The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Robinson, opened an Australia-Taiwan joint workshop on Material Processing Technology held at the University from 26-27 June.

This workshop, jointly sponsored by the Australian Academy of Science, the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, and the National Science Council of Taiwan, provided a holistic approach to manufacturing, with papers ranging from materials characterisation and performance through processing to manufacturing systems and ecologically sustainable manufacturing. The manufacturing of high-value-added products are of key importance to the economic futures of both Australia and Taiwan.

The strategies for both countries for competing effectively in international markets, and especially in the rapidly growing markets of the Pacific Rim, are complementary but differ in several significant ways.

Researchers from both countries came together to discuss the challenges presented by a re-orientation of manufacturing industry and its increasing ‘globalisation’.
New Key Centre for teaching and research

The University of Wollongong and the University of Newcastle have jointly won one of the seven new Key Centres of Teaching and Research.

This was announced by the Federal Minister for Employment, Education and Training, Mr Simon Crean, on 19 June.

Key centres are concentrations of high-level activity in teaching and research which are usually based on existing groups in university departments.

They are in areas of identified socio-economic importance: the environment, social development, mineral and energy resources, community services, transport and advanced manufacturing.

The Federal Government has allocated $2.4 million to fund this latest round of centres.

The Newcastle and Wollongong Centre is in Bulk Solids and Particulate Technologies.

The Director is Emeritus Professor Alan Roberts AM from the University of Newcastle and the Associate Director is Professor Peter Arnold, from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Wollongong.

In his media release, Mr Crean said that this key centre unifies and creates an institutional identity to the strongly established and expanding interdisciplinary expertise in bulk solids handling technology.

It will provide a unique Australian centre to which industry can turn for graduates, research, consulting, training and technical assistance.

This key centre, he said, 'will build upon the strong foundations in bulk solids technology and particle mechanics already in place at the universities of Newcastle and Wollongong'.

Funds will be provided for six years with the funding allocated for 1995 to 1998 being $1.427 million, the second highest allocation made.

Awards for future engineers

The Faculty of Engineering recently held its annual prize evening which proved to be a great success with more than 140 guests and presenters attending.

In his welcoming address, the Dean of Engineering, Professor Tibor Rozgonyi recognised the hard work and outstanding achievements of the students.

He also thanked local organisations and businesses for the support they have given the faculty in recent years.

Professor Rozgonyi presented certificates to the top 10 percent of students across the faculty. These were placed on the Dean’s Merit List.

Prizes were awarded to several students from Civil and Mining, Mechanical and Materials by the heads of each department, Associate Professor Robin Chowdhury, Professor Druce Dunne and Associate Professor Bob Wheway.

Outside organisations sponsored many of the awards and these were presented to students by representatives from each sponsor organisation.

The guest speaker, Associate Professor R.W. Upfold, gave an interesting and entertaining presentation on ‘Surfing the Internet’. He explained how easy it was to access such enormous amounts of information from around the globe.

Professor Upfold then set up a computer and telephone link and guests were able to experience first hand the ease of access to the Internet and the different information which is available.
Long Gallery brings Taiwanese and Aboriginal cultures together

A vibrant exhibition, entitled Freshwater/Saltwater, opened in the Long Gallery on 29 June.

It is a collection of art from Yirrkala in north-eastern Arnhem Land, in the Northern Territory.

This community is distinguished by the extraordinary calibre of its artists in every sphere of the arts.

This exhibition is part of the ongoing artistic exchange process between artists in the Faculty of Creative Arts and artists in Yirrkala.

Principal of Yirrkala Community School, Nalwarrie Ngurruwuthun, formally open the exhibition. She later met four Taiwanese artists and arts administrators who were visiting the faculty.

This group were in Australia for the University of Wollongong project ARTTAIWAN which is currently showing at the Gold Coast.

They particularly asked to visit the University, the institution that initiated the exchange of art between Australia and Taiwan.

While here, they made arrangements for the arrival of the ARTTAIWAN exhibition at the Wollongong City Art Galley from December to February and discussed establishing exchanges of artists between Taiwan and the Faculty of Creative Arts.
Library usage is increasing

The Library experienced its busiest ever Autumn session.

This was most noticeable in the ‘frontline’ services.

Loans increased by 12 percent in comparison with the same period in 1994.

