

PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TONY WINDSOR MP
INDEPENDENT
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND

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MEDIA RELEASE

5th August 2004

Cash for comment allegations levelled at UNE

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has called upon the Council of the University of New England and the Administrative Executive to explain allegations of 'cash for comment' in relation to funding arrangements for the recently announced National Centre of Science, Information and Communication Technology, and Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional Australia.

"I have received representations from citizens within the electorate who were concerned that the University of New England had contributed to political advertising endorsing the National Party.

There have also been allegations that the Nationals scripted a press release that spoke in glowing terms of the Nationals from the Dean of the Faculty of Education, Health and Professional Studies, Prof Victor Minichello.

I believe there are certain probity issues involved with possible breaches of the University's protocols under the Act and have called for a full investigation into the procedures used by the University and the decision making processes followed when advertising," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor wants the following questions answered.

- Was the funding for the Centre contingent upon favourable partisan political comment from the University?
- Was the office of Senator Sandy Macdonald used to script favourable political comment?
- Who pays for these advertisements and what is the approval process?
- Was the Federal Minister for Education privy to the announcement or was there a deliberate attempt by the National Party to "keep the Liberals out" even though the Centre is under the Minister's jurisdiction?

Mr Windsor, a member of the University of New England Council and former student of the UNE said that if these allegations are substantiated, he would be shocked and disappointed that a political party would stoop so low to demand and script press releases and political advertising for the release of Government funds.

This incident has nothing to do with traditional freedom of expression we expect from our academics.

It is about allegations of paid political advertising endorsing a political party which is unprecedented in Australian universities and contrary to the UNE's own policy.

This is about a deal cooked up between the National Party and gullible UNE staff who appear to have agreed to sign for their supper in this demeaning way.

...2/

...2...

It shows just how desperate the National Party is to win back the seat of New England by pressuring previously apolitical University personnel suffering from changes to funding by the Government into compromising their position to achieve an outcome for the UNE that should have been funded on its merits and free of political interference.

This centre had the unanimous support of 67 New England based organisations at the Vision New England Summit last October and was obviously worthy of such funding from the Government without selling its soul.

UNE is Australia's oldest regional university with an impeccable reputation for integrity and probity.

To see it compromised in this way is disappointing to say the least.

I sincerely trust that the funding application before the Federal Government for the establishment of a medical school at UNE is not sullied by any comment for cash pressures from various National Party players.

The future of health services is more important than that," Mr Windsor said.

The issues will be raised at the UNE Council meeting next Monday.

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UNE denies claims of 'cash for comment'

Thursday, 5 August 2004

INDEPENDENT Member for New England Tony Windsor has called for an explanation from the University of New England in the face of cash for comment allegations.

The allegations have been made in relation to funding arrangements for

the recently announced National

Centre of Science, Information and Communication Technology, and Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional Australia.

"I have received representations from citizens within the electorate who were concerned that the University of New England had contributed to political advertising endorsing the National Party," Mr Windsor said.

"There have also been allegations that the Nationals scripted a press release that spoke in glowing terms of the Nationals from the Dean of the Faculty of Education, Health and Professional Studies, Professor Victor Minichello."

Mr Windsor said he was calling for a full investigation into the procedures used by the university and the decision-making procedures followed when advertising.

UNE Vice-Chancellor Professor Ingrid Moses denied that the university "compromised itself" to achieve funding for a new research centre and said she was particularly upset by the use of the phrase "cash for comment".

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Nuttall, Graham (T. Windsor, MP)

From: York, Sandy (T. Windsor, MP) on behalf of Windsor, Tony (MP)
Sent: Thursday, 5 August 2004 9:29 AM
To: Nuttall, Graham (T. Windsor, MP)
Subject: FW: newspapers

Importance: High

File
~~fact~~
67-667631

-----Original Message-----

From: Professor Ingrid Moses [mailto:imoses@pobox.une.edu.au]
Sent: Thursday, 5 August 2004 9:04 AM
To: richard.torbay@parliament.nsw.gov.au; Windsor, Tony (MP)
Subject: newspapers
Importance: High

Dear Tony and Richard,

in talking to Graeme this morning I became aware of the advertisement you both objected to. Prior to that I had only seen the story and the ad for UNE courses and the National Centre, and after they had been published.

I can understand that you are upset about this because it could be interpreted as if UNE, or at least those two senior staff of UNE, were endorsing a Nationals candidate. The University itself is politically completely neutral - we acknowledge funding from any government. Victor and John Pegg, in their enthusiasm for having attracted the funding for the Centre, clearly were politically naive, and I will speak to them.

I will also speak to Victor concerning the wording in his Letter to the Editor, printed in the Armidale Express of yesterday.

We very much appreciate the commitment you have shown to UNE for a very long time now and hope you will continue with it.

With very best wishes,

Ingrid

Professor Ingrid Moses
Vice-Chancellor and President, University of New England, Armidale, NSW,
2351, Australia
President, International Association of University Presidents (IAUP)
Phone: + 61 2 6773 2004; Fax: + 61 2 6773 3710
Email: imoses@metz.une.edu.au; Web Address: <http://www.une.edu.au/>

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**Anger at claim of cash for
comment**

Lisa Rockman

Saturday, 7 August 2004

UNIVERSITY of New England Vice-Chancellor Professor Ingrid Moses yesterday hit back at "cash for comment" allegations made by New England MP Tony Windsor.

An angry Prof Moses denied the university had "compromised itself" to achieve funding for the National Centre of Science, Information and Communication Technology, and Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional Australia.

In a statement released on Thursday, Mr Windsor claimed he had

received representations from

constituents concerned that the university had contributed to political

advertising endorsing the National Party.

The advertisement in question appeared in The Leader on July 24.

"This is about a deal cooked up between the National Party and gullible UNE staff who appear to have agreed to sing for their supper in a demeaning way," Mr Windsor said in the statement.

Prof Moses rejected Mr Windsor's claim that publicity surrounding the centre's launch was "a deal cooked up" by The Nationals and university staff.

She said Professor Victor Minichiello's thanks to The Nationals at the centre's launch last month had been "entirely appropriate considering the source of the funding".

"We're disappointed that Mr Windsor has made these allegations in a media release, rather than raising them in the confidential session of Monday's meeting of the UNE Council, of which he is a member," Prof Moses said.

In a statement yesterday Mr Windsor attached



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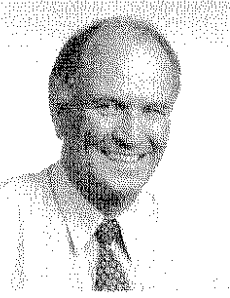
an e-mail addressed to him from Prof Moses, dated August 5, in which she admitted that two professors, "in their enthusiasm for having attracted the funding for the centre, were clearly politically naive".

