

Adelaidean

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Lake Eyre climate project

Story on page 5

A sense of place

The sense of 'place' is an incredibly esoteric concept.

Having lived and worked in a number of cities, on both sides of the equator, I have seen different communities embrace their surroundings – their homes, their towns and of course, their universities – in many ways. Yet despite the cultural differences, that unique and almost inexpressible sense of place always seems to bring people together and transcends normal boundaries and conventions like no other.

The sense of place is particularly important for our Indigenous communities. This was most evident at the recent place-naming ceremony of *Ingakarni Wardli*, the University's 6 Star Green Star building that is now home to the Faculty of Engineering, Computer and Mathematical Sciences.

The meaning of *Ingakarni Wardli* is place of learning or enquiry, so it seamlessly complements the University's motto Sub Cruce Lumen or Learning under the Southern Cross. The Kurna name recognises the longstanding relationship the University of Adelaide shares with the Kurna people, the original custodians of the land on which the University is situated. And there is a strong link to the earth and land through the work of the Faculty of Engineering, Computer and Mathematical Sciences and that resonates with the Kurna people and their own connection with the Adelaide Plains.

While the *Ingakarni Wardli* place-naming ceremony, held on a crisp autumn morning, was relatively simple, its symbolism and impact, especially on those present, was significant.

By naming *Ingakarni Wardli*, the first site at the University to be bestowed with a Kurna name, we acknowledged that we are all temporary custodians of the land and we celebrated the unique nexus between traditional culture and contemporary academia.

Representatives from the Kurna community stood side by side with current University staff on a place that has special meaning for both.

The sense of "place" on this occasion was profound. And it reminded me of how powerful a patch of earth can be to an individual.

As anyone who has ever returned to their childhood home, school or much treasured holiday location will attest, place is really defined by the people and activity with which it is associated.

At the University, as staff and students dart from lecture to library, the physical space – the buildings, parks and halls - are quietly imprinting an indelible impression on each person's view of the world. Daily interaction on the University grounds become a subtle infusion of learning and discovery, friendships and ideas; an assortment of life experiences that carefully shape a future pathway.

As the time for me to complete my decade as Vice-Chancellor approaches, the deep sense of 'place' that I feel at the University of Adelaide grows stronger. This has been reinforced by sharing so many wonderful stories through the *Adelaidean* over the past 10 years, thereby allowing me to invite the wider community into our place, our University; a place of great achievement and determination.

I know that you will continue to be captivated by the work of our outstanding staff and students and draw inspiration from their quest to make a real difference.

And when you think of the University, I trust that the sense of place conjures images of excellence and vision.



JAMES A. McWha AO
Vice-Chancellor and President

Adelaidean

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Editor:

Candy Gibson

Design:

Chris Tonkin

Writers:

Tom Beilby
David Ellis
Candy Gibson
Kate Husband
Robyn Mills

Contributors:

Assoc. Prof. Jenny Baker,
Adriana Russo

Cover image:

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Editorial enquiries:

Phone: +61 8 8313 3173
Email: adelaidean@adelaide.edu.au

Mailing address:

Adelaidean
Marketing & Strategic Communications
The University of Adelaide
SA 5005 Australia
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Nobel Prize-winner opens \$2.5 million lab in his name

Medicine and nursing students from the University of Adelaide will gain vital clinical skills thanks to a new, state-of-the-art teaching facility named after one of the University's most illustrious medical graduates, Emeritus Professor J. Robin Warren AC.

Professor Warren, who won the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 2005, last month opened the new Robin Warren Clinical Skills Laboratory at the University's Medical School with Health Minister the Hon. John Hill.

The Robin Warren Lab is a \$2.5 million facility where students can practise and learn the fundamentals of medical consulting and nursing. The lab features single-bed "mini wards" that are fully equipped as if they were real hospital wards, including actual hospital beds, bathrooms and showers. Change rooms, tutorial rooms, and a debriefing area are also included.

First and second-year medical students will use the lab to learn how to talk to patients, take their histories, and make diagnoses. This interaction will be with "surrogate patients" – trained actors posing as patients.

Nursing students can use the lab to familiarise themselves with a typical hospital environment and practise nursing care, such as learning how to assist patients in shower and bathroom areas.

The new lab will also be used for clinical exams for students in all years of study.

"The Robin Warren Lab represents a real-world environment within a classroom – perfect for students in the early years of their study," said the Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha AO.

"This large, dedicated and flexible teaching space will lead to outstanding

teaching and learning outcomes for our growing number of students in nursing and medicine. The facility will be critical in developing the all-important clinical skills needed by students, and this will have a direct benefit on the future health outcomes of South Australians.

"The University of Adelaide is extremely proud of Dr Robin Warren's achievements. We hope that by naming this new facility in his honour, it will serve as an inspiration to new generations of students."

Dr J. (John) Robin Warren graduated in medicine from the University of Adelaide in 1961. He received the 2005 Nobel Prize for Medicine with colleague Professor Barry Marshall. Their discovery of the bacterium *Helicobacter pylori* and its role in gastritis and peptic ulcer disease revolutionised the treatment of this major medical problem. Dr Warren is Emeritus Professor at the University of Western Australia and the Royal Perth Hospital.

In 2006, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Adelaide in recognition of his distinguished achievement as a scholar and his contribution to society in physiology and medicine.

Story by David Ellis

Above: Emeritus Professor Robin Warren AC pictured with University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor and President Professor McWha AO and medical students.

Photo by Kendall Marriott

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New role to focus on student experience

The University of Adelaide has a new head to oversee the student experience with the appointment of Professor Denise Kirkpatrick as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience).

