

# Adelaidean

Vol 6 No 7

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

MAY 5, 1997

## Repromed allies with Indonesian hospital

Specialists from Indonesia are to be taught the world's latest reproductive medicine techniques by the University of Adelaide's infertility unit, Repromed.

Repromed, which is recognised internationally for its expertise in assisting couples with infertility problems, last month signed an agreement with one of Indonesia's major private women's hospitals, Rumah Sakit Bunda Jakarta.

Under the agreement, Repromed will act as a technical consultant to the hospital, providing training and ongoing support for its reproductive medicine programs.

Infertility is a major problem worldwide, with about one in seven couples having trouble achieving pregnancy. The solutions to these problems are many and varied, ranging from the low-tech (such as simple lifestyle advice) to the hi-tech (such as the latest in IVF technology and micro injection).

Repromed is a wholly-owned University of Adelaide company operating at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Wakefield Clinic and Darwin Private Hospital. The company has remained at the cutting edge of reproductive medicine techniques and technologies by reinvesting surplus funds into research. Over the past 10 years

more than 3000 babies have been brought into the world thanks to Repromed.

"Infertility is painful, whether in Australia or Indonesia, and infertile couples deserve the very best management using modern medical technology," said the head of the Reproductive Medicine Unit at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Professor Colin Matthews.

Professor Matthews said the arrangement with Rumah Sakit Bunda Jakarta would generate funding for further research in Adelaide, providing a benefit to specialists both in Adelaide and Indonesia, as well as

to couples who were trying to realise their dreams of having children.

Dr Rizal Sini, an obstetrician and gynaecological specialist who is also president/director of Rumah Sakit Bunda Jakarta, said he was very pleased with the hospital's association with Repromed, which would secure much-needed expertise in reproductive medicine programs in Indonesia.

The agreement between Repromed and the Indonesian hospital was announced last month by the South Australian Premier, Mr John Olsen.

—David Ellis

## Alternative to methadone to be trialled

Drug researchers at the University of Adelaide are seeking heroin users who want to 'kick the habit' to take part in a trial of a possible alternative to methadone.

Methadone is currently the only legal alternative to heroin in Australia. However, there are some drawbacks to methadone treatment. It is not suitable for all users, it can be an addictive drug, and there is still some risk of overdose and death.

The new alternative drug being studied by the University's Department of Clinical & Experimental Pharmacology is buprenorphine, which until recent years has been used only as an analgesic for things such as post-operative pain.

Buprenorphine has a number of suspected benefits over methadone. It is believed to be less addictive, and therefore easier for users to end their addiction, and it has a much lower risk of overdose. The drug is widely used in France as an alternative to methadone treatment.

The research into buprenorphine, being conducted jointly by the University of Adelaide and the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre in Sydney, is the first of its kind in Australia.

"It's estimated that there are at least 60,000 regular heroin users in Australia, and about 5000 in South Australia," said Dr Jason White, who is heading the study in Adelaide.

"About 400 Australians die from heroin overdose each year, and the number is increasing. We also know that people who use heroin are often involved in a considerable amount of criminal activity, so heroin use is still a major problem in the community.

"Methadone has been shown to be the most effective treatment, but it's not perfect. We're trying to improve the treatment, and to make options available.

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## Historic science relic returns to Adelaide

A microscope originally belonging to one of the University of Adelaide's first Nobel Prize winners, Sir William Henry Bragg, has finally returned 'home' to the University.

Discovered by an Australian science historian at an auction in England, the microscope was graciously donated to the Department of Physics & Mathematical Physics at a ceremony on 1 May.

Sir William Henry Bragg was Professor of Mathematics and Physics at the University of Adelaide from 1886 to 1909.

In 1898 he spent a year on study leave in England, and during his time there he purchased equipment for the University's physics laboratory and the new engineering school.

He also purchased a small brass microscope for his own use and the amusement of his family. Professor Bragg occasionally used this instrument in his research into x-ray

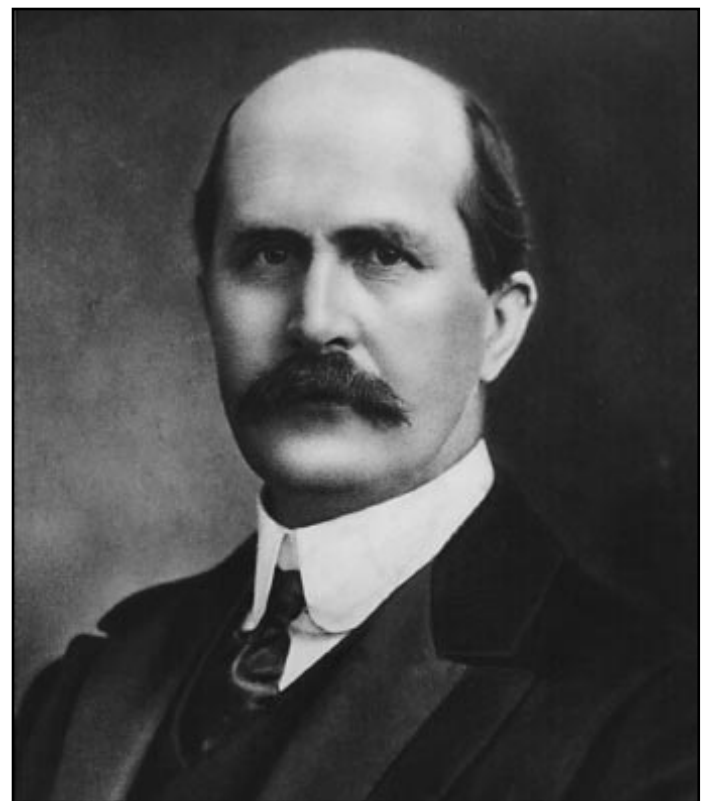
crystallography, for which he shared the Nobel Prize in 1915 with his son, William Lawrence Bragg.

