formed and I look forward to seeing a Western Australian Chapter on our books soon. My thanks to Greg Davis in Perth for his recent support.

In between these two interstate activities, your Association ran a half-day seminar on Resume Preparation and Interview Techniques for our latter-year undergraduate and postgraduate students. We enlisted the aid of some of our own alumni, working mainly in the human resources area, to conduct the seminar.

This was something of an experiment, as we were unsure of the demand, but we were very pleasantly surprised at the interest generated by the seminar. Thirty students attended (which was the maximum number we could accommodate), and nearly as many again had their names put on a waiting list.

Following the success of this workshop we shall look at developing this initiative further next year. Many thanks to the presenters - Allan Petersen, Anna Di Giorgio, Wendy Amesbury and Milan Stanojevic - for their assistance so willingly given.

You can see from these events that we have been both innovative and industrious, and we intend to continue in that vein. With your cooperation, our hope is to make the University of Wollongong Alumni Association the leader amongst its peers. It's up to us all.

Kindest regards,
Keith Phipps
President, Alumni Association

FROM THE EDITOR...

Longstanding Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ken McKinnon, is leaving the University at the end of the year, and is interviewed in depth in this issue. His successor, Professor Gerard Sutton, currently Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University, will be featured in the Autumn/Winter 1995 issue.

The pioneering work of the Faculty of Education in the development of CD-ROM technology, or interactive multimedia, for use in the classroom is outlined, and another new CD-ROM program called StudyLink, which uses multimedia to promote the University and its courses, is also featured.

The alumni profiles range from a captain of industry to young graduates making their mark in the sporting and creative arenas, whilst a Creative Arts graduate writes about his recent train journey across Siberia.

Another graduate interviews Dr John D'Arcy May from Dublin, who recently spent two months at the University as the inaugural Ethel Hayton Fellow in Religious, Spiritual and Contemplative Studies.

The Alumni Association News brings you up-to-date with some recent initiatives by your Association, and you are warmly invited to attend next year's AGM which will be held on Saturday 4 March 1995. The guest speaker will be the Hon Stephen Martin MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives and Member for Cunningham, and also a Wollongong graduate, who will share some of his insights into political life in Australia.

We look forward to seeing you next March if you are in the Wollongong area, and in the meantime we wish you all the best for the forthcoming festive season.

Juliet Richardson
Alumni Executive Officer & Editor
The front cover shows the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ken McKinnon, who is leaving the University at the end of the year (see page 4).

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KEN McKINNON MOVES ON

After over thirteen active and fulfilling years as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wollongong, Professor Ken McKinnon announced his decision to step down earlier this year. Creative Writing student Hamish Brown spoke to Ken McKinnon prior to his departure.

Whatever Ken McKinnon is going to do from now on, he insists that he is not retiring. He is quite simply a living demonstration of kinetic energy, a most singular force in motion.

In this whirlwind world of today, 1981 seems a long time ago. It was in that distant and very different time that Ken McKinnon took up the appointment as Vice-Chancellor of an 'ancestral' version of the University of Wollongong. Looking at photographs of this campus as it once was is an exercise in nostalgia, the campus having been almost totally transformed in the intervening thirteen years.

Ever since Ken McKinnon’s arrival at Wollongong, there has been an explosive and cathartic effect which will reverberate for some unknown time after he has gone. The complexity and range of pursuits in his own curriculum vitae indicate that the odds of Ken McKinnon actually retiring are extremely low.

'I've been here close to fourteen years,' he explained. 'There is a certain point when the institution has had you there for a long time.

In the interview the Vice-Chancellor reflects on the achievements and demands of his career, on the changing role of this University, and on what kind of life he intends to lead once he hands over the reins of campus leadership to his successor, Professor Gerard Sutton.

I think this is long enough. I was brought up to believe that around six or seven years are needed to reach the peak effect of a managing director's career. My two previous jobs each lasted seven years, but it took longer

Whatever Ken McKinnon is going to do from now on, he insists that he is not retiring. He is quite simply a living demonstration of kinetic energy, a most singular force in motion.

What has happened here at Wollongong is that I effectively set out to turn a small, barely viable institution into a first-class university, and this campus has grown up to become that. I'm not saying that it was something that I achieved all by myself, because every one of the very good people who work here now knows that he or she is that good. The staff all know that they have the confidence and the accomplishments that have allowed Wollongong to take its place as a front ranking university. This University is now recognised as 'something special', and I hope that all the students and staff here feel that special quality. This has been very difficult to achieve, and it has worked out even better than I hoped.'

Since 1981 the University has quadrupled in size to a community approaching 13,000 students and staff, with substantial new buildings and developments, native landscaping and a series of ponds and watercourses, as well as outdoor sculptures and artworks. The cost of the aesthetic appeal of the campus has often attracted criticism, hinting that the ducks and waterfowl have benefited the most.

Ken McKinnon acknowledges his detractors as well as those who have shared his visionary commitment. 'It's very satisfying to see new buildings and a nice campus develop, and the activity that this campus generates. People question it, criticise it, ask me 'why?', but in the end even the critics concede that it is no longer incompatible to have a
good education and a good campus environment.'

From the Vice-Chancellor's perspective, such intangible aspects of university life as, 'positive outlook, morale, energy, quality, accessibility, friendliness, keenness, the availability of staff, are all tremendously pleasing. The staff are all forward-looking familiar with new technology and new ways of teaching, and this is not matched elsewhere in Australia.'

There is definitely an intonation born of pride in his voice, 'In other universities this place is now recognised for its students, for its staff and for its research. In terms of research, we set out to achieve a better balance between applied and pure research. I encouraged our staff towards research that was of direct and visible use to the community, economically and socially. There are now strong links with industry and commerce, and it's both exciting and satisfying to solve problems that the community needs solutions for.

'I'm proud of the students here. They're usually cooperative. There's almost no graffiti on the walls. And I'm proud of this campus. I've always wanted to demystify it and make it part of the community. People use it for sport, for functions and meetings and for public performances, although our first responsibility has always been to the students.'

'So what will Ken McKinnon be doing after he has finished here? When asked how long it would be before we would see 'The McKinnon Memoirs' in the bookshops, he laughed. 'I've no reason to write my memoirs. It's been a very interesting career. If s the transitional and older institutions that profit. A newer university needs change. Change is good for us. We can be out in front, adjust courses, recruit new staff and initiate a whole range of new developments.'

'Knowledge is not final. It's provisional and open to constant reinterpretation.'

During the early 1980s, 'there was a lot of growth. Now the University is reaching a peak of maturity. We've all organised ourselves, and we've all worked very hard at finding out how and where we should go. We are now well placed for more changes in the future.

'The emphasis has been on quality rather than size. We didn't have to look sideways. There was no need for amalgamations.' Ken McKinnon stresses factors such as, 'the power and reach of telecommunications, the international flow of students and the remaking of the whole process of tertiary education (which isn't yet complete).

'Knowledge is not final. It's provisional and open to constant reinterpretation. There is no last word. All we can offer are ways of finding out, and working from what we do know for now. The volume of knowledge available to us is tremendous, and this requires more teamwork, constant revision, and fast-moving links across discipline boundaries. This makes it all become quite exciting again.'

How does Ken McKinnon view the role of being a Vice-Chancellor in these forever changing times? 'The role used simply to be 'first among equals', that is, the person was chosen from amongst their academic peers, normally for a maximum term of four years. However, universities in Britain, the United States and Australia now realise that universities (at least those that are publicly funded) are under much greater pressure for interaction with the outside world, in two ways.

'One is that governments change the rules all the time, and you need to keep abreast of changes and balance them with an independent and autonomous university. The other is that countries have an economic reliance on knowledge-fed industries, such as food, medicine, transport, materials and communications. The pressure on universities to contribute to the economic health of the country makes the Vice-Chancellor's position more demanding.'