Professor Kirkpatrick (right) has an impressive academic record working at a senior level in open and distance, dual-mode and on-campus universities both in Australia and abroad.

Prior to taking up her appointment in May, she was Pro Vice-Chancellor at the Open University in the United Kingdom for nearly five years.

In her previous role she was responsible for designing and delivering learning materials for students and developing policies relating to the application of new media, quality assurance, and practice and teaching standards.

Professor Kirkpatrick was also Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at La Trobe

University in Melbourne from 2005 to 2007 and has worked in a number of Australian universities, leading and managing learning and teaching including distance learning operations.

In announcing the University of Adelaide appointment, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Academic), Professor Pascale Quester, said the new role would focus on providing an integrated experience for each student.

"Professor Kirkpatrick has been at the forefront of creating and delivering strategies that recognise student needs and, more importantly, provide an environment that allows them to realise their potential," Professor Quester said.

"Bringing Professor Kirkpatrick to Adelaide is a key part of our commitment to transforming the student experience. Her academic background and unwavering student-centred approach aligns perfectly with our agenda to further enhance learning and teaching."

Professor Kirkpatrick said she welcomed the opportunity to support the University of Adelaide's investment in teaching and learning.



"I am delighted to be joining such a prestigious and well regarded university," she said. "I'm looking forward to working with a vibrant campus community and particularly to ensuring that we use Hub Central to its fullest."

"Technology can really make a difference to the ways in which students learn. I believe the University is really well positioned to provide our students with a rich, high quality, contemporary education," she said.

London fellowship for water expert

University of Adelaide water and environmental policy expert Professor Mike Young is undertaking a 10-week fellowship in London to help find solutions to water issues in the United Kingdom.

Professor Young (right), one of Australia's leading experts on water management, is working alongside UK colleagues in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

The fellowship has been facilitated through his recent appointment as an Honorary Professor within the UCL Environment Institute at University College London.

"Most Australians think of the United Kingdom as being a lush, green, rainy environment, free of water issues," Professor Young said.

"In reality, it is faced with water

management challenges similar to those experienced in Australia over the last decade."

In December 2011, the UK's Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs presented a Water White Paper to Parliament, setting out a plan to address a wide range of emerging water management challenges arising from climate change and increasing demand for water from population growth.

"Water scarcity is now a real issue in the UK, and one of the government's biggest challenges is to search for ways to improve its water licensing system," Professor Young said.

"Hosepipe bans" (water restrictions) have been introduced in some areas in response to two winters running down ground water, with potential impacts from water shortages on recreation, wildlife and the price of fresh produce. In other areas, communities are dealing with floods.

"The full spectrum of water resource management challenges is on the table," Professor Young said.



UCL's Vice-Provost (International) Professor Michael Worton, who visited Adelaide in March, said he was delighted to see the emergence of a two-way exchange of knowledge between the two universities.

"UCL is bringing knowledge about mining and energy to Australia and Adelaide is bringing knowledge about water to the United Kingdom. Increasingly, research is becoming an international activity," he said.



Australia-first project

In a unique collaboration with the traditional owners of the Lake Eyre region – the Arabunna People – University of Adelaide researchers will help develop the first Indigenous climate change adaptation plan for their region.

The \$240,000 groundbreaking project will identify how vulnerable this Indigenous community is to climate change and how as a group it might adapt to those changes.

Scientific reports suggest Arabunna country, which includes Lake Eyre, is likely to get both wetter and hotter in decades to come.

“Average annual temperatures could rise by more than four degrees Celsius and an increase in rainfall would mean more plant growth, increasing the risk of bigger bushfires,” said lead researcher Dr Melissa Nursey-Bray.

Dr Nursey-Bray, a Senior Lecturer in the Discipline of Geography, Environment and Population, said if the climate does change by that amount, it could have a big impact on the Arabunna country, its people and its culture.

“Arabunna people have had to adapt to climate changes in the past, but scientists predict future changes are going to be much more rapid and are likely to occur within the next 20 to 50 years.”

The project, funded by the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility, will provide a framework for the Arabunna to respond to climate change.

It will also aim to set standards for climate change adaptation plans that are relevant to other Indigenous communities.

“By collaborating with Arabunna we can use both Indigenous and Western approaches to create adaptation options that reflect real community input and ownership,” Dr Nursey-Bray said.

“As Arabunna people live in a vast area it is expected that a wide range of issues will be identified, such as impacts on culturally significant sites and an increase in bushfires,” said Aaron Stuart, Chairman of the Arabunna Ularaka Association.

“This project will help my people identify current risks while also helping western researchers learn from our experience of adapting to climate change over time,” Mr Stuart said.

Researchers, along with Arabunna representatives, have started field work and the results will be presented to the Arabunna community for consultation before formal recommendations are made.

Other researchers on the project team include University of Adelaide staff Professor Lester-Irabinna Rigney (Dean of Wilto Yerlo), Dr Deane Fergie (Senior Lecturer in Anthropology), Professor Nick Harvey (Executive Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences) and Dr John Tibby (Senior Lecturer, Discipline of Geography, Environment and Population).

Deakin University Professor Veronica Arbon, an Arabunna researcher, is also a key member of the project team, along with Dr Genevieve Bell from Intel and Rob Palmer from AuConsulting.

Funds awarded for native title experts

The University of Adelaide has been awarded \$133,000 to set the basis for a national curriculum to train more Native Title experts in Australia and address a critical shortfall in this area.

The funding, awarded to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, was announced this month by the Federal Attorney-General, the Hon. Nicola Roxon, at a native title conference in Townsville.

It comes a month after the traditional owners of Lake Eyre – the Arabunna – were granted native title, ending a 14-year legal campaign.

