
We see the University of Wollongong's relationship with its graduates becoming stronger each year. There have been a significant number of celebrations and meetings this year, involving graduates from a number of faculties. We now have two more Chapters: Shoalhaven and Science.

Once again, we have been pleased to award Alumni Grants to two of our alumni peers - Katherine Rosen and Stuart Street (see page 24 for details).

Other scholarships and awards have been presented by the Campus, Engineering, Commerce and Honorary Chapters.

In July, we organised a seminar on résumé writing and preparing for job interviews. Two alumni, both human resources personnel with local companies, generously gave their time to conduct this well-received program. These personal and social networks are one of our major benefits.

The Board was delighted to receive a cheque for over $2,300 from Mr Greg Naimo, Head of the University's Information Technology Services. This represented 5% of all computer purchases made by alumni Financial Members. A new membership benefit, Internet access, is now available - see page 27 for details.

In July, Juliet Richardson, Alumni Executive Officer visited the alumni operations of a number of universities in the UK. Her report is available on request from the Alumni Office.

The many alumni in Hong Kong have recently been targeted to help establish strategic alliances between overseas companies and those located in the Illawarra. This could offer business opportunities to our alumni, and the project is being extended to include all our international graduates.

Also on the international front, our alumni in Malaysia were invited in October to attend a cocktail reception in Kuala Lumpur, hosted by Associate Professor Rob Castle. All Australian alumni living in Malaysia were invited to attend the prestigious 'Malaysian Australian University Alumni Convention'.

Reunions are also being organised for alumni in Malaysia and Singapore in mid-December. These will be hosted by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) and the Deans of three faculties: Commerce, Engineering and Informatics.

Our Treasurer, Ron Perrin, was our representative at the annual conference of the Australian University Alumni Council held in Brisbane in September. The impact of government budget cuts and good media relations were major themes.

The Board hosted a pre-graduation dinner in October. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton described some of the innovative ventures being undertaken both now and into 1997 and beyond (see pages 8 & 9). The Dinner is an annual event, so next time come along and enjoy the company of fellow alumni.

Meanwhile, why not join one of the many postgraduate programs on offer at Wollongong and once again benefit from your education at one of Australia's strongest universities.

We hope to see you at the Association's AGM on Saturday, 8 March 1997 (see page 14 for details). One of our early alumni, The Hon Fred Finch, MLA, who is Minister for Education and Training in the Northern Territory government, will be the guest speaker.

I hope this issue of the Outlook is not only a valuable source of information, but that you will use future issues as a forum for the feedback of your ideas and thoughts about the University of Wollongong.

Warmest greetings,

Ruth Procter
President, Alumni Association

INTERNET ACCESS!

Alumni Financial Members can now access the Internet through a special arrangement. See page 27 for details.
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FRONT COVER: Jinyum project researchers with traditional owners at the excavation site in the East Kimberley region. From left: Mrs Biddy Simon, traditional custodian; Dr Lesley Head and Mr David Price from the School of Geosciences at the University of Wollongong; Mrs Polly Wandanga, traditional custodian; Dr Richard Fullagar from the Australian Museum; and Mr Paddy Carlton, traditional owner. See article on pages 4-7. Photo courtesy of Rick Stevens, Sydney Morning Herald.

University of Wollongong
HEADLINES. SONGLINES AND TIMELINES

Archaeological research by a joint University of Wollongong and Australian Museum team suggests that Australia may have been first occupied by people before 100,000 years ago. The research, which has received extensive media coverage in the last few months, also provides a date of around 60,000 years ago for a form of rock art known as cupule engraving. This has long been recognised to be the oldest surviving form of rock art in Australia, but has not previously been found in a datable context.

Two University of Wollongong researchers, Dr Lesley Head and Mr David Price of the School of Geosciences, have been involved in the project over a number of years, together with Dr Richard Fullagar of the Division of Anthropology at the Australian Museum. In an article appearing this month in the journal Meanjin, Lesley Head reflects on issues raised by the broader context of the research and the public’s reaction to it.

That old archaeological dates in Australia are front-page news tells us more about our own society than about prehistoric ones. Many Australians are now passionately interested in Aboriginal prehistory; it is one of the paths by which we are coming to terms with our own social and ecological role on the continent. But we still conceptualise that history in linear terms that reflect the colonial heritage.

So it is not surprising that a research project in which present-day Aboriginal relations to land have been as much a focus as prehistoric ones should get publicity for having old dates. But it is useful to disentangle three issues which need to be considered separately.

Where do contemporary Aboriginal people find a place for themselves in a history constructed according to the principles of the Western scientific method? Are they living fossils, exemplars of lifestyles many thousands of years old? Are they examples of 'pristine' hunter-gatherers, irrevocably contaminated by their contact with European society? Is there any compatibility between Dreaming stories of the ancestral past and timelines with dates on them? These disturbing questions are the stuff of daily life for Australian archaeologists and the Aboriginal communities with whom they work.

Throw the visual imagery of Jinmium—red rocks with ancient markings, black skin, blokes in akubras—into the public domain and issues become more problematic. We are reminded that in the Australian imagination the 'timeless' land and people are never far from the primeval and inconceivably ancient. The association of 'real' Aborigines with antiquity is reinforced in a number of areas of popular culture, from Toyota advertisements to the overseas campaigns of the Australian Tourist Commission. 1

So it is not surprising that a research project in which present-day Aboriginal relations to land have been as much a focus as prehistoric ones should get publicity for having old dates. But it is useful to disentangle three issues which need to be considered separately.

1. The Jinmium Dates

There is no way to whisper to Australia in 1996 that people might have been here more than 100,000 years ago. When Richard Fullagar, David Price and I decided we had no option but to publish the Jinmium Dates, the headlines were not the only point of interest.

Exploring these issues takes us to central questions in Australian cultural life. To dismiss this process as 'new age' or 'politically correct' archaeology is a facile analysis, uninformed by either the sociology of science or the recent history of Australian archaeology.

The Jinmium Dates

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Exploring these issues takes us to central questions in Australian cultural life. To dismiss this process as 'new age' or 'politically correct' archaeology is a facile analysis, uninformed by either the sociology of science or the recent history of Australian archaeology.

The first is the role of Aboriginal people as stakeholders in the writing of Australian prehistory. The second is the way in which archaeology has become part of (mainly) white Australia's attempt to understand its own identity and impact on a continent previously inhabited by hunter-gatherers. The third is a more academic debate, in which researchers across several disciplines are attempting to problematise, rather than take as natural or given, continuity and change in Aboriginal relations to land.

We had two main concerns with any publicity: timing...
and context. Most importantly, press coverage should not pre-empt scientific publication of the results. But was there a way to do it that emphasised the broader context of our research endeavour, of which dating is just one part, and did not offend but rather included the Aboriginal people without whom the ten-year project could not be carried out?

A press release to a level playing field of journalists seemed the least suitable way, and the most likely to produce the sort of treasure hunt view of archaeology that we and dozens of our colleagues spend much time trying to dispel. In the end, it was a particularly tenacious journalist, James Woodford of the Sydney Morning Herald, who chose us more than we chose him. After the paper had been accepted and scheduled for publication in Antiquity we agreed to talk with him and the staff of Waringarri Radio in Kununurra about covering the issues in depth in the Herald and on radio.

For reasons that are on record as being the fault of neither the journalists nor the researchers, the Herald story ran five weeks earlier than planned, at a time when final proofs of the paper were not yet available for scientists. Waringarri Radio had twenty-four hours notice to put together a set of brief interviews, rather than the half-hour documentary they had planned.

The scientific community can be reassured that the editorial process was not compromised. We nevertheless live with the tag of ‘show-ponies’—a cardinal sin in academic circles. While we find that galling, particularly having spent two years trying to avoid such a situation, it is a small price to pay for averting a greater danger: alienating the Aboriginal community with whom we work.

Overseas scientists in particular would do well to recognise that there is

Archaeology and Aborigines

Aboriginal people are no longer prepared to accept an archaeology that is just the next face of colonialism, characterised by dispossession of cultural heritage rather than land. Members of the Australian Archaeological Association are required by their Code of Ethics to negotiate and obtain the informed consent of local Aboriginal people before commencing work, not to remove artefacts or remains without their written consent, and to return the research results in formats accessible to local people. In communities where most older people neither read nor write, accessible formats must include radio and visual media.

Aboriginal demands for participation were crucial in the cultural heritage legislation developed in most parts of Australia in the 1970s and 1980s. They were also influential in encouraging archaeologists to look more broadly at how Aboriginal people understood the landscape, rather than focusing just on ‘sites’ and ‘relics’. Prehistoric archaeologists deal on a daily basis with the challenges of this politicisation in a way that historians, for example, do not.

The material remains which constitute evidence for archaeologists are an arena of contested ownership and authorisation, as is the physical landscape in which they are embedded.

In most parts of Australia appropriate processes of consultation are also a condition of an archaeological research permit being granted by the relevant state or territory authority. In the case of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, research funding is not granted unless the support of the relevant Aboriginal community is demonstrated.

Every day of the week archaeologists around the country, in probably a hundred different contexts, negotiate with Aboriginal communities. These negotiations take a lot of time and can be hard work, but the vast majority are mutually productive. None of the dating specialists can do their job without them. The consequences when they break down, as recently occurred in Tasmania, are devastating for all concerned, and can shut down the research enterprise in a whole state. When things go well, such interactions are producing innovative archaeologies that are no less scientifically rigorous for being open to other ways of seeing the world.

Archaeology and Colonisation

Much has been written about the historical alienation between white Australians and the land they inhabit. There are three identifiable dimensions to this literature. First, Aborigines have either disappeared from or been absorbed into the landscape instead of existing in a historically constructed relationship
with it. Second, the land is hostile to white struggles, both spiritual and physical. Third, a land inimical to culture provides a blank slate for the colonisers.

In creating myths of belonging, the colonisers have seen the land in natural terms rather than cultural ones. David Lowenthal wrote in 1978 that 'Only if Aboriginal 'hallowed ashes' became conspicuous monuments in the Australian landscape could the Aboriginal past form part of the mythic heritage that nature alone now supplies'. Nearly two decades on, a number of sites have become such monuments; Lake Mungo, Kakadu and south-west Tasmania are recognised for their cultural as well as natural heritage values.

Non-Aboriginal Australians are part of the way through a process of coming to terms with their country as a prehistoric cultural landscape. It is a slow process because it requires us to acknowledge different dimensions of landscape, both physical and conceptual. Many of our contemporary environmental attitudes can be shown to derive from exactly the same dualistic conceptions (humans as separate from nature) for which we berate our forefathers. If terra nullius was a myth to be discarded in discussions of the ownership of the continent, then it must be similarly discarded when we create and preserve landscapes.

In our East Kimberley research, we are trying to look at different kinds of landscapes at different kinds of timescales—from the last hundred years to the deep prehistoric. This is because our central concern is understanding long-term Aboriginal interactions with the environment. The reality of the research process is that neither the landscapes nor the timescales are approachable via the simple, quick steps suggested by the word 'discovery'.

