Wollongong – on time with the Internet

WOLLONGONG residents will have free and instant access to comprehensive timetables and other public transport information when Australia’s first outdoor ‘Internet Timetable Kiosk’ comes online later this year.

Announced in May by the NSW Minister for Transport, Brian Langton, the 12-month trial of the kiosk represents a remarkable collaboration between University and Department of Transport, Wollongong City Council and other community groups.

If successful, the trial will expand throughout the state.

Designed by Wollongong University undergraduates Nathan Hiley and Jose Guzman, the system was developed as part of ongoing improvements to the University. The kiosk is Australia’s first such fully-integrated public transport initiative.

A touch-activated screen is used by pointing to reference points on the screen.

The user points to landmarks or streets, selecting departure time and destination, the program then suggests transport advice, including alternative transport as well as where and when to change.

The kiosk is specifically designed to be easily accessed by everybody, including the aged, the disabled and those of non-English-speaking background.

Complementing the touch screen are oversized buttons and simple images to enable use by the widest cross-section of the community.

Free, instant and easily understood, the kiosk, with its interactive timetables for buses and trains and additional information about taxis and other forms of transport, represents a landmark effort in cooperation between several private and public transport organisations.

Before this, all the public transport operators published their own separate timetable information.

A report by David MacPherson and David Handley found that there was previously no coordination as to interconnecting timetabling in terms of pick-up or set-down locations.

The prototype can be accessed on: http://www.uow.edu.au/general/transport/llawarra

Queen’s Birthday honour for former Wollongong academic

ACADEMIC-turned-diplomat Professor Stephen Hill last month was named on the Queen’s Birthday honours list.

In recognition of more than 30 years’ devoted service to the development of science in the Asia-Pacific region, former Wollongong academic Professor Hill was awarded the Order of Australia Medal highlighting the contribution of Wollongong talent to the international arena.

Acknowledged internationally as a leader in his field, the award – ‘For service to the development of Australia’s international relations with Asia and to science and technology policies’ – is a powerful accolade.

Now living in Jakarta, Professor Hill maintains his links with the University. He is the Regional Director for South-East Asia in the United Nations organisation UNESCO.

INSIDE

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- Enviro ‘97 teaches primary pupils about the environment
- Collaboration with Futureworld
Practical legal training course underway

THE Faculty of Law has responded to the need to expand opportunities for law graduates to obtain practical legal training and qualify for admission to practice.

More particularly, they have responded to the need for greater flexibility in the manner, location, and process by which this training is obtained.

The course is structured differently from the Professional Program offered by the College of Law, the University of Technology Sydney and Bond University.

For many intending students there are considerable financial and personal difficulties in meeting the requirements of attendance and experience of these courses.

Wollongong's course offers more flexible delivery to students.

The course is a 20-week program which integrates course work and professional experience.

It begins with a week-long on-campus orientation to introduce students to the course methods and teaching staff and to provide some skills development and preparation for the following weeks.

Over 15 weeks, each student is required to complete at least 14 hours a week of law-related professional experience.

For students already in appropriate employment, this means they can retain their employment. Other students may obtain this experience in voluntary placements.

Each week students have to complete an average of 17 hours self-directed course work, some of which requires interaction with instructors and other students.

Students are also required to attend a series of four weekend workshops and in the final weeks of the course, attend at locations to complete assessment work.

After completing all course work, students are required to complete a further four weeks' professional experience within two years.

The Legal Practitioners' Admissions Board originally approved Wollongong's course as a full-time on-campus course.

They have now given approval to the University to offer a pilot program of the course in a flexible-mode version.

Students who successfully complete the pilot program will qualify for admission to practice.

Sixteen students have enrolled in this pilot program.

Fifty per cent are Wollongong graduates, the rest have completed their qualifications at Macquarie University, ANU, universities of Sydney, NSW and UTS, and the Solicitors' Admissions Board.