The instrument remained with the Bragg family until it was donated in 1989 to the British Science and Technology Trust, to raise funds for the promotion of science.

Science Historian Dr John Jenkin (an Adelaide physics graduate now at La Trobe University, Melbourne) spotted the instrument at an auction in England in 1990.

Dr Jenkin is the author of a book on the Bragg years and has an extensive collection of Bragg memorabilia. The brass microscope was one of the collection's main prizes. The microscope is housed in its original wooden case, with a handwritten label by Professor Bragg bearing his name and address in Adelaide.

Dr Jenkin travelled to the University of Adelaide on 1 May to personally



Sir William Henry Bragg

hand over the microscope, which will go on display at the University. Dr Jenkin also presented a talk on the history of physics at

the University of Adelaide under Bragg's predecessor, Sir Horace Lamb.

—David Ellis

## Internet teaching under way in Medical Physics

The University of Adelaide has become one of the first Australian universities to teach a subject over the internet.

"Radiation Biology, Protection & Epidemiology", comprising 25 lectures spread over 16 weeks, is being offered over the internet as part of the Master of Science (Medical & Health Physics) degree.

The subject is aimed at giving medical and health professionals an understanding of radiation biology, and involves lecturers from the

University of Adelaide's departments of Physics, Chemistry and Public Health, as well as the Royal Adelaide Hospital's Medical Physics department, Flinders University and the South Australian Health Commission.

Using a password, students access the subject's internet web site and either download a copy of that week's lecture, print it out, or read the whole lecture on-line. Interaction with the lecturers can be conducted via email. There are also face-to-face tutorials for local students, to provide a 'human element'.

The medical physics subject was launched on the world wide web in March, in the same week as a subject in marketing by the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and Open Learning Australia.

Associate Professor in Physics John Patterson, who is one of the course coordinators, said the idea for the internet subject was inspired by Dr Dale Spender's address last year to the University of Adelaide's Senate.

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## Rocket Science

Among other things, my excellent undergraduate education seemed to involve solving problems concerning launching projectiles and calculating trajectories and a range of other fascinating tasks based largely in applied maths. While this work taught me all about the science of launching it did not really prepare me very well for the sort of launching I do most at the moment. In the last few weeks I have launched a book, a new nucleic acid and protein facility and a totally unliftable atlas.

The book, *Sexing the Subject of Law*, was edited by Ngairé Naffine and Rosemary Owens of our Law School and brings together the work of researchers from our own University, from Flinders and from Universities around Australia and the rest of the world. A formidable group of scholars explore questions of human rights, the philosophy of law, criminal justice and medical law in the light of contemporary feminist thought, making a major contribution to both feminism and legal theory.

The nucleic acid and protein unit is a magnificent research infrastructure joint venture involving many contributors including both Adelaide and Flinders, the CSIRO, the South Australian Research and Development Institute, the Australian Wine Research Institute and Bresatec Ltd. The new lab contains the State's most comprehensive range of instruments for biological research and is already attracting interest from interstate and overseas.

The three volume *Atlas of Languages of Intercultural Communication in the Pacific, Asia and the Americas*, edited by our Professor of Linguistics, Peter Mühlhäusler, with Stephen Wurm and Darrell Tryon of ANU, is a totally engrossing work. It constitutes an important addition to existing knowledge of intercultural communication, contact languages, and bi- and multilingualism in the greater part of the world.

Launching these examples of collaborative research serves to remind me of the magnificent diverse range of high-impact scholarly activities undertaken in our University. While I am still working on how best to launch these endeavours I am getting even more practice at opening. Another co-operative venture in the University whose opening I took part in recently was the Special Research Centre for the Subatomic Structure of Matter — a concrete example of how we are able to produce major scholarly results and how this University values collaboration.

MARY O'KANE

# GUEST COMMENTARY

## Reclaiming Education

by  
**Amrita Dasvarma**  
President of the Students' Association  
of the University of Adelaide

1997 has been a tumultuous year for higher education, pre-empted by the regressive 1996 Federal Budget which 'set the hatchet in motion' so to speak. This was then followed by the announcement of the West Review of Higher Education and Financing and Policy which intends to review the future of the higher education sector over the next twenty years.

Much of the community and media focus has been shifted from the immediate changes facing the sector to the future, as the West committee does its rounds of the different universities and as Roderick West pontificates on the value of critical thought.

But very little thought, debate or discussion has centred around what is happening to higher education at the moment, as universities, on an *ad hoc* basis, make cuts to student services, slash and amalgamate departments, and introduce up-front fees for 25% over-quota undergraduate students in 1998. The sector as a whole is undergoing a massive period of transformation before our eyes, but in a reactive and panicked manner. From the eyes of a student, the tertiary sector appears very destabilised, with very little direction or sense of ethos underlying the changes, except for the alarming onslaught of neoliberal, economic rationalist terminology which seems to be overtaking campuses.

When did education become a commodity? When did the language of consumerism start to define higher education? When did higher education become a currency of exchange locally, nationally and internationally? The only consistent theme threading together the Federal government's slashing of Austudy, cuts to University operating grants, introduction of differential HECS and the allowance of undergraduate up-front fees for Australian students has been the blatant aim to privatise higher education and decrease the level of access to education for the community as a whole.

And the Government itself is not the only party guilty of commodifying higher education. The 'learning accounts' or vouchers, recently suggested by Mark Latham, the Federal Shadow Minister for Higher Education, parallels universities to banks, where students as customers can withdraw educational credits to buy places at universities, TAFEs, and open learning systems.

Though the Australian Vice Chancellors' Committee has condemned Labor's suggested voucher scheme, sadly enough universities themselves are becoming part of the process that has transformed higher education from a public good for the community at large to a currency of exchange between students as individuals and tertiary institutions.