Apart from the broader debates about human evolution, there are important reasons to know when people got to Australia. How have the flora and fauna changed since colonisation? What were the relative impacts of climate and humans in shaping the Australian environment? Does the past tell us anything about what is 'natural' or 'normal' in these ecosystems? Answers to these questions are vital for our decisions about contemporary management strategies, but they don't come easily.

There are no simple cross-checks on the controversial Jinnium TL dates. There are only different views among researchers on the appropriateness and reliability of TL and optically stimulated luminescence (OSL), bulk sampling and single grain analysis in a range of sedimentary contexts. Like research into environmental change, this work has been going on for years and will continue to do so.

Continuity and Change

At the more recent end of the timescale we need to problematise, more systematically than we have done, the links between Aborigines as they are represented archaeologically, historically and in the present day. In the far east Kimberley, known to many Australians as Durack country, Aboriginal hunter-gatherers and white pastoralists have been interacting for a hundred years.

The pastoral invasion was rapid and brutal, and was experienced by the parents of Aboriginal people alive today. Pastoralism was followed in little more than a human lifetime by modern communications and information technology. Aboriginal people live in houses, catch 'planes to funerals and use the telephone often. There could apparently be few better examples of the irrevocable contamination of a pristine hunter-gatherer society by the colonial experience.

This is undoubtedly the perception of the majority of the latest wave of colonisers, the tourists who are drawn to a place marketed as Australia's 'last frontier', who are always on the lookout for a 'real' Aborigine.

The paradox is that while much has changed in Aboriginal society in the north-west Northern Territory, there is also much that has not. We have argued from diverse evidence—oral history, archival history, ethnobotany (with Jenny Atchison), studies of fire usage (with Toni O'Neill and John Marthick), archaeology—that the resilience lies primarily in the centrality of attachments to land and the social relations that express and mediate those attachments.

Artists painting at particular sites in their country while laid off from mustering, craftsmen pressure-flaking Kimberley points from glass, yam gardeners distressed because the country has not been burned properly for a number of years, all express these continuities. Means refers to this sort of process as 'introducing change to maintain continuity'.

This perspective may help explain other characteristics that do not seem to fit the static, economically centred perception of hunter-gatherers held by a large proportion of the
Australian population. How is it that remote Aboriginal communities have so readily adopted such things as Toyotas, planes, telephones and Web sites, yet remain relatively indifferent to what the rest of us might think of as intermediate technology, for example chairs and shoes? The centrality of communication, information exchange and social responsibilities, particularly in relation to land, seems to be the key.

Jinmium is incorporated into a present-day Aboriginal Dreaming story linking a number of rocky outcrops. The outcrops connected by the story are important sources of stone, ochre and yams. While we would not claim to be able to reconstruct the antiquity of this story or any other, we do suggest that there are at least two ways to explore the prehistory of the attachments to place that the story expresses. Crucially, they help us begin the task of linking the conceptual and physical landscapes in the prehistoric record.

The first is to examine the prehistory of the named places in terms of changes in the biophysical landscape. In a landscape that has undergone dramatic change with rises and falls in sea level over tens of thousands of years, the story connects the most permanent features of that landscape, rocky outcrops.

Secondly, we argue that important elements of the story have archaeological manifestations—stone and ochre from particular quarries. We argue also that the use of yams is archaeologically visible, albeit less clearly, through starchy residues on stone pounding tools. With limited excavation, we are not yet in a position to assess the regional pattern, but the Jinmium excavation indicates that there were connections between these same places at least 60,000 years ago.

We are not arguing that the Dreaming as perceived by Aboriginal people today can be traced to this time period, but it does provide strong evidence of perceived links between specific places in mentally mapped landscapes. This relates to the spatial organisation and extent of rock art, as seen in work by Paul Tacon, Sven Ouzman and Ken Mulvaney.

Changes in the numbers rewrite a certain kind of history, but it is not the only interesting or important one. The research process is embedded in the cultural changes taking place in Australian society. We should not fear this process, but neither should we expect it to be anything other than complex, long-term and contested.

For most of us, learning to live with the challenges of both physics and politics is part of what makes archaeology exciting. Perhaps the most important thing the discipline can teach the community from which it springs is that these tensions can be creative.

This essay was originally published in Meanjin, vol. 55 no. 4 (1996).


The Alumni Association is organising a career development seminar for final-year students and recent alumni:

**SURVIVAL SKILLS IN THE WORKPLACE**

**A seminar to help prepare you for employment**

**Wednesday, 23 April 1997**

3.30-7.00pm

in the Union Function Centre on campus

This half day seminar will cover the transition from campus to the workplace, introducing students and alumni to presentation and report-writing skills, and to communication and negotiation skills.

Concepts such as organisational culture and office politics will also be covered. Two highly-qualified Wollongong alumni who work in the training area will present the workshop: Wendy Raikes (BA 1984, MMgt 1990) and Pam Piela (BEc (Syd), MCom 1995). New graduates are especially encouraged to attend.

The cost is $5.00 and registration is essential. Please contact the Alumni Office on tel: 21 3169 or 21 3249 for further information.
On the occasion of the annual Alumni Dinner on 2 October, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton, outlined his vision for our University. Reproduced below is the text of this speech, undoubtedly of great interest to alumni given the current climate in Australian higher education.

There is a considerable degree of anxiety, concern and confusion over the future of university education in this country as a result of decisions taken by the federal government in its August budget. University staff, current students and their families, prospective students and their families, alumni, as well as the community more generally, all share to varying degrees these feelings.

Such feelings are natural in any change process, but given the extent of the changes that have been and will continue to be unleashed on universities, they are quite to be expected.

However, change of whatever nature (contractionary, expansionary, deregulatory) provides impetus to those with a clear strategic vision who are able to position themselves to advantage and proactively generate and seize opportunities.

The future environment within which universities will operate in this country is one familiar to business, but essentially alien to universities. It will move rapidly to embrace the basic philosophy of the Coalition to allow the ‘market’ to determine worth and to minimise government’s role.

Deregulation and competition will be the key characteristics of our future environment, which is quite a contrast from the current environment of regulation and collegial cooperation.

Universities will be expected to diversify their funding base, receiving an ever-shrinking percentage from government funds and an ever-increasing percentage from fees, competitive grants, industry and endowments.

How is the University of Wollongong positioned to deal with this Brave New World? The simple answer to this question is not as good as some, but better than most.

We do not have the reserves of the older universities built up from endowments over several generations. We are not in the middle of a major population centre.

On the other hand, we have a good and growing reputation both nationally and internationally. We are in a financially sound position. We have strong support from the local community and local industry.

In general we have staff of a high quality with a strong commitment to the institution. We have a group of deans and senior managers who are first class. I have the best senior executive team in the country.

Overall, not a bad position for a university to be launching into this Brave New World.

Does this new environment affect our strategic plan? Any university that answers ‘no’ to this question is in deep trouble. Of course it does and it must.

The vision, ‘the light on the hill’, remains firmly in place, but the route we take must respect the terrain through which we are passing.

The University of Wollongong remains committed to our vision of becoming an international research university.

A revision of our current strategic plan would not suffice, given the extent of the changes to our environment, and we have therefore commenced the development of a new strategic plan. Key elements must include a doubling of the percentage of research students, a significant increase in our international strategic alliances, as well as in our industrial strategic alliances, and a dramatic lift in our full-fee postgraduate
coursework offerings. Are new initiatives on hold while this repositioning is taking place? No, and it is important that they not be.

Some universities have understandably gone into paralysis, but I believe it is important both in terms of our strategic positioning and our morale that we continue to generate and seize opportunities.

I believe the most significant impediment to doing this is the perception of the industrial relations climate in this region. The University is leading a study designed to identify those areas which must be addressed in order to attract new industries to the region.

I am a member of a small task force chaired by the Lord Mayor that is charged with bringing new industries to the Illawarra. This task force has convinced the NSW government to declare the Illawarra region as 'The NSW Centre of Expertise in Telecommunications', based primarily on the University's strength in this field. This is a key strategic positioning of the region to take advantage of a growth industry.

The University is now at a stage of academic maturity and the region should be using it to broaden the local economical base.

I am not minimising the difficulty of the reshaping exercise the University is currently engaged in. An effective 15 per cent budget cut, in an enterprise where 80 per cent of its budget represents staffing costs, is a big 'ask'. It clearly has industrial implications and a real human cost, which I am attempting to minimise.

It will dash expectations of segments of our local community in areas that the University is forced to move out of. However, adjust we must and adjust we will.

While this reshaping scene is being played out, there are many new opportunities presenting, some of which I believe will be of interest to our alumni.

The University is now at a stage of academic maturity and the region should be using it to broaden the local economic base.

The University will lead an educational development on the south coast that will see a 'high technology' campus established at Nowra, with outreachs at locations between Nowra and the Victorian border.

The strategic alliance between the University and BHP is continuing to strengthen. Our Institute of Steel Processing and Products has attracted three world-class professors and they are beginning to make an impact on our research and teaching profile. The latest initiative signed only recently is a half million dollar contract to deliver a Master of Logistics to BHP middle managers.

A strategic alliance is being developed between the University and the Illawarra Area Health Service, which has now been accorded teaching and research status by the NSW Department of Health. It is intended that our respective public health units be integrated into a common division that will ensure a first-class public health service for the Illawarra region.

The University has established via its commercial arm a private college called the Wollongong International College, providing pre-degree programs that will feed students into our award programs. Equally importantly, it will position the University to respond flexibly to a rapidly-changing environment.

We have established a business school in our Faculty of Commerce and have attracted a world-class appointment as its director.

Against strong international competition, we have recently won two international contracts funded by the World Bank. From Pakistan: a $6m contract to train doctors and nurses within their family health project, which will benefit our Faculty of Health & Behavioural Sciences. A $2m contract that will benefit our Faculty of Education has yet to be formally announced.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge our staff involved in that important archeological find in the Kimberleys. The professionalism of Dr Lesley Head and Mr David Price in handling the scientific debate and the world press simultaneously has been outstanding. They have brought great credit, together with international recognition, to the University of Wollongong.

'This is a key strategic positioning of the region to take advantage of a growth industry.'

Suffice to say that the good ship University of Wollongong will weather whatever current and future storms beset us. We will not be diverted from our destiny to be one of the great international research universities.

The storms simply make it a little more challenging.

ATTENTION SCIENCE ALUMNI!

A new chapter of the Association is being established for science graduates, with activities (eg Golf Day) planned for early 1997. For further details see the Alumni Association News on page 26.

'LOST' ALUMNI

We are trying to track down current addresses for Wollongong alumni whom we have lost touch. If you know any other graduates or former staff who may not receive Outlook, please ask them to contact us, so they can receive this magazine free of charge and find out about the Alumni Association.
MORE ABOUT MULTIMEDIA

Staff from Educational Media Services (EMS) and other areas within the University are constantly working on new multimedia projects, regularly gaining recognition in the process.