At the welcome to students the Dean, Professor Helen Gamble, said: 'It has taken a long effort to get to this stage.'

"Other universities had been waiting for Wollongong to start the course and set the bench mark which is a good one as the fees have been set at cost recovery, it follows the style of law courses offered here and is closely linked to practice, so it will be distinctive.'

Student's engineering success with robots

A LOVE of mechanical engineering, electronics and computer science resulted in The Institute of Instrumentation and Control of Australia recently honouring Wollongong University Engineering student Milenko Carapic this month.

For his undergraduate work in robotic welding systems for gas pipes, Milenko was awarded $1000 and the prestigious NSW Best Thesis in 1996 prize.

The ground-breaking study in 'Cooperative working with robots' has been so successful it has attracted extra funding for research.

As a consequence Mr Carapic has been able to further his robotic research as part of a Masters in mechanical engineering.

'Most welding projects involving robots have one or so robots', Mr Carapic said. 'As the complexity of these projects increases then more robots are needed increasing the chance of a collision. So it is important to understand the programming and organisation of the process.'

Mr Carapic's Masters degree is directed at replacing expensive 'rapid prototypes' made from lasers and photoresistant plastic - with cheaper, viable steel models.

'The laser technology is good but it is expensive and can only show you what the end product will look like,' Mr Carapic said. 'Robots use only the electricity needed to run the machines and produce a functional model.'

Representing a significant improvement in productivity and costs, Mr Carapic's work in the Engineering department is already attracting industry attention from Australian companies.

Dating problem
Dear Observant Reader,

Yes, we made an error with the date in the last edition. It should have been the May issue not another April issue. Perhaps it might become a collector's item? Meanwhile the Editor has not another April issue. Perhaps should have been the May issue it might become a collector's item.

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Telstra's $1.4m Internet research boost

THE University of Wollongong is playing a leading role in the future of information age technologies with a $1.4 million Internet research boost from Telstra.

Looking to improve the performance of tomorrow's Internet, the research will focus on two types of application: World Wide Web style browsing of 'hypermedia', and the needs of multiplayer games over a network.

Importantly, Telstra can use the research findings to improve Internet products and services.

General Manager, Technology Strategy, Telstra Research Laboratories, Dr Leith Campbell, said: 'The contract could be a breakthrough for today's Internet users, including people wanting access to multiplayer games, but who find fast, two-way communication to the home hampered by Internet congestion and slow access technologies.

By creating solutions which deliver multimedia to the desktop more quickly, the research benefits will flow to business users, who are increasingly relying on the Internet as a business tool, like the telephone.

'The research also anticipates the day when users will want the same high-quality Internet services while on the move.'

Dr Campbell said the staggering growth of Internet services in Australia means that the research at Wollongong is very important for the nation.

'Telstra's own survey reveals that more than one million Australians regularly use the Internet, making Australia the fifth in the world for Internet use,' he said.

'Telstra also forecasts that traffic on our international links will exceed voice traffic by 1998.

'And with Australia succeeding in becoming a global Internet destination, with information exports growing faster than imports, the University of Wollongong's research will play an important role in the expansion of the Australian Internet industry.'

Dr Campbell said today's Internet users are well aware of the frustrations of using the Internet - delays in downloading screens to personal computers, congestion in the networks and slow response from popular sites.

'The Wollongong research will assist tomorrow's users by delivering a higher quality of service and greater responsiveness, he said.

'The solutions lie in more advanced network technology and better access methods.'

To date Telstra has invested about $4 million with the University of Wollongong's Institute for Telecommunications Research. This latest contract seals an important nine-year industry-research partnership.

The research will be performed by the professor of Telecommunications Engineering, Professor Gary Anido, several post-doctoral research fellows and at least five PhD students at the University of Wollongong.

This latest contract to be signed at Telstra House again highlights Telstra Research Laboratories' commitment, under the directorship of Dr Hugh Bradlow, to the consolidation of a strong research and development base in Australia.