As both a student at the University of Adelaide, and as the President of the Students' Association, I have been perplexed, outraged, and alarmed by the direction that the University of Adelaide seems to be heading in. The issue of quality student services, whether they be academic, or welfare oriented, as being crucial to a quality tertiary education, has been one that the Students' Association has championed for a number of years, but without equal support from the University senior management. The cuts to the University's operating grants imposed by the Federal government have made it quite convenient for the University to lay the blame on the Government's shoulders for the 12% cuts to student administration, and the 5% cuts to the library, for example. However, targeting these areas raises serious concerns about the University's own priorities with regard to students.

The University senior management has been in a transitional stage since the beginning of the year: firstly with

the Penington Review, and now with the restructuring of the Registrar's position, the focus has been more on house-keeping and moving furniture within the Mitchell Building than on the lack of quality

student services at this institution. And now, with the possible introduction of up-front fee-paying undergraduates at this University, students who will be competing with Commonwealth funded students for academic resources and student services, the Students' Association can only repeat the questions it has been asking since the beginning of the year:

When is the University going to match the standards set by other universities within, and outside of this state, and finally implement the multi-purpose student identification cards that the SAUA has been trying to realise for the past three years?

When is this University going to address the ridiculous ban on bags within the Barr Smith library that has led to many students' bags, with lecture notes, expensive text books and lab equipment, and personal belongings, being stolen and unrecovered?

When is this University going to acknowledge that its obligations to its students extend beyond the commemoration ceremonies and reinstate individual careers counselling as a vital and necessary service to ensure that its students receive the best guidance with regards to their future careers?

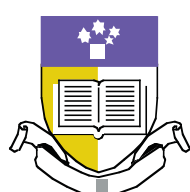
When is this University going to prove its commitment to access and equity by appointing a convenor to the Non-Collegiate Housing Board, which has been languishing since the beginning of this year, and disclose to students its intentions with regards to non-collegiate housing?

When is this University going to refocus on its 'clientele' and instead of restructuring its senior management, undertake a dynamic, effective and comprehensive restructuring of the student services it offers?

I applaud the University's initiatives such as the Mattanya Housing Complex for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students recently built in North Adelaide, which is the first of its kind; I applaud the University's commitment to its Alumni, and to the quality of research produced by the students and academics of the University of Adelaide. I also sympathise with the University: the Federal Government's regressive higher education budget has meant that changes, restructuring and reform within the system are inevitable, though unfortunately within the context of a 'fiscal crisis'.

But if the University of Adelaide is truly to retain its reputation as one of the 'sandstone institutions' and realise its ambitions to become one of the finest universities in the world, it is imperative that this is reflected not just in the Vice Chancellor's public statements but also by the quality of education and student services received by its students. The onus is on the University to protect students from the brunt of the budgetary hatchet, to uphold and ensure the quality of its degrees, and to engage students, as equals, within the dialogue and debate surrounding the changes to the higher education sector.

It is time that students demanded quality for money, and I use that language deliberately. It is time that students reclaimed quality, flexible education as their right, especially if they are paying for it. If students are being perceived as customers in this new climate of education being marketed as a product to be bought and sold, then we should act like customers, and the onus is upon universities, as the suppliers, and the shopfront, to provide a quality product. Because when you're running a business, the customer is always right.



### Adelaidean

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# University and YAA to give new graduates the edge

The University of Adelaide's Enterprise Education Group has joined forces with Young Achievement Australia to run a series of seminars, workshops and business skills programs for South Australian university students and graduates.

The programs are aimed at helping students and graduates from any year level and discipline develop a range of practical, business-related skills and abilities.

These include: business planning, negotiation, team work, initiative, self confidence, problem solving, financial management, project management, creative thinking, decision making, marketing, customer service, communication and networking.

"University graduates, irrespective of their chosen career, need these skills if they are to succeed in today's work environment," said Ms Joanne Pimlott, Coordinator of Enterprise Education at the University of Adelaide.

"Participants in our programs can give themselves 'the edge' when it comes to finding work. And we enable students to develop the confidence and ability to create work for themselves by establishing their own businesses."

Ms Pimlott said the programs offered by the University's Enterprise Education Group and Young Achievement Australia (YAA) would add value to graduates' qualifications

by providing them with practical knowledge of business management.

She said demand for the programs, which are supported by organisations such as Bank SA, the South Australian Centre for Manufacturing, Australia Post and Mutual Community, was expected to be high.

The YAA Business Skills Program starts Wednesday, 7 May. Places are still available — for more information phone (08) 8231 0548.

Small Business Management seminars and workshops will be held at the University of Adelaide's Thebarton Campus in June and July — phone (08) 8303 3098 for details.

—David Ellis

## Landscape students at work in Strathalbyn

A group of University of Adelaide landscape design students has been using the historic township of Strathalbyn as a 'laboratory' for their landscape design ideas.

The students are reviewing the physical character and ecological possibilities of the Strathalbyn township towards the formulation of a draft Agenda 21 policy and potential landscape design ideas.

Hosted by the District Council of Strathalbyn, the students arrived to a well attended town meeting and a briefing by local councillors, environmental representatives, and the Town Planner, Gordon Stidston.

As part of their Strathalbyn trip, the students visited prominent environmentalist Betty Westwood.

Betty Westwood — a recipient of the Order of Australia and a Civic Trust Award for her promotion of environmental concerns — is recognised for challenging environmental conventions in the Strathalbyn region and advocating replanting and habitat renourishment well before the advent of land care and environmental concerns.

"She is adamant about her ideas and her practical applications of trees, shrubs and ground cover planting," said Dr David Jones, Senior Lecturer in Landscape Architecture.



Students with landscape architecture teacher Ray Holliday (back right) and Betty Westwood (back, second from right). Photo courtesy of Dr David Jones.

"Plant indigenous species and regenerate our bushland and habitat areas," was her plea to the students.

Betty Westwood lives in her old sandstone town residence in a bushland environment that she has personally planted and nurtured.