And on the position of Vice-Chancellor? 'Increasingly this is being undertaken by a professional leader and manager, for whom it is still necessary to have a deep rapport with the academic and student communities. Sui generis. Their values and behaviour are different and they don't always think in monetary terms. You have to inspire their confidence. Simply being a business manager just won't work.'

'The pressure on universities to contribute to the economic health of the country makes the Vice-Chancellor's position more demanding.'

For Ken McKinnon it's been an epic and hard-working pilgrimage from 1981 to 1994. 'I didn't expect world changes on the scale they happened, like the breakup of the Soviet Union, although I wasn't surprised at the 1987 crash. However, I was expecting big changes in education. The main task was to prepare people to accept the reality of change, and to anticipate change and benefit from it. In times without change,
So there'll definitely be no memoirs? He replied, enigmatically, 'If I have time, I'll be sitting down and asking myself some questions like what motivates human beings?'

'I'll reclaim my flat in Sydney. There will be continuing contacts with Wollongong, but I'll try and keep out of the hair of the new Vice-Chancellor. What I really want is more free time to pursue my own interests, write a bit and do some personal research in a variety of interests, especially in aspects of education and the arts. I'll continue my working life with part-time commitments.'

In spite of being someone who has delivered innumerable speeches and papers during his career, Ken McKinnon insists, 'I've got no sermons to pass on to people, except that, as good as the University is, it isn't the best in the world yet. Conceivably it will take another hundred years to become one of the top five campuses in the world. We've climbed a few hills together, but there are a lot more to go, and I hope that effort will continue.'

Finally, Ken McKinnon called on the 'strength of our alumni' for an 'understanding of what they can contribute to the University, for both instrumental and idealistic reasons. It takes the collective wisdom of Wollongong's graduates to know what kind of further courses we should offer in future. The alumni is not yet as organised a tradition as it is in the United States.'

Is there life after being the Vice-Chancellor for so many years? Ken McKinnon intends to prove that there must definitely is, and indeed it's hard to imagine this energetic mind slowing down in the least. As he says, 'It's more fun working, even when it's very creative and complex.' Whilst his presence and leadership will be greatly missed at Wollongong, his vision will remain with us for a long time to come.

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**NEW VICE-CHANCELLOR APPOINTED**

The University of Wollongong has appointed Professor Gerard Sutton, currently Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University, as its next Vice-Chancellor and Principal.

Gerard Sutton has had a long and successful career as a university academic and administrator. He was a senior research scientist for many years, and in 1988 he was appointed as the Foundation Pro Vice-Chancellor at the University of Technology, Sydney. In 1990 Professor Sutton was appointed as Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University of Wollongong.

The position of Vice-Chancellor attracted worldwide interest and Gerard Sutton has been appointed in the face of strong competition from Australia and overseas. Chancellor of the University, the Hon Dr Robert Hope said that he believes Professor Sutton’s appointment will be very well received both within the University and in the academic community generally. 'Professor Sutton is a very able and experienced administrator who has demonstrated since his appointment as Deputy Vice-Chancellor a high level of management and leadership skills. He has been a key figure in this University's continued growth to prominence.'

Dr Hope is certain that Professor McKinnon will be leaving the University in good hands. 'There is no doubt that Professor Sutton will be able to provide the leadership and direction that the University will need as it enters the next critical stages of its development.'

Gerard Sutton is expected to take up office at the end of February 1995. An in-depth interview with him will be published in the Autumn/Winter 1995 issue of *The Outlook*. 

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*Successor appointed*
For three weeks in June this year I travelled across Russia with Gough and Margaret Whitlam as part of an International Study Programs tour. The trip included three days on the Trans-Siberian Railroad, three days on the Volga River and stays in Khabarovsk, Irkutsk, Ekaterinburg, Moscow and St Petersburg.

For two thousand roubles, or the rough equivalent of one American dollar, you could buy a small bag of tasty apple dumplings or diced fried potatoes. For a little extra, and a bit of haggling, you could get half a roasted chicken complete with Siberian spicing. They also sold huge loaves of freshly baked bread, berry jams, hog fat, bottled milks, chocolate bars and sometimes clothes.

The restaurant car was poorly ventilated and very quickly became a sweatbox. The cook used the 13th Moscow edition of a cookbook of ‘recommended meals’, and generally the food we could buy from locals wherever the train stopped was much better quality.

The train made several ten to fifteen minute stops along the way at towns with names that nobody will be familiar with. There were always rows of tables where the locals had set up hot food cooked in their homes. For two thousand roubles, or the rough equivalent of one American dollar, you could buy a small bag of tasty apple dumplings or diced fried potatoes. For a little extra, and a bit of haggling, you could get half a roasted chicken complete with Siberian spicing. They also sold huge loaves of freshly baked bread, berry jams, hog fat, bottled milks, chocolate bars and sometimes clothes.

The women in these towns (- and they were the people selling us products, so we didn’t see much of the men) wore big coats and scarves tied about their heads, and they had mouths full of gold teeth. None spoke English of course, and they tended towards a dialect that proved difficult for a Russian interpreter, so we were reticent to signs and expressions. It made the whole process more exciting, because you never quite knew what you’d get.

Yet all of this was incidental when we were faced with the beauty of the Siberian natural world.

We went there expecting barren waste areas with no people. We thought there would be ice and snow for miles into the horizon, perhaps dotted with the odd gulag or two. It’s true that Siberia has the least dense population of any area on earth (except the polar region). But our perceptions of this vast region were to be dramatically altered.

Siberia in summer is one of the richest, most beautiful places I have ever seen. The landscape is blanketed with trees of various
Crossing Siberia by train

species, and there are pristine
rivers and lakes circled by age-old
townships. The homes in these
towns are all log cabins with
wooden fences, outside toilets
and backyard vegetable garden
strips lying alongside wide dirt
roads. Piles of wood surround
these homes, doubtlessly stacking
up for the harsh winter to come.
They look as though they were
built at least two hundred years
ago, and have remained
untouched ever since.

It really was a trip back in time,
and judging by the wide smiles of
my Australian companions, we all
felt a sense of wonder and peace.
And we didn't see any of the
crippling pollution or
environmental disasters that we
now know about with the break­
up of the Soviet Union.

Isolated industrial establishments
would pop up from time to time,
dark grey brickwork topped with
and their pioneering
achievements. But before I went
there, I always thought that, like all
exiles to the area, ‘they were
exiled to Siberia and that was the
end of them’, as though they just
slipped off the face of the planet.

Mornings in Siberia were warm,
but the evenings were often
sweltering, driving us to a
designated cabin to sip vodka in half-
light as the train rattled along.

People thrive and survive in Siberia
- they have for centuries. The
locals who sold us home-cooked
food were very probably
descendants of ex-revolutionaries
and dissidents. Siberia is not all
about gulags and concentration
 camps. It's a big place and such
aberrations surely exist, but we did
not see any. We saw towns, even
small cities and industrial
installations. We met agents from
Britain, Japan and South Korea on
their way to Siberian mines to
investigate investment
opportunities (some working for
Australians).

Then we would go for miles and
miles without seeing any
evidence of human life, just great
untouched green forests.

The impact of the trip was a very
strong one, and Gough put it
best. ‘All I can say after being part
of three nights on the Trans­
Siberian from Khabarovsk to
Irkutsk, is that you get an
impression of the Russian Far East
and Siberia which you would not
otherwise have got.

‘I mean not just to say it’s
indulgence, because you
wouldn’t travel or stay in some of
the places or vehicles that we
have for sheer pleasure! But it is
unquestionable that, if you see a
place, you much more readily
see its significance in terms of
geography or history, than when
you see it in anything you read,
or hear about it later’.