Dr Deane Fergie, a Senior Lecturer in Anthropology at the University of Adelaide, said there was a pressing need for training in native title anthropology because most of the expert practitioners in this area were nearing retirement.

“A demographic crisis is looming in native title expertise, so academic training is urgent,” Dr Fergie said.

In 2011, the University received more than \$250,000 from the Federal Government to develop the Australian Native Title Studies program and a physical and virtual hub for native title anthropology at the University of Adelaide.

Over the past 12 months, the University has hosted five Australian Native Title Study Fellows – trained anthropologists – to mentor, develop teaching materials, write papers and exchange knowledge on native title issues.

Additional expertise in the field is expected to reduce the backlog of native title claims across the country, although the Federal Court and Attorney-General’s Department in South Australia has taken a lead in expediting cases before the courts.

The curriculum, expected to be finalised by 2015, will be developed by academics from a number of universities (including the Australian National University, University of Melbourne, University of Sydney, La Trobe University, James Cook University and the University of Western Australia) and coordinated at Adelaide.

“We intend to develop a suite of postgraduate awards delivered as distance education with a combination of online and intensive on campus study,” Dr Fergie said.

“Under this model, the University of Adelaide will be the awarding institution and Adelaide and other universities will contribute units to the postgraduate program.”

The University of Adelaide is a leader in native title anthropology in South Australia, spearheaded by Dr Deane Fergie and Dr Rodney Lucas from the Locus of Social Analysis and Research (LocuSAR).

The couple has led teams which have researched and provided expert reports on a number of native title claims.

Story by Candy Gibson

Above: Desert patterns near William Creek, South Australia
Photo by David Wall

Story by Candy Gibson

Uni sets up \$50m agriculture endowment fund

The University of Adelaide has established a new \$50 million endowment fund to support in perpetuity capital works and research in agriculture.

The fund has been set up following the purchase of the remaining 1614 ha of Martindale Farm at Mintaro by a local farmer.

The combination of Martindale Farm (4143ha), Munduney Station at Spalding (7513ha) and Moralana Station, north of Hawker (61,817ha) realised gross proceeds of \$55 million, with \$3.84 million going to Prince Alfred College as a one-sixth owner of the JS Davies Estate (Moralana and Munduney). Martindale Farm was part of the Mortlock Bequest.

University of Adelaide Vice-President, Services and Resources, Mr Paul Duldig said investing the proceeds of the three properties into a dedicated endowment fund demonstrates the University's firm commitment to research and education in agriculture and animal sciences, in keeping with the wishes of its benefactors.

Funds from the Mortlock Estate will be spent at Waite Campus on general agriculture, in particular supporting research being done within the Plant Accelerator, a multi-million dollar investment which allows new varieties of crops to be tested.

The JS Davies Estate money will be allocated to research into animal production at Roseworthy Campus.

Some funds will also go to support the new equine facility at Roseworthy, to be built as part of the veterinary science course.

"Teaching and research are our business, not operating commercial farms. We have been able to turn these assets into serious investment in the future of agriculture and animal sciences," Mr Duldig said. "This is through expanded infrastructure for research and teaching and increased research capacity at both our Waite and Roseworthy campuses.

"Agriculture remains one of the cornerstones of education and research at the University of Adelaide, and this endowment fund will help us maintain our position among the world's leading researchers in this area, tackling some of the major issues facing the sector."

Mr Duldig said the University was very pleased to be establishing such a major endowment fund. "These properties came to the University through generous bequests and we are delighted that the realisation of these bequests has allowed us to invest so significantly in the future of South Australian agriculture and animal sciences, just as they wished," he said.

Story by Kate Husband



Flagship building given Kurna name

The University's new Engineering, Computer and Mathematical Sciences building has been officially named Ingkarni Wardli, a Kurna name which means place of learning or enquiry.

In a special 'place-naming' ceremony during National Reconciliation Week, Ingkarni Wardli became the first building on the University's North Terrace Campus to have a Kurna name.

University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha AO said Ingkarni Wardli recognised the special relationship the University of Adelaide shared with the Kurna people, the original custodians of the land on which the University's campuses are located.

"This building is the flagship of the University's \$400 million capital works program to build world-class research and teaching facilities for our students and staff," Professor McWha said. "It has already had significant recognition as Australia's first 6 Star Green Star education building for environmental sustainable design.

"We are honoured to name this building Ingkarni Wardli, in recognition of the Kurna people and their continuing strong ties with the University's campuses as the original custodians of the land.

"Ingkarni Wardli demonstrates the University's strong commitment to environmental sustainability, a belief echoed by the Kurna people."

Professor McWha joined Executive Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Computer and Mathematical Sciences Professor Peter Dowd, Dean of Aboriginal Education Centre Wilto Yerlo Professor Lester-Irabinna Rigney,

and Kurna Elder Uncle Lewis O'Brien in welcoming the new name.

Later the same day, he told the University's annual Reconciliation Week celebration that there could be no full Reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people without Recognition.

The nine-level building was the largest construction project in the University's current extensive infrastructure development program.

It contains more than 11,000 square metres of teaching and research space, social and study areas for students, a cafe, computer laboratories, an exhibition area, administration offices and 24-hour access to resources and support facilities for students.

Designed by DesignInc and constructed by Hindmarsh, Ingkarni Wardli achieved its 6 Star rating under the Green Building Council of Australia's Green Star – Education v1 Tool for a range of innovative sustainable design features including thermal chimneys, underfloor cooling pipes, recycled rainwater, fresh air, building performance monitoring and its own tri-generation power plant.

Story by Robyn Mills

Above: Ingkarni Wardli, the flagship building of the University's \$400 million capital works program.

