Parliamentary committee consults on information technology

IN RECOGNITION of the expertise on this campus in the areas of information technology research, policy and implementation, the House of Representatives Standing Committee for Long-term Strategies inquiring into Australia as an information society met at the University of Wollongong to hear submissions from members of staff.

Submissions were heard from the University librarian, Mr John Schipp, Co-ordinator of the Degree in Information Technology and Communication, Dr Pam Scott, and Professor Jim Falk and Mr Stan Aungles from the Department of Science and Technology Studies.

The chairman of the committee is the Hon. Barry Jones, who is pictured here discussing the inquiry with the University's incoming Dean of the Faculty of Informatics, Professor Sid Morris, who will take up his appointment in May.

The committee is inquiring into:

- The desirability of adopting a national information policy;
- Equity in information access and transfer;
- The dimension of the information explosion;
- Questions of personal privacy and national sovereignty;
- Information as a factor in employment, production and export;
- Libraries as an area of national need and responsibility;
- The access of Members of Parliament to adequate information.

NOTE: Mr Jones has taken up a special appointment at this university as a Professorial Fellow. He will give his first lecture to undergraduate students in the Department of Science and Technology Studies on Tuesday March 20 at 12.30 pm in Building 14. The topic is Science and Technology and the Australian Society: Key Changes for the 1990s. Anyone interested is invited to attend.
Brief News

- STEPHANIE Short Lecturer in the Department of Sociology has been re-appointed to the Public Health Research and Development Committee of the National Health and Medical Research Council for 1991-1993.

  The PHRDC has a budget of $4.5 million for 1991. Around $2-2.5 million is available for new projects, the rest supports on-going commitments.

- AIESEC, the world’s largest wholly student-run, non-profit and non-political association, is seeking members for its Wollongong University organisation. AIESEC Wollongong has been operating for just one year and last year was the largest club or society on campus. AIESEC provides its members with opportunities for practical experience and training in topics ranging from human resources and public relations to marketing and finance. For more information, contact Van Mai, tel. (042) 29 6293.

- FORMER Creative Arts graduate, Bill Neskovski, who died at the age of 25 in 1989, has been honoured with the publication of a book of his plays, Three Plays. The book was launched on January 18 at the University Union by Artistic Director of Theatre South, Des Davis. The edition, which includes the plays Full House, Say Goodbye to the Past and Conqueror Cole, was edited by Maurie Scott of the English Department.

- PRESIDENT of the University of Wollongong Law Society, Heath Watt, showed some quick thinking at the opening of the Faculty of Law recently. Mr Watt approached the Chief Justice of Australia Sir Anthony Mason, who gave the occasional address at the opening ceremony. Mr Watt asked Sir Anthony to be the patron of the Law Society and Sir Anthony agreed.

- HEAD of the Journalism Department, Professor Clem Lloyd, will address the first international conference on Defence and The Media in Time of Limited Conflict. The conference will be held by the Queensland University of Technology at the Brisbane Parkroyal on April 3-5. The Gulf War highlighted the importance of the increasingly complex and difficult relations between defence and the media in time of war.

- THE Department of Languages is considering introducing an Introductory Indonesian/Malaysian course this session. Course co-ordinator Dr Ron Witton said Indonesian and Malaysian were essentially the same language and were comparatively easy to learn. If enough people enrol the course will begin in week three. For more information, contact Dr Witton, tel. (042) 67 1994.

Academics elected to Labour Council committees

NADIA Verucci (Economics) and Dr Mike Donaldson (Sociology) were elected to two committees of the South Coast Labour Council at its annual general meeting.

  Ms Verucci and Dr Donaldson represent the academic staff union on the Labour Council.

  Dr Donaldson was elected to the Labour Council’s standing committee on social welfare. He said that a major task of that committee would be the organising of a national conference on poverty and unemployment to be held in Wollongong this year.

  Ms Verucci was elected to the newly established Workers’ Childcare Management Committee which is working to establish workplace childcare facilities in line with the agreement recently reached between the Federal Government and the ACTU.