"To one side of her residence is a raised nursery still carefully tended with seedlings she harvests from local grasses, shrubs, and remnant trees in the expectation that they will

be planted around the Strathalbyn township," Dr Jones said.

"The town was most impressed that the students actively practised sustainability by undertaking their site and mapping work on push bikes.

"I hope the students' work acts as a catalyst for the council to create a community working party to properly develop an Agenda 21 policy and better lead the township into an ecologically responsible future."

## First PhDs graduate in Women's Studies

The first PhD graduates from the Department of Women's Studies received their degrees during the Arts Commemoration Ceremony on Thursday 24 April.

They are Dr Jyanni Steffensen and Dr Barbara Pocock. Dr Steffensen's PhD thesis was entitled "Queering Freud: Textual (Re)configurations of Lesbian Desire and Sexuality", while Dr Pocock, who is on the staff of the Centre for Labour Studies, wrote a thesis on "Challenging Male Advantage in Australian Unions".

The Department also had 9 graduates in the MA (Women's Studies) and 11 in the Graduate Diploma in Women's Studies at the same ceremony.

Pictured L to R: Dr Jyanni Steffensen, Head of Women's Studies Dr Margaret Allen, and Dr Barbara Pocock. Photo courtesy of Women's Studies.



## The News IN BRIEF

### SPECIAL CENTRE LAUNCHED

The \$3.6 million Special Research Centre for the Subatomic Structure of Matter has been launched by the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education, Mrs Dorothy Kotz.

Last month's official launch coincided with an international workshop on Symmetries in the Strong Interaction, jointly hosted by the Special Research Centre and the National Institute for Theoretical Physics.

The centre, under the leadership of Director and Elder Professor of Physics, Professor Tony Thomas, is assembling a world-class research team to probe subatomic matter — one of the keys to discovering a unifying 'Theory of Everything'.

The centre also aims to link researchers with international laboratories and provide postgraduate training.

### DANCE COLLABORATION

A composition by Mr Graeme Koehne from the Department of Music Studies will be featured in a collaborative project between the Australian String Quartet and Adelaide dance company Leigh Warren & Dancers in the Norwood Concert Hall next month.

Graeme Koehne's String Quartet no. 2, "Shaker Dances", performed live by the Australian String Quartet, will provide the musical core for the first of two new works choreographed by Leigh Warren in the program, "Quiver". The Quartet will be integrated into the dancing space to form part of the work in a visual sense.

The second new work involves the high-energy percussion group Pablo Percusso, which has just returned from its first North American tour and recently performed at Take Over 97, the Australian Festival for Young People.

### LAW STUDENTS RECOGNISED

The achievements of more than 60 students in the Faculty of Law were recognised at the Faculty's annual prize-giving ceremony in Elder Hall on 15 April.

Outstanding winners included Matthew Rubinstein, who was awarded the Roy Frisby Smith Prize, the South Australian Bar Association Prize for Evidence, a Stow prize, an RW Bennett Prize, the National Environmental Law Association (SA) Prize for Conservation and Heritage Law, and the Dean's Certificate of Merit.

Former Students' Association President, Haroon Hassan won the University of Adelaide Law Students' Association award for the Finlaysons Trial Advocacy Competition, while current President Amrita Dasvarma received the Dean's Certificate of Merit for the top performance in the subject International Law A.

The Hon. Justice HC Williams presented the prizes, assisted by the Dean of the Faculty, Associate Professor Rob Fowler.

### WRITER IN RESIDENCE

Poet Diane Fahey will be Australia Council Writer in Residence to the Departments of Women's Studies and English from 29 April to 5 June and from 28 July to 6 September 1997. She will be located in Room 118 of the Napier Building, telephone 8303 3675. For appointments and consultations regarding writing, telephone 8303 5267.

## British Council EIA conference praised

A recent conference on environmental impact assessment (EIA) for the 21st century was a great success, according to three directors of EIA Centres in the United Kingdom.

Professors Rikki Therivel and John Glasson from Oxford Brookes University, and Professor Chris Wood from Manchester University, were funded by the British Council to participate in the conference, convened by the Mawson Graduate Centre for Environmental Studies from 9-11 April. Key support was also provided by a Division of Humanities and Social Sciences Quality Conference Fund grant.

The Minister for Environment and Natural Resources, the Hon. David Wotton, opened the conference, commenting that he was the Minister for Environment and Planning when EIA was first introduced to South Australia in 1982. He noted that the subsequent separation of portfolios meant that the environment minister now no longer had responsibility for EIA.

EIA researchers from New Zealand, The Netherlands and Australia plus government EIA practitioners from most States attended, a mix which provided an excellent balance for the workshop discussions on theory and practice in EIA, according to the Director of the Mawson Graduate Centre, Associate Professor Nick Harvey.

"Although formal EIA started in the United States 27 years ago and has since spread around the globe, it was not introduced to the UK until 14 years after its introduction to Australia," Dr Harvey said.

"However, the short time frame in the UK has been compensated by intense EIA research activity in that country and last month's European Union directive on EIA is likely to trigger even more research."

Professor Chris Wood suggested that given Australia's greater experience with EIA, "the old world may learn from the new".

Professor John Glasson commented that "Australia appears to be ahead of the UK in some aspects of EIA, such as public participation in EIA and a broader approach to strategic planning."

The conference also heard from Associate Professor Tom Fookes (Auckland University) about the New Zealand Resource Management Act, which is more integrative and adopts environmental sustainability principles throughout.

In comparison, Australian EIA legislation has been through extensive review but the current federal government has been very slow in addressing EIA reform, according to Dr Harvey.

"Although we have a longer experience with EIA, perhaps it is time to learn from the UK research. We should certainly plan for adapting EIA in the 21st century, which is now less than 1000 days away," he said.

Advertisement

# Half-century gap between degrees no bar to new PhD

At age 85, Dr Ernest Easton may be one of the world's oldest students to successfully undertake a PhD.