25 years of Aboriginal education

The University of Adelaide celebrates 25 years of Aboriginal education in 2012. The *Adelaidean* spoke to Professor Lester-Irabinna Rigney, the Dean of Wilto Yerlo, about the milestones in the last quarter of a century and the challenges that lie ahead.

Q: What have been the major milestones in Aboriginal education at the University of Adelaide in the past 25 years?

A: The University has grown a cohort of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders that are the first in their fields in many cases.

Since the appointment of the University's first Aboriginal Liaison Officer in 1987 to recruit more Indigenous students to tertiary study, a number of milestones have been achieved. These include Indigenous anthropology student Rebecca Richards making history in 2010 as Australia's first Aboriginal Rhodes Scholar, and the University's acknowledgment of the Kaurna people as original inhabitants of its land.

Other notable Indigenous alumni include:

- Associate Professor Irene Watson, the University's first Indigenous postgraduate student who was awarded the Bonython Law School Prize for her PhD in 2000;
- Yvonne Clark, the first Aboriginal student to be awarded a Master's degree in Psychology in 1997;
- Sonny Flynn, the first University of Adelaide Indigenous undergraduate student who completed his BArts (Honours) in 1986;
- Dylan Coleman, PhD Creative Writing graduate who in 2011 won the \$20,000 Arts Queensland David Unaipon Award for an unpublished Indigenous writer.

The establishment of a dedicated centre for Aboriginal education, Wilto Yerlo; the signing of the Reconciliation Statement in 2003 and the launching of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Strategy in 2006 all stand as historic markers for the University.

The Centre for Aboriginal Studies in Music (CASM) is also a major success story as it has produced very talented musicians who have embedded Indigenous knowledge into the music conservatory.

Q: How has the University addressed the under-representation of Indigenous staff and students?

A: Currently we have 24 Indigenous staff and 169 Indigenous students at the University. When you consider that the first

Aboriginal to graduate from an Australian university was in 1969 – just 43 years ago – those numbers are extremely impressive. We have particularly had a lot of success recruiting Indigenous women as University staff members, although we still have a way to go to meet parity with the national Indigenous workforce participation rate of 2%.

From a student perspective, Indigenous females also outnumber the males and are choosing diverse degrees, from medicine to nursing, health sciences, the humanities and social sciences.

We are seeing increasing numbers of Indigenous students who are coming straight from school with strong Australian Tertiary Admission Ranks, many from regional areas. The growth in Indigenous scholarships at the University is also enabling many Aboriginal students to access higher education which was previously out of their reach.

Areas we need to work on from both an Indigenous student and staff perspective are the maths, science and engineering disciplines.

Q: How important is higher education in closing the inequality gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians?

A: Universities and school transition to higher education are really important parts of the solution, particularly when it comes to addressing health and education inequalities. That is why it's so important to educate Indigenous health professionals and teachers who can go back to their communities after graduation and make a significant difference.

Q: It's been almost 10 years since the University of Adelaide signed the Reconciliation Statement. How important has this been?

A: The Reconciliation Statement is based on a need to embed and build Aboriginal perspectives into our curriculum and campus

life, rather than "bolt" them on. I think we have made great strides in developing policies that are sensitive to Indigenous culture and practices. Much of this is due to the efforts of the Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor McWha, who has been a great champion of Indigenous peoples. It's important, however, that we do not rest on our laurels. Aboriginal education is the responsibility of everyone in the University, not just a select few.

Story by Candy Gibson

Below: Professor Lester-Irabinna Rigney.

Photo by Candy Gibson





Kate's road to success with Wilto Yerlo

Bachelor of Arts student Kate Richards has taken a challenging road since leaving her Port Augusta home in 2006.

The 23-year-old Aboriginal student finished high school with a disappointing university entrance score, gaining little support from teaching staff in her home town, despite working hard in her final year.

But even that setback failed to deter the young woman who had her heart set on university.

A school trip to Adelaide to explore her tertiary options revealed a brighter future in the form of a Foundation Program offered by the University of Adelaide's Aboriginal Education Centre, Wilto Yerlo.

"It was obvious to me that the University offered a lot of support for Indigenous students and I grabbed the opportunity to enrol in the Foundation Program," Kate said.

The program prepares Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students for tertiary study by evaluating their learning requirements and providing support for a different style of learning.

"The Foundation Program was a lifesaver for me," Kate said. "If I had come straight from school into a degree without undertaking the program I would have gone home within six months because the transition is quite hard."

Instead, she topped the Foundation Program in 2007 and enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts the following year, majoring in Psychology.

Now in her final year, Kate is excelling in her degree and earning praise from Wilto Yerlo staff, including its head, Professor Lester-Irabinna Rigney.

"Kate's hard work symbolises the strength and resilience Indigenous students bring with them to university studies," Professor Rigney said.

"She is a role model to other students and her success is testimony to the value of Wilto Yerlo's University Preparation Program that provides bridging skills needed to navigate university studies."

In 2011, Kate spent a full semester undertaking an internship at Tandanya, the National Aboriginal Cultural Institute in Adelaide.

Her internship involved working on a strategy to strengthen relationships between Tandanya and other Indigenous art galleries in Adelaide – a project which earned her a distinction and resulted in her putting forward a number of recommendations.

These included the establishment of regular workshops for Aboriginal artists and

the creation of an annual state conference for Indigenous cultural organisations in South Australia.

Kate's studies at the University of Adelaide have been made possible via several scholarships, including a Thyne Reid Scholarship and an Olympic Dam Aboriginal Community Trust Scholarship, both worth \$10,000.

She was also awarded a Country Health Scholarship in her first year of university, requiring her to work in a country region for two years once she finishes her degree.

In the intervening period she hopes to achieve sufficient marks to get into Honours in 2013 and possibly a Clinical Masters after that.