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e-mail: Tony.Windsor.MP@aph.gov.au
Web Page: www.tonywindsor.com.au

MEDIA RELEASE

9th August 2004

National Party should apologise to UNE and Public & repay ad cost

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has called on Tamworth-based National Party Senator Sandy Macdonald and his National Party Candidate Trevor Khan to apologise to the University of New England and the people of New England for their involvement in the "Cash for comment" issue following facts revealed at the University of New England Council meeting in Sydney on Monday.

"National Party Senator Sandy Macdonald and his candidate duped senior staff into funding advertorial comment favourable to the National Party in advertisements that featured in both the Northern Daily Leader and the Armidale Express.

Clarification from Rural Press and discussions with the University of New England Vice Chancellor and senior staff have confirmed that the UNE paid for a half page advertisement in both papers which also included half page advertorial (ie advertising looking like editorial) and that this advertorial comment was organised directly through Senator Macdonald's office," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor said he was pleased that the Chancellor and the UNE Council had distanced themselves from the advertorial scam and was initiating an inquiry into the process and procedures used so that academic staff cannot be taken political advantage of in the future.

"There are still some questions that need to be answered by the administration of the UNE.

I believe that these questions will be part of the inquiry.

It is an absolute disgrace that well intentioned academic staff have been used and abused by the National Party in this way.

There is a need for a public apology from Senator Macdonald," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor will also be taking the issue further with external inquiries about the misuse of Senator Macdonald's office.

"The scripting of advertorial comment by Senator Macdonald's office without the University's consent even though the University had paid for the space needs more thorough investigation.

If this isn't 'Cash for comment', I don't know what is?

UNE provided the cash – Macdonald and Khan provided the comment.

The very least that should happen is that Senator Macdonald and his National Party candidate Trevor Khan should reimburse UNE for the cost of the advertisement," Mr Windsor said.

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News - Local - General News

'Nationals duped UNE'

Lisa Rockman

Tuesday, 10 August 2004

THE Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor yesterday accused Tamworth-based National Party Senator Sandy Macdonald and National Party candidate Trevor Khan of "duping" University of New England (UNE) staff into funding an advertorial comment.

Last week Mr Windsor claimed he had received representations from constituents concerned that the university had contributed to political advertising endorsing the National Party.

UNE vice-chancellor Professor Ingrid Moses vehemently denied the so-called "cash for comment" allegations.

Following Monday night's UNE council meeting - attended by Mr Windsor in his capacity as a council member - Mr Windsor has called upon Senator Macdonald and Mr Khan to apologise to the University of New England and the people of New England.

He claims UNE paid for a half-page advertisement in both papers, including a half page advertorial, which he describes as "advertising looking like editorial" - and that the advertorial comment was organised directly through Senator Macdonald's office.

"National Party Senator Sandy Macdonald and his candidate duped senior staff into funding advertorial comment favourable to the National Party in advertisements that featured in both The Northern Daily Leader and The Armidale Express," Mr Windsor said.

He said the Chancellor and the UNE Council had "distanced themselves from the advertorial scam", and that an inquiry was to be undertaken to prevent academic staff being "taken political advantage of" in the future.

"There are still some questions that need to be answered by the administration of the UNE," Mr Windsor said.

"It is an absolute disgrace that well-intentioned

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"The scripting of advertorial comment by Senator Macdonald's office without the university's consent even though the university had paid for the space needs more thorough investigation.

"If this isn't cash for comment, I don't know what is."

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Senator Sandy Macdonald

The Nationals Senator for NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

www.sandymacdonald.com.au

10 August 2004

Media Statement

Advertising relating to the part The Nationals played in securing funding for the UNE's new Maths and Science centre is all part of the campaign to make New England matter.

Mr Windsor's advertising complaint only serves to further illustrate that it is only when you have a representative in government that you can achieve and deliver funding and better outcomes for the electorate of New England. Actions speak louder than words.

The University of New England's advertising was paid for by the University. The Nationals paid for Trevor Khan's advertisement, which clearly illustrated his hard work and success in securing \$4.95 million in federal funds for the UNE-based Maths and Science Centre.

My office was asked to provide editorial comment, which we did in good faith. Most of this information had been published before and was adapted from press releases and the University's own magazine. There is nothing sinister here. I am fully entitled to help promote the good work of the Australian Government.

Mr Windsor has attempted to divert attention from the fact that Trevor Khan and The Nationals have delivered much needed funding assistance for the UNE where Mr Windsor as an Independent has not been able to do this.

The Nationals want to make New England relevant again, and to do this, we will continue to advertise our successes and campaign hard to make sure we get that message out to local people.

Media Contact: Rachel Kingsford Smith 6277 3705



News Release

Public Relations Office
Armidale, NSW 2351 Australia
Telephone (02) 6773 2103 Facsimile (02) 6773 3315
email: publicity@metz.une.edu.au

Date:

No:

Media Release from Mr John Cassidy, as Chancellor of the University of New England, 11 August 2004

On Monday, 9 August 2004, the Council of the University of New England held its fifth meeting for the year at the UNE Sydney Centre.

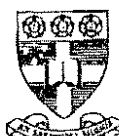
That evening, members of Council hosted a 50th Anniversary Dinner since obtaining autonomy for the University in 1954. That dinner was well attended by over 70 Alumni, friends, past and present senior members of staff, a past Chancellor (Dr Pat O'Shane), a past Vice-Chancellor (Professor Bruce Thom) and a past Principal (Emeritus Professor Peter Drake) and very active members of the University of New England Foundation.

At its Council meeting, the confidential agenda included discussion on the advertisement placed in *The Armidale Express* on 23 July 2004 and in *The Northern Daily Leader* on Saturday, 24 July 2004.

As Chairman of that meeting and in my capacity as Chancellor of the University, I was requested to review the background and circumstances which led to the placement of that advertisement.

I have carried out that review and would like to report on my findings as follows:-

1. The advertisement was in no way meant to endorse a National Party candidate for the Federal Seat of New England, or, for that matter, any other political candidate.
2. A breach of University protocol was committed unintentionally, and procedures have been reinforced to ensure that the University's integrity and reputation for political neutrality is never compromised.
3. The advertisement placed in those papers was meant to be a way of publicly thanking the Federal Government for funding the establishment of the "National Centre of Science, Information and Communication Technology, and Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional Australia" at the University, a Centre which parents, teachers and students have been crying out for in New England. The Centre was, incidentally, officially opened by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Transport and Regional Services.
4. The University looks forward to working with all levels of government of all political persuasions, including the local State and Federal Members.



Penrose, Melissa (T. Windsor, MP)

From: Helen Arthurson [harthur2@metz.une.edu.au]
Sent: Thursday, 12 August 2004 12:13 PM
Subject: Chancellor's Media release dated 11 August 2004

Dear UNE Council Members,
For your information.
Helen

Media Release from Mr John Cassidy, as Chancellor of the University of New England, 11 August 2004

On Monday, 9 August 2004, the Council of the University of New England held its fifth meeting for the year at the UNE Sydney Centre.