  “The guidelines of the agreement are still being formed, and it’s unclear yet what the implications of this new childcare program might be for Kids’ Uni,” she said.

  “We’ll do what we can to take advantage of the scheme if it is appropriate to its needs and work closely with the Kids’ Uni Committee. Meanwhile, most other workers in Wollongong have very limited access to childcare, and what does exist is often very expensive.”

  Further information contact Dr Donaldson, ext. 3745.
Micropark to help solve traffic, parking woes

THE Centre of Transport Policy Analysis at the Illawarra Technology Centre has developed a sophisticated computer information parking and traffic model, Micropark, to solve traffic and parking problems being experienced in most Australian cities and regional towns.

At a demonstration of the model organised jointly by the Centre for Transport Policy Analysis and the Wollongong City Council on February 27, the Centre's Director, Dr Ross Robinson, said the parking and traffic model had three modules.

"The first module is a graphics data base designed to aid the management and presentation of parking, traffic and land use data," he said.

"The second module comprises a programme for analysis and presentation of parking and traffic information. This includes parking duration analysis, lot performance measures, lot utilisation profiles, traffic link and turning movements analysis.

"Micropark also comprises a parking allocation module which predicts the impacts of CBD and regional centre parking, land use and traffic policies and enables modelling of parking and traffic management policies to be undertaken."

Dr Robinson suggested that although the model had been developed with the Wollongong City Council as a pilot scheme, it could be applied to any regional city or regional shopping centre in Australia or indeed anywhere in the world.

Representatives at the demonstration came from Sydney, North Sydney, Liverpool and Botany councils, as well as representatives from state and federal road authorities.

For further information contact, Dr Robinson, tel. (042) 21 3768.

Research aims to unlock UV secret

RESEARCH at the University of Wollongong may unlock the secret of how the human eye protects itself from harmful UV light, and possibly open the way for the development of a range of commercial products to enhance the body's natural UV protection systems.

Most diurnal (active in daytime) animals, including humans, have special chemicals in the eye to filter out harmful UV light which would otherwise damage the retina.

Different species of animals have evolved different solutions to the UV light problem. Some, such as fish, seem to accumulate in the lens chemicals from the diet.

Humans synthesise our own UV filter chemicals in the lens starting from the amino acid tryptophan. Remarkably little is known about this biochemical process but this pathway is under detailed investigation by researchers at the Australian Cataract Research Foundation at the University of Wollongong, which is led by Dr Roger Truscott.

Researchers are using human lenses, kept alive in culture in the laboratory, to follow the production of these UV filter chemicals.

"We need to understand much more about the control of the synthesis and degradation of these substances especially in view of the possible role of UV light in causing cataract," Dr Truscott said.

Andrea Thorpe, from City University, London is visiting Dr Truscott's Laboratory to complete her PhD on the identification of new UV filter chemicals in animal lenses. This visit is part of a larger international collaborative research program on cataract funded by the Department of Industry Technology and Commerce (DITAC).

The Australian Cataract Research Foundation has been established in response to the high, and increasing, incidence of cataract which is the single major cause of blindness in the world.

At least 20 million people are blind as a result of cataract.

Dr Truscott's group is the only one in Australia devoted to discovering the cause of cataract in humans.

DITAC recently brought a senior scientist from Norwich to help establish the human lens organ culture laboratory at Wollongong University.
Research grants in electric power

THE Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering’s work in electric power has been recognised with the granting recently of several large research grants.

The Australian Electrical Supply Industry Research Board has been set up by the generating and transmission authorities in Australia and is funding two projects.

One three-year project has been funded with $47,000 in the first year and will lead to the development of a harmonic testbed.

The need for this equipment arises from the large amount of high-power electronic equipment (sometimes called power converter) which has been connected to the supply system recently. This equipment ranges from computers to variable-speed drives and draws a distorted current waveform.

