

# ABORIGINAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE



*John Heath and Margaret Henry, two of the organisers of the Aboriginal Education Conference.*

An innovative Aboriginal Education Conference entitled **Beyond School: Increasing Opportunities for Aborigines in Post-Secondary Education** will be held at the University on October 23 and 24 this year.

This conference has evolved from the University's investigation into setting up an Aboriginal Admission and Support Scheme aimed at increasing the numbers of Aboriginal students studying at the University and providing them with support while they study. Such a scheme is already

in existence in the University's Faculty of Medicine and it is proposed that a scheme be established to attract Aboriginal students to other faculties. There are at present six Aboriginal medical students, but only two Aboriginal students studying in other faculties.

The conference has been planned in association with the Newcastle Aboriginal community. All of the speakers at the conference are leading Aboriginal educationists. They include Professor Eric Willmot, a graduate of this University and

now Head of the School of Education at James Cook University; Lilian Holt, Deputy Principal of the Aboriginal Community College, Adelaide; Eve Fesl, Director of the Aboriginal Research Centre, Monash University; Errol West, Chairman of the National Aboriginal Education Committee, Canberra and Bob Morgan, President of the New South Wales Aboriginal Education Consultative Group. They will outline initiatives taken in the field of Aboriginal education throughout Australia.

Representatives of tertiary institutions in the Hunter Valley will give an account of admission policies, courses and support schemes offered here.

Also teachers involved in the implementation of the new Aboriginal Education Policy for schools will speak.

As well as guest speakers group workshops will enable an opportunity for exchange between University and other educational institutions staff and Aboriginal community members.

This conference offers an opportunity for tertiary educators to become aware of the needs of the Aboriginal community and the achievements in Aboriginal education elsewhere and at the same time will enable the Aboriginal community to become aware of what is available in the tertiary sector.

The organisers of the conference are hoping that representatives from all faculties and departments in the University will attend the conference.

For further information please telephone 68 5522, 68 5600 or 68 5326.