That evening, members of Council hosted a 50th Anniversary Dinner since obtaining autonomy for the University in 1954. That dinner was well attended by over 70 Alumni, friends, past and present senior members of staff, a past Chancellor (Dr Pat O'Shane), a past Vice-Chancellor (Professor Bruce Thom) and a past Principal (Emeritus Professor Peter Drake) and very active members of the University of New England Foundation.

At its Council meeting, the confidential agenda included discussion on the advertisement placed in the *Armidale Express* on 23 July 2004 and in the *Northern Daily Leader* on Saturday, 24 July 2004. As Chairman of that meeting and in my capacity as Chancellor of the University, I was requested to review the background and circumstances which led to the placement of that advertisement.

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4. The University looks forward to working with all levels of government of all political persuasions, including the Local, State and Federal Members.

Mr John Cassidy
Chancellor
University of New England

Helen Arthurson
Head, Office of the Secretariat, and Secretary to Council
University of New England, Armidale NSW 2351
Ph (02) 6773 3416; Fax (02) 6773 3731

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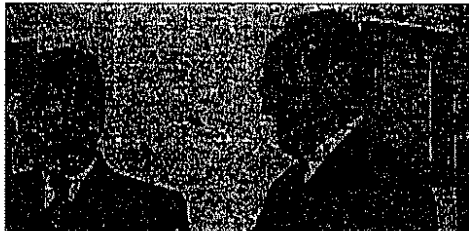
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They were conned

Windsor claims UNE were fooled by Nats

The integrity and political independence of the University of New England's administration has been challenged by the Federal Member for New England, Tony Windsor.

Mr Windsor has expressed outrage at what he describes as a "cash for comment" deal between UNE and the National Party after a double page spread appeared in a regional newspaper that repeatedly referred to the Nationals in the most glowing of terms.

Included in the two page feature is editorial which refers to the Nationals on no less than ten separate occasions.

The feature also includes a half page advertisement for Nationals' candidate Trevor Khan that includes highly supportive comments from two university Professors, Victor Minichiello and John Pegg.

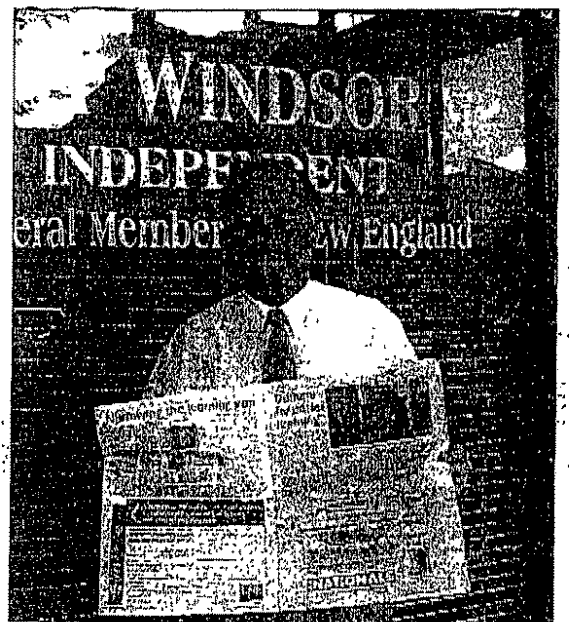
Responding to this, Mr Windsor has raised allegations that a deal has been struck be-

tween UNE and the Nationals in relation to the \$4.95 million awarded to UNE for the recently announced National Centre of Science, Information and Communication Technology, and Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional Australia.

Speaking to *The Independent*, UNE Vice Chancellor, Ingrid Moses, expressed her extreme disappointment that Mr Windsor has made such damaging remarks but has also recognised that the "joint media release" was not written by UNE staff but compiled by the office of Nationals' Senator, Sandy McDonald.

"Our people gave material to Senator McDonald's office and his office assembled that material."

In an earlier media statement from UNE, Professor Moses was said to have "refuted a suggestion that the offices of Senator McDonald had been used to script comments of



Sold their soul: Tony Windsor with the controversial two page advertisement

thanks to the Nationals."

Professor Moses has also rejected allegations that the University has compro-

mised itself to achieve funding for the new research centre.

However, in an email to Tony Windsor she acknowledged that

Victor Minichiello and John Pegg, "in their enthusiasm for having attracted the funding for the Centre, clearly were politically naive."

continued on page 2

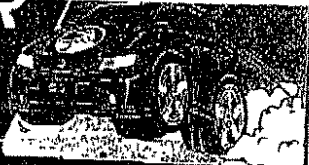
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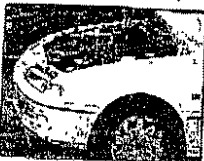
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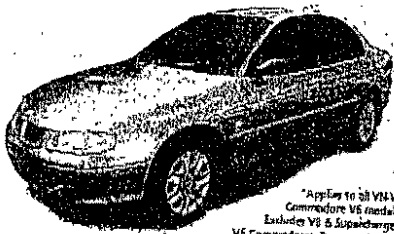


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"Cash for comment"

continued from page 2

Mr Windsor has stated that he believes "that certain probity issues are involved with possible breaches of the University's protocols, and has called for a full investigation into the procedures used by the University and the decision-making processes followed when advertising."

"This Centre... was obviously worthy of such funding from the Government without selling its soul."

Mr Windsor has raised the matter in Parliament and called on Senator McDonald and National Party candidate Trevor Khan to apologise to the University for their involvement in the "cash for comment" issue.

"Senator McDonald and his

candidate duped senior staff into funding advertorial comment favourable to the National Party.

"The National party have gained the University.

"The very least they should do is reimburse UNE for the cost of the advertisement," said Mr Windsor.

Senator McDonald has released a statement saying that his office was asked to provide editorial comment, which we did in good faith.

"Most of this information had been published before and was adapted from press releases and the University's own magazine.

"There is nothing sinister here.

"I am fully entitled to help promote the good work of the

Australian Government."

Trevor Khan has suggested that the affair has all the hallmarks of a Greek tragedy.

Mr Khan believes that Mr Windsor has been undone by his own hunger to remain in power.

Labour candidate Dr Greg Smith said that there was no doubt that the Nationals had been given "an amazingly high and handsome ride in the establishment of the new centre and there appeared to be blurred lines between the University and the Nationals.

"This has been handled in a very partisan manner.

"UNE have been compromised and the affair has been handled very clumsily," said Dr Smith.



Professor Ingrid Moese.



Nationalist candidate, Trevor Khan.

Tough action on wayward students

Government issues tough new guidelines on suspension and expulsion.

Students will

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pa; and yes he does love the weather here.

All outstanding payments must be collected by 31st August. All payments will be held on August 26th to 31st cover.