BACKMAN, a game for helping people understand preventative backcare in the workplace, and 'Eggsterminator', a game for just fun, have both won awards this year for the University of Wollongong.

BACKMAN was designed for the WorkCover Authority of New South Wales, and has been profiled on WorkCover's stand at the Royal Easter Show for the past two years.

Featuring a cute animated character, users have to navigate BACKMAN through a series of obstacles involving lifting, without losing their three lives. It is available through WorkCover offices. The Serif Award for Technology Media was presented by the Australian Institute of Professional Communicators and the Society for Business Communicators.

'Eggsterminator' was designed and developed by a team of four at Educational Media Services in just three days, as a fun way to demonstrate to university staff the processes behind programming interactive learning environments. It won a Macromedia Bonsai Award for best electronic brochure. In keeping with the Japanese meaning of bonsai, entries had to be built using macromedia animation tools in such a way that they could still fit on a floppy disk.

Although EMS education and production expertise is available to external clients, its primary mission is to assist and develop university teachers using teaching and learning technologies to enhance the quality of education for 'The Wollongong Graduate', no matter where in the world they be'.

One example of the use of multimedia to improve teaching is the Chemistry PreLab's CD-ROM, designed by Audrey Wilson of the Chemistry Department with support from EMS.

Screen from 'Eggsterminator'

Screen from 'BACKMAN'

Screen from Chemistry Department CD-ROM

Containing simulations of the twelve laboratory experiments that first-year Chemistry students must do, the CD-ROM has been invaluable in improving safety and efficiency in the real Chemistry laboratory.

Educational Media Services also this year became part of the STARLIT Cooperative Multimedia Centre (CMC) in partnership with Oracle, Griffith University, Central Queensland University, and New Media Corporation.

Six CMCs were established by the federal government as part of its Creative Nation Statement, five of which are state-based. STARLIT is the only national CMC.

STARLIT's goal is to educate and train Australians to a world-class standard in the management, design, development, marketing and delivery of flexible learning systems. Increasingly, flexible learning involves use of CD-ROM and the World Wide Web.
ENVIRONMENTAL CD-ROM SUCCESS

The Interactive Multimedia Learning Laboratory (IMML) in the Faculty of Education has developed another award-winning investigative multimedia package, featured earlier this year on an ABC TV 'Quantum' program.

An important part of the 'Exploring the Nardoo' resource is the support it offers teachers wishing to use the software in their classes, including implementation ideas, worksheet templates, details of related curriculum ideas and suggestions for extending the use of the package.

'Nardoo' is being distributed through Interactive Multimedia Pty Ltd, telephone (06) 273 5405.

This year the Awards focused exclusively on published multimedia titles and online multimedia publications. In support of this, the Awards were presented in conjunction with the world's premier event in the publishing industry - the Frankfurt Book Fair.

In mid-October, 'Nardoo' also won the gold award in the tertiary education category of the RiverCare 2000 Awards. This is a state government initiative which acknowledges innovative projects aimed at achieving clean, healthy and productive rivers.

Finally, in late October 'Nardoo' won the tertiary section of the Australian Teachers of Media (ATOM) International Multimedia Awards. Wollongong was the only non-Victorian winner of an ATOM award this year.
WHEN FORMER CLASSMATES NEGOTIATE FOR DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

Foundation professor of politics and coordinator of the postgraduate program in international relations, Edward Wolfers, asks the question: What happens when former classmates negotiate with one another on behalf of two different countries?

The question is of more than theoretical interest to students enrolled in the masters program in international relations at the University of Wollongong.

The answer so far seems to be that it can sometimes be mutually beneficial to know your counterparts personally, and to be able to sound them out informally, provided that everyone involved knows what is happening and remains conscious of their ultimate responsibilities.

Graduates of the Wollongong program have, in fact, repeatedly dealt with each other officially as members of their respective countries' permanent missions at European Union headquarters in Brussels and at United Nations headquarters in New York. In the latter case, Wollongong has been 'represented' simultaneously on as many as three missions, including Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu.

Wollongong graduates have also been among members of both delegations engaged in sensitive bilateral negotiations between governments in the Asia-Pacific region.

In several capitals, ex-students have been members of an embassy or high commission accredited to a foreign office where another works. The Indonesian Embassy in the Philippines capital, Manila, and the Papua New Guinea High Commission in the Solomon Islands capital, Honiara, are examples.

The trend continues.

Established in 1989, the Wollongong program in international relations set itself the distinctive task of providing students with a professionally relevant, high-level academic education of world-class.

Based on experience and on a careful assessment of needs, particularly in developing countries in the Asia-Pacific, the program was planned to provide a multi-disciplinary introduction to the kinds of knowledge and skills that a diplomat in the 21st century would need.

Thus, a Wollongong masters degree consists not only of traditional studies of the theory and practice of international politics, but takes account of the increasingly complex environment in which diplomats work by requiring all students to complete a core of four subjects that includes subjects in three other disciplines: international politics, economics, law and management.

The growing importance of international trade, investment and other financial flows makes it vital for modern diplomats, many of whom work in departments that have been required to take responsibility for foreign affairs and trade, to know at least some economics.

The trend towards trying to bring order to vast new areas of international relations by giving the form, if not always the force, of law to common understandings in areas such as environmental conservation and management of the world's seas, makes a knowledge of international law essential to diplomats working on a wide range of issues.

As recruits advance into supervisory positions, so they require the ability to keep up-to-date with the latest developments in management.

In addition to taking the four core subjects, students are free to specialise in a particular discipline, issue or area of the world, with studies of the Asia-Pacific a particular strength.

They are also required to develop a range of professional skills in areas such as computing, and to take part in regular simulations, including regular diplomatic reporting and analysis.

Most of the students who have undertaken the Wollongong program in international relations have been diplomats before they enrolled.

Almost all have been promoted or given an overseas posting soon after graduation.

The most senior graduates have already risen to influential policy advisory positions in their home countries or been appointed an ambassador abroad. The latter include the head of the Solomon Islands Mission to the European Union, Ambassador Robert Sisilo (see alumni profile on page 23), and the Papua New Guinea Chargé d'Affaires in Paris, Kappa Yarka (see photo this page).

But the skills and experience they have acquired sometimes lead to quite new careers.

Three of the first graduates from Papua New Guinea, whose government takes a close interest in the Wollongong program, have risen to become heads of department. They include the current Secretary for Lands and Physical Planning, John Painap, and the Executive Director of the National Fisheries Authority, Dennis Renton.

While a number of graduates are accredited in Europe or working in foreign affairs departments in Africa, most can be found working in government as well as diverse areas of the private sector in South East Asia and the South Pacific.

Applications for enrolment are coming increasingly from Australian, European or American students preparing for a career, sometimes hoping to use the degree as a springboard for employment in South East Asia.
Summer's here... Time to visit the AQUATIC CENTRE

Set against the backdrop of Mount Keira, the University Aquatic Centre is generally acknowledged as being the Illawarra's premier swimming facility. The Uni pool is an eight lane, 50 metre outdoor heated pool, maintained at a comfortable 26 - 28°C all year.

A range of activities and programs is offered at the Aquatic Centre including:

- Lap swimming
- Swim For Fitness (adult social squad training)
- Learn to swim and squad training (three years to adult)
- Waterpolo and underwater hockey

Entry charges for swimmers are $2.50 for adult non-members of the Recreation and Sports Association, and $1.20 for members, children and concession pass holders.

Graduate membership of the Association is available for $80 per annum, which entitles the holder to member rates for all facilities and programs on offer (not just the pool). Family and multi-visit entry passes offer some discount on entry.

A committed teaching and coaching team uses an achievement-based program to ensure children progress through a series of skills to attain their full swimming potential. This progressive model ensures a sound development of stroke technique and fitness, while maintaining a high level of motivation and enjoyment for each child.

In the lead-up to the Sydney 2000 Olympics, it is possible that visiting teams may use the Uni pool as a base for their training. The first overseas team has already approached the Aquatic Centre management, and a tour of the Recreation Centre, University accommodation and other Illawarra facilities has been arranged for the visiting team officials.

Framed by a twilight sky, Mount Keira stands sentinel beyond the synthetic hockey surface.

Other facilities available at the University's Recreation Centre include:

- Two court sports stadium
- Three glass-backed squash courts
- Four tennis courts, including two artificial grass courts
- All weather synthetic hockey /sports surface
- Three grass ovals
- District standard soccer fields
- Aerobics floor
- Gymnasium with weight and circuit facilities
- Climbing gym
- Multi-purpose area with table tennis
- Meeting/conference facilities
- Cafe
- Sports store

It would be a great win for the University to have one of the visiting teams based here, so keep your fingers crossed.

Local kids having underwater fun

Located at the rear of the Recreation and Sports Association, the pool has been open since 1990, and swimmers from within the University and the general public are welcome to use it at any time of year.

A range of activities and programs is offered at the Aquatic Centre including:

- Lifesaving
- School sports

The Swim For Fitness program has been running since the pool first opened and has a strong core of devoted participants who attend year round. This core group is supported by many casual swimmers who come and go with the seasons.

All levels of swimmers are catered for and the emphasis is on fun and fitness, with swimmers encouraged to participate at their own level of ability. Stroke correction is a part of all sessions.

The Swim School programs have been very well received. A committed teaching and coaching team uses an achievement-based program to ensure children progress through a series of skills to attain their full swimming potential. This progressive model ensures a sound development of stroke technique and fitness, while maintaining a high level of motivation and enjoyment for each child.

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CAN YOU HELP?
THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG FOUNDATION

Many students are struggling to meet the cost of higher education. Community funded scholarships help the University attract outstanding students to study on campus.

Foundation members currently support in excess of 100 scholarships per year.

Your gift could secure a tax deduction, and at the same time secure a professional future for an outstanding student.

For further information contact:
Peter Rose, Executive Director
(042) 21 3455

OUTLOOK SPRING SUMMER
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SPOTLIGHT
ON THE ILLAWARRA

The Minister for State and Regional Development, Mr Michael Egan, recently announced $30,000 funding for a feasibility study and business plan for a Network Design and Evaluation Centre at the University’s Institute of Telecommunications Research.

Mr Egan said the centre would be the only one of its kind in the southern hemisphere. ‘It will operate on a commercial basis and compete for business with three other centres in Ireland, France and the United States,’ he said.

‘Put simply, the centre would reduce the chance of vastly expensive stuff-ups during the design and installation of sophisticated communications networks.

It means mistakes can be made and corrected in a laboratory, not out in the field.

‘The centre has the potential to capture a burgeoning new market in network design and testing. It’s a market being driven by increasing domestic competition in telecommunications, the emergence of cable and other networks for pay TV and other subscriber services, the growth of the Internet, and increasing business use of complex communications networks’

Mr Egan made the announcement at an Illawarra business summit in late September.

The Asian information technology and telecommunications (IT&T) market is valued at $300 billion a year, with pundits tipping massive new network investment in Indonesia, Malaysia and other regional economies.