The final leg of the Trans-Siberian
involved a stretch around Lake
Baikal, the largest freshwater lake
in the world. We came around
the lake as the sun was setting
and it was truly heavenly. Come
whatever may in the centres of
Irkutsk, Ekaterinburg, Moscow
and St Petersburg, Siberia would
nevertheless remain a highlight of
the journey for all of us.

It was, and still is the Great
Unknown. And although I'm not
in a hurry to go back, I now have
a deeper respect and
understanding of the lands, and
for the people who live there.
Interactive multimedia success

Originators of the ‘Investigating Lake Iluka’ CD-ROM, from left: Associate Professors John Hedberg and Barry Harper, from the University's Faculty of Education.

EDUCATIONAL CD-ROM WINS AWARDS

The Interactive Multimedia Unit in the University's Faculty of Education has recently won the three major Australian association awards for multimedia this year with an educational CD-ROM called ‘Investigating Lake Iluka’.

‘Investigating Lake Iluka’ is a CD-ROM based, interactive multimedia ecology simulation developed for the Apple Macintosh platform. This program simulates a coastal lake environment, complete with four ecosystems, and is designed to support the teaching of ecology at senior school level.

The program enables students to take a series of biological, chemical or physical measurements to investigate the various ecosystems which exist in the open lake, the estuary, the mangrove swamp and the surrounding urban environment. Nearly 20 simulated scientific devices, including thermometers, hygrometers, pH meters and water quality testers, are available as investigative tools. Students are able to look at changes caused directly and indirectly by natural phenomena and human interference.

Active participation

The students measure, record, analyse, interpret, evaluate and present data during the course of their investigations of the lake environment. As well as exploring the four ecosystems, additional information can be gathered by students from a Field Study Centre, through illustrated plant and animal and general reference books, newspaper clippings, simulated radio and television news reports, interviews and informational video clips.

Throughout the program the students have access to a personal notebook. This can be used to write up their results, using the in-built word processor, or the results can simply be pasted directly into the notebook from on-screen readings. All the material in the notebook can be saved and edited later into a complete report if required.

Problem-solving skills developed

As in most interactive multimedia packages, ‘Investigating Lake Iluka’ encourages students to navigate in a self-directed and non-linear fashion. Students can explore the lake and attempt to solve a series of problems based on a variety of social issues which are typical of such an environment. These problems are designed to develop the students' thinking and research skills. They vary in complexity from simple data collection to sophisticated problems that can only be solved using several sources of information.

The strength of this flexible and comprehensive program is the way in which it can be easily adapted to fit into various classroom formats. Investigations can be open-ended or quite focused, and can be undertaken by individuals, small groups or a whole class.

Highly successful program

Testimony to the success of ‘Investigating Lake Iluka’ is the enthusiastic response by Murrumburrah High School in rural New South Wales. 'We would like to congratulate you on the exceptionally high standard of interaction available to users of this program,' wrote one teacher. 'We find it an excellent learning tool, especially in reference to inquiry-based learning. What we appreciate most is the combination of a multitude of media on the CD - video, audio, newspapers etc'

Further evidence of the CD's success is the three major awards it has recently won. This year is the first time that the Australian Teachers of Media (ATOM) awards have included a multimedia category, and Peter Tapp, ATOM publications manager and award judge, said the judges were extremely impressed with the inaugural winner. 'The quality of the material and the level of research behind 'Investigating Lake Iluka' are unprecedented in educational multimedia software. It makes excellent use of the latest technology to provide a superior, more dynamic learning environment.'
StudyLink program

More recently, 'Investigating Lake Illuka' has also won the Australasian Interactive Multimedia Industry Association (AIMIA) award for the best education multimedia title, and the Australian Society for Educational Technology (ASET) award for computer software, as well as its premier award for the most innovative product for 1994. In addition, this program is the first educational CD-ROM based on Australian content to be exported to the United States.

Other multimedia projects

The design team in the Faculty of Education draw on postgraduate students to work on the development of their interactive packages, and projects are closely linked with the research program of the Faculty. A unique aspect of this program is the inclusion in the development team of teachers, who are seconded from schools for periods of up to six months to work on a project.

As well as developing software for schools, and running a postgraduate program, the Multimedia team also run intensive ten-day workshops, which have been attended by multimedia developers from universities and the private sector around Australia. Each of these workshops has also produced an information/education CD for clients such as the Cancer Council, the Blood Bank, BHP's Environmental Management Group, Choice Magazine and Scott's College Glengarry School.

Further information about this work in multimedia can be obtained by contacting Margaret Cameron, Executive Officer, Interactive Multimedia Development, Faculty of Education, University of Wollongong (tel (042) 21 3971)

GAINING A COMPETITIVE EDGE

Factors such as increasing competition for places at university, expanding alternative educational avenues and more discerning students all help to create a competitive environment when it comes to attracting students to tertiary institutions.

With a multitude of further study opportunities available, attracting the best students takes on a new dimension as the year 2000 approaches. Technology, especially multimedia, is becoming part of everyday life. Secondary school students are now computer literate, and they expect to have information presented in a clear and interesting way, preferably on computer.

The University of Wollongong is breaking new ground in Australia by putting together a multimedia package designed to encourage prospective students to consider courses at this University. Called StudyLink, the program consists of a CD-ROM which uses multimedia technology to convey detailed information about undergraduate courses to potential students.

This multimedia program offers an innovative and dynamic approach to the promotion of the University. Through the clever use of video, slides, voice-overs and animation, StudyLink allows prospective students to ask questions, and to have them answered by staff members. For example, a student can hear a dean talk about the strengths of a particular faculty and a current student talk about the workload, or they can investigate career prospects with potential employers and view the different types of accommodation available. In addition, the physical beauty of the campus, as well as the local beaches and escarpment, can be experienced by the user.

The success of multimedia lies in its visual medium, which allows heightened recall that can be up to three times greater than written and spoken information. It engages students, increases their interest, answers their questions and leaves them with a positive impression of the University of Wollongong. It also enables them to make informed decisions about their future, which in turn leads to greater commitment once they have enrolled.

StudyLink is being developed by Howard Multimedia and will be provided free of charge to over 500 high schools in New South Wales in the near future. Apple Computers has supplied CD-ROM drives to schools that have recently purchased a new Apple Macintosh. All that students need in order to use the package is a mouse and a very limited knowledge of computers.

StudyLink is seen as a cost-effective way of promoting the University, since the CD-ROM costs about the same as several colour brochures. The program will be widely accessible in the schools and the information can be readily updated without using large amounts of paper. What is more, it allows prospective students to gain a real insight into the University using new technology.

SOME GUIDELINES TO MULTIMEDIA TERMINOLOGY

Interactive Multimedia can be defined as a computer software program in which the user is able to access a wide range of information in a variety of ways (-video, audio, graphics, print) with a choice of outcomes.

CD-ROM stands for Compact Disk - Read Only Memory. This is a hard disk on which information may be written once. It is currently the most effective way to store large amounts of information. CD-ROMs are used to deliver interactive multimedia material because so much can be fitted on each disk. They also have the advantage of not being able to be tampered with by the user. Once pressed they cannot be altered.
Since completing her degree in human movement science at the end of last year, Kate Skarratt has been concentrating on her goal of becoming a world champion professional surfer.

Kate, who is a local Byrne Surfboards team rider, is a rising star in the surfing world. This year she has jumped from relative obscurity up to third on the Australian Championship Circuit, and her sights are firmly set on the top spot.