Professor Anido said Telstra's decision through TRL to renew funding for the Telecommunications Centre of Expertise represented a vote of confidence not only in SNRC's work but also in the results being achieved in Telstra's own research laboratories.

NSW Treasurer and Minister for Energy and State and Regional Development Michael Egan, who has taken a special interest in the Wollongong Centre of Expertise, was guest of honour at the contract signing ceremony at Telstra House.

'Today's announcement is more great news for the Illawarra,' Mr Egan said.

'The Illawarra is now well underway to becoming the centre of the State's Telecommunications Industry.'
AUSTRALIA’s first Appropriate Technology Education Kit for high schools was launched on 21 April at the University. Production of the kit was the result of a joint effort between Futureworld, the University and the Environment Protection Authority, with input from the Department of Education, Wollongong Council, Department of Land and Water Conservation and other organisations.

Futureworld is the National Centre for Appropriate Technology. It is a non-profit organisation collaborating with government, private enterprise, academic and community forces to create and develop a comprehensive centre for exhibiting and promoting environmental technology and best practice.

An earlier educational funding grant to Futureworld enabled the production of 80 free Environmentally Appropriate Technology Kits for primary schools, now being distributed free to schools within the region.

At the function, State member for Keira, Mr Colin Markham, handed over further funding to Futureworld from the NSW Environment Trust.

Both primary and secondary kits focus on different approaches to energy generation, water use and treatment, pollution, waste, transport and building design, and their impact on the environment; demonstrating how individuals can reduce this impact.

Also available for the first time in Australia is a comprehensive environmental technology kit for high schools on CD-ROM, covering the above themes and many other environmental issues.

This incorporates more than 900 illustrated pages, video clips, images and interactive exercises for the students and is priced at just a fraction of comparative CD-ROMs.

Futureworld is an ecotourism venue and will include working models of environmentally-innovative products and interactive displays; and provide a network for business and organisations nationally for environmental technology and information.

It also will provide extensive conference and educational facilities and resources, and consultancy expertise.

All buildings and operational systems are being appropriately designed to maximise energy, water and materials conservation; and to minimise waste and environmental impact, as well as to regenerate the immediately surrounding natural environment.

Power quality course improves electricity

THIS month, on behalf of the Electricity Supply Association of Australia, the University is presenting a course on power quality problems.

Voltage sags, light flickers, harmonics, transients and other power quality problems will be examined.

The susceptibility of power supply to disturbances that affect customers’ equipment has increased due to the rapid installation of electronic equipment such as digital controls, computers and sensitive process control equipment.

Power providers wish to become more customer-focussed and able to give advice to customers who may have power quality concerns.

In offering this course, the Integral Energy Power Quality Centre in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering is responding this need.

The course is aimed at engineers and senior technical staff who wish to advise customers concerned about power quality.

The course is also an aid to those wishing to develop contracts with large customers concerned with network design, construction and maintenance techniques for maximising quality of supply.

Total Quality Management for Hong Kong, Malaysia

THE University, represented by The Business School and the Illawarra Technology Corporation, has signed a contract with the Asian Institute of Higher Education to deliver the new Master of Quality Management course in Hong Kong and Malaysia.

Associate Professor John Montager said: ‘This course grew out of the recent review of the Total Quality Management program and is a one year Masters degree.

‘The contract, worth $5.6m, is significant and represents a major initiative for The Business School as it will guarantee 200 students per year for five years.

‘This signals Wollongong’s international reputation and commitment to strategic alliances.’
IN celebration of World Environment Day, a group of third-year Education students took to the Botanic Gardens with hundreds of primary school students for hands-on teaching experience.

Run by Wollongong City Council, in concert with Neil McLaren of the Faculty of Education and several Illawarra small businesses Enviro '97 was dedicated to promoting an environmental awareness in year five and six students in a fun and interactive way.