‘The Illawarra already boasts an important cluster of IT&T organisations around the University’s Institute of Telecommunications Research,’ Mr Egan said.

‘This new project could put the Illawarra right in the very centre of one of the fastest growing industries in the fastest growing region of the world.’
FOUR NEW FELLOWS AT OCTOBER GRADUATIONS

Over 800 students graduated during three ceremonies held in early October. In addition four people, each of whom has made a significant contribution to the community and the University, were made Fellows of the University in recognition of their efforts. They now become members of the Alumni Association’s Honorary Chapter.

Shirley Nixon, BA(Hons) 1985

Shirley came to Wollongong in the 1970s with her husband, Merv Nixon, a legendary figure in the union movement and the local community. Shirley worked with Merv on a number of projects, notably the development of a policy on child care for working women, later adopted by the ACTU.

In what she describes as her ‘happiest years’, Shirley studied at Wollongong for her Bachelor of Arts degree with honours in history. While a student, she was elected to the Union Board of Management and served on the University Council. She has remained active ever since, re-elected to Council in 1989 and again in 1995 as one of the four Convocation representatives.

Teaching has always remained central to Shirley Nixon’s career. In 1982 she returned to the classroom, teaching at TAFE in the special programs for adult women who wished to enter the workforce. She went on to head the Women’s Unit of the Illawarra Region of TAFE from 1985 to 1988 and has since worked in various TAFE programs, including those she devised for disadvantaged students.

Shirley’s record of service in the wider community also bears testimony to her constant fight for the recognition of women and the needs of the underprivileged.

Pat Mowbray

For over 35 years, Dr Patricia Mowbray has devoted her exceptional professional and teaching skills to improving the health and well-being of others.

As well as her substantial commitment to the medical profession, Pat Mowbray has been instrumental in the development of courses in health sciences at the University of Wollongong. She worked with University staff in laying the foundations of the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences, where she has taught as an Honorary Associate Professor.

Amongst her many interests, Pat is also chair of Healthy Cities Illawarra which is recognised as a national and international model for better community health.

Ian McMaster

Described by his peers as an outstanding manager and strategic thinker, Ian McMaster is a visionary leader within Australian commerce and industry.

His career has taken him from a BHP scholarship in the mid sixties to his current senior position as Group General Manager, Chief Executive of BHP. Ian’s special responsibility is to review BHP Steel’s worldwide operations and identify the strategic directions for the company into the next century.

From 1992, Ian spent four years in Wollongong as Group General Manager BHP Sheet and Coil Products Division. During this time he played a major role in the negotiations that led to the establishment of the Institute of Steel Processing and Products on this campus in March 1995.

A joint BHP/University venture, this Institute conducts world-class strategic basic and applied research, and offers opportunities for high-level postgraduate study to BHP managers worldwide. Ian McMaster was an important member of the Institute’s founding board.

George Maltby

Joining the Overseas Telecommunications Commission (OTC) in 1946, George Maltby’s distinguished career led him in 1985 to become Managing Director and a Member of the Board of OTC, a position he held until his retirement at the end of 1988.

As Managing Director of OTC, George headed an efficient and progressive organisation with a staff of approximately 2,000, annual revenue of over one billion dollars and an enviable track record of rapid business growth. He has given outstanding leadership in the development and management of international telecommunications.

In 1989, George Maltby began what has become an invaluable relationship for the University of Wollongong when he accepted an invitation to join the Board of the Illawarra Technology Corporation Ltd (ITC). He also became a foundation member of the Faculty of Commerce Visiting Committee. In 1992 he was appointed Chairman of the Board of ITC and continues to hold that position.
from 1994-1996, he was also interested in demonstrating the wide parameters of ‘research’ to include a creative dimension.

My first degree was in classical archaeology with

In March 1996, the Faculty of Creative Arts contributed four artists to the University of Sydney’s excavation of a Greek theatre in Paphos, Cyprus. Leading the group from Wollongong was visual arts lecturer and doctoral graduate, Diana Wood Conroy (DCA 1996), who talks below about the dig, weaving together the threads of history, archaeology and art.

This unusual collaboration with Sydney University’s Department of Archaeology was due to the initiative of Professor Richard Green, who wished to extend the understanding of the site through the imaginative contribution of the creative arts.

As a member of the panel for the Humanities and Social Sciences in the Australian Research Council Richard Green, and I worked subsequently on sites in Greece, particularly Zagora in Andros, as well as in museums in Italy and England, before deciding to put all my energies into art.

Archaeology regarded itself as a science in the 1960s and 70s, an empirical discipline that investigated the material evidence of past civilisations. Since that time investigations into the nature of language, the contributions of feminist thinkers, as well as literary and psychoanalytic theorists who point up the unconscious constructs that determine action, have all subtly changed the way we think. Current theory opens up the discipline of archaeology to pluralities of ‘readings’. In the course of doctoral work at the University of Wollongong an opportunity emerged of reconciling archaeology with art. My thesis, entitled ‘An archaeology of tapestry: contexts, signs and histories of contemporary practice’, drew on the intricacy of archaeological image and description in an analysis of contemporary craft objects.

Accepting the invitation to be team manager and artist-in-residence to the Paphos Theatre excavations on Cyprus earlier this year brought these realms together.

The excavation of the Hellenistic Greek theatre in Paphos in 1995, 1996 and 1997 continues an Australian preoccupation with the classical past. Richard Green, director of the Paphos site, was invited to excavate by the Cyprus Department of Antiquities because of his expertise in the area of Greek theatre and society.1

Three other members of the Faculty of Creative Arts went to Paphos for the excavation season this year. They were associate lecturer Lynn Brunet, Master of Creative Arts graduate Robyn Outram, and undergraduate student Anna Sophocles.

We joined the team of approximately twenty students, postgraduates and archaeologists from the University of Sydney. In addition, there were about fifteen ‘contributing volunteers’, who paid for the privilege of working very hard in a trench under the supervision of an archaeologist.

During the six-week season, eight trenches were excavated to bedrock, and a clearer idea of the form of the theatre and its supporting walls became evident.

Classical theatres are stone hemispheres set into a hill, like a shell, or an ear. ‘Teatron’ means ‘a place for seeing’. The raking of the seats up the hill gives the voice a great projection. The Paphos Theatre was built c. 320 BC after the period of Alexander the Great’s conquests. In its past on this hybrid island of Cyprus, one can trace glimpses of the present: an island positioned between east and west in ancient times and still divided

Excavation work at Paphos earlier this year. Anna Sophocles from Wollongong University is standing on the ladder.

between Greece and Turkey.

Theatres and sanctuaries are inextricably connected in the Hellenistic world. To wear the mask of theatrical performance is to take on

Members of the Wollongong contingent on the site at Paphos. From left, team manager Diana Wood Conroy, Master of Creative Arts graduate Robyn Outram and undergraduate student Anna Sophocles. Photo by Simon Cashman, excavation photographer.
The extraordinary glimpse into the past provided by a newly-excavated trench, as the earth is opened and cut, is indeed very moving. From such a trench was recovered a tiny bronze figure of Athena, goddess of skills and stratagems, of war and craft, goddess of breaking down and building up. Together with the exquisite fragments of glass perfume vessels, there are hints of a feminine presence within the theatre.

All these objects are inventoried and stored in the museums of Paphos to allow visitors to walk across the site and visualise the grid of trenches and objects found in them. The exhibition reflected a respect for objective systems of measuring and documentation, even a delight in the museum aesthetic of texts and labels, but emphasised the imaginative and artistic response to the excavation.

The extraordinary g limpse of the earth still hides its intricate detail, as the pattern of excavated trenches has brought to light only a fraction of what must be below. The earliest period of the theatre remains to be discovered in future seasons.

Above all, I remember the architectural daring of that precise, measured half circle set into the hillside, where the still engrossing conundrums of fate, fortune, and the arbitrariness of chance were once played out. The team from the Antipodes must wait another year before the search for our European origins resumes.

1 Richard Green, Arthur & Renee George Professor of Classical Archaeology, School of Archaeology, Classics and Ancient History, University of Sydney. In his most recent books, 'Images of Greek theatre' (London: British Press, 1994) and 'Theatre in Ancient Greek society' (London Routledge, 1994), Professor Green has built up a picture of the physical and social ambience of the great eras of classical tragedy and comedy. He has been invited to lecture and study at many institutions in the UK and the USA as Visiting Professor or Research Fellow, most recently at the National Gallery, Washington DC. His reputation in the field of Greek Theatre led to the invitation from the Department of Antiquities in Cyprus to further investigate the remains of the Hellenistic theatre in Paphos, Cyprus.

ETHEL HAYTON FELLOW

Dr Peter Cameron was the Ethel Hayton Fellow in Spiritual, Religious and Contemplative Studies for 1996. He spent two months at the University, delivering six lectures on the topic of 'Spirituality and the Limits of Freedom', and participating in as many seminars with students, academics and members of the Wollongong community.

Peter Cameron read law and theology at the University of Edinburgh, where he was later a lecturer in New Testament studies and Semitic languages. He took his doctorate at Cambridge, practised law and worked in parish ministry in Scotland.

In 1991 he came to Australia as Principal of St Andrews College at the University of Sydney. While in Sydney, his controversial views on women in the church, and the charge of heresy by the Presbyterian Church of Australia which emerged in this context, attracted considerable media attention, making Peter a reluctant controversial figure. He returned to Scotland in 1994.

Although it may have been his controversial status which drew people to his first public lecture, it was not. It was the literate quality of them - the allusions to a lot of thinkers in the western tradition. Would you say they have greatly influenced your own thinking over the years?

PC: It hadn’t thought about that connection and that could be seen as a limitation on my part. I tend to reread the same people. One gets accustomed to their ways of thinking or there are particular ideas or phrases which stick in the mind. On the other hand, I think most people do not reread enough. There is a temptation when the market is flooded [with new publications] to constantly expose yourself to new experiences, Christian and otherwise, and never really digest them, so that all of the traditions [as they are commonly understood] are half-baked as it were.

TH: Some texts are 'classics', others are 'period' pieces. A classic is a work that you can go back and reread and get new insight, whereas the period pieces do not have that enduring quality. For example, no-one refers to the 'death of God' theologians any more.

PC: That’s right. One of the things I found off-putting when I was lecturing at New College was that theologians frequently knew far more about what other theologians thought and wrote, than they did of the tradition which they were supposed to be teaching. Very much a concentration on the secondary literature. You are assumed to have an expertise in secondary literature before you are qualified to speak about the primary sources. People don’t read enough and they don’t reread enough.

TH: About ten years ago, there was a trend towards 'cultural literacy' in the United States. A list was drawn up of terms and texts Americans should be familiar with. It was a kind of canon of what one needed to be 'culturally literate'.

PC: That can be very off-putting. Was it Mark Twain who said a classic is something everyone wants to have read, but no-one wants to read? If you are prescribing what people should read, in a climate where people aren’t reading anyway, it’s only going to add to the difficulty. I think it’s more a question of how you read rather than what you read. I don’t think it really matters what you read, as long as you are going about it in the right way.

