



# Strings pulled to promote the viola

THERE'S a new addition to the endangered species list, but this one does not have fur or feathers.

It's a musical instrument, the viola, and players concerned about the falling number of people taking it up are trying to raise its profile.

Youth Orchestras Australia has made 2005 the Year of the Viola and Newcastle is supporting the effort by hosting an international viola conference this weekend.

More than 80 delegates from Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, the UK and the US are attending concerts, workshops, masterclasses, forums and music industry displays until tomorrow.

Newcastle University Conservatorium is hosting public concerts of classical and contemporary music at Newcastle Grammar School.

Conservatorium viola lecturer Deborah Lander and California University viola professor Helen Callus are among delegates hoping the event will create interest among potential students and audiences.

Jacqui Jones



SPOTLIGHT: California University viola professor Helen Callus, left, with conservatorium lecturer Deborah Lander – Picture by Glen McCurtayne