She recently participated in a three-week tour of South Africa as part of the Australian Universities Surfrider Team, travelling along the coast from Cape Town to Durban and competing in seven contests. It was an historic tour in many ways: the first time an Australian surfing team (as opposed to individual surfers) has competed in South Africa, Kate's first time travelling overseas and her first taste of real success.

Not only did Australia win the overall competition in South Africa, but Kate came back as the top-rated woman, having won the main event there. 'This was a great promotion for women's surfing,' she said, 'and also for the University.'

Kate had to seek sponsorship to help with the costs of her trip to South Africa. The Campus Chapter of the Alumni Association gave her a small grant, some University keyrings and lapel pins, and a Uni sweatshirt to wear whilst on tour. On her return Kate said this had not only been of practical benefit, but had also enabled her to tell people about Wollongong.

On her way back from South Africa, Kate visited Indonesia for another surfing contest and again she competed very successfully. This boosted her confidence enormously. 'It was an excellent experience,' she enthused. 'During the South African tour, I surfed against guys a lot. This really helped to lift my performance.'

To compete at this level, a surfer must either be in the top 16 in the world, or must go through a series of qualifying rounds to compete in each contest. Kate says she is looking forward to when she is one of those top 16! In spite of her unassuming nature, Kate Skarratt's determination to excel at her favourite sport is unwavering.

In between contests and practising her surfing at every available opportunity, Kate is using her degree skills by working on a casual basis as an exercise specialist at a cardiac rehabilitation centre and also at MBF MediFit, both located in Sydney. Rumour has it that she drives home to Wollongong in the afternoon via the coastal road, her surfboard in the car, searching for some waves to catch before the sun goes down.
Alumni profile

PAUL WAND

BMet 1976

By Hamish Brown, BCA Student

One of the Illawarra's most visible, and certainly the tallest, of its many man-made edifices is the Southern Copper Limited 200-metre high stack. This stack, which towers over the industrial landscape at Port Kembla, clearly stands out amongst the scenery at every vantage point along the coast or the escarpment, and seems to loom ever higher as you approach, almost as if it were either holding up the sky or attempting to impale it.

Some would describe the stack as being a prime example of 'phallocentric architecture' and regard it as yet another source of environmental pollution. Southern Copper, however, is a major copper smelting and refining complex, which employs some 400 people and also plays an important role in the Illawarra community, including an ongoing relationship with the University of Wollongong.

Wollongong graduate Paul Wand has engendered that relationship with the University through spending most of his life in Wollongong, through his career with Southern Copper, one of the region's major industrial concerns, and through his commitment to corporate involvement in a variety of community organisations and projects.

At the age of 55, Paul Wand has been Managing Director of Southern Copper Limited since May 1993, with 38 years of cumulative experience as a metallurgist and manager of various operations for either CRA (of which Southern Copper is a business unit) or Comalco. Apart from seven years in Sydney, the bulk of Paul's career has been spent with Southern Copper at Port Kembla.

During his career Paul has witnessed many changes within the copper smelting industry, industrial relations and workplace culture. He has also kept himself apprised of multiple changes in the economy and lifestyle of the Illawarra region, and the spectacular growth of the University of Wollongong, since he completed a Bachelor of Metallurgy in its Foundation Year in 1975.

Paul commented about how miniscule the University used to be. 'When I started there were only two buildings on what used to be a cow paddock.'

"When I started there were only two buildings on what used to be a cow paddock."
autonomy. So I was offered the choice of graduating from the University of New South Wales. I wanted to keep my qualifications local, so I chose to graduate at Wollongong instead.'

Wollongong is very much Paul's home town and he is demonstrably proud of identifying with both the city and its university. 'My wife and I were born here. My family lives here. I went to school at the old Christian Brothers College (now Edmund Rice). I've spent most of my life working at Port Kembla. Our four sons grew up here, and one of them also went to Wollongong University and did very well there.' Paul's eldest son, Matthew Wand, now employed at the Australian Graduate School of Management in Sydney, attained a Bachelor of Mathematics degree at the University of Wollongong and was also awarded the University Medal in 1986.

On the day of this interview at Southern Copper's plant, there was considerable publicity in the local media about the viability of Southern Copper Limited and its future operation, and some signs of industrial unrest. Paul Wand came straight to the point about his role as Managing Director of Southern Copper during difficult economic times. 'These are testing times. I've been here now for about 18 months since being 'tapped on the shoulder' to take this job on. My role is to turn this whole operation around and to aim for its long-term success. Yes, this firm has been ailing, and, to be honest, the prognosis for its closure is a real possibility. I'll face that decision squarely if it comes.'

The Port Kembla site of Southern Copper Limited is a very intricate operation which has been running since the ER&S Co. was founded there in 1907. Basically the plant converts raw copper into refined copper and other by-products for export and use in a wide variety of appliances, fittings and products. Copper produced here is used for telephone cabling, household appliances and plumbing fittings. By-products extracted during the smelting and refining process include precious metals (silver, gold, platinum, palladium and selenium) which are utilised for photographic film, electronics and jewellery, and sulphuric acid which is used as an ingredient for fertilisers. Major clients include MM Kembla Products and Incitec.

Apart from his major responsibilities as Managing Director, Paul Wand also has a number of other undertakings in what is obviously a busy and highly-motivated life. 'I believe in corporate involvement in the community and in playing a part in the life of the town where you live. I'm on the Board of a number of local organisations: Illawarra Senior College (located at Hill 60), the Port Kembla Retirement Village and also Theatre South.'

The University of Wollongong is another avenue of involvement for Paul Wand. He is a member of the University's fundraising arm, the Foundation, serving as a member of its In-Kind Gifts Committee. Local member of parliament Stephen Martin, Speaker of the House of Representatives, chairs this committee. 'The role of the In-Kind Gifts Committee,' Paul adds, 'is to assist the University in its linkages with the commercial world, so that it can be provided with resources in terms of equipment needs, buildings, capital works and other materials.'

Southern Copper Limited also supports the University through the provision of a Foundation Scholarship valued at up to $10,000 per annum in Engineering. 'Our first scholar graduated last year, and our second scholar has commenced studying this year in Materials Engineering. Southern Copper also employs a number of very good university students each summer. Their knowledge of both materials engineering and environmental disciplines is the main requirement for their industrial experience.'

'I've seen enormous changes all over this town, which you could never have predicted.'

In line with Paul's philosophy and practice of community involvement, Southern Copper also sponsors Youth Encouragement Awards for local primary and high school students, a Landscape Concept Plan to coordinate the greening of its Port Kembla site and its neighbourhood, and equipment for the Port Kembla Surf Club.

During whatever spare time is available, Paul Wand is an enthusiast for the performing arts, hence his involvement as a Board member of Theatre South. He often attends local and on-campus productions, as well as travelling to Sydney to see plays. 'My wife (Christine) and I love to catch up with the theatre whenever we can. We're always interested in seeing new plays.'

Given his diverse commitments and the immense challenge of managing and maintaining Southern Copper Limited as an ongoing enterprise, Paul Wand is optimistic about the future, even if somewhat preoccupied with the present. 'I've seen enormous changes all over this town, which you could never have predicted. I remember when Wollongong didn't have a university.'

One thing is for certain: Paul Wand, this softly spoken yet strong-willed captain of industry, will always be proud to be part of the Illawarra community, and his heart will always lie in this region.
Eight years ago I was privileged to interview Ethel Hayton, MBE, for the then Graduates Gazette, and, call it symmetry, fate, or simply a further privilege, I recently had the opportunity to chat to Dr John May, 1994 Ethel Hayton Fellow in Religious, Spiritual and Contemplative Studies at the University of Wollongong, prior to his return to Ireland.

