

## **Historic Library Collection Reunited**

Coinciding with the launch of the new Bachelor of Theology degree at the University of Newcastle, resources for students and other Diocesan members have been re-united at the University's Library.

The recent transfer of around 15,000 titles from the former St John's Theological College Library at Morpeth have been added to the University of Newcastle's collection bringing the total collection of theological and religious volumes to more than 54,000.

The Morpeth Collection, comprised of rare books dating to the sixteenth century, and originally the personal Library of Bishop William Tyrrell, was already in the care of the University Library.

Bishop Brian Farran said, "This significant partnership between the Diocese and University now enables the substantial theological resources, which were originally held at St John's College, to be made available to everyone in the region.

"Reflection on theology and religious perspectives continue to inform debate in Australian culture and exploration of world religions in a university setting is important."

The arrival of the collection coincides with the start of a new Bachelor degree program in Theology at the University in semester two this year.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Kevin McConkey, said the placement of this collection in the University Library built on a tradition of donations from the Anglican Diocese that first commenced in 1973.

"The oldest book held in the University Library, Eusebius' *Ecclesiasticae Historiae*, printed in Paris in 1544, belongs in this collection," he said.

Not only have the volumes from St John's been reunited with this transfer, but Johannines now receive benefits from the University Library.

Graduates of St John's College are eligible for free library borrowing privileges from the University of Newcastle libraries on all campuses – Callaghan, Ourimbah and the City Precinct.

All members of the Diocese will enjoy free walk-in access to the University Library. If Diocesan members would also like to borrow from the Library, there is a Community Borrower membership available for \$110 per annum; or if they are graduates of the University of Newcastle the membership is \$55 per annum.

Another benefit of interest to the Diocesan schools is Open Door. This provides

high school students with the opportunity to join the Library, undertake information literacy programs, and gain an early taste of the university environment. Students of both the Newcastle Grammar School and Bishop Tyrrell College have joined this program since its inception in 2005.

Another connection with the University Library is that the Diocesan archive is also housed and cared for. The archive, as well as being the historical record of the Diocese, is also a valuable resource for local and family history research, and is consulted daily.

More information about these collections can be found by visiting the links at [www.angdon.com/btheology](http://www.angdon.com/btheology).