LW Burgess Pty Ltd

62 Rusden Street, Armidale
 Phone: 6772 2227
 Fax 6772 5787



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61 2 67613380

Council finds rules breached

By CINDY BARNESLEY

A WAR of words over the use of comments from University of New England academics in a National Party advertisement is still raging. New England MP Tony Windsor has called on the National Party to apologise and reimburse the university for its share of the two-page advertising spread in two local papers.

But National Party candidate Trevor Khan and Senator Sandy McDonald are adamant they have nothing to apologise for.

The UNE Council discussed the issue at its meeting in Sydney on Monday.

UNE Chancellor John Cassidy said a review of the issue has been carried out and the council resolved that:

"The advertisement was in no way meant to endorse a National Party candidate for the federal seat of New England, or, for that matter, any other political candidate."

A breach of University protocol was committed unintentionally, and procedures have been reinforced to ensure that the university's integrity and reputation for political neutrality is never compromised. Senator Sandy Macdonald has challenged Mr Windsor's 'cash for comment' allegations and said he is fully entitled to help promote the good work of the Australian Government.

"The advertising was all part of a campaign to make England matter," he said.

"The University of New England's advertising was paid for by the

university.

"The Nationals paid for Trevor Khan's advertisement, which clearly illustrates his hard work and success in securing \$4.95 million in federal funds for the UNE-based Maths and Science Centre."

"My office was asked to provide editorial comment, which we did in good faith."

"Most of it was information which had been published before and was adapted from press releases and the university's own magazine."

"There is nothing sinister here."

Mr Khan also believes 'there was nothing inappropriate' about the advertising campaign.

"I don't believe I have anything to apologise for."

"It's Mr Windsor who should be apologising - to the university and the academics whose names he's dragged through the mud."

"They have been described as 'naïve,' as 'duped' - these are intelligent men, they are professors and his comments are about getting political mileage."

Mr Khan said he had permission to use the academics' comments in his advertisement.

"I have worked with John Pegg and Victor Minichello and Vice Chancellor Ingrid Moses to get this funding."

"I've found all these people to be honourable people and deserving of respect and it's a matter of regret that because Mr Windsor made this public that they have been dragged into an unholly and unhelpful spectacle."

Mr Khan said Mr

Windsor's allegations that there was 'a deal cooked up between the National Party and glibble UNE staff' were 'scurrilous'.

"We started in this debate with the claim that we were engaged in corruption."

"It seems Mr Windsor is entitled to make assertions which are of a quite scurrilous nature and now we are onto a question of whether someone paid for a half page ad."

Mr Khan denied the use of the comments in his advertisement damaged the university's independence.

"What has damaged the standing of the university was Tony Windsor turning this into a grubby, public fight."

"He chose to take this matter into the public arena where he made assertions of corruption and then at the end of the day he says isn't it terrible that the university's name has been dragged through the mud."

"It's like somebody firing a gun, hitting someone in the crowd and saying isn't it terrible what firearms do."

"I think the academics who were involved, who spent five years trying to get this funding, were justifiably grateful."

"If they chose to indicate their satisfaction with what the Nationals had done, then that's a matter for them and I'm certainly grateful that they were prepared to recognise the work we'd done."

Member for Northern Tablelands Richard Torbay, who is also a member of the UNE Council, said the incident was unprecedented in the university's



OUTSPOKEN: UNE Chancellor John Cassidy has joined in the 'Cash for Comment' debate

long and proud history of upholding its political neutrality and integrity.

He welcomed the Chancellor's recognition that university protocol had been breached and the fact that UNE procedures had been reinforced to ensure such incidents never occur again.

"It has been a disgraceful episode where the National Party took advantage of UNE by involving it in an advertising feature which clearly sullied the reputation of the university," Mr Torbay said.

"It is almost beyond belief that UNE Vice Chancellor Professor Ingrid Moses has admitted that the UNE material was supplied directly

to National Party Senator Sandy McDonald and his office assembled the material.

"The university was culpable in that it did not follow correct protocol and contributed financially along with the National Party to the two page feature advertising the Party and its local candidate."

"The regrettable result has been that a very positive announcement on the establishment of a National Centre of Science, Information and Communication Technology became clouded controversy."



WEATHER WATCH

TODAY: Dry, mostly sunny. Moderate west to northwest winds, with the temperature expected to hit 15 after a minimum of 2.

IT WILL BE A GREAT DAY FOR




Going for a nice long bushwalk and take in the sights of some wildflowers

TOMORROW: Dry, mostly sunny. Light to moderate westerly winds.

FORTH THE RECORD: Yesterday's minimum was -7, with a maximum of 14.7.

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2000 Ford Explorer 4x4 Wagon
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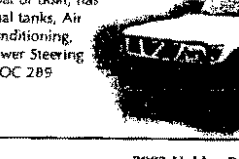
2001 Toyota Landcruiser, HZJ105 Station Wagon
Has a 4.2L diesel motor, air conditioning, cargo barrier and travelled 67,000. ZH 770



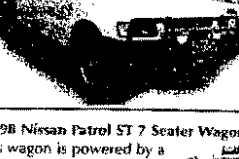
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2002 Holden Rodeo 4x4 Dual Cab Traytop
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Garducci's

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Although the weather hasn't been kind to us lately we are unpacking our Spring ranges. One of our new labels is ARA. ARA is a German brand with wider fittings to G and H. Made with soft superb leathers and elegant styling.

Call in to make a lay-by to secure your size. For the ladies waiting on the navy Cellini handbags, a few have arrived, also some classic black and brown.

To clean up ready for Spring we are clearing the balance of our Kums stock to 30% off until Saturday and the tables in front of the store are reduced to \$50.00 including the boots.

Grab a final bargain for yourself!

Cheers, Lyn

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BY EDITOR
CHRISTIAN KNIGHT

Council a lot more caring than the people who can't be bothered

THE DECISION to impose water restrictors on Armidale households who have fallen a long way behind in paying their water rates may seem a bit harsh.

Afterall, these restrictors will limit the water flow to homes to the bare necessities - enough for drinking, toilets and washing.

And even then it will apparently take 20 minutes for the toilet cis-

tern to refill after flushing.

But what we should be asking is why haven't these people made any attempt to repay their debt to the city.

What would happen if everyone else failed to pay their water rates, their general rates, their state and federal taxes.

In no time at all our community would be plunged into chaos.

For that reason alone we should sympathise with council's attempts to encourage these people to address their overdue water rates.

In less caring communities - or if it was a private company involved rather than a council - the service would simply be withdrawn altogether.

The offending households

should make amends too sweet, or at least sit down with council and formulate a budget for addressing the debt.

my two cents

There have been plenty of headlines this week about the so called 'cash for comment' saga at UNE.

The debate centres around the appropriateness of some academics congratulating the Nationals in a paid advertisement for securing funding for a new national math centre at UNE.