TH: What is the right way?

PC: That can’t be legislated either. You read yourself when you read, according to Proust. Every reader reads in a different way. Yesterday Keith [Tognetti] and I went for a walk in the rainforest, and Keith was talking about how marvellous it was that the Aborigines were able to 'read' the forest and all the signs. It is all an open book to them. He went on to say that it is the extraordinary arrogance of the white pseudo-intellectual which says how marvellous it is that the Aborigines can learn to read and write. They already have this capacity in relation to the natural environment, a capacity which would seem to be closed to white intellectuals.

My reaction to Keith’s comments was that while the Aboriginal culture had...
been denigrated until very recently, now we were in danger of going to quite the opposite extreme. There is an enormous difference in reading the signs of the forest and reading the printed page. What having access to the printed page enables - and the Aborigine does not have this - is an escape from the surrounding environment and the experience of, as well as access to, other people's experiences, dreams, hopes, history.

However skilled the Aborigine is at reading the signs of his or her own environment, that skill does not enable them to transcend it. I am not trying to evaluate the relative merits of cultures here, so much as speak about what is important about reading, which is that it enables one to transcend one's own experience. Again it doesn't matter what one is reading, it is a question of being open to the possibility of getting outside oneself.

**TH: Getting out of the world of 'immediacy', so to speak?**

**PC: Extending that analogy, what you have today is the worst of both worlds.** The average student is like the Aborigine in the rainforest, except that the student has forgotten how to read the signs. He or she has also cut himself or herself off from the possibility of reading the printed page, and is living in a society from which he or she is becoming increasingly alienated, and yet has lost the capacity to transcend. That's the diagnosis. What about the cure? The problem is largely because people have stopped reading.

**TH: As part of an orientation program, students were asked what was the most recent book that they had read. After several years of getting blank looks, the question was changed to: what is your favourite TV show.**

**PC: Exactly. In such a situation it seems to me to be rather forlorn to produce a canon of what people should read. Some critics have said that the Internet has scuppered this idea. On the other hand I think the Internet has opened up even more possibilities for escape than ever before.**

**TH: The Internet provides access to information, whereas reading is altogether different.**

**PC: I'm still trying to work out the cure. Perhaps it is a matter of awakening people to their imprisonment, and the possibility of escaping through the printed page.**

**TH: In my own education, the classics were 'around' - they were picked up by osmosis. That's not true any more - that familiarity just isn't there for many contemporary students. I don't know that you can ever get it back.**

**PC: I don't think you can get it back. You could try to change the teaching processes back to what they were in your day, but that isn't likely. You can't artificially create the kind of reading habits and background that you and I have been brought up with. However, in your lectures you can suggest that reading is a window of escape into a world beyond your own and that reading is the way to do it.**

A previous generation might have reached a wider audience by presenting an idea in a book, but the young people are no longer reading. The Internet almost throws us back to the age before printing. We have to start again almost as if there has been a nuclear war.

**TH: The understanding of the function of the university has changed too. One of the most lively discussions we had during the lectures had to do with Harry Williams' distinction between 'inside truth' and 'outside truth'. Several lecturers said that at the undergraduate level it was all 'outside truth'; and that it was only at the graduate level, when students were involved in research, that there was genuine 'inside truth' or discovery.**

**PC: Teaching cannot be justified as simply the imparting of information, which seems to be the general view. Lecturers can direct your reading, but if they are simply imparting information, there doesn't seem to be any point to it at all. Why do we still have the lecture format unless there is an element of what Newman called 'cor ad cor loquitur' (heart speaks to heart)?**

However, this seems to be the way universities are going. You might expect it to be the case in more scientific courses and less in the humanities, but even in the humanities, it seems to be the case. It all seems to be controlled by vocational situations - getting a job after it.

**TH: The other complicating factor is that when we were students there was only one culture - the Judaeo-Christian culture, Graeco-Roman culture - and the classics I read came out of that tradition. Now we are faced with not one, but numerous cultures. Australia attempts to be multicultural. So if reading gets you out of your own culture, then beyond that are even more cultures.**

**PC: To go back the analogy of the rainforest, the Aborigine who can only read the rainforest can't move beyond his or her culture, but the person who can read can access Aboriginal culture, perhaps inadequately if one is only reading about it, but at least one can get a foot in the door. Again we have access to all these cultures.**

The trouble is, as Dante says, it becomes so superficial that it becomes a bogus synthesis. Still, one has to be open to the possibility of someone else's culture, as much as - perhaps even more than - one's own. However, the first step is to exhaust the possibilities of one's own culture, or one's own religion.

In some cultures, the wider your field of consciousness, the more likely you are to be able to benefit from the other religion or to communicate what is important about your own.
THE REMARKABLE CAREER OF MARILYN MEIER (DCA 1994)

In 1992 renowned Australian pianist and Wollongong University lecturer, Dr Marilyn Meier played Liszt and Chopin on a grand piano carried by barge to an idyllic South Pacific island. In July this year Marilyn, who also obtained her doctorate in Creative Arts at Wollongong, returned to the Kingdom of Tonga for the launch of her latest CD album, 'Liszt Legends'.

These exotic Tongan adventures have long been an annual event celebrating not only Marilyn's amazing virtuosity, but her return to family and her island home.

Marilyn says she will never forget July 1992, when she watched in awe and trepidation as the King of Tonga's grand piano glided across the ocean by barge to the kingdom's small tropical island of Fa'fa.

She returned to Tonga this year for the launch by Tongan Prime Minister, Baron Va'ai, of her CD 'Liszt Legends'. Among the guests at the reception were members of the Tongan royal family and other dignitaries.

The occasion was formal, but the Tongans' honouring of Marilyn's musical prowess was linked to an acknowledgment of her island heritage and her contribution to the development of classical music in Tonga.

Under Ms Maughan's eagle eye, Marilyn rapidly progressed in three years from second grade level to playing a Liszt concerto. Her former teacher commented that Marilyn is a natural. 'She has wonderful piano hands,' she said. 'She's innately musical and very relaxed.'

As Marilyn began an endless circuit of competitions and eisteddfods, she quickly discovered she liked performing, and particularly winning prizes. 'At the age of eleven, I was focused,' she says. 'It was then that I decided I wanted to be a pianist.'

Marilyn acknowledges the dedication of her parents, whose primary role for some years seemed to be ferrying their daughter from one lesson or competition to another. She says her parents have been her 'anchor' throughout her life, whilst her mother describes Marilyn's musical ability as a 'gift from God'.

For Marilyn, the CD launch was the highlight of a three-week concert tour of Tonga, which included performing at the birthday celebrations for King Taufa'ahau Tupou. Afterwards the King awarded Marilyn the silver jubilee medal for services to Tongan music.

At the ceremony were members of Marilyn's Tongan family, relatives through her Tongan-born mother. Once again, she was home among family and friends...

Marilyn grew up near Camden west of Sydney, her musical talent emerging when she was only four years old. After seven years of piano groundwork with teacher Pat McKee, Marilyn moved on to highly respected Sydney piano teacher, Neta Maughan.

Under Ms Maughan's eagle eye, Marilyn rapidly progressed in three years from second grade level to playing a Liszt concerto. Her former teacher commented that Marilyn is a natural. 'She has wonderful piano hands,' she said. 'She's innately musical and very relaxed.'

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When she took part in her first major performance at the Sydney Opera House, Marilyn was in Year 10. In the audience was eminent pianist and teacher, Bela Siki, who was visiting Australia.

Afterwards Mr Siki invited Marilyn to take part in his masterclass. 'The potential of Marilyn appeared right away to me, and she later won a scholarship which she used to join my class in Seattle,' said Hungarian-born Mr Siki from his Seattle home in the United States.

Marilyn became the youngest of Bela Siki's students, her six-month scholarship later turning into six years of study. While her friends in Australia were grappling with the HSC, Marilyn was practising piano for up to five hours a day and was already in her third year of university.

By the time she was 20 she had both a Bachelor of Music degree and a Graduate Artist Diploma.

'Marilyn is unique in many ways,' said Mr Siki. 'I believe that her major asset is that she can play many kinds of music, not just one style. She was the most attentive and concentrated student I had, never losing a minute, always learning something.'

Marilyn says she never felt pressured when she was with Bela Siki, and names...
him as the biggest influence on her musical development.

Still, after six years, during which she developed a strong affinity for the music of Liszt and Chopin, it was time to move on - this time to Europe, where Marilyn continued studying with Hans Leygraf at the Mozarteum in Salzburg.

'I try to make music speak to people. I like to touch and reach out to people.'

Although differences in teaching methods unsettled Marilyn for a while, she gradually began to develop her own style. 'Leygraf taught me that with every stroke of the keys you can achieve lots and lots of different colours of sound - with flat or curved fingers,' explains Marilyn. 'Also, suddenly I was really listening. I was very lucky to have two types of teachers.'

In 1988 Marilyn was awarded the Performance Diploma at the Mozarteum and the same year she was a finalist in Salzburg's International Mozart Competition.

Homesick after ten years away, she returned to Australia and began her doctorate at Wollongong in 1989.

After performing widely in the United States, Europe and Japan, Marilyn began recitals across Australia and, at long last, on her Tongan island home.

Of her own style, Marilyn says she perceives herself as a very strong pianist, with a big range of sound, colour and dynamics. 'But I try to make music speak to people,' she adds. 'I like to touch and reach out to people.'

Once back in Australia, Marilyn also began to teach. Now a lecturer in the Faculty of Creative Arts, she has found herself adopting the practices of her own teachers, who she admired for the way they listened to her play and then helped solve her problems.

'I'm very picky on detail,' she says of her teaching style. 'I insist that students do things properly, not be sloppy.'

Last month Marilyn performed with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra. This was one of many concerts she will take part in following her success as one of seven performers chosen from 250 auditioning Australian artists to participate in ABC concerts.

In December Marilyn will attend and perform for the 20th anniversary and reunion of the University of Washington Early Entrance Program in Seattle (which she was admitted to as a fifteen-year old in 1979). She says she is looking forward to seeing some of her very young colleagues from that time (for example, students aged nine doing science degrees) and what has become of them.

In January and February next year Marilyn is planning a European tour covering Switzerland, Luxembourg, Germany and Austria, and in June 1997 she will perform with the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra and Philharmonia Choir.

Marilyn is proud of her Tongan heritage, and was particularly close to her grandfather, Vusika Heimuuli. This special relationship was documented in the SBS television series 'Pacifica: Tales from the South Pacific', filmed in 1992.

The episode 'Concerto for Vusika' depicts Marilyn returning to Tonga with the SBS Youth Orchestra to play for the Tongan royal family and be reunited with her grandfather.

The King's large grand piano had to be manoeuvred by Tongan soldiers to a barge that crossed the peaceful ocean waters to the island of Fa'a, for an evening concert of Liszt and Chopin.

'I love bringing music back to Tonga, but more than anything Tonga means family,' says Marilyn. 'This country is in my blood and a very large part of the way I am, the way I see things and feel about things.'