Dr Easton, whose last degree (a Master of Arts) was completed 50 years ago, received his doctorate in Economics at the University of Adelaide on Monday 28 April.

"I've always enjoyed a challenge, and this was a real challenge," said Dr Easton. "When you meet that challenge and successfully accomplish what you have to do, it's a wonderful feeling."

It took more than four years of hard work to complete his 190-page PhD thesis, which deals with the impact of the cost of rail freight on Australia's coal mining industry.

Dr Easton was no stranger to his chosen PhD topic. He has worked as a transport consultant to the mining industry since 1978, and specifically with the coal mining industry since 1984, with major companies such as BHP, CRA, Exxon, Mount Isa Mines, Shell, Western Mining Corporation and the New Zealand Coal Corporation.

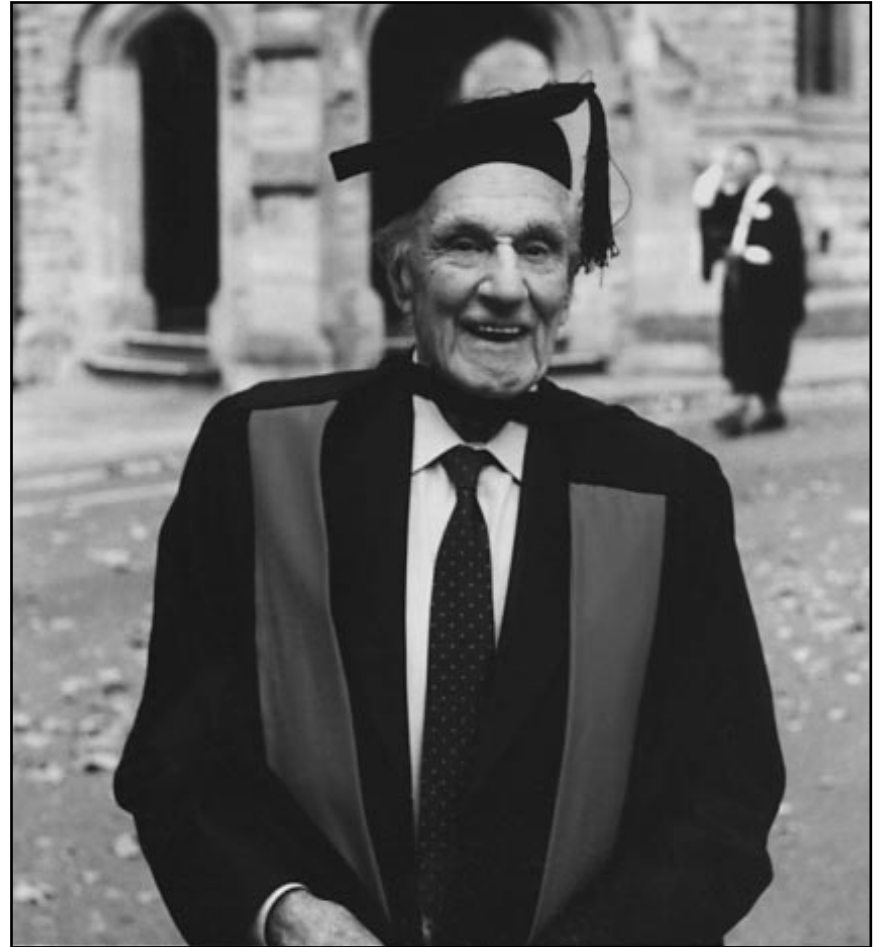
Even at the age of 85 he still acts as a consultant, and he proposes to continue his work as long as his services are of value to his clients.

Because of his intimate knowledge in this field, Dr Easton's wife, Elizabeth, suggested he consolidate that knowledge into a PhD.

"I first thought of doing my PhD back in 1950, but I was too busy working in the public service, so I deferred it. Then when I resigned from the public service to start consulting I thought of it again," said Dr Easton.

"About five years ago my wife suggested it to me. She said, 'You've got a lot of knowledge of a particular subject, why don't you research it further and make the results available?' So that's what I've done."

A central conclusion of Dr



Dr Ernest Easton. Photo: David Ellis

Easton's thesis is that the coal mining industry is being charged too much for rail freight, and that these extra charges act as a tax on the industry, reducing its ability to compete on the export market. The thesis also proposes changes to the current pricing policies of rail companies. There is now strong demand for Dr Easton's thesis from the industry.

Dr Easton acknowledged the help he received from the industry, the railways and government organisations, as well as the guidance from his supervisors — Professor Jonathan Pincus and Dr Brian Bentick from the University of Adelaide's Department of Economics, and Dr John Freebairn from Monash University (now with the University of Melbourne).

"I couldn't have done it without

them," he said, "or without the support of my wife."

The doctorate is yet another milestone in Dr Easton's long career, which has included being an assistant director-general of the former Post Master General (PMG) and deputy chairman of the Overseas Telecommunications Commission, at a time when satellites were emerging as a major means of communications. For his work in these areas he was awarded an Imperial Service Order. Dr Easton is also the author and co-author of two books.

The graduation ceremony on 28 April was attended by some of Dr Easton's family members who flew to Adelaide from Melbourne and Perth to share this special time with him.

—David Ellis

Advertisement

# Ag Science graduation: keeping it in the family

Dr John Matthews isn't the only member of his family graduating with the University of Adelaide this year. His son, Nick, has completed his Agricultural Science degree with Honours at the same time John has completed his PhD in Agricultural Science.

They conducted their study and research in the same department (Crop Protection) and shared the same supervisor (Dr Stephen Powles, Director of the Cooperative Research Centre for Weed Management Systems).

One of the few things they couldn't share at the University was the same graduation ceremony — John Matthews received his doctorate on Thursday, 1 May, while Nick Matthews, who has been working overseas, will graduate in October. Nevertheless, the Matthews family has something to celebrate.

"It would have been good to graduate together," said Dr Matthews, "but for me, finishing my PhD thesis and Nick finishing his Honours thesis is reward in itself. A lot of hard work has gone into that, and

we're happy to have finished it successfully."