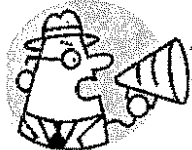
While university rules may have been broken, I'm pretty sure Mr Average would just be happy to have won the funding in the first place.

the raw yabbie



To the thankfully small number of folk who either don't know or refuse to operate their wood heaters correctly. The upshot if a plume of smoke stinking up the neighbourhood. Maybe council should put a smoke restrictor on their chimneys - something which would pump the crap back down into their own homes!

LETTERS



Having your say

By Mail to The Editor: PO Box 70, Armidale, NSW, 2350.
By Fax: 6772-5441.
By Email: editor.armexpress@ruralpress.com
Include your full name, address and contact daytime telephone number for verification

Our university's reputation hurt

IT IS extremely disingenuous if not downright cynical of National Party candidate Trevor Khan to suggest in the media that there should be an end to playing 'silly political games' in the matter of the new maths centre at UNE, when it fact it was he, assisted by the office of National Party Senator Sandy McDonald, who instigated the whole party political propaganda ploy, misusing the good name of UNE for his and the Nationals' partisan advantage in the lead-up to an election.

As a person who has been involved with UNE as a student and staff member for over 30 years, I think nothing short of a full apology from Trevor Khan and Senator McDonald would suffice to undo the damage they have done to the reputation of UNE as a public institution.

Herman Beyersdorf
Armidale

PS: I am a member of the ALP (though not holding any positions or offices), and also a member of the University Council, but I write purely as a concerned individual about this cavalier smirching of UNE's independence and integrity. I would write the same regardless of which political party (or individuals) attempted to misuse a public institution in such a manner.

At least the Nats got something for UNE

I FIND it extraordinary to read recently Tony Windsor's disgraceful attack on the University of New England.

Mr Windsor was suggesting that the university was involved in some dirty 'cash for comment' scandal with the National Party. To Tony Windsor I say, where is your evidence?

However, what I find more concerning is not what Tony Windsor did, but what he isn't doing!

Why is he busy digging up dirt and making careless accusations against our region's finest educational institution, when he should be out there fighting for improved aged care facilities, or greater employment opportunities for our unemployed, or working with the Federal Government to improve our roads?

The answer is, because he has failed as our local MP. He hasn't been able to get the ear of the Federal Government; he hasn't been able to get much needed new funding and resources into the New England electorate; he has not been out there fighting for an idea of what New England deserves and what it could be.

Instead Tony Windsor has been busy continuing his petty political vendetta against the Nationals.

It seems that Tony Windsor thinks that he is assured to be re-elected as our local MP, and so doesn't need to be out there campaigning on the issues that matter, and instead is playing petty political games - so much for independent representation above petty party politics Tony!

Dayne Rosolen
Glen Innes

The truth about school funding

POLITICAL parties and the misinformed followers often spread biased interpretations about funding for education.

The first omission from these lopsided arguments relates to the capital funds required to establish and maintain buildings and facilities.

It is the religious/social organisations and parents of the students at independent schools who provide 85 per cent or more of the finance for capital development.

The taxpayer is relieved of this commitment; it is fees and donations, which sustain capital development at non-government schools.



Governments would buckle under the load if this outlay were to fall within their budgets.

And, of course, governments are only stewards of taxpayers' finance.

In 2002, for example, the sources of capital funds for independent schools were: 86 per cent parents and donors, 10 per cent Australian Government, and four per cent State/Territory Governments.

The finger is often wrongly pointed at well-established independent schools in metropolitan cities.

They are curiously tagged the 'wealthy' schools.

These older schools have the benefit of contributions, again substantially from non-government sources, over several generations.

Secondly, there is recurrent funding for the annual operation of schools.

Again the arguments about funds for government and independent schools are often unsoundly based.

The promulgation of politically biased messages ignores one of two criteria that exist for recurrent fund allocation.

The first is that both Federal and State governments grant funds.

The second is that grants for independent schools are distributed to schools disproportionately, depending on the socio-economic status of each school.

Despite policies of Federal and State governments, the current maximum proportion of recurrent funds from both sources combined, for any particular independent school, does not exceed 50 per cent of its requirements. Indeed some schools receive much less

than 50 per cent.

Funds are allocated disproportionately to each independent school because a statistical measure of socio-economic status is, and has been since 2000, applied to each one.

This measure uses Census data and takes account of the educational level of parents, occupation/employment and income.

Hopefully, your readers will ask politicians for all the facts.

The important issue is that parents have the democratic right to select the school at which their children will be educated.

In the long run, they all sit for the same examinations. This should not be question of them and us.

Colin Grigg
Armidale

Your Own Newspaper

The Armidale Express brings you the news - just as it has been doing faithfully for our community since 1856.

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This weekend's Open For Inspection



Property Description: H=House U=Unit V=Villa T=Townhouse D=Duplex I=Industrial R=Rural HF=Hobby Farm L=Land LF=Lifestyle Farm

Burke & Smyth

- 10.00-10.30 160 Manilla Rd
- 10.45-11.15 16 Churchill St
- 11.00-11.30 96 Denison St
- 11.00-11.30 36 Cossa St
- 11.30-12.00 114 Manilla St
- 11.45-12.15 44 Gippo St
- 11.45-12.30 16 Oxley St
- 11.45-12.15 51 Quinn St
- 12.00-12.40 42 Tribe St
- 12.30-1.00 2 Jill St
- 12.45-1.15 20 Johns Dr Kootingal
- 1.00-1.40 The Manor
- 1.30-2.00 13 Eureka Pl
- 2.00-2.40 43 Meek St
- 2.00-3.00 7 South Lynne Cl
- 2.30-3.00 7 Merinee Pl

Laing+Simmons

- 11.00-11.30 392 Armidale Rd
- 12.00-12.45 76 Johnston St
- 1.00-1.45 31 Rawson Ave

Inland Real Estate

- 12.15-12.45 70 McRae St

Maxwell & Pevy

- 12.00-12.40 648 Carthage St
- 12.00-12.40 1 Terole Ave
- 1.00-1.40 58 Manilla Rd
- 1.00-1.40 5 Terry St
- 2.00-2.40 23 Vera St
- 3.00-3.40 13 Dorothy Ave, Kootingal

Century 21

- 10.00-10.40 Lot 5 Sandy Rd Kootingal
- 10.00-10.40 12 Maxwell St
- 11.00-11.40 29 Elm St
- 11.00-11.40 26 Boronia St
- 12.00-12.40 154 Garden St
- 12.00-12.40 54 Raglan St
- 1.00-1.40 17 Peregrine Ave Catala
- 1.00-1.40 4 Kinara St
- 2.00-2.40 20 Higgins La
- 2.00-2.40 14 Cambridge St