This project aims to build harmonic testbed consisting of a ‘synthetic power supply’ whose harmonic distortion can be varied by means of a computer control system. The testbed will be used to test the adverse effects of waveform distortion on other equipment under controlled conditions.

A second project supported by the research board is concerned with the application of adaptive digital filtering for on-line identification and tracking of harmonics associated with power converters.

This will form the basis for the development of an adaptive power filter to remove time-varying harmonics in an industrial environment.

A spokesman for the department said industrial societies consume large quantities of energy in industrial and commercial plants.

“We pay the price in the form of reduced energy resources and increased greenhouse gas emissions,” he said.

“We can reduce this penalty if we utilise the energy we use more efficiently. The greatest users of this energy are electric drives (motors plus controls), and by far the greatest numbers of electric drives are in the power range 1-20kW.”

The NSW State Energy Research and Development Fund has allocated the department $150,000 over three years to develop a series of new high efficiency electric drives in this power range.

They will be based on the new high-strength permanent magnet material neodymium-iron-boron, developed by CSIRO. The work to be carried out includes machine design, power electronics and control.

In the last three years research in power system stability and control has attracted $47,000 from the Australian Electricity Research Board for computer hardware and professional engineering assistance.

Recently, the Electricity Commission of New South Wales initiated a project to investigate and build a prototype computer-based system for the measurement of voltage phase angle difference between two distant locations on an interconnected power system, possibly as far apart as Sydney and Melbourne.

These measurements constitute important components in the determination of the parameters associated with the electrical network. This project has resulted in consultancy work worth $95,000.
Equity in Education program nets more than $100,000 for 1991

FROM very small beginnings in 1989 the Equity in Education Program has grown into a nationally recognised unit producing quality research and innovative ideas for future programs.

Jan Wright and co-ordinator of the Equity Program, Noeline Kyle, have been granted $50,000 for a project to redress the lack of information and understanding about women and girls in non-traditional work and study.

The project arises directly out of a recently completed and published report, Everyone Expects You to Know: Careers Advice and Industry Attitudes Toward Female Students.

That report, among other things, recommended that medium-size industry with low employment rates for women be targeted to raise their awareness of issues and to take on females for work experience, apprenticeships, traineeships/cadetships and work.

In 1991, the project will implement an innovative set of strategies using two one-day seminars, targeting medium size industry in the Illawarra but also involving TAFE, school personnel and relevant members of the community and government agencies.

These seminars will address background issues, provide information packages, develop plans of action, and provide discussion forums.

Surveys, individual and group interviews, feedback sessions and policy reviews will be used to evaluate the findings of the project.

The results will be published as a report and as a monograph on women and non-traditional study and work in Australia.

The movement of women and girls into non-traditional fields and management roles is a priority issue under the National Agenda for Women and is a key policy strategy in all state strategies for the education of girls.

The Secondary Schools Link Program (funded by the Higher Education Equity Fund) will be implemented again in 1991 with $27,000.

The findings and evaluation of this program in 1989 have been published in a report Determined to Go On: The University of Wollongong Secondary Schools Link Program, 1989 Evaluation Report.

The 1990 evaluation is underway and will include more detailed data analysis about secondary school students taking up tertiary study as a result of the program.

This research is of particular significance given the recent DEET figures on tertiary enrolments for 1991 in Australian universities and the issues being aired in both the popular and the academic press about the access of disadvantaged groups to higher education at a time of shrinking funding and greater competition for places.

Conference presentations in Sydney and Auckland by Ted Booth and Noeline Kyle have generated interest from other scholars as well as media interest in the findings of this work.

Ron King (Chief Investigator), Noeline Kyle and Jan Wright have obtained a prestigious Evaluations grant ($31,500) from DEET to evaluate all Link programs funded by DEET in Australian universities.

The team is visiting six institutions, to interview key personnel. They will also be evaluating reports, policy documents and other relevant material.

This project has important implications for schools and the tertiary sector in relation to the key factors of access, participation, and equity for disadvantaged groups.