Enviro '97 teaches primary pupils about the environment

This was achieved through and environmental drama and a series of activity stations located throughout the Gardens.

The focus of the day was 'Human Society and Its Environment'.

The third-year students, from the Primary Education program, conducted exercises throughout the day, culminating in their charges signing a written promise to conserve energy for the next two weeks.

Mr McLaren said: 'At the end of the day our students had benefited by their involvement in the hands-on learning activities they had designed. 'The day had benefits for all involved.'

Visit by Professor Mark Williams

THE Centre for Mental Health Services Development recently sponsored the visit of the Professor of Clinical Psychology at the University of Wales, Bangor, Mark Williams.

Professor Williams is a recognised international expert in the cognitive behavioural treatment of depression, and the management of suicidal behaviour and suicide prevention.

He is co-editor of the book, Cognitive Therapy in Clinical Practice, with Aaron Beck.

During his visit, Professor Williams consulted with Associate Professor Kate Blackmore and members of the Centre’s Youth Suicide Prevention team who recently were awarded a Commonwealth Government tender to develop good practice guidelines for youth suicide prevention.

Professor Williams also addressed a seminar of academics, clinicians, mental health consumers and carers from the Illawarra and Sydney on the cognitive behavioural treatment of depression.

Visit by Professor Mark Williams

Professor Williams is pictured with Professor Charles Watson, the Acting Director of the Centre for Mental Health Services Development, Associate Professor Rhonda Griffiths, and Co-ordinator of the Mental Health Program, Department of Public Health and Nutrition, Gordon Lambert
New faces in Buildings and Grounds

AFTER significant changes to the Buildings and Grounds Division, there are some new faces about the campus.

On behalf of the University, The News would like to welcome and introduce our new:

Director of Buildings and Grounds - Mr Andrew Froud. Coming to us from a similar position at the University of Canberra, Andrew was formerly in the RAAF. He holds a Masters in Civil Engineering and Engineering Sciences. Special thanks are offered by all to the former Acting Director Mr Bob Slater, who did a brilliant job during an exceptionally busy 12 months. Bob resumes his key support role as the Construction Manager.

Cleaning Manager - A newly created position filled by Mr Michael Gilmour. Under him we welcome new supervisors Ms Rhonda Corkery, Mr David Somerville and Mr Richard Duckitt.

Training and Quality Assurance Coordinator - is Mr Jon Hoogland who comes to us from Standards Australia.

Illawarra the place to run a small business!

Preliminary results from the small business survey were released at a press conference on 20 May after a breakfast organised by the Illawarra Branch of the Industrial Relations Society. Pictured are Mr Simon Pomfret, from the Illawarra Regional Information Service, Ms Terri Mylett (Department of Economics) and survey coordinator, Associate Professor Ray Markey (Department of Economics).

AN EXTENSIVE survey conducted by the Labour Market and Regional Studies Centre at the University shows a high degree of satisfaction with industrial relations among small business people in the Illawarra.

Survey coordinator, Associate Professor Ray Markey, said most of the 160 small businesses surveyed indicated that they had never experienced industrial action, although 25 per cent indicated that their employees were union members, a relatively high figure for the small business sector.

Only two per cent had experienced industrial action in the last year. Ninety-seven per cent rated their employee/management relationships as good, and 79 per cent believed that the award system works well for their workplace.

This contradicts the popular image of the region as a hotbed of industrial militancy, an image which has never been based on any hard data, Professor Markey said.

The survey indicated a high degree of cooperation between unions and small business management ... and satisfaction in general with the industrial climate of the Illawarra.

'This is a positive incentive to attracting small business to the region,' he said.

'Small business is the major employer in the economy, and it clearly operates in a very favourable industrial relations environment in this region.'

This survey is part of a larger project that also surveyed 200 large workplaces (i.e. with more than 20 employees) in the region, and which will produce a full report at the end of the year.