"I am really keen to work in a field which involves psychology because this is where my interest lies," Kate said.

Apart from focusing on her own studies, Kate is also a tutor within Wilto Yerlo and enjoys mentoring young Aboriginal school students who visit the University.

Story by Candy Gibson

Above: Kate Richards
Photo by Candy Gibson

Centres reflect Aboriginal culture

The University of Adelaide is taking a major role in designing three new Aboriginal children and family centres in the State which reflect Indigenous lifestyles.

Dr Elizabeth Grant, a researcher in Aboriginal housing and environments, has briefed architects and engineers involved in the construction of three centres at Whyalla, Ceduna and Christies Beach, due for completion by the end of 2012.

Dr Grant was commissioned by the Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure to prepare a report as part of the initial design process for the centres.

It is the first time in Australia that evidence-based research has been used in conjunction with input from Indigenous groups to produce buildings which align with Aboriginal culture.

The centres are part of a \$564 million Federal Government commitment over the next six years to improve Indigenous early childhood development across Australia and are being built as a joint project with the Department for Education and Child Development (South Australia).

Dr Grant, who is based within Wilto Yerlo, and is also a member of the Centre for Housing, Urban Research and Planning (CHURP), said a wide range of factors have been taken into account in designing the Indigenous family centres.

"Aboriginal people have a very strong relationship with the land and the buildings reflect this, with the internal and external areas merging to create a very natural environment," she said.

The centres allow for men and women to socialise separately, taking into account spaces for cultural practices such as fire pits and smoking ceremonies.

Aboriginal child-rearing practices are also taken into account.

"Indigenous children are traditionally cared for by several women – not just their own mothers – and are seldom left alone. The centres have been designed to allow several generations of family members to socialise in one room with the children."

Indigenous sleeping practices are also recognised, so that babies are never left alone in a room to sleep. In place of cots (used by non-Aboriginal parents), baskets on the floor may be provided so that babies and young children can choose when and where they want to sleep.

Dr Grant said the family centres would also help to address a range of health issues for many Aboriginal children aged between 0 and 5 years.

"Child health screening, occasional care and crèche programs, and family support services will all be incorporated."

Other University staff involved in the centres include Michael Colbung, who took leave as a lecturer in the School of Education to help with the new Ceduna Centre; and Ghil'ad Zuckermann, Professor of Linguistics, who is keen to establish a language nest at the Whyalla Centre.

It is anticipated that all three centres will be completed by December 2012 and operational by 2013.

"Design for Indigenous users is an emerging area in Australia and internationally," Dr Grant said.

"We expect this work to have a real impact on the way environments for Aboriginal people are designed in the future," Dr Grant said.

Story by Candy Gibson



Education is the key

Education is one of the most important strategies for tackling Aboriginal disadvantage, according to researchers.

In a report entitled "Indigenous Design Considerations," prepared for the construction of three Aboriginal children and family centres at Whyalla, Ceduna and Christies Beach, studies were cited demonstrating the benefits of pre-school education and play groups for Indigenous children.

"Pre-school experience appears to be a stronger positive force in the lives of low income than advantaged children," the report says.

"Pre-school is important because it promotes cognitive development in the short term and prepares children to succeed at school. Unfortunately, a disproportionate number of Aboriginal children do not have access to this early experience.

"They do not attend play groups, early child care or pre-schools and can be severely disadvantaged in comparison with other children when they enter school after the age of five," the report says.

Above: Project co-ordinators Anita Taylor from the Department for Education and Child Development (left) and Dr Elizabeth Grant.

Photos by Helen Lewis

Below: Pukatja Aboriginal Children's Centre on the APY Lands.





Reviving Kurna language

Every formal speech delivered at the University of Adelaide is preceded by a statement acknowledging the Kurna people as the traditional custodians of the University's land.

How many people within the University's staff and student body – which collectively number around 30,000 – can actually recite that acknowledgement in Kurna?

Only a handful, according to Dr Rob Amery from the University's Linguistics Discipline.

To give more people a chance to learn some simple Kurna words, an informal session introducing people to the Kurna language will be held on Wednesday 4 July from 2pm-5pm.

An "Introduction to Kurna", held in the Rare Books and Special Collections Room in the Barr Smith Library (Level 1), will cover basic terms such as greetings, 'thank you' and some simple statements, as well as provide some background to Kurna names on the North Terrace campus.

In 2010 a revised spelling system was adopted for the Kurna language. This session will explain the new spelling system and draw comparisons with the old spellings, many of which are still in use in public signage.

Dr Amery, a Kurna language specialist, is hosting the workshop in conjunction with Art and Heritage Collections.

The Kurna language was historically spoken on the Adelaide Plains from Crystal Brook and Clare in the north, to Cape Jervis in the south. It ceased to be spoken on an everyday basis in the 19th century but was reclaimed and re-introduced in the 1990s.

Dr Amery and a body of Kurna elders and youth are driving the revival of the language, which has a documented vocabulary of 3500 words and a 200-page learner's guide.

In April, a Certificate III TAFE course on learning the Kurna language was offered for the first time in South Australia. It attracted 15 people, most of them key Kurna figures within the Kurna language movement as well as two Adnyamathanha people. Adnyamathanha is a closely related language from the Flinders Ranges.

Trevor Ritchie, the grandson of Kurna Elder Dr Alice Rigney, was one of the students.

Trevor is keen to become fluent in Kurna and will be involved in the University of Adelaide symposium on 4 July.

"It's great to see the Kurna acknowledgement being used in formal speeches across Adelaide and to see non-Aboriginal people involved in Aboriginal culture," Trevor said.