May is traditionally the busiest month of the academic year, and this May saw an increase of 18 percent in loans from 49,286 (May 1994) to 58,408 this year.

Items returned during May numbered 59,029 compared with 50,889 in 1994.

Despite the increase in Library usage and the accompanying high workloads, the loans team has coped admirably and endeavoured to maintain service guarantees.

Returned items are usually processed within 90 minutes of receipt and this has been maintained even on days when more than 3000 items were handled in the returns room alone.

Most items are again available for borrowing from the first floor within 12 hours of being processed.

To help with the increased volume of reshelving, all Library staff members spend a half hour per week in designated high-use areas to check the shelves and place books in order.

In addition, a twice-yearly ‘clean-up’ is conducted to place all books in order. Both these strategies are designed to assist Library users to locate items more effectively.

The benefits of the clean-up programs and shelf-reading exercises have also been demonstrated in increased efficiency.

Shelving time has increased by only 6 percent even during May 95 when returns increased by 18 percent.

These figures are all the more impressive when coupled with the fact the Library introduced a new system just two weeks before Autumn session. The transition to a new system provided a great opportunity to change policies to reflect the needs of the users of the Library service.

These changes include: more items for loan to all user groups and the availability of an additional terminal at the main loans desk to improve the speed of service and the ability to send more regular notices.

In the meantime, additional staff are rostered to speed up the queues. The loans team will continue to measure and evaluate work practices involved with the loan and return of Library items with the aim of continually improving service to clients.
New Course Information Officer, Annette Fraser

Appointment of new Course Information Officer

Annette Fraser has been appointed as the Course Information Officer at The University Centre in Sydney.

Ms Fraser is an Arts graduate in Political Science and Sociology from the University of Tasmania.

She comes to the position from the University of Sydney where she was employed in such areas as the Media and Public Relations Office, personnel, advertising and departmental administration in the Department of Psychology.

Ms Fraser has also had broad experience in design and stage management in the theatre in Tasmania and NSW and has also worked as a Hansard editor in the Parliament of Tasmania.

She is looking forward to being able to combine her unique blend of skills and experience to assist in successfully promoting the partner universities.

She believes wholeheartedly in the value of wide networks and clear communication to achieve success and is already working to establish and coordinate these in order to provide a dynamic, efficient and committed service to benefit the partner universities, their staff and students.

Correction

In the Campus News of 28 June 1995 Michael Hough was referred to as the Head of the Department of Management. Professor Gill Palmer is the Head of the Department of Management, Michael Hough is a professor in that Department. Campus News regrets the inaccuracy.

Successful Modern Languages HSC Day

The Department of Modern Languages held its second very successful HSC Day on Saturday 17 June to prepare Year 12 students for their exams in French, Italian and Japanese.

Two hundred students and 35 teachers from 45 different schools from areas as far away as Wagga, Dubbo and Sydney’s North Shore attended.

Workshops were offered in each language in the essential skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening, plus some of the options (literature, song, film, etc).

The overall coordinator of the day was Dr Susan Yates, who was also in charge of the French program.

Acting Head of the Department of Modern Languages, Associate Professor Gaetano Rando, organised the Italian program with the kind help of the Association of Italian Teachers of the Illawarra and the Italian Consulate, who sent their Education Attaché, Dr Antonio Mansueto, to give a much-appreciated lecture on Italian gestures.

Ms Elizabeth Thomson of the Department of Modern Languages organised the Japanese program in collaboration with Merry Wahlin of Kambala Girls School and Sue Xouris of Macquarie University.

Workshop presenters included members of the department and teachers from Sydney and the local district, including Nadia Bruyère from Lake Illawarra High, Carmen Mrvos from Woonona, Marie-Christine Dessertaine from Moss Vale (French), Luisa Bertoggi and Maria Caridi from Keira Technology High School, and Rita Giampieri from St Mary’s College (Italian).

Students and teachers said they had found the workshops very useful, and were impressed with the McKinnon building where the event was held and with the beauty of the campus.

Many students expressed interest in attending Open Day in August.