The project has been jointly funded by the University of Wollongong and the State Government through State and Regional Development and the Department of Industrial Relations. Field work was conducted by the Illawarra Regional Information Service (IRIS).
Furnished art a refreshing exhibition

OPENED in the Long Gallery on June 6, by the Director of the Centre For Contemporary Craft, Mr Noel Frankham, Artists Make Furniture is a unique celebration of an alternative attitude to life.

Twenty artists, including postgraduate students, former students, local artists and those from Sydney, Canberra and other regional areas express their joy and skill in the unusual medium of handcrafted furniture.

Furniture is an integral part of everyday life. People constantly interact with it.

In a move away from mass produced fashion, this is a refreshing exhibition of furniture with individual meaning. Some of the works are derived from fantasy and narrative while others focus on comfort and craft skills.

The diverse skills displayed by these artists include: sculpting, boat building, textiles, painting and silversmithing.

The exhibition will continue in the Long Gallery until June 29.

Gallery hours are: Mon to Fri, 9am-5pm; Sundays 1.30-4pm.

For more information contact: Director, Liz Jeneid, phone (042) 213 048, or Jenny Fullerton, (042) 213 996.

Book Launches

Ground-breaking Eco-Impacts

SENIOR lecturer in the Faculty of Arts' Sociology program, Dr Tom Jagtenberg, has collaborated to produce one of the first books to use communication and cultural studies to reach a deeper understanding of the significance of ecological issues. Dr Jagtenberg's co-author was senior lecturer in the Department of Media Studies at Edith Cowan University, David McKie.

'Eco-Impacts and the Greening of Postmodernity' provides an analysis of the impacts of the present environmental condition on culture.

It explores such vital questions as: Can nature survive? How do academic disciplines engage with environmental crises? and How do we map sustainable futures?

According to Dr Jagtenberg, the book signifies the importance of interdisciplinary developments in Australia and internationally.

Ecological issues are complex and require the perspectives of the humanities and social sciences as well as those of the natural sciences.

The publication of Eco-Impacts also coincides with a shift in the Faculty of Arts structure to a more interdisciplinary program basis.

Dr Jagtenberg hopes this book can be a contribution to the overlapping discourses of communication studies, cultural studies and sociology.

Steve Brigham, practising psychiatrist and foundation member of the Australian Greens, launched the book in the Union Bookshop.

Despite the gravity of the subject of ecological decline, Dr Brigham recommended the book for its sense of humour – as well as its other academic virtues.

Men of God - heretics or prophets?

'MEN Ahead of Their Time' by Dr Winifred Ward tells the story of controversial ministries, including several in the Illawarra, that departed from traditionally accepted Christian creed and dogma.

Readers are invited to answer the question - were they heretics or were they prophets?

Dr Ward received her PhD from the University of Wollongong in 1989. This book is drawn from her PhD thesis.

In 1996 Dr Ward was made a Fellow of the University. She has served on the University Council and has been a lay preacher for 48 years.

She is a member of the Board for Social Responsibility of the NSW Uniting Church Synod.
University Events

31 August: 10am-4pm. Open Day. Held annually. An entertaining and informative day for the whole community.

2 September: The University's second graduation ceremony will be conducted at the Dubai campus on this year. As with last year the Vice Chancellor and his wife will be attending, as will Mr & Mrs Jim Langridge. October; Graduation ceremonies

Long Gallery
A project run by the Faculty of Creative Arts. Works by visiting artists, students and staff. Many pieces for sale Bld 25 Admission free. Opening hours: 9am-4pm Mon-Fri and Sunday 1.30-pm. Enquiries 213996.

June 5-29: Artists Make Furniture 25 artists show works in many different mediums.

Hope Theatre
Western end of the Campus enter second gate Northfields Ave. The following concerts are in association with Music Viva, Faculty of Creative Arts and the University Union. Bookings 214 214.