"Respecting the Aboriginal culture helps to instil a sense of cultural identity in young Indigenous people. It's also great to share a few words with friends such as 'hello' and 'goodbye'.

Mirna Heruc, the Art and Heritage Collections Manager, said she hoped the Kurna language session would become an annual event.

"It is 10 years since the University first adopted the Kurna acknowledgment in its formal speeches but, in some respects, we have not bridged the gap much further when it comes to using the language,"

Ms Heruc said.

"Being able to say just a few words would make a big difference – even to give a basic greeting in Kurna.

"Unfortunately, most people feel unsure of the pronunciation so don't attempt it, which is a real shame."

A number of University centres on the North Terrace Campus now bear Kurna names, including the new engineering building Ingkarni Wardli ("place of learning"), the University's Indigenous education unit Wilto Yerlo ("sea eagle"), and Yaitya Purruna Indigenous Health Unit ("our own health and wellbeing").

To register for the Kurna language afternoon session email art.heritage@adelaide.edu.au, or for more details, phone 8313 3086.

The session is open to the general community as well as staff and students.

Story by Candy Gibson

Above: Kurna language teacher Jack Buckskin, who in 2010 was named Young Australian of the Year for SA.

Opinion piece: Associate Professor Jenny Baker,
Director, Yaiitya Purruna Indigenous Health Unit

Closing the gap in health care

My entry into research has only been recent so, despite my age, I am still termed an early career researcher. The first small project that I submitted was motivated by research on African-American youth in Chicago and what the investigators described as 'steep future-discounting'. While it was not about an Australian country town such as Port Augusta (where 20% of the population are Aboriginal), but rather an old US city (where 30% plus are 'black' and where there are well established universities), the factors affecting the youth in that study that led to them discounting their own futures 'steeply' were issues such as the shortened life expectancy of their fathers, mothers, uncles, aunts and cousins. These are the people who provide the love and sustenance for youth and who prepare a future for youth. When they pass on before their time as they do in the Aboriginal community, the impact is powerful.

Aboriginal people know this picture and they know the extreme outcome of that; of what youth suicide does to Aboriginal communities across Australia and they want action to stop it as any community would, but especially a community who were systematically excluded both socially and psychologically from Australian society. Doing research on such matters requires a long-term relationship with a community.

When I worked as a clinical manager in an Aboriginal health service in the late



1980s, my response in an interview about Aboriginal health research overall was that it was 'over-researched and under-resourced'. In those days, all health research was led by non-Indigenous researchers as there were very few Indigenous health graduates (the first Indigenous medical graduate was 1984). The research was also dominated by a biomedical approach and overall served government agendas and non-Indigenous perspectives on what needed to be done.

Thankfully, this has changed and the leadership provided today by that first medical graduate and many others like her has changed the approach to Aboriginal health research to an inter-disciplinary response and an agenda that is determined by Aboriginal people as well as non-Aboriginal people.

A way of building that long-term relationship, and participating in action that is crucial to long-lasting wellbeing for Aboriginal youth and the Aboriginal community in general, is through addressing the social determinants of health. Education and early life experience is an essential part of that and the Commonwealth – through the COAG's Addressing Indigenous Disadvantage – outlines this in detail. Port Augusta and the northern suburbs of Adelaide are the two sites that the Commonwealth is focusing on in South Australia in the work on Closing the Gap.

Health programs offered by the University of Adelaide in Port Augusta show a commitment to all these matters. It also reminds us of what we need to be doing in the metropolitan area where voices in the community are easily drowned out..

Associate Professor Jenny Baker is Director of the Yaiitya Purruna Indigenous Health Unit in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

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New joint centre focuses on Chinese medicine

The University of Adelaide has partnered with China to launch a new centre focused on understanding traditional Chinese medicine at the molecular level and integrating it with Western medicine.

The Zhendong Australia China Centre for Molecular Traditional Chinese Medicine is a joint centre involving the University, the Shanxi College of Traditional Medicine and the Zhendong Pharmaceutical Company.

The Adelaide-based centre was launched in Beijing last month at a special event which also marked the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Australia and China.

University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor James McWha AO, said the partnership offered a unique model of operation.

"It brings together an Australian university, a Chinese university, and direct investment from a Chinese company in a ground-breaking development that offers tremendous opportunities for research and discoveries that will benefit us all," Professor McWha said.

"By working together – bringing together exponents of traditional Chinese medicine with molecular science – we are opening the way for new funding and the expansion of interest in this area of medicine.

"It's an exciting venture that can only strengthen the ties between our two countries

and we are very grateful for the support of China's State Administration for Traditional Chinese Medicine."

Those present at the event included the Vice Minister of Health and Director of the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Wang Guoqiang; Australian Ambassador to China Frances Adamson; Executive Chairman of China Pharmaceutical Industry Research and Development Association Song Ruilin; Shanxi College of Traditional Chinese Medicine President Professor Zhou Ran; Zhendong Pharmaceutical Company Chairman Li Anping and University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha.

At the University of Adelaide, the Zhendong Centre will be based within the School of Molecular and Biomedical Science. It will investigate the mode of action of traditional Chinese medicine using the rapidly growing field of Systems or Network Biology which looks at the regulation of complex biological systems in the body.

"The application of systems biology to traditional Chinese medicine is particularly exciting because it explores what effects there may be on the molecular/genetic networks that are altered in sickness," said Director of the Zhendong Centre, Professor David Adelson.

"This will not only provide us with an understanding of how traditional Chinese medicine acts – supporting its evidence-based integration into Western medicine – but it will also increase our understanding of the molecular mechanisms underlying disease."

Professor Adelson has also been appointed Chair for the Molecular Basis of Traditional Chinese Medicine, a new Chair endowed by Zhendong Pharmaceutical Company as part of its investment in this research.