GUIDE

Ray White

- 11.00-11.40 1 Terole Ave
- 11.00-11.40 106 Edward St
- 12.00-12.40 32 Mountview Cres
- 12.00-12.40 17 Darling St
- 12.00-12.40 120 Goonoo Goonoo Rd
- 12.00-12.40 16 Coorong St
- 12.00-12.40 73 Cole Rd
- 1.00-1.40 39 Chelmsford St
- 1.00-1.40 110 Edward St
- 2.00-2.40 3 Heron Rd
- 2.00-2.40 4 Heron Rd
- 2.00-2.40 923T Tullamore Rd

Peel Valley Properties

- 10.00-10.45 67 King St
- Thursday
- 1.00-1.30 164 Carthage St

Elders

- 10.00-10.40 41 Yarmouth Pde
- 11.00-11.40 81 Griffin Ave
- 11.00-11.40 1/33 Florence La
- 11.00-11.40 388 Armidale Rd
- 11.00-11.40 13 Irvine St
- 11.00-11.40 7 Dibar Dr
- 12.00-12.40 190 Hillvue Rd
- 12.00-12.40 78 Petra Ave
- 12.00-12.40 15 Woodstock St
- 12.00-12.40 "Kuragum" cnr Daruka Rd & Cypress Pine La
- 1.00-1.40 56 Carthage St
- 1.00-1.40 105 Anthony Rd
- 1.00-1.40 "Wondal" Gunnedah Rd
- 2.00-2.40 921 Nundle Rd Piallamore

GUIDE

Kelly's

- 11.00-11.45 Unit 1-88 Rawson Ave
- 11.00-11.45 26A Rawson Ave
- 12.00-12.45 6 Mirrool St
- 1.15-2.00 Lot 26 braelarm Rd Moonbi

Meers & Shelton

- 9.00-9.30 44 MacGregor St
- 9.30-10.00 114 Kent St
- 10.00-10.30 23 Wongala St
- 10.00-10.30 62A Panorama Rd
- 10.20-10.50 9 Swan St
- 10.45-11.15 64 Fitzroy St
- 11.00-11.30 921 Nundle Rd
- 11.10-11.40 17 Angela St
- 11.30-12.00 17 Lesley St
- 12.00-12.30 77 Yarmouth Pde
- 12.00-12.30 78 Wilburtree St

Don't miss this week's House of the Week



Address: 13 Eureka Place **Agent:** Burke & Smyth **Contact:** Paula Bradbery
Price: On application **Open for inspection:** 0409 313 255
 Saturday 1.00-1.40

Find out more in tomorrow's Northern Daily Leader huge lift-out Real Estate Guide



Fashionable art that's out there: McCarthy Catholic College exchange student Luise Poltisch models this entry in the open section of the Wearable Art Awards. Photo: Geoff O'Neill

Fashion taken to an art form with music

THE diverse worlds of fashion, music and art are set to collide on the Calrossy stage on Saturday, August 21.

The 2004 Wearable Art Performance combines all the aspects and excitement of a Paris catwalk, but the models from Sally Keft Dance Studio will make a performance of each out outfit, complete with choreography and a dazzling light show.

Some creations are the works of noted textile and fibre artists, while others are from creative young designers from regional high schools.

Sponsorship has been secured from Bernina Australia and Beautiful Silks. Winning designers and place-getters will receive one of two Bernina sewing machines and an assortment of silk fabrics.

Event co-ordinators, the Blue Angel Foundation Inc, will direct all proceeds from the evening to assist people affected by cancer in this region.

The foundation was established in memory of Moore Creek woman, Wendy Hetherington, who lost her battle with cancer, but was inspirational in the creation of this unique organisation.

The creative talent behind the Wearable Art Performance is Tamworth-based wearable art, textile artist and tutor, Glenys Mann.

A static display of entries will open for public viewing from 7pm on the evening of the performance and the show begins at 8pm. For just \$20 you can enjoy supper and a memorable night.

Tickets can be bought from Louise Matthews Jewellers, Country Capital Newsagency or from any Blue Angel Foundation members.

UNE admits to protocol breach

THE chancellor of the University of New England, John Cassidy, this week admitted advertisements at the centre of cash for comment allegations by the Member for New England, Tony Windsor, breached protocol - albeit unintentionally.

Mr Cassidy issued the following statement after a meeting of the UNE Council on Monday:

"The advertisement was in no way meant to endorse a National Party candidate for the Federal Seat of New England, or, for that matter, any other political candidate.

"A breach of university protocol was committed unintentionally, and procedures have been reinforced to ensure that the university's integrity and reputation for political neutrality is never compromised.

"The advertisement placed in those papers was meant to be a way of publicly thanking the Federal Government for funding the establishment of the National Centre of Science, Information and Communication Technology, and Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional Australia at the university, a centre which parents, teachers and students have been crying out for in New England.

"The centre was, incidentally, officially opened by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Transport and Regional Services. The university looks forward to working with all levels of government of all political persuasions, including the local State and Federal members."

One Day Saturday Stock Reduction Sale

Go one better!

Panasonic Plasma **UNDER COST**

Selected audio **UNDER COST** Numerous discman **UNDER COST**

Range of TV **UNDER COST** Various Vide & Digital cameras

UNDER COST Some fridges **UNDER COST** All mower

UNDER COST Many telephones **UNDER COST**

"You know... we could call this an under cost sale!"

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Totally locally owned, open 7 days

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Windsor calls for apology

CAMPAIGN TRAIL 2004

INDEPENDENT Member for New England, Tony Windsor, has called on Tamworth-based National Party Senator Sandy Macdonald and his National Party Candidate Trevor Khan to apologise to the University of New England and the people of New England for their involvement in the "Cash for Comment" issue following the University of New England's Council meeting in Sydney on Monday.

"National Party Senator Sandy Macdonald and his candidate duped senior staff into funding advertorial comment favourable to the National Party in advertisements that featured in both the Northern Daily Leader and the Armidale Express," Mr Windsor said.

"Clarification from Rural Press and discussions with the University of New England Vice Chancellor and senior staff have confirmed that the UNE paid for a half page advertisement in both papers which also included half page advertorial (ie advertising looking like editorial) and that this advertorial comment was organised directly through Senator Macdonald's office," he said.

Mr Windsor said he was pleased that the Chancellor and the UNE Council had distanced themselves from the advertorial scam and was initiating an inquiry into the process and procedures used so that academic staff cannot be taken political advantage of in the future.

"It is an absolute disgrace that well intentioned academic staff have been used and abused by the National Party in this way," he said.

Mr Windsor will also be taking the issue further with external inquiries

about the misuse of Senator Macdonald's office.

The Member for Northern tablelands, Richard Torbay welcomed Wednesday's statement from UNE Chancellor John Cassidy recognising that a breach of University protocol had been committed.

The Chancellor also stated that procedures had been reinforced to ensure the University's integrity and reputation for political neutrality was never compromised.