John May is in fact Australian, born in Melbourne and educated in Victoria and New South Wales. He has wide experience in theology in various parts of Europe and also in Asia, and is now based at the Irish School of Ecumenics in Dublin. As such he was a most appropriate choice as the inaugural Ethel Hayton Fellow. This Fellowship has been established by the Friends of the University of Wollongong Association to perpetuate the memory of this prominent citizen. Ethel Hayton helped to found this University, and strove throughout her life to raise the level of public consciousness of the importance of society’s value systems to its effective functioning.

John spent eight weeks at Wollongong in mid-1994, and during this time he gave a number of highly illuminating lectures and seminars on the broad topic: The Ethics of Multiculturalism - Conflict and Peace in an Inter-religious Ethos. Our talk highlighted his concern for humankind and a worldwide, vanishing altruism.

Listening to John, poised and softly spoken, I could not avoid that sense of déjà vu, a feeling that Ethel herself was sitting in, leaning forward, hands delicately crossed and resting on her silver-topped ebony cane, peering intensely at some distant focal point and nodding in intermittent gestures of approval as we conversed.

John had never met Ethel, nor was he fully conversant, he confessed, with her inimitable lifelong contribution in enhancing the quality of compassionate ethics for so many, especially in a multicultural inter-religious ethos. But it is clear that their mutual disquietude over syncretism ran the same course.

Like Lewis Carroll’s Walrus and the Carpenter, we talked of many things. Not just ‘Of shoes-and ships—and sealing wax—Of cabbages-and kings...’ but, more seriously, about the superficial global move towards nonviolent settlement of territorial disputes, as in the Middle East, the former USSR and the Irish Question Mk II; whilst, paradoxically, we still have the political time bombs of Cuba, Haiti, Bosnia, Rwanda and other untold contentious arenas to try to resolve.

Neither of us found any comfort in British historian Norman Stone’s argument that ‘the
modern world that was invented around 1500 is coming to an end. We are back to the medieval world of beggars, plagues, conflagration and superstitions.

What can you do when confronted by a protesting populace carrying lighted candles in one hand and bibles in the other?

No doubt there is a market for it, and opportunists will make the most of painting these dark canvases,' John acknowledged. 'The fact that we are all voyeurs in some respect brings us to the root cause of the issue... But we could, if we wanted to, reverse these trends and it is still within our power to create a new order. All we lack is the vision, the will. That may be an idealistic view of the position, but when we have reached rock bottom, there may be only one chance left.'

To illustrate this point, one could take the collective civil disobedience that significantly changed Poland through Pope Paul VI's overt political penetration. 'What can you do when confronted by a protesting populace carrying lighted candles in one hand and bibles in the other?' John grinned. 'How then can they throw stones?'

But the question John May confirmed to be 'one closest to my heart' was that of the binding, though precarious, role of academics, especially untenured, novice lecturers. Are our academics, in fact, not practising what they preach, are our clerics mere clerks, and what signals are we to give our youth that there is indeed a better life for all?

'Universities are an absolutely fundamental part of our whole civilisation and culture. They are the creations of Europe, the clearing houses for all philosophies and ideas shaping Europe into the modern world as we know it,' John rejoined, gesturing ardently.

Let him who expects one class of society to prosper in the highest degree, while the other is in distress, try whether one side of the face can smile while the other is pinched.

Thomas Fuller

What developed was an almost impenetrable bastion, confined to a hierarchical elite expounding nitpicking interpretative philosophy which 'rationalised' mankind's raison d'être. This seminarist life foreshadowed today's academia.

This inflexible patriarchal debate finally fomented an unwelcome, but explicitly coercive by-product, which was baptised 'freedom of thought'. This in turn spawned (unsophisticated) free speech and an age of 'enlightenment' that was inevitably condemned by vested interests, since, 'in order to be considered a professional, you must repudiate all that as childish stuff.'

All this cerebral revisionism nonetheless seasoned and consequently detonated during the Renaissance, and in later centuries as well, where rediscovery, and salutary enhancement of cultures and knowledge preceding it, literally opened up new horizons. However, this was only an intuitive, insurgent counterbalance to what had been hitherto authoritatively and inhumanely stifled (cf. the Spanish Inquisition, the Lutheran Manifesto, Savonarola, Copernicus et al).

But this Golden Age incrementally became the mechanism for the Industrial Revolution, delivering with it all the global antisocial dysfunction which is today's blight. By that estrangement, the fixation of academia was the discord between theoretical and applied research. 'Applied' research became the monetary investment mulch for the burgeoning industrial technologies, debauching itself to the depreciation of homo sapiens' search for inner self-understanding. One is reminded of GB Shaw's anti-ecumenical maxim: 'Do not do unto others as they would to you. Their tastes may not be the same.'

Universities are an absolutely fundamental part of our whole civilisation and culture.

So today, the so-called humanities give body to the Occam's razor of patronage and research funding. 'We have reached the point where people in the same department cannot be bothered to communicate
with each other, because it takes too much time from their specialised piece of research.'

'Those who opt to study arts,' John suggested, 'are considered some sort of lesser species, not really to be taken seriously. And what they are offered is quite often a kind of pastiche... somebody or other's arbitrary selection, bits and pieces from so-called modern culture, usually post-Renaissance. Classics won't be offered for much longer. In Britain a whole string of languages departments has been closed down.'

But John noted that paradoxically in America and Europe, for instance, fluency in languages, and computer literacy thrown in, are in fact compulsory prerequisites before entering graduate programs.

In America and Western Europe, academics play a major role in multimedia publishing (especially the press), through explicit protests against anti-social, anti-intellectual torts foisted on citizenry as 'equitable, democratic government.' Italy and France have both had an outstanding record in that vein, and have played a role in the evolution of the new Europe, with its accompanying proliferating nationalism.

Although finding his imminent departure hard, John was leaving with a sense of fulfilment. Inasmuch as he had been generally preaching to the converted. But he conceded that this was perhaps because it had been assumed, incorrectly, that he was here as a Christian theologian, crusading or proselytising.

John's lectures and seminars had not attracted as many people from our unique multicultural body of students and academics as had been hoped. He could not help but observe the many overseas students so bogged down with textbooks, 'stuffing their heads with economics only to return to their homelands in order to teach and, in a sense, merely reiterate our own failings.' And, after all, there were no credit points attached to John's seminars.

Nevertheless, he felt his visit had been most fruitful spiritually and socially, and he hoped the Ethel Hayton Fellowships would flourish and prosper, as they deserved to do.

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**Young Poets' Earthbook**

*Austinmer writer and Wollongong Creative Arts graduate, Alison Rice (BCA 1991), is making her dreams come true.*

Next year Alison's current project 'The Earthbook' will be published, featuring young Australian poets addressing worldwide concerns, together with contributions from a number of national and international musicians and artists. Proceeds from book sales will go to the Royal Alexandra Hospital Creative Arts program.

The aim is for The Earthbook to work as a catalyst for young people, but also for adults, by dwelling on universal themes which are about respect for our natural surroundings, and about ourselves as human beings interacting with the environment. The book will present the feelings of contributors, and how they believe we can go about healing the damage that has been done, and renewing the planet.

Alison has presented a different theme for each age group to address. The themes are:

- **13 yrs** - Being true to myself
- **14 yrs** - Respecting native peoples
- **15 yrs** - Honouring the wisdom of my elders
- **16 yrs** - Protecting our plants and animals
- **17 yrs** - Healing ocean earth
- **18 yrs** - Dancing and singing for world peace
- **19 yrs** - Restoring imagination with light and vision

Earlier this year Alison ran a publicity campaign to entice contributions, and work came pouring in. The age group themes caused some unexpected problems however. 'It's frustrating that I had poems that were brilliant, but didn't fit into the category for the age group,' she says, 'but the quality of the work really inspired me. There are some great young poets out there.'