Sadly, Marilyn saw her grandfather only once more before his death two years ago, but the hope remains to one day perform a traditional Tongan dance at one of her concerts.

'As grandfather would have liked,' she says softly.

She will also perform in Tonga again, and plans to record a CD of piano arrangements of Tongan songs.

This article draws from a feature article by Gillian Cumming which appeared in The Weekender in The Illawarra Mercury on 5 October 1996.
John came to the University of Wollongong in 1988 on a scholarship from the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB) to do graduate studies in mechanical engineering. He was previously employed as an assistant lecturer in the department of mechanical engineering at the Papua New Guinea University of Technology, Lae, which is also where he obtained his Bachelor of Engineering degree in 1979. During the three years of his graduate studies at Wollongong, John took a wide range of mechanical engineering subjects as well as writing a dissertation. He says, 'These studies really equipped me with the right tools to face the real world with confidence and competency.'

His dissertation, 'Experimental Studies of Friction and Adhesive Wear', was jointly supported by the University's department of mechanical engineering and BHP Steel at Port Kembla. 'Considering my future employment location and the environment (where there is a shortage of professional manpower), the broad training I received at Wollongong University was very useful in the progress and success of my professional career,' John explains. Upon completion of his master's degree, John returned to his previous employer in PNG as a lecturer in mechanical engineering.

In January 1994 John was admitted to undertake his PhD studies in mechanical engineering at Texas A & M University in the United States on a research assistantship. He says he has been released on study leave by his employer, and is looking forward to returning home as soon as his studies are completed.

John describes Texas A & M University as 'a huge campus', being one of the largest universities in the States with a population of about 50,000 students. So far he has successfully completed all his course requirements, apart from his dissertation which is entitled 'Experimentation and Modelling of Compound-Impact Wear'. This research is funded by the National Science Foundation and is expected to be completed by May 1997.

John is married with three children and says they all enjoyed their stay in Wollongong, 'especially the nice scenery of the entire south coast of NSW, and most of all the friendliness and hospitality of the people.' He says the latter made it so much easier for him and his family to settle down.

He also comments on how the University's location and its 'green scenery' made him feel at home. Most of all, however, John remembers the mechanical engineering department staff (both the academics and the workshop staff) as being very friendly and always helpful, which made him feel comfortable as a student.

'Being a foreign student,' John says, 'this really made it a lot easier to get along with others during the course of my study. Without that friendly and helpful atmosphere in the department, the success of my studies would not have been possible. I hope that they will continue to create a comfortable and pleasant environment for foreign students to enjoy while studying at Wollongong.'

John wishes to extend his sincere thanks and appreciation to all the staff (both academic and workshop) for being there for him when he needed them and for creating a pleasant environment to study and enjoy. 'In many ways it is what I learned at Wollongong that has helped me to progress this far. Without their help and guidance, I would have never been successful in my professional career.

'I would also like to thank all the committee members of the Illawarra Committee for International Students (ICIS), who work tirelessly to arrange trips for foreign students and their families to travel and visit various interesting locations in Australia. These opportunities were very much appreciated.'

John also thanks the AIDAB staff in Sydney for their continual support throughout the course of his study, without whose financial and other help the success of his graduate studies at Wollongong would not have possible, he believes. Last, 'but not least', John thanks his employer (The PNG University of Technology) for giving him the time off and the opportunity to travel to Wollongong for further study.

Finally the Pastor, Reverend John Taylor, and the members of Wollongong Baptist Church will always be remembered, John says, for being very helpful and understanding. 'They were always there for us when we needed them, and they really know what it means to exercise God's Love. May God bless you all as you continue to serve him. Most of all, I would like to thank God for his grace which has enabled me to achieve more than what I can.'

BARBARA WYLES


After leaving Wollongong University, Barbara looked for another course in textiles which she found at TAFE. In 1988-90 she undertook the advanced needlecraft certificate, passing this with distinction. She then went on to do the designer textiles advanced certificate from 1992-94 and again gained a distinction.

In 1994 Barbara was awarded a prize for being the only student at
Lidcombe TAFE to win a state award that year. She was also awarded a state medal in 1994 for gaining the highest pass in NSW for the designer textiles advanced certificate. This was a great win for the textiles area, but Barbara adds that this course will be discontinued after December 1996, which she says is a great pity.

**RAJVINDER SINGH**

**MBA 1995**

Rajvinder is now stationed at New Delhi, working as a senior project officer with Tom Calma (Counsellor Education) in the Australian High Commission. Based in the Australian International Education Foundation office, Rajvinder is a participant in the New Horizon Program and the Alumni Network 1996-97.

**ROBERT SISILO**

**MA 1994**


From 1987 to 1990, Robert worked as chargé d'affaires at the Permanent Mission of the Solomon Islands to the United Nations. He then returned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Later he studied at Wollongong for his MA degree (International Relations) in 1993-94.

After graduating Robert returned home to become Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, until his appointment to Brussels in June 1996 as Solomon Islands Ambassador to the European Union, Belgium, Netherlands and Germany, and High Commissioner to the United Kingdom.

**ALISON ROBINSON STYRING**

**Study abroad student in 1993**

Since attending the University of Wollongong for a semester in 1993, Alison has graduated from Indiana University at Bloomington in the USA. She was awarded a BA in biology in 1994.

Alison later returned to Australia for another six months, and is now married to an Australian from Melbourne. They live in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where Alison plans to attend graduate school at Louisiana State University. She will be studying tropical birds and says she may even return to Australia to do research.

**CHARLENE FEIN**

**Exchange student in 1992**

Charlene attended Wollongong as an exchange student for six months in the first half of 1992, concentrating on women's studies. Since her study abroad in Australia, she says she has travelled extensively in Europe.

Later Charlene was based in Washington DC, working in visitor services at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. She has also worked in the editorial department at the Washington Jewish Week Newspaper, writing book and music reviews as well as profile pieces, including interviewing the Mayor of Capetown, South Africa.

Currently Charlene is pursuing a master's degree from Wesleyan University and is working at Jewel Productions, a company located in New Haven, CT that produces the pilot pen (formerly Volvo International) tennis tournament and the World's Doubles Tennis Tournament.

Charlene says she misses 'beautiful Australia' and hopes to return soon. She sends her greetings to all those she met during her six months at Wollongong.
Reaction to cuts in HE funding

In early June letters were sent by Alumni Association President, Ruth Procter to local MPs and to the Illawarra Mercury expressing strong objections to the proposed federal funding cuts to the higher education sector. A number of replies from the parliamentarians was received, including one from the Prime Minister.

Although the PM did not agree to alter his government's course, there is little doubt that he and his ministers were well aware of the community's objections. Your Association acted on behalf of all Wollongong alumni in condemning the proposed cuts, together with many other universities and their alumni right around the country.

Impact of cuts at Wollongong

In his speech at the Alumni Dinner in October, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton mentioned the current 'reshaping' of the University in view of the funding cuts (see article on pages 8 & 9).

None of the proposals will become official until they are ratified by the University Council at its meeting on 6 December. As this will be too late for an announcement in this issue, details will appear in Outlook next year.

Alumni Association Grants

For the second time the Association has awarded its annual grants. A sub-committee of the Board met in mid-August to determine the recipients of the 1996 Alumni Grants.

These are awarded annually from a percentage of the previous year's subscription income. This year over $800 was available and two grants were awarded.

PhD student in materials engineering, Stuart Street, was one of the grant recipients. Stuart is researching new technology for waste redemption and minimisation in metallurgical industries, and has sought support for a two-month period of research in late 1996 at the Centre for Iron and Steel Research at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, USA.

The other recipient was an undergraduate student in the BSc/BA degree, Katherine Rosen. Katherine applied for assistance to enable her to travel to North Queensland in January 1997, as part of a research expedition which will survey the biodiversity of insects and plants in a rainforest area.

Stuart and Katherine will both provide an account of their experiences for the next issue of the Outlook magazine.

Career development seminars

A seminar for students on résumé preparation and interview techniques was held in mid-July. This proved highly popular as on previous occasions, with nearly 60 students attending. The presenters were UOW alumni working locally in human resources.

A new seminar, 'Survival Skills in the Workplace', is planned for Wednesday, 23 April 1997, and this one will be open to recent alumni as well as students. The half day seminar (3.30-7.00pm) will cover the transition from campus to the workplace, and will introduce alumni/students to presentation and report-writing skills, and to communication and negotiation skills.

Concepts such as organisational culture and office politics will also be covered. Two highly-qualified UOW alumni who work in the training area will present the workshop. For full details see page 7.

New graduates are especially encouraged to attend.

Alumni Dinner

On 2 October the annual Alumni Dinner was held in the Union Function Centre, on the eve of the graduation ceremonies.

This is the second year that a dinner has been held in early October, an initiative by the members of the Honorary Chapter whose AGM precedes the dinner. All alumni are welcome and it is hoped that the numbers attending will increase each year.

About 50 alumni and their guests were able to hear the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton speak after dinner about ‘The University of Wollongong: 1997 and beyond’. The text of his address appears on pages 8 & 9 of this issue.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Campus Alumni

As a result of an editorial piece in the local free weekly newspaper, The Advertiser, the Campus Alumni members were able to conduct a most successful book sale over the last weekend of August. This replaced the traditional sale held on Open Day, which did not take place this year.

The three 1996 Campus Alumni Book Prizes, which are funded from the bookshop proceeds, were recently awarded to an honours student from each of the faculties of Education, Commerce and Health and Behavioural Sciences. The prizes are
Association on Saturday, 8 March 1997 at 6.00pm. The chapter’s AGM will be held just prior at 5.30pm. Both meetings will be held in the McKinnon Building. Nomination forms for next year’s management committee will be sent out in the New Year.

Nominations are also invited for the Commerce Alumni Award for 1996. This award is an annual presentation to an alumni member, and it recognises qualities such as leadership, personal, professional or academic success; innovation and creativity; and community spirit.

Nominations should include the following details: name, address, telephone number, degree/diploma and occupation, as well as a brief explanation as to why the nominee should receive the Alumni Award. You do not have to be a financial member to nominate a graduate or be nominated for this award.

The closing date for nominations is 3 February 1997. The award will be presented at the AGM on 8 March. Please forward nominations to (or request a form from) the Alumni Award Panel - Commerce Alumni, C/- External Relations Officer, Faculty of Commerce, University of Wollongong NSW 2522, ph (042) 21 4478, fax (042) 21 4157.

**Education Alumni**

In mid-August the Education Chapter organised a highly successful forum to discuss the school entry age in NSW. Nearly 70 people, mostly from the teaching profession, attended the forum and participated in a lively debate. Considerable media interest was generated by this event.

Dean of Education, Associate Professor John Patterson chaired the panel, which also comprised Dr Alan Rice (Director of Early Childhood Education, NSW Department of School Education), Ms Beverly Baker (Publicity Officer and Vice-President, Australian Council of State School Organisations) and Ms Ros McDougall (Early Learning Program Coordinator, NSW Department of School Education).

