

# Professor welcomed back as Bond boss

**PHILOSOPHER**, scholar and occasional economist Professor Raoul Mortley has assumed control of Bond University — a position which his colleagues say will test all his skills.

The former vice-chancellor of Newcastle University was yesterday welcomed back to the fold where he served as Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences between 1989 and 1993, including a year as acting vice-chancellor.

And no sooner had greeting music of Handel's Watermusic Suite 1 in 'F' died down than the classicist was tickling his audience with anecdotes on university life and an explanation on why his mortar board seemed reluctant to stay in place.

"My head has swollen," he said.

During his time at Newcastle, Professor Mortley dealt with major financial issues such as over-staffing, increased private revenue, research performance and university and faculty administration.

His reputation for playing hardball followed him back to Bond, where



**HAPPY HOMECOMING:** New Bond Uni vice-chancellor Raoul Mortley ... challenge with a steep learning curve

he is facing two major challenges — a staff push for wage increases and a hostile takeover by Queensland University.

"He has the logic of the philosopher combined with the cunning of a bridge player," said out-

going acting vice-chancellor Professor John Farrar, who stepped down to lecture and write books.

"The Bond vice-chancellorship is never easy — it was exceptionally difficult for me — but it is a challenge with a steep

learning curve which I enjoyed. Professor Mortley will handle it well."

Professor Mortley would not discuss the battle for control of the university's campus land — or Bond's counter bid which was first mooted in

May — other than to express his confidence of a victory.

"Bond University will never be trouble free," he explained.

"But a little more trouble won't hurt it."