Story by Robyn Mills

Below: Molecular and biomedical Science student Zhipeng Qu with Chinese herbs at the University of Adelaide.

Photo by Tricia Watkinson, *The Advertiser*.



Law student wins elite scholarship

University of Adelaide student Sarah Dowd is the sole South Australian recipient of a \$45,000 Charles Hawker Scholarship in 2012 to help fund her accommodation and studies.



Nineteen-year-old Sarah, who is enrolled in her first year of Law and International Studies and is a resident of St Mark's College, is one of only two Charles Hawker Scholars selected in Australia this year.

The former Darwin resident, who grew up in a multicultural environment in the Northern Territory, is passionate about Indigenous education and hopes to use her University of Adelaide double degree to combine her interests of law, international relations and Indigenous affairs.

South Australian-born Sarah moved to Darwin at an early age and studied at Kormilda College before completing her secondary education as a boarder at Walford Anglican School for Girls in 2010, gaining an ATAR of 99.25.

Sarah was captain of the softball team and represented Walford in swimming, water polo, netball and the triathlon. She was also a class representative and trained as a peer leader.

Sarah took a gap year in 2011, working in the United Kingdom at Glebe House in

Norfolk, an independent co-educational day and boarding school.

The Hawker Scholarships are one of the most generously privately funded scholarships available to undergraduate students in Australia, with almost \$4 million awarded to 96 young people since 1991.

The scholarship perpetuates the memory of one of Australia's most respected pastoral pioneers, Charles Hawker, who served with distinction in the First World War and went on to become a distinguished scholar and leading figure in the Federal Parliament prior to his tragic and untimely death in an aircraft accident in 1938.

The other Charles Hawker recipient for 2012 is Patrick Clark from Bendigo, Victoria.

Above: Sarah Dowd pictured with the Governor of South Australia, His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC, at the scholarship ceremony.

Photo by Rosey Boehm Photography

Population, migration focus

A new research centre focused on developing a sustainable population and workforce strategy for Australia and the Asia Pacific has been launched at the University of Adelaide.

The world-class centre, headed by one of the country's leading demographers, Professor Graeme Hugo, recently awarded an AO in the Queen's Birthday Honours, will also look at international patterns of migration and the challenges posed by an ageing society.

The Australian Population and Migration Research Centre will work collaboratively with a number of leading universities in the Asia Pacific region, as well as the United Kingdom and United States.

"Australia and the Asia Pacific are at a critical crossroads in this area, so the timing could not be better," Professor Hugo said.

"We aim to produce a balance of really high quality research as well as undertake contract work for large scale international organisations such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank."

Professor Hugo is well known on the international front for his research into demographic trends and sits on a number of Federal and State Government committees relating to population, ageing and immigration.

"South Australia has taken the lead nationally in population policy and the people involved in this new centre have had considerable input into that policy," Professor Hugo said.

Story by Candy Gibson

Spreading the word on science

The Faculty of Sciences has established a new postgraduate course to better communicate science to the general public and attract more students to this field.

Communicating Science will be taught for the first time as an intensive Winter School course and can also be taken as part of a coursework Masters of Science degree or a non-award course.

Topics covered will include traditional methods of science communication, such as oral presentations and media releases, but also online and digital media, including blogging and tweeting.

Guest lectures will be delivered by experienced science communicators from the RiAus and the Australian Science Media Centre.

For details go to www.adelaide.edu.au/summerandwinterschool/

Engineering research for global solutions

Six new leading researchers are being appointed to the University of Adelaide to build on research strengths in Engineering and Computer Science.

They have been employed within the fields of nanotechnology, hydrological engineering, computer science, mechanical engineering and electrical and electronic engineering.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Mike Brooks said these appointments were an excellent example of how the University builds on existing strengths to create new opportunities.

"Their expertise not only enhances the development and promotion of research for real outcomes across the University, but also helps to promote the necessary critical mass required for research projects of national importance," he said.

Faculty of Engineering, Computer and Mathematical Sciences Executive Dean Professor Peter Dowd said the appointments were part of a coordinated strategy to raise research profiles in selected areas.

"These six researchers are at the top of their fields and have much to contribute to the further development of research in the Faculty," he said.

Professor Ian Reid, joint Director of the Active Vision Group at the University of Oxford, will join the School of Computer Science in September to continue his work in Computer Vision. He has been described as one of the 100 most-cited computer vision researchers in the last five years.

His particular interests include head/eye robotic platforms for surveillance and navigation, visual geometry and self-calibration of cameras with applications in measurement, augmented reality and virtual reality, visual simultaneous localisation and mapping and human motion capture.

Professor John Abraham, Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Purdue University in the US, will join the School of Mechanical Engineering in July.

His research interests include multiphase flows, combustion and combustion modelling, and computational fluid mechanics.

Professor Peng Shi, Professorial Research Fellow at Victoria University, will join the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering in December. His research interests are in communications and sensor technologies, control theory and applications, intelligent systems and information processing, fault detection techniques, novel optimisation techniques, and signal and image processing.

He is particularly renowned for his work in wireless communication services, as well as the design of microelectronics systems for instrumentation, optics and photonics.

Professor Shizhang Qiao has joined the School of Chemical Engineering as the University's inaugural Chair of Nanotechnology, highly regarded for his work on novel nanomaterials and nanoporous materials for new energy technologies (cheaper and more durable fuel cells, solar cells and batteries), and health applications including drug and gene delivery. He has filed three patents and has attracted more than \$3.5 million in research grants.

Before coming to the University of Adelaide Professor Qiao worked at the University of Queensland for more than 10 years where he was awarded the UQ Foundation Research Excellence Award.