"It has been a disgraceful episode where the National Party took advantage of UNE by involving it in an advertising feature which clearly sullied the reputation of the University," Mr Torbay said.

"The regrettable result has been that a very positive announcement on the establishment of a National Centre of Science, Information and Communication Technology became clouded in controversy."

CEC candidate focuses on nation's infrastructure

THE CEC is the fastest-growing political party in Australia, and plans to field at least 100 candidates nationwide.

Mr Steve Lawler, 25, pictured right, is a truck driver who worked long, demanding hours in the family trucking business before recently starting out in his own business based in Maitland.

Having regularly travelled the length and breadth of the country, he says he has no

illusions about the declining state of the nation's infrastructure, especially its road and rail, water and telecommunication networks, Lawler says.

As a CEC candidate, Mr Lawler says he is committed to the party's principal economic policy, the establishment of a national bank, which would be a "people's bank" like the original Commonwealth Bank, dedicated to long-term investments in

new roads, railways, large-scale water diversion projects, as well as agricultural and manufacturing industries, at low interest rates.

"The CEC's national bank policy makes it the only party in the election with a policy to address the deepening global economic crisis, caused by the expanding debt bubble - \$373 billion in Australia alone - which is slated to collapse and trigger economic depression," Mr Lawler said.



EXTERNAL UNE STUDENTS TO BENEFIT FROM NEW ACCESS CENTRE

THE new University of New England Access Centre was opened on Wednesday to the benefit of its external students.

The centre will allow the students to access key learning resources such as computers, printers, high quality broadband internet and phones to use to keep in touch with university staff. The university plans to establish video conferencing so external students will be able to interact in tutorials held at the university.

Also announced on the day was a \$5000 scholarship to help rural and regional students further their education.

UNE operations manager Francis Kelly said the new centre, located on the Inverell TAFE

campus, would be of great help to the 97 external students who study in Inverell.

She said the centre would be an asset to external students who would probably use the centre often. "If the Tamworth centre is anything to go by it should be useful," Mrs Kelly said.

"We have about 30 students going through there a day," Mrs Kelly said the centre would be a good opportunity for students to meet up and learn from each other.

"It will be a place to get together and meet to help each other with assignments."

"It'll be pin code entry so for anyone who works they can go there on a Saturday afternoon and study," she said.



OPENING: TAFE North West NSW director, Gary Pollock, Roley Piggott professor and dean of faculty of economics and business and Inverell mayor Barry Johnston at Wednesday's opening.

YAPA criticises proposed night time driver curfew

THE peak organisation for young people in NSW has strongly criticised a State Government proposal for nighttime curfews for young drivers.

The Youth Action and Policy Association believes that the curfews are unwarranted, dangerous and will greatly increase the risks faced by young people, particularly in rural and regional areas.

A night curfew for young drivers would severely limit young people's employment and social opportunities, particularly when there are very limited public transport options available, it said.

YAPA Executive Officer, Kristy Delaney, said young people needed to be able to get home safely.

"If young people are unable to drive they will need to resort to practices such as hitchhiking, walking home alone, staying out overnight or catching a lift with someone they may not normally trust."

All of these options increase risk to young people," Ms Delaney said.

"The enforcement of curfews would be a serious waste of police resources and those resources would be better targeted toward stronger enforcement of existing road rules for dangerous driving."

YAPA is calling for a number of road safety initiatives including:

- Stronger enforcement of existing road rules
- More education on road safety issues for young drivers
- Expansion of nighttime community transport options, particularly in rural areas.

Pork probe promised

FEDERAL Labor has promised to direct the Productivity Commission to investigate the impact of imports on the Australian pork industry if it is elected to power at the forthcoming election.

Labor believes that all options should be considered to help the industry adjust, including the use of tariffs and quotas, available under World Trade Organisation's safeguard measures.

NEGS

An Anglican Day and Boarding School

VISITING GLEN INNES.....

MEET THE PRINCIPAL

Dr Rebecca Ling, Principal at NEGS invites you to meet her at
Leyland House,
141 Church Street, Glen Innes,
Friday, 13 August, 2004
between 10.30am - 11.30am

For further information please call
Sarah Kaveney on 6772 5922
www.negs.nsw.edu.au

New physician training program

NSW Health has launched a proposal to increase the numbers of doctors available in rural hospitals.

The Basic Physician Training Program will give incentives for trainee doctors who opt to practice in country areas.

If successful, the NSW public hospital system will recruit up to 340 doctors into the Basic Physician Training Program.

The new agreement will give regional hospitals priority to receive the trainee doctors, \$2000 scholarships for any trainee who completes two full terms a year in a rural hospital and provisions to ensure trainees in regional hospitals are not relocated to fill vacancies in metropolitan hospitals.

The program will also guarantee training vacancies in rural and country hospitals will be the first to be filled.

Under the new agreement NSW Health and the Royal Australasian College of Physicians have created eight new training networks for physicians.

Trainees will be placed in a network and rotated through a range of rural and metropolitan hospitals, to give them a broad range of clinical experiences.

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Penrose, Melissa (T. Windsor, MP)

From: Helen Arthurson [harthur2@metz.une.edu.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 8 September 2004 12:28 PM
To: imoses@pobox.une.edu.au; richard.torbay@parliament.nsw.gov.au; Windsor, Tony (MP)
Subject: Confidential: Referral of matter to Audit and Compliance Committee

Importance: High

Dear Ingrid, Tony and Richard,

You will recall that the resolution resulting from the discussion of the Northern Daily Leader article during the confidential session of Council on 9 August 2004, was

(I) that the University of New England Council would reject any implications that may have been derived from the advertorial feature in the Northern Daily Leader, that UNE is supporting any political party;
(ii) that Council requires management to further pursue the matter and report to the next Audit and Compliance Committee meeting; and
(iii) that parties be invited to provide any additional information to the Chair of the Audit and Compliance Committee.

Should you wish to provide any additional information to the Chair for inclusion in the business papers, the closing date for written submissions to the Audit and Compliance Committee meeting at 3pm on 27 September, is Wednesday, 15 September.

Helen Arthurson
Head, Office of the Secretariat, and Secretary to Council University of New England,
Armidale NSW 2351 Ph (02) 6773 3416; Fax (02) 6773 3731

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NEW ENGLAND NORTH WEST



AREA CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

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Project Archive

The NENWACC facilitates funding for many projects every year. Projects that have assistance from the NENWACC are listed below by financial year. For more information that the NENWACC can provide in accessing funding visit the Projects and this website.

Projects funded 2003 - 2004

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Projects funded 2003 - 2004

National Centre for Science, Information Technology and Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional Australia

Source of Funding: Regional Partnerships

Proponent: University of New England

Funding Amount: \$4.95 million

Project Description: The Centre will be dedicated to raising the standard of education for rural and regionally based students at all levels. The Centre will work to enhance the professional development of rural and regionally based teachers of maths, science and IT, in turn having a positive impact on the students.