The Engineering Chapter of the Alumni Association

is pleased to invite fellow alumni, university staff, students and other guests to a
DINNER / DANCE
to be held on Saturday, 22 July at 7pm for 7.30pm
Venue: Carringtons at the Belmore
41 Smith Street, Wollongong

Celebrity Guest Speaker:
PETER FITZSIMONS
Columnist, best-selling author, ex rugby international and raconteur

Cost: $40 per head (Financial Members of the Alumni Association and their guests)$45 per head (other alumni and guests)

For this you can enjoy:
• A 3-course meal with table wine (bar open for other drinks to be purchased)
• The celebrity guest speaker
• Dancing to live music (Fresh)
• The chance to revisit old memories and friends

Tickets can be obtained from Engineering Chapter Secretary, Ted Bosman (8 Cosgrove Ave, Keiraville 2500; Ph 28 8662) or from the Alumni Office (x 3249), level 3, Union Building

This function has been made possible by the generous sponsorship of:
• Brambles Industrial Services, Port Kembla • Brambles Forklifts
• Gardner Perrott • Wreckair Hire
Alumni Association announces limited grants

The Alumni Association receives requests for financial assistance, mostly from students seeking help with a particular project, but also from organisations associated with the campus.

To date the Board of Management has considered each case on its merits and in some cases has decided to award a small grant (ranging from $50 to $200).

In the interests of equity and to formalise the outlay of its funds, the board has recently drawn up a policy on the award of grants on an annual basis.

Alumni, students or groups involved with the campus community are invited to read the conditions outlined below and, if the appropriate criteria are met, to apply for an Alumni Association grant before the closing date of 31 July.

Since the association is in the early stages of its development, funds for these grants are necessarily limited.

A few students have so far received a grant from the Alumni Association or one of its chapters, usually for a project which involves representing the University (and in some cases Australia) overseas.

Another recent recipient of a grant has been the campus Voluntary Aid Detachment of the Red Cross.

The conditions for the grants are:

- Grants will be awarded for educational or self-development purposes, or for worthy causes linked to the University community.
- Application may be made by individual financial members of the University of Wollongong Alumni Association, by potential alumni of the University (i.e. currently enrolled students) or by organisations which have a link with the University.
- Applications will be considered on merit by the association’s Board of Management (or its subcommittee). The worthiness of the cause and its relevance to the University and to the association will be taken into account.
- Application must be made on the appropriate form (available from the Alumni Office), and applicants will be asked to provide evidence of expenditure and the names of referees or other sponsors.
- Where appropriate, grant recipients will be asked to supply an article describing their experience for The Outlook magazine.
- The closing date for receipt of applications is 31 July.
- Application forms may be obtained from the Alumni Office on Level 3 of the Union Building, ext. 3249 or 3169; fax (042) 214299.
- This office will be short-staffed between 26 June and 7 July.

Introduction to Tertiary Teaching

The Faculty of Education, in cooperation with the Centre for Staff Development, will again offer the Introduction to Tertiary Teaching (ITT) course in Spring Session.

The course is offered on Wednesdays (1.30-4.30pm) and Thursdays (9.30am-12.30pm), and all academic and suitably qualified non-academic staff are invited to participate.

The program will begin in week one of the session – Wednesday 19 July or Thursday 20 July.

The ITT subject is an approved eight-credit-point course in the Faculty of Education schedule and is offered free to University staff.

After completing the ITT subject staff may enrol in the Graduate Certificate of Higher Education.

This course requires the study of two additional subjects; Curriculum & Instructional Design and Assessment & Evaluation.

Staff may then proceed into the Graduate Diploma in Adult Education and Training and then a Master of Education degree. Several have already taken these courses and graduated from the Faculty.

In the ITT course participants are introduced to a range of basic skills of university teaching. They are encouraged to consider implications for student learning and devise strategies to facilitate student outcomes.

They investigate the planning, implementing and evaluating of a range of teaching methods, especially those relevant to their particular disciplinary and personal needs.

The principles and practices of subject and course design are introduced as a means of integrating the various components of the subject. Attention is also directed to lecturer-student relationships and the feedback role, both of which are crucial to the teaching-learning process in the University.

Ultimately the subject should lead staff to an awareness of avenues for continuing professional development and a desire to continue the refinement of their teaching capabilities.

Staff who are interested in this course or who require enrolment forms, subject outlines, reading lists or other information, should contact Maureen Bell (ext. 3946) in the Centre for Staff Development. Enrolment forms and subject outlines may also be acquired by calling Val Roberts, ext. 3618.

Statistical methods for research workers

Many researchers need to use statistical methods in their research, but find their knowledge inadequate.