In addition, the research will provide valuable information for higher education bodies about student choices, actual enrolments and the perceptions of students/administrators about a range of issues associated with promotion of courses and access to relevant information.

In addition, Ron King and Noeline Kyle are contracted to complete a book on Equity in Australian Education and Noeline Kyle will commence a project on women and leadership in Australian education.

The Equity in Education Program (and the Gender and Education Unit) will continue to provide a vigorous seminar program in 1991 involving University of Wollongong staff, postgraduate students and visiting scholars.
**Staff Development Centre releases its program**

THE Centre for Staff Development has released its program for the first half of the year.

All interested staff are invited to attend any of the below courses.

Other courses for the same period will be advertised as the details become available. Any enquiries may be directed to Staff Development Officer, Jan James, ext. 3946.

Course nomination forms are usually available in most departments.

**Selection Techniques for General Staff (April 10 and 11, and May 22 and 23)**: These workshops will be offered more regularly this year to meet the need of those people who are being called upon to take part in the selection process.

**Work Place Safety** (March 13 and July 17): A half-day session, all staff are encouraged to take part.

**Occupational Health and Safety for Supervisors** (April 17 and 24, and August 14 and 22): Two half-day sessions especially geared to the supervisor from any department on campus who is responsible for the safety of staff or students. This course forms part of the Centre’s Systematic Supervisor Training Program.

**University Finances** (June 19): Financial Services will explain the University Financial system following the move to devolution.

**Career Development for Academic Women** (July 1 and 2): This is a career management course specifically designed for academic women, regardless of their classification or years of experience. Peg MacLeod will conduct this two-day course.

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**Public mental health conference**

**PUBLIC mental health** was the theme of a one-day conference held at the University of Wollongong on February 7.

Convener, Paul O’Halloran, a senior lecturer in the Department of Public Health and Nutrition in collaboration with the NSW Institute of Psychiatry and the local Illawarra Area Health Service organised this event.

This represented a unique multi-disciplinary approach to examining current research, treatment, service delivery and legislative issues in the public mental health arena.

Dr Noel Wilton, Director, Mental Health Services Branch, NSW Department of Health, opened the conference and highlighted mental illness as a major public health concern with cost in treatment terms being six times that of diabetes or myocardial infarction.

Keynote speakers, Professor Gavin Andrews and Dr John Hoult, detailed how services must be reorganised to meet the treatment needs of the mentally ill into the next century. Education and training of mental health professionals in current treatment practices and service delivery were seen as vital.

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**Advertisements**

**COMMUTER WANTED**

Person to share in car pool from Nowra to Wollongong. Edward Taylor, tel. (042) 26 8929 (work) or (044) 21 0964 (home).

**URGENT SALE**


**TO LET**

Attractive, modern, new, furnished, spacious 2br flat with internal laundry, balcony and lock-up garage, separate lunch and dining at Porter St, North Wollongong. Long lease available, would suit working couple. $170 per week. References required. Tel. 965398 or 262191.
Australian Mining Industry Council
AMIC Student Medal 1991. Students are invited to submit a paper relevant to environmental management in the mining or mineral processing industries. The students should be post-graduate/honours or final year students. The University closing date is May 17.

Irish Government Scholarships 1991/92
Scholarships are available for post-graduate students to study at any Irish university or institute of higher education. This is for one year only and the successful applicant must pay their own travel and accommodation costs. The University closing date is March 22.

World Environment Day Youth Award Scheme 1991
There are five awards available for $600 each, which are to stimulate and reward outstanding environmental projects by students under the age of 25. The University closing date is April 19.

Australian Biological Resources Study
Applications are called for grants relevant to ABRS and their preferred objectives for 1991. A list of these is available from Lyndal Manton (ext. 3201). The University closing date is April 5.

National Centre for Research into the Prevention of Drug Abuse
Student bursaries are available for students on diploma, graduate or post graduate courses who elect a topics for their theses or dissertations relevant to the prevention of drug and alcohol problems. The University closing date is March 15.