She adds, 'It's our responsibility to help guide young people into areas which hopefully will allow them to live more balanced and harmonious lives.'

Alison separated the poems and their authors from their addresses before she picked those who would be published, and who would win the competition to go on the Hervey Bay Whale and Dolphin Expedition in Queensland.
Altogether 49 poets were chosen for the book, and seven of those went to Hervey Bay in October this year. One of those lucky seven was Fleur Bennett, a Year 10 student at St Mary’s College in Wollongong, whose poem ‘Protecting our Kindred Spirits’ won the 16 years category.

‘I wish I could have published all the work, the quality was so great,’ says Alison. ‘But it would have been impossible.’

The Earthbook will be the culmination of years of work for Alison, who holds a faith in the energy and creativity of youth. She says the idea for the book came when she felt affected by the high level of violence in our society. ‘I felt it was time to get out there and contact people who are trying to get a strong message out to the world through their music, their art, their writing.’

The response has been enormous.

The musicians include Peter Garrett, Yothu Yindi, Archie Roach, Angry Anderson, and members of Def FX, Not Drowning Waving, and Things Of Stone and Wood. They will provide song lyrics to lie alongside the poetry in The Earthbook.

Dancer Paul Mercurio and architect Peter Stutchbury will give poems of their own, joining a clutch of international artists lending support to The Earthbook.

Peter Gabriel (musician, UK), The Holmes Brothers (band, USA), Mahlathini & The Mahotella

Internationally renowned artist Drahos Zak (from the former Czechoslovakia) is providing the cover, design and illustrations for the book. And the most recent addition is our own Wayne Gardner, who will also give a message.

Alison says all the professional artists have offered tremendous support in the meetings and communications she has had with them. ‘These people are trying to get a message out, and it’s fantastic to know they’re out there, using their ways of message responsibly,’ says Alison.

‘They do have an incredible impact, and it really gives me hope when they’re providing their own work to help the book.’ But she wants to make sure the focus stays on the young poets’ work.

The project has been completely self-financed, not that money is Alison’s guiding force for The Earthbook, as the royalties will be going to a good cause too.

A percentage will go to the Creative Arts Program at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children at Camperdown in Sydney. This scheme gives hospitalised teenagers the chance to use artistic expression to help deal with pain and isolation. An artist-in-residence works with patients to use creativity to focus on the whole person, rather than a particular pain or injury, and to dampen the emotional trauma of being away from family and friends for long periods of time.

Unfortunately the Creative Arts program has difficulty finding funding, and this is where Alison felt she could help. The program ties in with Alison’s own values. She is fully committed to The Earthbook until it comes out in mid-1995, and her other projects are taking second priority until then.

‘This book,’ she says, ‘is where I begin.’
Bears wearing academic dress appropriate for University of Wollongong degrees and diplomas are now available for purchase through the Alumni Office and at graduation ceremonies. These bears are dressed locally by a Wollongong graduate. They come in two sizes: Grad Bear at $48.00 and Grad Bear (junior) at $30.00, and are packaged in clear containers for ease of storage and display.

Orders may be placed by using the form opposite. Please note that a postage and handling charge of $8.00 will apply to mail orders. When ordering please state the full name of the degree/diploma so that your bear will be wearing the correct academic dress.

**GRADUATION PLAQUE**

Members of the University's alumni can now purchase a personalised testamur plaque, laser engraved on gold-plated metal and mounted on a solid rosewood base. Recommended retail price for this superb plaque is $188.00, but we are able to offer it for $75.00 to Financial Members and $80.00 to other alumni members. (Prices include postage and handling, but please add $25.00 to overseas orders).

Just complete the order form below and return it with your payment and a clear photocopy of your testamur. (Allow 28 days delivery in Australia).

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I enclose a photocopy of my degree testamur, and also my cheque (or postal money order) payable to the University of Wollongong: $75.00 (for Financial Members of the Alumni Association) or $80.00 (for other alumni members). Plus $25.00 for overseas orders (where applicable).

Alternatively, please charge this amount to my: Bankcard / MasterCard / Visa (Delete as applicable)

Card No

Expiry date

Signature

Date ___ / ___ / ___

Please return with payment (and photocopy of your degree) to: Alumni Office, University of Wollongong, Northfields Ave, WOLLONGONG NSW 2522.

Orders may also be faxed on (042) 21 4299 — All enquiries to the Alumni Office on (042) 21 3249
The University of Wollongong has once again been listed in the 12 'best buy' institutions in The Independent Monthly's 'Good Universities Guide 1995'.

This guide has been published for four years and each year Wollongong has been nominated as one of the 12 'best buys'. The authors said that Wollongong goes from strength to strength, 'a fact which owes much to the quality of the university's leadership.

'Most courses are based on the academic disciplines but are taught with more awareness of the realities of work and the labour market. Wollongong puts more effort than most universities into improving the quality of teaching, especially for those with problems in writing, study skills or maths.

'Perhaps the university's greatest advantage is in its location, which combines natural beauty and a modest cost of living with easy access to Sydney. It is still easier to get into than its rivals, and it tries systematically to widen access. Wollongong must be at or near the top of any list of higher education institutions worth moving to.'

Consolidation of research

The University has had a record year in terms of attracting research funds from the federal government, coming equal fourth Australia-wide in the number of successful initial applications for Collaborative Research Grants. These grants have matching funds from industry.

In addition, the University was 50 per cent more successful than ever before in the recent round of Australian Research Council grants, and somewhat above the national average in terms of the success rate for these.

Commenting on this, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ken McKinnon, said, 'The research culture of the University has been enhanced, with more academics, in more faculties, successfully participating. Successful senior researchers are leading and coaching those with less experience in ways which are achieving excellent results for those involved.'

Further evidence of Wollongong's growing research profile was the launch earlier in the year of three new research institutes at the University: the Environment Research Institute, the Institute for Molecular Recognition and the Institute for Telecommunications Research.

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Tsunamis, those great waves generated by volcanic eruptions, earthquakes or submarine landslides, are feared along many coasts of the world, and rightly so, for the one triggered by the Krakatoa eruption in 1883 drowned more than 30,000 people.

Our own beautiful coast, however, seems far removed from such dangers, or at least it did until Associate Professors Ted Bryant and Bob Young from the Department of Geography began to uncover evidence of the catastrophic impact of several major tsunami events along the coast south of Wollongong.

At first it seemed that many of the piles of boulders and bedrock sculptured by waves well above sea level at various points along the coast might have been relics of ancient shorelines, when the sea stood above its present height, but it became increasingly clear that most of the features were far too young for that, and had in fact been thrown up by great waves.

Mounting evidence

Four detailed accounts of the evidence at sites such as Tura Head, Tuross Head, Bingie Bingie Point, Batemans Bay, Bass Point and Bellambi have already been published in international journals, and work is now proceeding on even more striking evidence recently discovered in and around Jervis Bay. At Little Beecroft Head east of Currarong, for example, great piles of boulders have been swept up to heights of 12 to 15 metres above sea level, and are clearly far beyond the transporting limits of present storm waves (see Photo 1).

The passage of the great train of waves which emplaced these boulders can be traced along the shore westward across huge piles of boulders at Honeysuckle Point towards Currarong. A little further south, above the cliffs at Mermaid's Inlet, boulders have been hurled to a height 30 metres above sea level (see Photo 2). Again the characteristic imbricated stacking of the boulders, like a pack of cards, together with the stripped surface of the surrounding sandstone, leaves no doubt that they were shifted by waves.

Bob Young explains that although these waves would have surged to their maximum along cliffs, their impact on lower sections of the coastline, especially inside large bays where the waves would slop back and forth like water in a bathtub, would still have been catastrophic.