The Statistical Consulting Service exists to assist people in their research, but it expects a basic knowledge of statistics.

People who lack this knowledge should consider enrolling in the short course, Statistical Methods for Research Workers.

It provides the prerequisite knowledge for staff and postgraduate students seeking to consult the Statistical Consulting Service.

It can be used as either an introduction to, or a refresher course for, basic statistical techniques.

The next course will be held on the first six Wednesdays of Spring Session, from 9.30am-12.30pm. The charge is $50. Comprehensive notes are issued. The course is conducted by Ken Russell. Only a minimal level of mathematics is assumed. Reply by e-mail, or contact Kerrie Gamble, ext. 4308, for extra information and an enrolment form.

If your knowledge of mathematics is less than minimal, or your phobia about statistics is total, you may wish to begin with the Statistics preparation course offered by Anne Porter, ext. 4058, of the Learning Development Centre.
Enthusiastic response to historic conference

A group of American teachers visiting Wollongong recently for a conference and visits to schools said that their experiences here were a pleasant confirmation of what they had heard and read about developments in Australian language and literature education.

Some spokespeople in the group said that they had been largely influenced by the writings of Professor Brian Cambourne and Dr Jan Turbill in the Faculty of Education and by an awareness of the Frameworks program that they had developed at the University of Wollongong.

The holistic approach taken by Professor Cambourne and Dr Turbill was extremely liberating for American teachers and was certainly more interesting and stimulating for the children.

It provided a completely different way of approaching curriculum areas, especially the emphasis on teaching language and literacy within all subject areas thus emphasising that all teachers were teachers of language and literature.

The curriculum in the US has been dominated by what the textbook companies made available and assessments were determined by standardised tests, they claimed.

They said that the Frameworks program encouraged teachers to be professionals and seek materials from all over the world that were appropriate and stimulating for their particular students.

This was certainly both more challenging and empowering for the teachers, as they made the decisions as to what were the most appropriate literacy learning experiences for their students and not the text book companies.

One visitor said American children had greatly enjoyed Australian literature, while another was very impressed with the abundance and level of writing in Australian schools she had visited and the focus on what children could do rather than what they could not do, she noted.

The conference, entitled ‘Quality Teaching for Quality Learning in English’, was the first to be jointly organised by the Department of School Education and the Education Faculty at the University.

The conference looked at English assessment processes and functional grammar in the classroom.

Other topics discussed included the importance of high quality, effective teaching in English and strategies to assess and report on the progress of individual students.

The use of technology to collect assessment data was discussed and demonstrated.

Participants included teachers from Minnesota, Kansas and Wisconsin in the US, as well as public and private school teachers from the local region and throughout NSW.

In his welcome, the acting Dean of the Faculty of Education, Professor Ken Gannicott remarked on the intensity of the disagreements amongst teachers of language and literacy.

‘But those who held differing views were coming together to discuss them and the newly-formed Language Centre in the Faculty of Education will further facilitate the process of debating the issues around teaching of language and literature,’ he said.

In his opening address, the Assistant Director-General of Education for the South Coast Region, Mr Steve Buckley, quoted a 1987 UNESCO report:

‘Literacy releases the individual from a sense of personal inferiority, from the relationship of dependency and subservience, and allocates a new status and potential. Illiteracy is the denial of an essential element of the human heritage and the imposition of an intellectual bondage.’
General
7 July: All-day Doctorial Consortium organised by the Department of Accounting and Finance focusing on research strategies for accounting and finance. Visiting speakers Dr David Cooper and Professor Tony Tinker from the USA. Phone Bob Williams, 213 718, for details and bookings.

What's On
13 November – 10 December: BCA graduating exhibition

Cell and Molecular Evening Seminar Series
Conducted by the Department of Biological Sciences and Biological Macromolecules Research Centre.
7 August: Professor Rolland Skollay (Centenary Institute), The Life Technologies seminar on T cell immunology.
14 August: Dr Simon Easterbrook Smith (University of Sydney), The BioRad seminar on complement regulation.
11 September: Professor Adrian Gibbs (Australian National University), The Bresatec seminar on virus evolution.

Held on Mondays from 6pm in the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Wollongong, Building 35, Room 105.
Enquiries, phone: (042) 21 3013, fax: (042) 214 135.

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