Nuffield Foundation Fellowship Awards 1992
There are four fellowships available for three month stays in the United Kingdom. Applicants will participate by teaching and demonstration in the Commonwealth Institute’s Education Programme. The University closing date is August 30.

Environmental Trusts Grant Schemes 1991
Funds are available for grants under the Environmental Trusts Scheme, with three main objectives; Environmental Restoration & Rehabilitation, Environmental Research and Environmental Education. The University closing date is March 22.

Australian Federation of University Women (AFUW) Queensland Inc.
Felda Bage Fellowship(s) and Commemorative Fellowship(s) 1992
These fellowships are open to all women graduates of a university or other higher education institute of any country. The fellowships are for postgraduate study only and there are different rules for the Freda Bage Fellowship to the Commemorative Fellowships. The University closing date is September 20.

Bilateral Science & Technology Collaboration Program 1992
Applications are called for projects involving collaboration with an overseas scientist or technologist which will result in a collaborative research project or seminar/workshop. Funding provided will cover travel & living expenses only. The University closing date is April 19 for projects from January 1, 1992 to June 30, 1992 and closing date is September 20 for projects from July 1, 1992 to January 31, 1992.

Previously Advertised Closing Date
The British Council
Travel Grants Any Time
Australian Arts Council Any Time
NHMRC Grants March 12
PHRDC Grants March 12
Heritage Assistance Program March 22
SIDS Research Grants March 22
Overseas Research Student Awards (UK) March 31
R Douglas Wright Awards (New Investigators) NHMRC April 12
AESIRB (Greenhouse) April 19
Smuts Visiting Fellowship March 30
Australian Academy of Humanities (Travelling fellowships) June 14
Multiple Sclerosis Society Grants and Fellowships May 17
Sir George Murray Prize August 9
Multiple Sclerosis Society P/Grad Scholarship August 16

From back page
Chandra Lodh. 11am-12.30pm.
All seminars are held in the Faculty of Commerce Building 40, Room 338.
Inquiries to Associate Professor Hai Yap Teoh, seminar convenor, ext. 3625.

Department of Philosophy
One-day conference
March 23: Reasoning About The Ethics of Health Care. An introductory one-day conference held by The Department of Philosophy, University of Wollongong, and the Ethics Committee of the Illawarra Health Service. The conference will focus on the interests of members of the Ethics Committee of the Illawarra Health Service, but attendance is open to health care workers, interested academics and members of the University. Attendance will be limited to 60 persons. Should you wish to attend, your registration form and conference fee ($30 cheques made out to the Department of Philosophy, University of Wollongong) should reach the Department of Philosophy no later than Wednesday March 13. Acceptance will be in order of receipt of form and registration fee, with the exception of the Ethics Committee of the Illawarra Health Service.
The conference will be held in lecture theatre 5, Pentagon, University of Wollongong.
Preliminary reading materials will be distributed to participants by post before the conference.
For further information, tel. (042) 21 3615.

Department of Physics
Forthcoming colloquia
March 14: DEs ex machina: The Impact of Computational Physics on Undergraduate Courses, Dr Ian Johnston, School of Physics, University of Sydney, Physics Lecture Theatre 18.118, 12.30pm.

School of Creative Arts
Postgraduate meeting and seminar
March 14: Meeting for all post-graduate students of the school followed by a seminar by Murray Copeland, writer, artist-in-residence, Verse and the Stage: A Present Challenge. Music Auditorium 3.30-6.30pm.
Roger Woodward and guest players from the Alpha Centauri Ensemble play Mozart — tonight (March 12) at 8pm. There will also be a special pre-concert interview conducted by Professor Helen Gamble starting at 7pm.

The Art of Lunch — Thursdays from 12.35-1.25pm in the Music Auditorium, School of Creative Arts. Upcoming concerts include Mr Yabsley’s ‘Managing in the Corrective Services Environment’ on March 26, and the launch of a series of eight lectures, ‘Water Conservation – Its Management and the Future’, starting on April 12.