13 June: The New Zealand String Quartet - featuring Didier Balez and other local legends. Co-artistic Director, Richard Tognetti. Bookings Un-ion: 218000

Ught, entertainment of the highest order, featuring Didier Balez and other local legends. Featuring Didier Balez and other local legends.

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Art of Lunch Program
Free lunch time concerts organised by the Faculty of Creative Arts Venue: Union foyer 12.30-1.30pm June 12: Clogstock re-re-revisited... Clogstock re-re-revisited will see familiar performers in another setting, the entertainment of the highest order. Featuring Dietler Balez and other local legends.

Union
13 September: 8 pm Australian Chamber Orchestra. Artistic Director, Richard Tognetti. Bookings Union: 218000

Theatre South
Begun in 1980 through the support of the University which continues to provide audiences, artists and administrative input. All productions at Bridge St Coniston unless otherwise stated. Reservations 296144

11-14 June: 8pm The Beggar's Opera written by John Gay Directed by Ian McGrath Musical Direction by Houston Dunleavy Design by John Senczuk. This ballad opera, was first performed in London in 1728 and, with its witty combination of political and social satire, traditional songs and parody of Italian opera, was an immediate theatrical triumph. This production draws on the New South Wales Royal Commission into Police Corruption to add spice to Gay's timeless material. Bookings (042) 21 4214


Oct 16-Nov 1: Alma & Ivy, Molly & Merle. Four funny, touching women created by Wollongong's own Wendy Richardson.

Dec 4-13: Old Flame. Performing Arts Centre. Burelli St. Mayhem and farce in a small town as the Olympic flame passes through.

Wollongong Town Hall
31 August: 10am-4pm. Open Day. Held annually. An entertaining and informative day for the whole community.

Sponsored by the Apple Consortium at the University and Nortel.

Women's Issues Group. Guest speakers on topics of interest to women. Enquiries: Moira 843 741 or Judy 840 836. Cost Members $2.50 Non-Members $5

17 June: 7:30pm Women's Issues Group. Guest speakers Sue Van Galen - "Welcome Weeds" and Geraldine Ritchie - "Selling it the second time". The Function Centre, Union Building.

Term 3 - Conservatorium of Music is running a Basic Music Literacy Program for Adults. Includes practical experience in singing, playing, reading and simple composition. Enquiries Jan McCarthy on 281122. Cost $80.

Faculty of Science - Siemens Science School
20-22 January 1998: Designed for students entering Year 10 in 1998. It is a chance for students to enjoy some of the wonders of science and technology and discover their uses in the modern world. The School includes laboratory sessions and excursions to BHP and the Science Centre. Applications are available from most schools and local Rotary Clubs. Closing date of 8 September 1997. Contact: Faculty of Science Office - phone (042) 21 3530.

Conferences
July (tba) Australian Association of Colleges and Halls (042) 213794.

14-18 July: THERMIG '97 International conference on materials processing. 213008

1-3 October: Australian Information Technology Spring School for HSC Year 11 students who are studying IT or Mathematics. Bookings 213608.

Location: UoW campus, accommodation at Stanwells Tops Christian Conference Centre. Contact: Sonia Jennings 042 214382 or more information at http://www.uow.edu.au/informatics/aict/.

9-12 December: TASA '97 The Australian Sociological Association Annual Conference hosted this year by the Sociology Program. Contact Trish Vergeff, Tel. 214095, fax 213401.

Hosted by the Centre for Language Education (CLEUW) Contact: Kim Roser 042 214678, Fax 042 214657 or email Kim Roser.

18 and 19 July: Refocus on Reading Conference (jointly hosted by the Department of School Education).

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University Social Club
Become a member and enjoy variety of social events. A chance to meet others across the campus. Contact: Jim McKee by e-mail or ext 3376

Tours of the University can be arranged throughout the year for prospective students and interested groups. Phone Toll free 1800 680320.