

## UNE takes lead in Dumaresq Creek beautification plan

UNE has taken the lead in developing a proposal for the beautification of a section of Dumaresq Creek from Dumaresq Dam, through the University's property and then through the City of Armidale.

It is hoped that this innovative proposal will be funded by grants which may be available from governments for the celebration of the year 2000 or for the celebration of the centenary of Federation in Australia in 2001.

A meeting, chaired by UNE's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Resources and Planning), Professor John Sharpham, and involving the Mayor of Armidale, Cr Joe Harrold, the General Manager of the Armidale City Council, Mr Bill Perry, the Mayor of Dumaresq Shire Council, Cr Peter Monley and the Council's General Manager, Mr Don Tydd agreed in principle to investigate and pursue the proposal which had been mooted by the UNE's landscaping committee.

Also at the meeting were the chair of the UNE landscaping committee, Mrs Thelma McCarthy, the chair of the UNE buildings and grounds committee, Mr James Harris and the Registrar Mr Rod Davis.

The project would look at environmental and recreational issues in the total development of a beautification plan for the creek. The three groups agreed to prepare concept plans for the project for discussion in February.

The University will involve expert staff from the Department of Natural Resource Engineering, the Department of Ecosystem Management and the Department of Geography and Planning in the preparation of its plan.

## Training for Grievance Mediators

A two-day workshop to train staff in Grievance Mediation techniques took place last week as part of the process of updating UNE's grievance mediation policies and procedures.

The University's Grievance Mediation Policy requires that new mediators be trained before appointment and that continuing mediators attend revision training during the course of their appointment.



Dr Greg Tillett, Director of Macquarie University's Conflict Resolution Centre, speaking at the recent Grievance Mediation workshop.

The two-day workshop was part of a four-day training program designed to provide participants with the skills required of a mediator and covered such areas as conflict resolution, mediation, EEO Anti-discrimination legislation, industrial relations and legislation, and UNE Equal Opportunity, student access and equity and sex-based harassment policies.

The four-day program is also designed to be part of the selection process for new mediators for the period 1995-96 and part of the revision process for continuing mediators. On completion of the full program of training, all potential candidates will be assessed to determine selection and successful candidates will be invited to undertake appointment as mediators for a two-year term.

As well as hearing from a variety of senior UNE staff members, participants also benefited from input from the Director of the Conflict Resolution Centre at Macquarie University, Dr Greg Tillett.

The EEO Coordinator, Ms Muyesser Dürur, said the program would result in the selection of a new generation of mediators who were very well trained and who had appropriate skills for dealing with conflicts.

"It is very important we have people with the skills and credibility to assist in resolving issues at the beginning—before they become major problems," Ms Dürur said.

"Although not all participants will be invited to become mediators, the Program is nevertheless providing excellent staff and personal development, both in terms of skills and in the broadening of the knowledge base of the University community."

The Program continues on 4 and 14 November.

## Team does well in meat judging competition

The UNE meat judging team was placed eighth out of 17 teams in the recent Intercollegiate Meat Judging Competition, held at Rockdale feedlot and abattoir, Yanco.

This was UNE's first entry in the competition. The team comprised Rural Science students, Dave Jarratt, Suzie Skinner and Erica Hansch and Agricultural Resource Economics student Lindsay McRae.

The competition which is conducted by the NSW Meat Industry Authority drew teams from as far as South Australia. The best five students won a trip to Colorado, USA to compete as the Australian collegiate team. The Authority also encourages students to remain in the United States and attend meat science courses. UNE will have its own meat science course starting next year.

Team coach Mr Geoff Quinn, a postgraduate student in Rural Science, said it was a good effort by the team which was competing for the first time in the competition. Dave Jarratt finished 20th overall in a field of almost 80 students. Erica Hansch and Suzie Skinner finished equal first in the domestic beef butts judging while Dave Jarratt and Lindsay McRae were equal first in the primal ribs export class both obtaining perfect scores of 100 per cent.

Mr Quinn thanked the Department of Animal Science, Beef CRC, Department of Agriculture and CSIRO, Chiswick, the Armidale branch of the NSW Farmers' Association, the Angus Society, the Limousin Society, the Poll Hereford Society and Midco Meats who sponsored the team.