The Minister for Corrective Services, Jane Morrison, a metallurgist with BHP Steel, will speak at the launch of the series, entitled ‘Water Conservation – Its Management and the Future’. The lectures will be held in the Hallstrom Theatre in the Australian Museum, each starting at 6pm. For more information contact Heather Roy (02) 918 9259.

What’s On
branch of the Australian Institute of Management on March 26. Mr Yabsley’s topic is ‘Managing in the Corrective Services Environment’. The meeting will be held at Cleo’s Function Centre, in Burrell St, Wollongong from 5.30pm. Contact assistant branch secretary, Mrs Jenny Hamilton (042) 21 3075, 9.45am-2.45pm, Monday to Thursday.

The National Parks Association of NSW is holding a series of eight lectures, entitled ‘Water Conservation – Its Management and the Future’. The next is held in April. The lectures will be held in the Hallstrom Theatre in the Australian Museum, each starting at 6pm. For more information contact Heather Roy (02) 918 9259.

FOR SALE
Reliable and economical 1977, Mazda 323 Hatch. Please call Karen in Planning and Marketing, tel. (042) 21 3110 or (046) 84 1739 after hours.

FOR SALE
Toyota Corolla Seca. Twin cam ‘88 sedan, air cond, power steer, mag wheels, alarm, new tyres, 34,000 m. 12mths rego, $16,000 ono. OVK887. Ext. 3249 or tel. (042) 85 2056 (ah)

FOR SALE
New, exclusive town house, 5 minutes from the University. Large lounge and dining, full-width opening to expansive view of ocean. 2 br with glass wall w/robe. Parking for 2 cars on ground floor. Fully landscaped. $140,000. Tel. (042) 85 2970.

FOR SALE
Keiraville. Private sale. Attractive 2 br bv and tile home. Good area, Res “A”. Well situated with all round outlook. Estab trees and shrubs, 500m to shops, services, facilities.

FOR SALE
100m to bus stops, 3.5km to Wollongong. Fitted indoor storeroom. Split syst A/C. $162,500. Tel. (042) 29 8287 week days to 8pm for details and inspections.

FOR SALE
1982 Mazda 626, air conditioned and good condition $3800. Colour television good condition $200. Vincent, tel. (042) 26 8910 (business hours)

FOR SALE

FOR SALE
Volvo 244GL Auto, air-conditioned. December 1980 model - excellent mint condition. Must sell. 120,000 km. Will give 3 months’ full warranty. Dr Chandra, ext. 3008. Price $9500 ono.

TO LET
Furnished, roomy, 3 br Mt Pleasant house, sweeping ocean views, available late February - early December. Tel. (042) 83 2089 or ext. 3518.

TO LET
House available from July 1991 to Mid-January 1992. 3br plus study, fully furnished. Walking distance to bus, rail and beach in Corrimal. Use of car can be negotiated. Tel. Ellie 84 0746 or ext. 3744.

WORK WANTED
Translation service for all major Scandinavian languages, including Finnish. Contact Aili Kamarainen, tel. (042) 26 9751.

TO LET
Open Day — Sunday August 25.

Seminars
Department of Accountancy
March 15: Over the Top Via Under the Surface: A True and Fair View, Mary Greenwell. 11am-12.30pm
March 29: Interviewing and Training Accounting Graduates, Dr Omer Abdullah Zaid, senior lecturer, School of Business and Technology, University of Western Sydney. 10.30am-noon.
April 12: Notes on Critical Accounting Literature - Some Inner Contradictions, Diversity, the Need for Perspective Choices in Organisational Analysis. Sudhir

continued on page seven

Advertisements

Stop Press

Bike ride from London to Wollongong

UNIVERSITY of Wollongong graduate, Tony Isbra, is going to ride a bike from London to Wollongong to raise funds for AIDS research.

He needs sponsors. Phone Tracy (0420) 74 2998