Dr Matthews, who is now a Research Fellow based at the Roseworthy Campus, was a farmer at Bordertown until the age of 39 when he decided to undertake the tertiary study he never had the chance to do.

Completing a science degree at Flinders University, he then went on to do Honours at the University of Adelaide's Waite Campus, followed by his PhD.

As a weed ecologist, Dr Matthews is currently involved in research which looks at the influence of weeds on crop production and the environmental influences on weed competition. His PhD thesis dealt with the population genetics of herbicide resistant rye grass, while Nick's Honours thesis dealt with the mechanisms of herbicide resistance in barley grass.

Dr Matthews said he thoroughly enjoyed his time as a student with the Department of Crop Protection's weeds research group.

"I've always found it a real delight to be at university, and I've appreciated the opportuni-

ties available to me," he said.

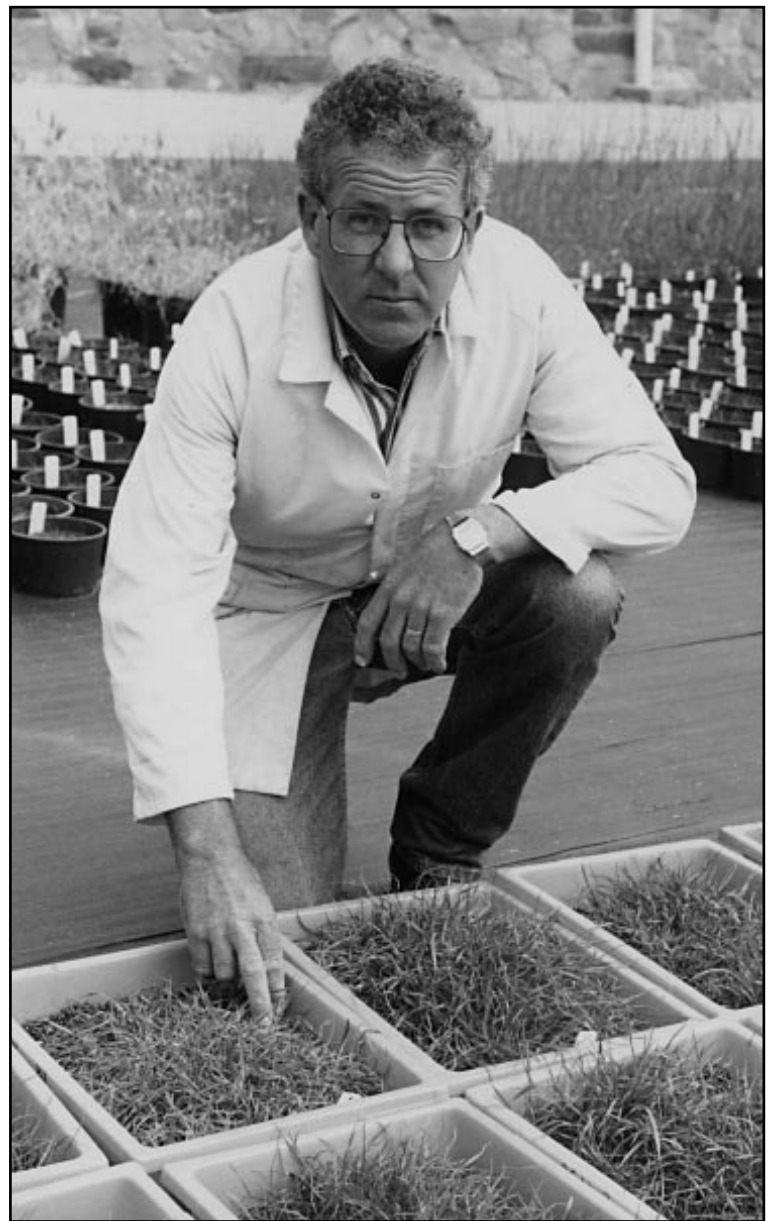
"University is a great experience, and anyone who has an inkling to do it should. The learning, the interaction with people that are involved in research and teaching — it's marvellous. And once you get out of the undergraduate program and undertake a higher degree it becomes a whole different challenge."

Dr Matthews said he was glad his experience was shared by Nick, who was strongly involved with a number of university organisations, including the Students' Association. There is also another uni student in the household — Dr Matthews's daughter, Amelia, is studying journalism with the University of South Australia.

"Two university students is a bit of a worry. Three is even worse," joked Dr Matthews.

"Actually, it's pretty good. After tea everybody goes and switches on their computer and starts to work. It's been a very interesting time for all of us, and we've all enjoyed the experience."

—David Ellis Dr John Matthews. [File photo, 1993. Photo by Andrew Dunbar]



## Tests for methadone alternative Pioneer andrologist honoured

From Page 1

"At the moment we only have one drug available, so if a person is not suited by methadone because their body doesn't react in the normal way, for example, then there's no alternative. If we have buprenorphine then we at least have some alternative to methadone. It gives us a wider choice for treatment."

Dr White said 80 heroin users were needed to take part in the Adelaide trial of buprenorphine, and another 120 were being sought in Sydney.

The initial stage of the randomised study will require participants to visit an Adelaide clinic and take either methadone or buprenorphine over a period of 13 weeks. The effects on each user are recorded, with researchers not knowing until the end of the study which users were taking methadone and which ones were taking buprenorphine.

Dr White said results of that first stage of the trial were expected to be known by the end of this year, with the study continuing over the next two years.

"We hope, although it's something we'll be evaluating with this study, that buprenorphine will prove to be a satisfactory alternative to methadone, and that it will become an option for heroin users," he said.

"It might cost a bit more than methadone to provide, and it'll cost the user more, but compared to the cost of taking heroin, and the cost to the community of heroin use, it'll be worth it."