CWA - Gunnedah Branch Building Extension

Source of Funding: Regional Partnerships

Proponent: Gunnedah Country Women's Association

Funding Amount: \$48,253

Project Description: An extension to the CWA premises in Gunnedah will provide in for the Ooranga Family Resource Unit to accommodate its toy library. Services from are provided in Gunnedah and Kelvin, Wallabadah, Werris Creek, Manilla, Attunga, Somerton, Curlewis, Premer, Upper Horton, Barraba, Goolhi, Willala and Boggabri.

Country Week

Source of Funding: Regional Partnerships

Proponent: Australian New Frontiers

Funding Amount: \$110,000

Project Description: The Australian Government will be supporting the inaugural Country Week to be held in Sydney during August. Country Week will promote the opportunities of regional NSW and this funding will go towards the registration process and subsidising a booth will showcase the range of opportunities that regional NSW has to offer metropolitan businesses. Its aim is to encourage targeted groups to relocate to regional NSW.

Ben Lomond Stage Improvement

Source of Funding: Regional Partnerships

Proponent: Ben Lomond Performing Group

Funding Amount: \$3,328

Project Description: The Ben Lomond Performing Group will receive \$3,328 in Regional funding to improve the stage area in the Ben Lomond Hall. Ben Lomond has a population of 100 people but their plays, fundraisers and concerts bring over 100 people to the village. Improvements will enable a more diverse range of activities to be held in the hall, involved in the activities to promote the town even further.

Mungindi Bus

Source of Funding: Regional Partnerships

Proponent: Mungindi Progress Association

Funding Amount: \$14,850

Project Description: The Mungindi Progress Association will receive \$14,850 in Regional funding to help the town set up a community bus service. The community bus project addresses the isolation facing many Mungindi residents, allowing them to access services unobtainable in the local community.

Legume Hall Restumping and Foundation Repairs

Source of Funding: Regional Partnerships

Proponent: Legume Progress Association

Funding Amount: \$16,845

Project Description: The Legume Hall is the only public facility within a 45km radius and serves an important function as the social and training centre for the village. Restumping with the assistance of Regional Partnerships funding will help to maintain the heritage hall and sustain its ever increasing use.

Steinbrook Hall Kitchen Upgrade

Source of Funding: Regional Partnerships

Proponent: Steinbrook Progress Association

Funding Amount: \$18,118

Project Description: To install a commercial kitchen in the Steinbrook Hall. The kitchen will increase the range of activities that the Hall may be host to. The kitchen will also increase the hiring of the Hall for weddings and functions. This money will be used to sustain the Steinbrook community activities.

Bendemeer Co-operative

Source of Funding: Regional Partnerships

Proponent: Bendemeer Co-operative

Funding Amount: \$8,997

Project Description: To renovate and fit out the old Bowery Inn in order to provide residents with a meeting place, library, museum and art and craft facilities. The project will increase visitors to Bendemeer, opportunities for local people and to rectify business to a highway bypass of the village.

Projects funded 2002 - 2003

Walcha Softwood Plantation Marketing Strategy

Source of Funding: Regional Assistance Programme

Proponent: Walcha Shire Council

Funding Amount: \$22,895

Project Description: Develop a document to market the Walcha Shire's Plantation Marketing Strategy to attract private investment in softwood plantations within the Walcha Shire. The Shire would like to expand the Softwood Plantations from 15 000ha to 50 000ha over the next 5 years.

Tamworth Riverside Sports Complex

Source of Funding: Regional Solutions Programme

Proponent: Tamworth Baseball and Softball Association

Funding Amount: \$212,900

Project Description: The funding will be used to upgrade the Sports Complex to meet national standards. Two national standard softball pitches and a new amenities block with toilet facilities. Additional landscaping, fencing and parking will be added. The new facilities are for local, regional, state and national competitions.

Wee Waa Museum Complex

Source of Funding: Regional Solutions Programme

Proponent: Wee Waa Historical Society

Funding Amount: \$85,000

Project Description: The third stage of an historical museum will be constructed including doors, flashings, restrooms and toilets, storm water pipes and drains, sewerage, water plumbing, landscaping and landfill. The complex will provide a tourist information showcase Wee Waa's significant and interesting history.

Quirindi Poultry and Game Facility - Feasibility Study

Source of Funding: Regional Assistance Programme

Proponent: Quirindi Shire Council

Funding Amount: \$11,000

Project Description: The project will examine the feasibility of establishing a poultry Quirindi and, having dressed the product, whether it can be sold. Additionally it is other boutique birds be investigated in line with market demands.

Waterfall Way Walking Track - Zone 3 Survey

Source of Funding: Regional Assistance Programme

Proponent: New England Ecotourism Society

Funding Amount: \$42,240

Project Description: To facilitate employment and new business opportunities by nature-based tourism products in Zone 3 of the proposed Waterfall Way Walking Track; a trail continuous walking experience, and one day showcase experience of the New England. This project will establish the foundation for other subsequent nature-based and ecotourism products and employment for this zone.



Food and Wine Industry Development Officer - New England North West

Source of Funding: Regional Assistance Programme

Proponent: New England North West Regional Development Board

Funding Amount: \$99,000

Project Description: Experience in other areas across Australia and NSW shows that the food and wine industries have benefited significantly through agritourism development. This project will develop the food and wine industry through a number of defined projects.

Australasian Centre for Sustainable Agriculture - Feasibility Study

Source of Funding: Regional Assistance Programme

Proponent: New England Institute of TAFE

Funding Amount: \$30,000

Project Description: The project will be to conduct a study into facilities, markets and the feasibility in establishing a centre to develop sustainable agricultural practices in Australia and New Zealand.

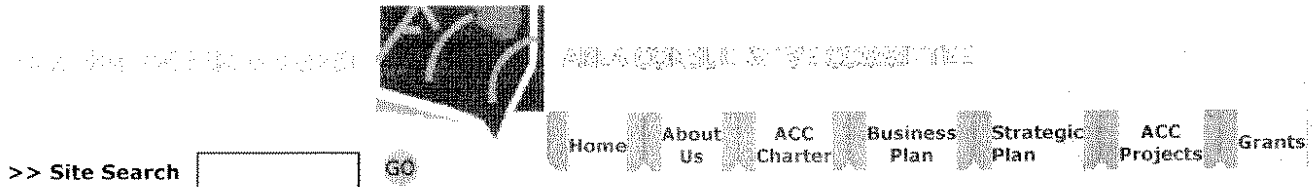
New England North West ACC
19-20/429 Peel Street, PO Box 669
TAMWORTH NSW 2340
Phone: 02 6766 4866 | **Fax:** 02 6766 3452
E-mail: nenwacc@bigpond.com



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