Also in August, the Education Alumni co-hosted a breakfast meeting organised by Kate Schmich in the Wollongong District Office of the Department of School Education. Professor Richard Butt from the University of Lethbridge in Alberta, Canada spoke about ‘The Teachers' Voice in Teacher Development’.

**Engineering Alumni**

Nearly 60 people attended the dinner/dance held in late July at the City Pacific Hotel in Wollongong. The speaker, former Olympic athlete Bob Menzies, was excellent, giving a highly professional and entertaining address about the Olympics.

In mid-October the Engineering Alumni organised a forum to discuss ‘Changes and Opportunities in Engineering Education’. Over 30 people attended the forum including Faculty staff, students and alumni.

A panel of speakers, comprising Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton, Dean of Engineering Professor Brendon Parker and Chair of the Faculty’s Visiting Committee, Mr Michael Muston, led a vigorous debate during which a wide range of views was expressed.

**Honorary Chapter**

The annual general meeting of the Honorary Chapter was held on 2 October, just prior to the Alumni Dinner.

The following members were elected to the Executive:

**Convenor:**
Mr Walter Jervis

**Deputy Convenors:**
Dr Brian Gillett
Dr Winifred Ward

**Secretary/Treasurer:**
Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Brinson

**Coopted member:**
Mr John Bell

Members of the Honorary Chapter have recently contributed to a scholarship in Italian Studies, which will be offered in 1997. The
recipient will be a student of Italian who will be supported to spend a period of six months at a university in Italy.

Shoalhaven Alumni

This newly-formed chapter has held monthly meetings in Nowra throughout the year. Whilst the main priority has been to consolidate the chapter committee and set out some objectives, the members successfully raised funds in August by organising a large theatre party to see the Nowra Players in action.

The Shoalhaven Alumni are fortunate in having the support of Mr Ray Cleary from the University's Graham Park Campus at Berry. Some of the other committee members are employed by the Shoalhaven City Council, whose office space is generously made available for meetings.

Science Alumni developing

Another new Chapter of the Alumni Association has recently been added to the growing list of subject specific and regional chapters. The Science Chapter is being established to enhance the standing of science in the community, and to act as a networking organisation for science alumni.

This new Chapter also plans to foster a collaborative nexus between schools, the Faculty of Science, industry and professional associations, in order to further the careers of alumni and students. In its social and networking role the Chapter will be holding a Golf Day and BBQ at Calderwood Golf Course on either Friday, 31 January or Friday, 7 February 1997. For details please contact Anthony Hodgson on (042) 21 3527, Chris Peacock on 21 3530 or Jenny Sheridan on 21 3509 during business hours.

To launch the Chapter firmly on its way, a Gala Graduation Dinner will be held in May on the science graduation day. All science alumni, their friends, parents and associated staff are invited to join in this celebration of a very special event for science graduates. Further details will be made available when dates for the May graduations are finalised.

INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI

Hong Kong

Since the alumni meeting in February, several meetings have been held during the year and the University of Wollongong Hong Kong Alumni (UOWHKA) has now been established.

The first annual dinner was organised in April, with over 80 alumni in attendance. Dr Kenneth Lau, ME(Hons) 1987, was guest speaker, followed by a slide presentation to give alumni an idea of the campus as it is today. Following this most successful event, a barbecue is being held in early December.

The committee members of the UOWHKA are Alain Chan, Irene Cheng, Tony Hong, Tommy Kwan, Joe Lam, Vivian Lam, Anita Lee, Raymond Tam, Tan Bai Li, Willie Wong and Terence Tang (NSW). The postal address is 14H, Block 15, Fu Ka Yuen, Chi Fu Fa Yuen, Hong Kong; fax (852) 2875 5459. All UOW alumni, in particular the new graduates, are invited to contact the Hong Kong Alumni.

The Alumni Office has recently contacted alumni living in Hong Kong as part of a project being undertaken by the Department of Economics.

Working with local regional organisations (the Australian Business Chamber and the Illawarra Regional Economic Development Organisation), the Department aims to establish strategic alliances between overseas companies and those located in the Illawarra. This will help promote the local region internationally, whilst also offering business opportunities to our alumni.

This project continues until the end of the year. The survey, which Hong Kong alumni have already received, is also being sent to all international alumni with this issue of the Outlook.

Malaysia

On 18 October about 25 alumni attended a cocktail reception in Kuala Lumpur hosted by Associate Professor Rob Castle, who also represented the University at 'The Malaysian Australian University Alumni Convention' being held at that time. The Alumni Office is indebted to Ms Azlin Manaf (BCom 1990) for her enormous support in organising this alumni reunion.

Rob Castle is Professor and Head of the Department of Economics, Deputy Chair of the University's Internationalisation Committee, and has recently been elected as Chair of the Academic Senate.

The alumni convention was a most prestigious event with high level representation from both countries. The aim was to foster closer relations between the Malaysian alumni of Australian universities, their fellow alumni in Australia and their alma mater.

Malaysia / Singapore

A senior delegation from the University is to visit Malaysia and Singapore in mid-December, and alumni reunions are being organised to coincide with these visits in each country.

The delegation will comprise the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Bill Lovegrove, Dean of Commerce Professor Gill Palmer, Dean of Engineering Professor Brendon Parker, Dean of Informatics Professor Ah Chung Tsoi, and Head of the International Office Mr Peter Ball.

The University has been operating a campus in Dubai for some four years now, and in April the first graduation ceremony was held. The Chancellor presented the testamurs and the occasional address was delivered by the Vice-Chancellor. In total 17 students graduated with the Graduate Diploma in Business (Administration), and the ceremony was a great success.

The next graduation will be in September 1997, when about 80 students will graduate in the following degrees: Bachelor of Business Administration, Graduate Diploma in Commerce, MBA and Graduate Certificate in TQM.

WELCOME!
TO THE FIRST GRADUATES
of the UNIVERSITY'S
CAMPUS IN DUBAI

The University has been operating a campus in Dubai for some four years now, and in April the first graduation ceremony was held. The Chancellor presented the testamurs and the occasional address was delivered by the Vice-Chancellor. In total 17 students graduated with the Graduate Diploma in Business (Administration), and the ceremony was a great success.

The next graduation will be in September 1997, when about 80 students will graduate in the following degrees: Bachelor of Business Administration, Graduate Diploma in Commerce, MBA and Graduate Certificate in TQM.
REHAB CLINIC ON CAMPUS

The Department of Biomedical Science recently established an Exercise Science and Rehabilitation Clinic on campus to provide exercise rehabilitation for injured University employees and other clients.

The ageing of the workforce presents management with particular challenges, including the containment of the costs associated with work-related musculoskeletal injuries. The University, with a workforce of more than 1,500 employees, is facing payment of almost $1m in 1996 for Workers Compensation Insurance.

The new clinic’s manager, Herb Groeller, explains that central to this cost containment policy is a set of strategies including identification and assessment of ‘at risk’ workers, early detection of potential problems, enhancement of functional fitness of all employees and delivery of exercise science interventions to employees sustaining musculoskeletal injuries.

‘When applied as a coherent package, these interventions will have a major impact on reducing the frequency and severity of musculoskeletal injuries, thus enhancing the health and wellbeing of the employee and positively impacting on Worker’s Compensation premiums,’ says Herb.

Staff at the clinic have developed an evaluation and intervention program which utilises the wide range of facilities and equipment within the Recreation and Sports Association.

Through the support of the University Administration and QBE Insurance, the clinic has purchased sophisticated equipment to enable staff to evaluate the current functional fitness level of injured employees, and to design and implement a personalised exercise regime for the rehabilitation process.

Herb explains, ‘Clients are referred to the service by their doctor or specialist, and are assessed on a range of exercise equipment to determine their flexibility, strength and ability to carry out work tasks.

‘They then undergo specially tailored exercise programs to help them regain fitness, so they can return to work as quickly as possible.’

He says the clinic will also treat workers who have suffered repeated minor injuries, in an effort to prevent them reaching a chronic stage.

As well as helping to contain costs, the clinic also provides hands-on experience for biomedical students undertaking courses in the area of exercise physiology.

When he officially opened the clinic at the end of August, Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton said that it would benefit not only the University, but the whole Illawarra region.

ITS SUPPORTS ALUMNI

For the past eighteen months, alumni who join the Association as Financial Members have had access to a special benefit negotiated on their behalf with the University’s Information Technology Services (ITS).

Through the IT Shop located in the Library, alumni can purchase computer hardware and software at the same rates as staff and students. As well as the complete range of Apple, Compaq, Mitac and SUN computer systems, the shop sells a number of multimedia CD-ROM titles, and software from suppliers such as Microsoft, Claris, Lotus and Borland.

And for those looking for something extra, the shop’s range of modems, printers, memory expansion kits and extra hard disk drives should satisfy. If anything should go wrong with your computer, service and support staff are available at the shop, and an extra year warranty is offered on all Apple products.

Because the shop is part of a higher education purchasing group, prices are substantially lower than outside retailers. These competitive rates have attracted a number of graduates who have not only benefited personally, but have also supported their Alumni Association.

A percentage of each transaction goes back to the Association, which means that everybody benefits.

Earlier this year Mr Greg Naimo, Head of ITS, presented a cheque for over $2,300 to the Alumni Board of Management.

The Alumni Association is naturally delighted at the success of this relationship and has recently succeeded in extending the benefits available to alumni, through the new offer of Internet access.

INTERNET ACCESS FOR ALUMNI

The Alumni Association and ITS are pleased to announce that access to the Internet is now available to Financial Members of the Association living in the Sydney and Wollongong region (02 and 042 area codes).

For just $25 (a one-off fee) and then $2.50 per hour, you can surf the ‘Net through our Internet Service.
PROFESSOR HILZINGER, Integral Energy's chairman, BUI Lovegrove and Professor Bill HUzinger, University of Wollongong.

POWER QUALITY CENTRE ESTABLISHED

Local energy supplier, Integral Energy, has invested $400,000 in the establishment of the nation's first Power Quality Centre, based at the University of Wollongong.

Integral Energy chairman, Bill Hilzinger, said the 'centre of excellence' would provide solutions to future problems facing the energy industry throughout the world, when he announced the three-year sponsorship agreement at a special ceremony in July.

Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Bill Lovegrove and Mr Hilzinger signed a formal agreement at the ceremony. Mr Hilzinger said the Power Quality Centre would focus on research and training, and the development of strategies to design 'perfect electricity' without distortion of voltage.

'The centre will look at ways to improve the quality of the electricity that is delivered to homes and businesses,' he said. 'This research is required to keep pace with the growing use of more sophisticated electrical appliances such as computers, both in the home and in the workplace.

'The centre will examine how the quality and consistency of supply can be improved so that the performance and productivity of customers' sensitive electrical equipment can also be improved.'

The University of Wollongong is the only university in Australia where there is a substantial team of researchers actively working in the area of correcting power quality problems. Mr Hilzinger said Integral Energy was committed to research and training activities that led to improved system reliability and better service for customers.