Research into tsunamis

The causes of the tsunamis along the South Coast are uncertain, but the most probable culprits were submarine landslides or earthquakes along the Macquarie Rise in the south Tasman Sea. Preliminary estimates of the ages of these events from dating done in the Thermoluminescence Laboratory at the University's Geography Department, and also from carbon-14 dating, suggest that, although the oldest probably occurred about 105,000 years ago, several more occurred about 8,000 years ago, with the youngest probably striking the coast just before European settlement.

Cooperative research with the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, involving new cosmogenic techniques of dating, should soon provide a much clearer indication of when the tsunamis occurred.
A warning for the future

Recognition of the impact of the tsunamis has not only thrown important new light on the long-term history of coastal landforms, but it has also shown that our pleasant coast may be far more hazardous than we have previously thought. The evidence at Cullendulla Creek leaves little doubt that the waves would have gone right across the nearby Batemans Bay town site, and the piles of boulders inside Jervis Bay demonstrate that a similar event would today cause great damage around the suburbanised shoreline.

While much money and effort has gone into predicting the supposed future rise of sea level triggered by Greenhouse warming, the Wollongong geographers maintain that the real threat has gone unnoticed in coastal planning.

PHOTO 2. Boulders on the cliffs above Mermaid's Inlet (Jervis Bay) which have been hurled 30 metres above sea level.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the
UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG ALUMNI ASSOCIATION INC

will be held on
Saturday, 4 March 1995 6.00 - 7.30pm
in the Keira View Building at the University of Wollongong (western end of campus, Bldg 67)

Guest Speaker:
The Hon STEPHEN MARTIN MP
Speaker of The House of Representatives
and Member for Cunningham
Stephen, who is also a Wollongong graduate,
will share some of his insights into Australian politics and Parliament

Light refreshments will be served and parking will be available on campus

ALUMNI AND GUESTS ARE WARMLY INVITED TO ATTEND
(Please note that only Financial Members of the Alumni Association are eligible to vote at the AGM)

NB: Attention Commerce alumni!
The AGM of the Commerce Alumni Chapter will be held prior to the Association meeting. Details will be sent to Financial Members.
Damian Gillespie  
BAppSc 1991

When Damian Gillespie left the University of Wollongong in 1991, he confesses that he had absolutely no idea what the future held for him. ‘If someone had told me that in three years’ time I would be coaching tennis in the Swiss Alps, I would have thought they were crazy,’ he says.

At the time his only plan was to head for the Sunshine Coast in Queensland and look for work. Shortly after arriving there he started working as a gymnasium supervisor at the Hyatt Regency, Coolum. ‘I enjoyed the work,’ he explains, ‘but unfortunately it was only casual. Also, I think I felt, as many people do after putting in three years at university, that I should have been able to attain something a bit more prestigious and permanent.’

Damian was offered extra work in activities such as tennis, and as a facilitator for the corporate training program run by the hotel, known as ‘Phoenix’. This involved taking groups through trust and teambuilding exercises, as well as challenging courses using ropes. ‘I found helping people through their fears and personality-building a very rewarding experience,’ says Damian.

‘As a result of working with Phoenix, I met an American tennis coach who was on holiday in Australia. He mentioned that he was based in Fiji and was part of the largest tennis management company in the world. He knew that I had played tennis as a junior and suggested that I apply to work with Peter Burwash International (PBI). He said that my employment in a five-star hotel would help my application, as this company was very service-oriented, and that having a degree in the exercise science field would also be a bonus.’

So after much communication with the company and an interview with Peter Burwash in Fiji, Damian was offered a job with PBI. First he went for four weeks’ intensive training in Houston, Texas, and then on to the Bahamas where he became Tennis Director of an exclusive resort, known as the Cotton Bay Club. Damian also had the opportunity to become a certified scuba diver there.

His next stop was Europe, where he has been based for over a year now. Damian says, ‘I’ve had the opportunity to coach tennis in three countries here, including Italy at spectacular Lake Garda, the largest in Italy, and also in the Austrian Alps at a hotel near the famous ski resort of Kitzbuehel in Tirol, so I have learned to speak some German, and I’ve also improved my skiing ability.’

Damian is now in Switzerland, at a place called Films which lies south-east of Zurich. He is obviously enjoying life enormously: ‘I am hitting balls at an altitude of 1130m, surrounded by imposing mountains from which paragliders and hanggliders constantly jump, turquoise lakes that beckon you for a swim, and the famous Rhein (Rhine) River where tourists go rafting through what is locally known as the Swiss Grand Canyon.’

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Eganda-Hogga Piawi  
MSc(Hons) 1992

In 1988 Eganda-Hogga Piawi completed a science degree majoring in geology from the University of Papua New Guinea. He then worked for two years for an Australian mining company, CRA Exploration (PNG) Pty Ltd, as a mineral exploration geologist.

Eganda then applied for and was awarded a two and a half year scholarship (EMSS - AIDAB) to undertake an honours Master of Science degree at the University of Wollongong. His studies brought him to Australia between early 1990 and mid-1992, when he says he took a wide range of subjects in both soft rock and hard rock geology, geophysics and a number of...
mining engineering subjects. ‘This combination of subjects really widened my scope,’ he says, ‘and provided a broader understanding of the mineral industry.’

After completing his degree, Eganda returned to Papua New Guinea, where he is now employed by the Department of Mining and Petroleum in Port Moresby. He works as a minerals policy analyst within the Minerals Project Assessment Group, which is part of the Department’s Mining Division.

Eganda says that he really enjoyed his time at the University of Wollongong and values it very much. ‘The surrounding environment of the entire South Coast of New South Wales is very pretty, and the people are friendly,’ he says. ‘I appreciated the fact that the campus population is very much an international community. I was able to learn a lot more about many other countries in the Asia Pacific region, and other parts of the world too.’

He adds that he finds this general background very helpful in his job. His responsibilities include participating in negotiations with developers (mostly multinational companies) regarding mineral and petroleum developments; reviewing and assessing national policies regarding mineral resource development; providing advice on the financial and economic evaluation of major mineral projects; and reviewing and amending the standard agreements for mining and petroleum.

Eganda wants to extend particular thanks to the hard-working committee members of the Illawarra Committee for International Students (ICIS). He explains, ‘These people really go out of their way to make welcome the ever-growing number of overseas students and their families who come to Australia and to the city of Wollongong. Thanks are also due to the members of the Wollongong Baptist Church. They too make many overseas students welcome, and contribute significantly to the successful completion of our studies at the University’ ☑

Vianney Hatton graduated last year with a masters degree specialising in community health. She is a physiotherapist in the Community Rehabilitation Team of Southcare, the Department of Aged and Extended Care of the Sutherland Hospital, Caringbah, and she has recently been notified that she has been awarded a Churchill Fellowship for 1995.

The aim of the Churchill Trust, established in Australia by public subscriptions in the mid-1960s, is to give the opportunity, through financial support, to Australians from all walks of life to undertake overseas study or an investigative project of a kind that is not fully available in Australia. From the many applications received, 23 fellowships were awarded in New South Wales for 1995.

Vianney is also a religious sister and member of an International congregation, Servant of the Blessed Sacrament. As a sister she spent more than 25 years in the community at Armadale in Melbourne, and has served in the community’s apostolates in the USA, India and Sri Lanka. Since returning to Sydney in 1983, she has lived and worked in the community at Redfern, where the sisters have an apostolate amongst the needy and aboriginal people of the area. Vianney now lives at Kirrawee and is an active parishioner at St Patrick’s, Sutherland.