Associate Professor Dusan Losic has also joined Chemical Engineering. Coming to the University from the Ian Wark Research Institute, he is an Australian Future Fellow, and is focusing on new nanoengineering technologies, advanced nanomaterials and devices with emerging applications in health, the environment and energy.

Specific applications include new microchip and nanochromatography separation devices; optical biosensors for detecting cancer cells, biomarkers and water contaminants; nanoengineered drug-releasing implants for advanced bone therapies; and chemical-free approaches for killing pests in stored grain.

Professor Dmitri Kavetski has come from the University of Newcastle where he was Researcher of the Year in 2011. His current interests focus on improving the reliability of hydrological models, used widely in Australia and worldwide by water agencies, managers and regulators, in areas as diverse as flood forecasting, and water availability assessments, and in improving our scientific understanding of catchment systems.

A significant contribution has been his ongoing development of Bayesian Total Error Analysis (BATEA) used by many researchers worldwide in rainfall-runoff model calibration and uncertainty analysis. It's being trialled by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology for operational use.

Ingkarni Wardli, the new engineering building where the researchers will be based.



Story by Robyn Mills

World Heritage bid for Mt Lofty Ranges

Researchers from the University of Adelaide have recommended that four councils in Adelaide's Mount Lofty Ranges and the State Government should jointly pursue a bid for World Heritage listing of the region.

In a report released this month, the findings support a proposed bid for UNESCO World Heritage listing of the working agricultural landscape of the Adelaide Hills, the Barossa Valley, Mount Barker and McLaren Vale.

According to the study's authors, World Heritage listing would protect the Mount Lofty Ranges' unique qualities as a working agricultural region. The region's food, wine and tourism industries could be globally branded accordingly.

If successful, the Mount Lofty Ranges would join other working agricultural sites in Italy, Portugal, Hungary and Mexico to be recognised in this way.

Funded by the Adelaide Hills Council, The Barossa Council, District Council of Mount Barker and the City of Onkaparinga, the 18-month study was led by Professor Randy Stringer from the University of Adelaide's School of Agriculture, Food and Wine and the Environment Institute.

The councils are currently considering the study's findings.

"World Heritage listing for agricultural landscapes is very rare, and rarer still for working, evolving agricultural landscapes," said Professor Stringer, a University of Adelaide agricultural economist who has had extensive experience with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

"Achieving World Heritage Site status would aim to conserve the unique qualities of the Mount Lofty Ranges, not just for future generations of Australians but also for the world. This would not be seen as turning the Ranges into a museum, but protecting its status as a working, growing, changing landscape under local planning control.

"World Heritage listing would provide the globally recognised branding that our food, wine and tourism industries are seeking – it would tell the story of what makes this place so special to the outside world, and to the people of Adelaide."

The report concludes that seeking World Heritage status is a no-lose proposition, whether or not it succeeds.

"World Heritage status has evolved into a widely respected brand that countries use to attract tourists and to promote and add value to their products," Professor Stringer said. "For me it all comes down to answering one question: 'If we can get it, why wouldn't we?'"

The four councils will be asked to contribute \$10,000 a year from July to fund three years of project management, communication, research and documentation by the Mount Lofty Ranges Working Group. The State Government will be asked for \$50,000 a year for three years.

Story by David Ellis

Below: Professor Randy Stringer in the foreground of the Mt Lofty Ranges

Photo by Matt Turner, *The Advertiser*





Students chase their Olympic dream

Two University of Adelaide students will be chasing their Olympic dream in London next month, representing Australia in cycling and badminton.

Health sciences student Annette Edmondson has been selected to compete in the gruelling Omnium – a cycling event consisting of six different races – and is also a member of the extended pre-squad for the Team Pursuit, a three-kilometre time trial in a team of four.

The 20-year-old cyclist is considered a strong chance for a medal after outstanding performances at the 2012 Track World Championships, held in April this year, when she won silver in both the Omnium and the Team Pursuit.

In a rare double at the Olympics, Annette will compete alongside her 18-year-old brother Alexander, who has also qualified for the Olympics in track cycling, just one year after making the senior Australian team.

It is the first time that Australia has been represented by siblings in track cycling at an Olympic Games.

“It’s incredible that my little brother has managed to make the team, too,” Annette

said. “It’s a situation that neither of us thought was possible for 2012,” she said.

Annette started her Bachelor of Health Sciences degree in 2011 and has deferred her studies this year to concentrate on the Olympics but hopes to pick up the books again in 2013.

Meanwhile, Architecture student Leanne Choo, nicknamed “Choobuka” by her team mates, hopes to celebrate her 21st birthday next month with an Olympic medal in badminton.

Leanne, who took up badminton at the age of eight, has been ranked as high as 26 in the world in the women’s doubles and represented Australia at the 2010 Commonwealth Games, reaching the quarter finals in the doubles.

Leanne currently lives in Melbourne but is studying Architecture part-time at the University of Adelaide while she pursues her sporting dream.

Time management is her biggest challenge in combining tertiary studies



with her sporting commitments, particularly given the travel that is involved in professional sport.

Along with Annette, she is a member of the University of Adelaide’s Elite Athlete Support Program, which helps approximately 50 students balance their academic and sporting commitments.

“The flexibility this program allows us makes a big difference,” she said. “My lecturers and tutors are aware of my situation and have been willing to negotiate my course with alternative assessments.”

The Olympic Games badminton events will be held at Wembley Arena from Saturday 28 July to Sunday 5 August and the track cycling events will take place at the Olympic Park Velodrome from Thursday 2 -7 August.

Story by Tom Beilby

Above (from left) Annette Edmondson and Leanne Choo