'Interruptions to supply can be costly to customers and also affect the management of our electrical network,' he said.

'This research will address a common issue facing the electricity industry around the world and has the potential to deliver ground-breaking improvements to Integral Energy's 680,000 household and business customers.'

Professor of electrical engineering at the University, Chris Cook said that Integral Energy had shown foresight in recognising problems facing the power industry and understanding that continuing research needed to be carried out in an effort to provide engineering and mathematical solutions. 'This is a major initiative by Integral Energy, and it will benefit the entire industry,' he said.

'It will also keep academics involved in power engineering research, with a new course being established to ensure continuing education for the next generation of undergraduates.'

Six University of Wollongong postgraduate students completing their doctorates in power engineering will primarily use the centre for their research.

The University's Information Technology Services (ITS) now offers 'hands on' computer training to Financial Members of the Alumni Association.

The training sessions are held on Macintosh and IBM compatible computers. Most sessions run for three hours and each participant has the sole use of a computer throughout. The courses take place in air-conditioned training labs in building 22 on campus. The cost is $55.00 per three-hour course.

Some of the courses currently offered are:

- Campus Wide Information Services (including Internet/World Wide Web)
- HTML Pages (Create your own home page)
- Introduction to Macintosh
- Introduction to Windows 3.1
- Word Processing 6 (6 hours)
- Database Publishing with Pagemaker
- Adobe Illustrator Pro 3.1

A calendar outlining upcoming courses is produced monthly by ITS. This can be sent to interested alumni electronically or by email. For further information & registration forms, or to be added to the course calendar mailing list, please contact Susan Gardner at ITS; tel 21 4473 or 21 3775, fax 21 3543 or by email (susan.gardner@uow.edu.au). If you wish to register for a course, you will be asked to supply the number on your Association membership card, and this will be checked to ensure its validity.

Please note that no training courses will be held during January, but will resume again in February.

ASSOCIATION HOME PAGE

Once you're on-line, or if you already have access, why not visit the Alumni Association's home page on the Internet? It's linked to the University's home page and can be found on:

http://www.uow.edu.au/acad

Here you can find information about all aspects of the Alumni Association, including membership benefits, Association chapters, membership application form, current activities, University memorabilia for sale and so on.

As more alumni gain access to the 'Net, there might be some benefit in setting up a directory of alumni email addresses. Please let us know if this would be of interest to you. Naturally your permission would be required for your address to be included.

If you want to visit the University's home page, this can be found on:

http://www.uow.edu.au/
The training and development of young musicians in the Illawarra has recently been given a further boost.

A new initiative, the BHP Wind Orchestra, has been established for the training of young wind players in the art of orchestral and ensemble performance. The orchestra is located at the University of Wollongong Conservatorium of Music in Gleniffer Brae.

Located in the magnificent hilltop grounds of Gleniffer Brae, overlooking the Botanic Gardens and the entire city of Wollongong, the Conservatorium provides a focus for musical development, activity and growth in the Illawarra and beyond.

Conductor of the orchestra, Nigel Edwards, says, 'The

BHP Wind Orchestra will give students the opportunity to develop their performance skills and lift their talents to the highest standards while they are undertaking their regular study.

'Such support provides our young performers with the encouragement and skills to compete on the world stage. Ultimately this enriches the lives of the entire community.'

The BHP Wind Orchestra began training at the University of Wollongong Conservatorium of Music in July. Scholarships have been offered to encourage study of lesser popular orchestral wind instruments such as French horn, trombone, bassoon, oboe and trumpet. In some cases this could be a second study. Some of these instruments are available for loan to scholarship holders.

Meanwhile the BHP Youth Orchestra, founded in 1986, has continued to entertain a wide range of audiences. This year has seen the BHP Youth Orchestra combine with the University Singers to present a 'Mainly Mozart' concert in the University's Hope Theatre, and with the Royal Australian Navy Band in Wollongong Town Hall.

Earlier this year young children were introduced to the instruments of the orchestra at the Popular Proms concert in Wollongong Town Hall.

An exciting tour is planned for the combined BHP Orchestras in 1997. During the Easter week the orchestras will take their music to audiences in the mid west. Travelling on the 3801 steam train with over 200 passengers on board, they will perform in Goulburn, Forbes, Parkes, Dubbo, Wellington, Orange, and Bathurst. Workshops for local musicians will be conducted at various venues, with the highlight of the tour being a concert in the Cathedral caves at Orange.

Further information about the Conservatorium of Music and its activities can be obtained by phoning (042) 28 1122.

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**GRADUATION PLAQUES**

Members of the University's alumni may purchase a personalised testamur plaque, in gold metal and mounted on a polished rosewood base, or framed in matching gold or silver. This superb plaque provides a unique representation of your achievement.

By special arrangement with the supplier, the plaque has been made available to alumni at an extremely low price. The cost per plaque, either framed or mounted on timber, is $61.00 to Financial Members of the Alumni Association, and $66.00 to other alumni. These costs include postage and handling, but please add $25.00 to overseas orders.

To place your order, just complete the form below and return it with your payment or credit card details, and a photocopy of your testamur to the Alumni Office at the University. Please allow 28 days for delivery in Australia. (Overseas orders may possibly take longer).

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Members of the BHP Wind Orchestra, who are all students of the Conservatorium of Music, on Wollongong City Beach (formerly known as South Beach). Standing, left to right: Peter Beilach (current BHP scholarship holder), John Dunstan; seated: Sue-Ellen Hogg, Claire Thomson; front: Lydia Sharrad.

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**CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC**

OUTLOOK SPRING SUMMER 29
In his recent research into the operation of racial vilification laws, Luke McNamara of the Faculty of Law has found that legal limits on the public expression of racist views do not necessarily sound the death knell for free speech principles.

In 1989 racial vilification was added to the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW) as a ground of complaint. This legislative addition was designed to provide victims of racial insults, slurs, negative stereotypes, abuse, harassment and intimidation with a degree of legal protection against such conduct.

Since then the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board, which administers the legislation, has received more than 500 complaints, an average of 83 complaints each year. However, because of the private and confidential nature of the complaint-handling process, very little accurate information has been publicly available on just how the legislation is working in practice.

As a result, debate about the merits of racial vilification laws in NSW and elsewhere in Australia has tended to be poorly informed, proceeding on the basis of assumptions rather than reliable evidence. For example, critics have argued that racial hatred laws are poorly designed to deal with the problem at which they are directed, or are an unjustifiable infringement on ‘free speech’.

A recent study suggests that neither of these assumptions is valid.

Based on a review of more than 150 racial vilification complaints handled by the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board, Luke McNamara, a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Law, has developed a profile of the complaint-handling process which provides some interesting answers to commonly asked questions about the operation of racial vilification laws.

Who is complaining of racial vilification?

Complainants came from a wide variety of ethnic/racial groups—over 30 different ethnic identities were recorded. A large number of complaints alleged vilification of Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander people (20%) and persons of various Asian ethnic identities (12%), reflecting wider patterns of racism and racial discrimination in Australian society.

A surprisingly high proportion of complaints were lodged by persons who identified as being of Anglo-Celtic origin (22%). However, the profile also reveals that the majority of complaints from persons of Anglo-British ethnicity were rejected by the Anti-Discrimination Board, usually because the conduct complained of did not fall within that statutory definition of unlawful vilification.

An interesting finding was that men lodged twice as many complaints as women. This may suggest that men are more likely to suffer racial vilification (perhaps by virtue of greater exposure to the ‘public’ domains to which the legislation is limited), although it is more likely that the higher male complaint rate reflects the fact that men are generally better positioned to take advantage of the complaint-making process.

Against whom and in relation to what sort of conduct are complaints being made?

Sixty per cent of complaints alleged racial vilification in the media (45% print; 15% television/radio).

While this high proportion should be a cause of concern for the media industry, it should be borne in mind that media conduct is more likely to be the subject of complaint because, by
definition, the requirement that the conduct must be public will be satisfied. The high exposure of comments made in the media also greatly increases the chance of one or more complaints being lodged in relation to a single incident.

Other conduct which was the subject of complaints included comments made at public events (eg community meetings, sporting events), the publication of books which contained vilifying materials, the circulation of racist pamphlets and 'hate' mail, the display of vilifying symbols and products, and the display of racist/vilifying graffiti and posters.

Nine per cent of complaints related to conduct (such as a racial slur) which occurred in the context of a personal dispute between the complainant and the respondent. Such incidents generally fell outside the bounds of the legislation because they did not occur in public.

What are the outcomes of the complaints?

More than eighty per cent of racial vilification complaints are either declined by the Anti-Discrimination Board, or withdrawn (formally or informally) by the complainant. Only ten per cent of complaints were settled (that is, resolved by agreement between the parties).

Given that settlement rates are often taken as a major indicator of success for conciliation-based complaint-handling processes, it might be argued that these figures support the view that racial vilification laws 'don't work'.

This would be simplistic. Settlement rates provide only one indicator of success. The legislation may have 'worked' for a complainant even where no formal settlement was achieved, or even where an apparently 'negative' outcome was recorded.

For example, in one case where the complainant was recorded as 'formally withdrawn', the complainant had withdrawn his complaint in the knowledge that a representative organisation was proceeding with a complaint against the same respondent in relation to the same incident. That complaint was settled with the respondent agreeing to publish articles on the danger of stereotyping, the need to improve editorial supervision and staff awareness.

Nevertheless, the high number of complaints not being pursued or formally withdrawn (45% in total) does suggest that further attention needs to be paid to why complainants are 'dropping out'. For some (though certainly not all) complaints the opportunity to formally bring to the attention of a 'law-enforcement' type agency, such as the Anti-Discrimination Board, may be all that is required.

However, for other complainants it is likely that the decision not to pursue the complaint was not borne of satisfaction or a sense of vindication, but because of a feeling of intimidation or because of limited resources.

While complainants do not have to pay to have their complaint handled, the process can be stressful and sometimes time-consuming. Further research would be needed to determine how regularly such factors cause complainants not to pursue the matter.

Conclusion

Overall, the profile reveals that the racial vilification complaint process established under the Anti-Discrimination Act is playing an important role in combating racism in our society. While by no means a complete answer to the problems associated with racism in society, the legislation provides a small but much-needed measure of protection to targets of harmful and socially destructive expressions of racial intolerance.

Importantly, nothing in the profile suggests that the legislation represents an impediment to accurate discussion of issues associated with multiculturalism or immigration.

This research was completed with the cooperation of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board and with financial assistance from the Australian Research Council.

RELOCATION OF THE ALUMNI OFFICE

In early 1997 the Alumni Office will be moving from its present location in the Union Building to the ground floor of the Administration Building (northern end). This will bring the Alumni Office into a central location with the other units in the Division of External Relations (International, Marketing, Community Relations and Protocol).

The telephone numbers will stay the same: (042) 21 3169 or (042) 21 3249. The fax number will change and will be advised in due course.
Merry Christmas from the staff at ITShop

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