Vianney has been working with older people in the Sutherland Shire for the past ten years, and has been involved in a health promotion program for older people called SAGE, or Senior Australians for Growth and Exploration. She plans to use her Fellowship to examine training programs for community support personnel, with a special emphasis on promoting skills and attitudes for positive ageing. Innovative programs currently operating in the USA, Canada, Scandinavia and the United Kingdom have been selected for this study.

She says that she hopes the knowledge, experience and insights gained will be useful in enhancing the work of Southcare. ‘The well-being of the whole person, their physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and social health, must be encouraged in order that ageing can be seen as a positive process, and old age as a natural and fulfilling phase of a complete life.’

Of all the Churchill Fellowships awarded for next year, Vianney is the only physiotherapist and the only person whose study project deals with older people. ‘I thought it might be an encouragement to other graduates (in particular those who are ‘older’),’ she says, ‘and especially also to those working in the area of care and education for older people’ ☑
The Chancellor congratulates the winners of the Campus Alumni Honours Year Book Scholarships, Renee Janssen (mathematics) and Sean Stewart (physics), at the reunion held on Open Day. These scholarships were donated by the Campus Alumni from funds raised through their monthly second-hand book sales.

SCHOLARSHIP DONATED BY HONORARY CHAPTER

The Association's Honorary Chapter, which comprises the Fellows of the University, the recipients of honorary degrees and the Emeritus Professors, has raised in excess of $3,000 from its members during 1994. The funds will be used to create a scholarship for a first-year student enrolling in the Faculty of Creative Arts in 1995.

Many thanks to all those Honorary Chapter members who made a contribution to this worthwhile project.

INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

Malaysia

Earlier this year the Malaysian Chapter of the Alumni Association held a reunion in Kuala Lumpur. About 50 graduates attended, some of whom had travelled from the other side of the country to meet up with their old friends.

This was the second reunion of Wollongong alumni in Malaysia and it was organised by a very enthusiastic and hard-working committee. They are in the process of formalising the University's alumni chapter in Malaysia. More than 300 Malaysian students have graduated in the last ten years or so, and word is gradually spreading that there is now a mechanism for them to stay in touch with each other and with the University.

Singapore

In June a small group of alumni met with three University representatives and the University's agent in Singapore to discuss the formation of an alumni chapter. The University was represented by Mr Peter Kell, Chairman of the Planned Giving Committee of the University Foundation, Mr John Erickson, a member of the same committee, and Mr Bill McGaw from the Illawarra Technology Corporation.

A reunion for Wollongong graduates living in Singapore is planned for next year, after a local advertising campaign to try and find as many of our alumni as possible.
The formal proceedings were held in the new Keira View building at the western end of campus. The Chancellor, the Hon Dr Robert Hope, and the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton, welcomed the guests and both spoke of the importance of the alumni to the University. The Chancellor then presented certificates to the two winners of the Campus Alumni Honours Year Book Scholarships.

A barbecue lunch, held in the Keira View 'private dining room', followed the formalities. This room, with its large balcony and excellent views over the campus and to the ocean in the distance, offered an ideal venue for experiencing the campus as it is today. Some of the alumni went on guided tours in order to appreciate more fully all the changes to the campus, and some also joined Association Board members later in the day for afternoon tea, after exploring the Open Day activities.
A REUNION HELD IN MELBOURNE...

About 20 alumni living in or near Melbourne attended a reunion in September. The evening was hosted by Professor Bill Lovegrove, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research), and Mr Keith Phipps, Alumni Association President. Professor Lovegrove gave a most entertaining and informative talk about recent developments at the University of Wollongong at the annual meeting of the Australian University Alumni Council, it made sense to combine this with meeting some of our alumni living in Perth.

A small but very enjoyable function was held at Edith Cowan University in early October, with just five alumni present. The Alumni Association. A capacity group of over 30 students attended the half day workshop on Resume Preparation and Interview Skills, and many more expressed interest.

The four workshop presenters were Wollongong alumni, all of whom gave freely of their time and expertise. They were Anna Di Giorgio (BA 1991), Wendy Amesbury (BCom 1987) and Milan Stanojevic (BA 1988), who are employed in the human resources area at BHP; and Allan Petersen (GDipEdStud 1982, MEd 1990), who is Principal of Narellan Public School and President of the Education Chapter of the Alumni Association.

The seminar was most successful, with very positive feedback received from the students who attended. It is hoped that one or two similar seminars can be organised next year. As well as offering a service to our students, and helping to raise the profile of the Alumni Association on campus, such seminars also offer our graduates an opportunity to share their expertise and maintain their links with the University.

... AND ONE IN PERTH

Since the Association's President and the Alumni Executive Officer were to visit Western Australia in October to represent the University of Wollongong at the annual meeting of the Australian University Alumni Council, it made sense to combine this with meeting some of our alumni living in Perth.

A small steering committee was formed during the evening, headed by Michael Halls (BA 1978) and Geoff Wilson (BCom 1990), the aim being to develop a Victorian Chapter of the Alumni Association. If you live in Victoria and would like to know more about this, please contact the Alumni Office at the University.

University, and this was followed by the alumni video which appeared to strike a nostalgic chord with some of the alumni present!

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CAREER SEMINAR FOR STUDENTS

During September the first career development seminar for current undergraduate and postgraduate students was organised by the number of Wollongong graduates living in or near Perth is not large, so it was particularly good to meet some of them. A Western Australian Chapter of the Association might even be developed as a result and three of the alumni have volunteered to pursue this. They are Greg Davis (BMath(Hon) 1980, PhD 1984), Matthew Fikkers (AssocDipSpTSc 1987) and Michael Frost (BCom 1987).

Since the Association's President
NEW OFFER ON COMPUTER SALES TO ALUMNI

The University of Wollongong Alumni Association and Campus Personal Computing are pleased to announce the extension of on-campus computer purchasing to Financial Members of the University's Alumni Association.

Campus Personal Computing (CPC) is a University-owned computer reseller which is operated by the Information Technology Services group. CPC works closely with faculties to offer the most appropriate computing solutions to staff, students and departments of the University.

An extension of this purchasing mechanism has recently been negotiated, and Wollongong alumni are now able to purchase Apple Macintosh computers, Compaq MS-DOS compatibles, printers and a wide variety of software packages through CPC. Products from the Apple and Compaq ranges, including notebook and desktop computers, are available and may be obtained at the same competitive educational pricing available to staff and students of the University.

This purchasing program has been implemented by staff within CPC and the Alumni Association, and has been ratified by both Apple and Compaq. Under the program a proportion of the income from each sale will be donated back to the Alumni Association. Consequently the program is intended not only to allow alumni to obtain competitive pricing on computer equipment, but also to assist the Alumni Association with development funding. So you can support your Association whilst saving money!

Financial Members of the Alumni Association wishing to purchase computer equipment should contact the staff at Campus Personal Computing (042-21 3775), who can provide them with details of the various options available. CPC is located on the first floor of the University Library. Systems can be purchased with cash, cheque or credit card. Alumni wishing to buy computer systems may become Financial Members of the Alumni Association at any time prior to purchase. An application form is inserted in this magazine.

Campus Personal Computing
First Floor, University of Wollongong Library
Office Hours: 9.00am-5.00pm Mon-Fri
Phone: (042) 213 775

Your need for a computer didn’t end when you graduated...

The University of Wollongong Alumni Association and Campus Personal Computing are pleased to announce on-campus computer purchasing for Financial Members of the Alumni Association.

Competitive educational pricing is now also available to Alumni members on Apple Macintosh computers, Compaq MS-DOS compatibles, printers and a variety of software packages.

Under this scheme a proportion of the income from each sale will be donated to the Association, so not only do you get a great deal on your computer equipment, you also get to help your Alumni Association grow and prosper.

Please contact the staff at Campus Personal Computing for further details.
The University of Wollongong Union

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