The study is supported by the South Australian Drug and Alcohol Services Council, the Commonwealth Department of Health, and the drug company that produces buprenorphine, Reckitt & Colman.

Heroin users who would like to take part in the study should phone Warinilla Clinic on (08) 8364 0055 for more information.

—David Ellis

The American Society of Andrology has honoured Professor Brian Setchell (Animal Science) with its 1997 Distinguished Andrologist Award for his pioneering — and often iconoclastic — contributions to the study of the male reproductive system.

He is the first Australian to be so honoured in the 22-year history of the award.

The award citation, quoted in *The Journal of Andrology*, notes that Professor Setchell has made several "unique and original" contributions that today are consid-

ered "the very basis of our understanding of male reproductive physiology".

He is credited with discovering the blood-testes barrier, a structure between the circulating blood and the testes which some substances cannot penetrate. He is also one of the first scientists to investigate and attempt to isolate inhibitin — the hormone which controls a reproductively important secretion by the pituitary gland — when many scientists had doubted the existence of such a hormone.

"Dr Setchell is recognised for

having and trying out new ideas that may not have been accepted science at the time of their investigation," the citation states.

"He is credited for having imaginative insight into male reproductive physiology and has applied careful science to further our understanding of testicular function."

The Society also cited Professor Setchell's "active enthusiasm" for teaching as well as research, and his "support of young scientists entering the study of andrology".

—Pamela Lyon

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### How to get a credit in conference organisation without having to do any study

The Adelaide Convention and Tourism Authority (ACTA) is hosting an educational seminar covering the key considerations of hosting a conference. This seminar is designed specifically to address the needs of the academic market.

#### We do the work. You get the credit.

The complimentary seminar will present guest speakers from the meetings industry who will provide accurate, up to date and relevant information on a range of topics including —

- securing the event to Adelaide
- winning presentations
- negotiating with a venue
- what to expect from a professional conference organiser (PCO)
- developing a social program.

#### Meet with industry suppliers at our trade exhibition.

The seminar will be held on Tuesday 27 May 1997 from 4.00 to 6.15pm.

For further information contact Anne-Marie Quinn on ext 33011 or at ACTA on 8212 4794.



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## Adelaidean Interview

Annemarie Hoffmann of the University of Stuttgart has just completed a year as a Visiting Scholar at the University of Adelaide, where she has spent her time in the Cataloguing section of the Barr Smith Library. Annemarie, who is the first professional (non-academic) visitor under the scheme, has found that the experience more than lived up to her expectations, and hopes that the success of her visit will encourage further exchanges.

Special Collections Librarian Susan Woodburn interviewed her for the *Adelaidean*.

### **What prompted your decision to come to Australia and your choice of the University of Adelaide?**

I have travelled extensively all my life but had never managed to fulfil my ambition to come to Australia. On my retirement from the University Library of Stuttgart, where I was Head of the Descriptive Cataloguing division, I was finally able to pursue my dream.

After some initial setbacks — a working visa proved difficult to obtain, student exchange status was refused on the grounds of age, and the National Library whom I first approached were unable to consider an arrangement for industrial reasons — I discovered that the University of Stuttgart had a partnership agreement with Adelaide to facilitate student exchanges and research collaboration.

Our Local Exchanges Officer put me in touch with Adelaide's Exchanges Officer [now Study Abroad Officer], Dr Jane Olsson, of the International Programs Branch, with the result that I was able to come as an academic visitor. It is an honorary appointment, but an arrangement that has enabled me to experience Australia not as a tourist but fully integrated into the daily work and life of the community.

### **How does Stuttgart University and its Library compare with the University of Adelaide?**

Stuttgart University is somewhat larger than Adelaide with more than 20,000 students, concentrated in the disciplines of natural science, engineering and architecture. The central



Anne-Marie Hoffmann and friend. Photo courtesy of Anne-Marie Hoffmann.

library collection is comparable in size and annual loans but the Library staff is smaller and deployed rather differently. The acquisitions budget is smaller (3.3 million DM) and more heavily spent on journals, largely because of the University's science orientation. The central library has a closed stack arrangement but both requests and much of the retrieval are automated, enabling an average retrieval time of 3-5 minutes — a figure of which we are very proud!

### **What has been your main work during your year with the Barr Smith Library?**

I have been involved largely with the retrospective cataloguing project to upgrade bibliographic records and in particular to facilitate access to multi-volume sets (where details exist only on the old catalogue cards). Patricia Scott, the Bibliographic Services Librarian, courteously invited my participation in the planning stages, and I subsequently contributed to the practical work of the project.

Descriptive cataloguing was of course nothing new to me but Australian cataloguing practices and procedures differ significantly from those used in the State network to which the University of Stuttgart contributes. Local practices have required me to become familiar with both the Dynix system and ABN, and with AACR2 and MARC formats — experience which I propose to use when I return to Stuttgart.

### **What are your main observations of the Library and its operations after your year here?**

I must admit to some reservations about the national network, ABN, which in comparison with the State SWB network I feel is cumbersome to use, inconsistent in the quality of its records and which, because it charges for access and use, paradoxically prompts contributing libraries to add and change data locally.

On the other hand I have been greatly impressed by the user orientation of the University Library, by how advanced the Library is in terms of automation, and by the level of communication and cooperation that exists between the various sections of the Library.

I was particularly delighted by the focus upon making life easier generally for the students, evident in both the Lending and the Information services: at Stuttgart we have what we call a "Public Service" division, but we don't deliver to anything like the extent seen at Adelaide.

Similarly in automation — in equipment, in software development and in the level of training being given to staff in efficient use of the technology, I found the Library greatly in advance of what I had anticipated, comparable indeed with the United States and well ahead of much of Europe.

There was also a remarkable level of cooperation between Systems staff and other Library staff — the needs

articulated by the section heads driving the system developments, whereas at home I recall vividly having to remind our systems staff that they were there to serve cataloguing needs and procedures, not the other way round!

