

Union Speakers' Program starts in April

NSW Labor parliamentarian, Ms Franca Arena who is well known for her pursuit of issues related to immigration, ethnic and women's issues, education and republicanism will be guest of the UNE Union when she presents a lunchtime address in the UNE Arts Theatre on Tuesday, 2 April at 1pm.

Ms Arena will address the topic, "The Life of a Woman Parliamentarian" as the first speaker in this year's Union Speakers' Program.

Ms Arena, was born in Genoa, Italy and migrated to Australia in 1959 and entered Bonegilla Migrant Camp before she proceeded to Sydney where she worked as a journalist and broadcaster.

President of the UNE Union, Ms Clare Wilkes says the Union is very pleased to be able to kick off its Speakers' program with a female parliamentarian who has achieved a great deal during her public life. The Union invites everyone to attend the lunchtime address and hear a most interesting account of political life from a female perspective.

Ms Arena has been an active member of many ethnic and community organisations as well as government councils and boards. She was one of the founders of Ethnic Radio 2EA Sydney, founder and Vice-Chairman of the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW, where she served until elected to the NSW Parliament in 1981.

In 1977 she was appointed to the Women's Advisory Council to the Premier where she served until 1980, in part as Deputy Chairperson. From 1980 to 1984 she was a Commissioner on the Education Commission of NSW. In 1991 Ms Arena was elected Honorary Secretary to the newly launched Australian Republican Movement.

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Enquiries and contributions to the Publicity Office, Booloominbah Annexe (next to Commonwealth Bank). Phone enquiries: 73 3594. Fax: 73 3315. Classified advertisements must be lodged at the UNE Union Office (under the bistro)
Deadline: 5pm Friday



Ms Bronnie Swartz and Ms Monique Cullen of Greening Australia's Landcare and Environment Action Team, during the University Flats tree planting project.

2000 trees planted along creek frontage

Members of the Estates and Facilities Directorate participated in a community program to plant 2000 trees along the Dumaresq Creek near the University Flats earlier this week.

The program was jointly organised by Greening Australia's Landcare and Environment Action Program and the Dumaresq and Armidale Landcare Group as a means of beautifying the area and preventing land degradation along the creek frontage. The project was funded by the Department of Employment, Education and Training.

The Estates and Facilities staff participated in the program by ripping the area with heavy equipment to prepare the ground for the trees.

Artists offer prize to visual arts students

Professional artists, Colin and Coleen Parker, have offered a \$100 prize to the UNE undergraduate student judged to have made the most effort in visual arts and design in 1996.

According to UNE's Senior Lecturer in Visual Arts and Design, Dr Ian Henderson, the prize has been offered by the artist couple as a means of encouraging the development of visual arts at the University. The award will be presented by Mr Parker at the end of the Second Semester.

Mr Parker is the Chair of the Royal Society of Arts, NSW Chapter. Both he and his wife are nationally-recognised artists.

Forum discusses disability discrimination

A workshop focusing on the Federal Disability Discrimination Act was conducted by the University's Student Access and Equity Unit and the Armidale Students Association in early March, in an effort to help staff and students understand the legislation and how it relates to them.

During the forum, guest speaker Ms Robin Banks of the NSW Disability Discrimination Legal Centre, explained what the Act is and discussed who it applies to, what is meant by discrimination, how the legislation applies to the University, and what legal channels are available to disabled people who feel they have been discriminated against.

The Act, passed by the Federal Parliament in 1992, is designed to provide legal protection to those with any form of disability, including people with physical, mental, and intellectual impairments. Under the legislation, educational institutions must give equal access to study opportunities to those with disabilities, as well as providing adequate facilities to ensure they can study and participate in university life effectively.

"Workshops such as this really help me understand what provisions are available for people in my position and communicate to me that the University is concerned about me," said first year UNE Bachelor of Arts student, Mr John O'Sullivan - who is currently confined to a wheelchair after sustaining an accident last year.



Robin Banks of the NSW Disability Discrimination Legal Centre with UNE Bachelor of Arts student, John O'Sullivan during the workshop.