### **How did Adelaide and Australia in general live up to your expectations?**

Absorbing as the work experience has been, I found time to take in a great deal of the rest of Australia: my friends at the Library tell me that I am seeing more in a year than many of them have in a lifetime! Tours to the unique landscapes of Central Australia, the Kimberleys and the Northern Territory were particularly memorable, as these were unlike anything I have seen on my travels.

I also managed to visit most of the cities, taking in an ABN Users meeting in Canberra and the annual Library Association conference in Melbourne in the process.

I love the wildlife and (a typical tourist, I'm told) have had great pleasure in handling kangaroos and koalas: the one in my favourite photograph, taken at a private reserve, had its claws wrapped to prevent some of its less attractive characteristics being exhibited.

Possoms, though, I won't remember so warmly, as — not knowing what they were — I was terrified by their assaults on the roof of my rented home in my first days in Adelaide!

I can say without hesitation that my year in Australia has more than lived up to my expectations: indeed I will count it as perhaps the best year of my life. The quality of life here in Adelaide is very high, the city clean, safe and with a cultural flair that I feel is at least partly due to the influence of its universities.

I've managed a rich social and cultural life in spite of having no car, furniture largely composed of crates and borrowed dishes. On the suggestion of a colleague at the Library I even joined the local Adelaide Harmony Choir as a guest chorister and sang in a number of their concerts, including Carols by Candlelight and Carols in the Town Hall.

I will particularly miss the open-mindedness, enthusiasm and self-reliance so evident in the people I've met here. When I get back I plan to offer lectures based on my Australian experiences in our "Studium Generale" lectures, so expect an increase in inquiries about exchanges and visits!

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## Internet teaching in Medical Physics

From Page 1

"While I don't believe universities are 'behind the times' with our teaching methods, Dr Spender's provocative comments are a challenge. What we're attempting to do is make an innovative departure from the traditional lecture presentation, and at the same time maintain the quality of teaching," Dr Patterson said.

Another reason for offering the subject over the internet was that Associate Professor Alun Beddoe, who set up and conducted many of the lectures in this field, was no longer available to teach in Adelaide because he had moved to the UK.

Dr Patterson said the internet was ideal for teaching a masters level course, particularly when small numbers of students, some of them part-time, were enrolled.

"The aim is to make the subject available not only to local students but also to interstate and overseas students, who may wish to take it as part of another masters degree or as a non-award course," Dr Patterson said.

"It's going well so far, although it's clear that the face-to-face tutorials are vital in helping students to come to grips with the material. There's no doubt that a good lecturer can make it all seem easy, which is something the computer presentation can't do. It does, however, have its own motivating effect, with some graphics involved. We hope to present other subjects this way, including radiotherapy physics," he said.

A sample page from the web site can be found at <<http://www.physics.adelaide.edu.au/medical/RBPE.html>>.

—David Ellis

# Adelaide's International Spirit



Dr Paul Chan, CEO of Sepang Institute of Technology (S-I-T), the University of Adelaide's twinning partner in Malaysia, and his wife Ms Low Kam Yoke (President/CEO of the HELP Institute) were in Adelaide recently with other family members to watch their son Adam graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Bonython Hall on Thursday 24 April. This year's ceremonies saw the graduation of several students from the first group of S-I-T students to come to Adelaide to complete their degrees, 17 of whom will be attending the University's fourth graduation celebration in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday, 25 May. L to R: Juliet Chan, Mrs Chan, Adam Chan and Dr Paul Chan.



Yang-Fung Li and Corina Ngaire Jolliffe (Bachelor of Health Sciences)



L to R: Medical graduates Fabian Matthews, Chi Kang Gooi, Seong Lin Khaw, Juling Ang, Eng-Siew Koh and Sheryl Sim. Dr Gooi was President of the Overseas Students' Association in 1995. Dr Matthews will be among the 73 Malaysian graduates of the University attending the graduation celebration in Kuala Lumpur on 25 May 1997.



Archana Pradhan and Balaranijini Srihara (Dentistry)



Centre: Paminder Kaur Khaira and family (Bachelor of Dental Surgery)



Mekondjo Kaapanda and Benjamin Stewart Jarvis (Bachelor of Arts). Mr Jarvis has been doing Arts/Law and is now completing his Law degree. Ms Kaapanda, an Honours candidate in the Politics Department, was presented with a John F Kennedy Memorial Scholarship at the Arts/Performing Arts prizegiving on 24 April. Her parents also graduated in Arts at Adelaide in the early 1990s; her father is now Namibia's High Commissioner in New Delhi.

Photographs by David Ellis

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## Speeches on WWW

Those interested in reading the Occasional Addresses from the 1997 Commemoration Ceremonies will be able to access them on the WWW through the Public Relations & Marketing Office home pages.

The site is expected to be ready by Friday 9 May at the latest. The URL will be <<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/PR/com.html>>.

# Adelaidean Feedback

## POLL TWO

The second *Adelaidean* Feedback Poll asked two questions:

**Should University of Adelaide staff be encouraged to spend study leave outside of Adelaide as part of a strategy to develop the international recognition of the University?**

**Should they be discouraged from spending study leave in Adelaide?**

There were nine responses (a one-third increase on the six received for Poll One!). The general (but not unanimous) thrust of the answers was in favour of encouraging leave outside of Adelaide and against discouraging leave in Adelaide. Several of those in favour of encouraging

outside study leave mentioned the necessity of providing adequate financial support to make it feasible.

Two respondents voted "Yes" to both questions, another "No" to both questions, and a fourth was opposed to study leave being generally available at all.

### COMMENTS INCLUDED:

- Staff should not be discouraged from spending their study leave in Adelaide. Staff with families, in particular those with children at a sensitive stage in their schooling, or those with partners who are unable to take sufficient leave to accompany the staff member, may find it difficult to leave Adelaide for significant periods of time. Such staff would be disadvantaged should any disincentives be put in place. In addition, some staff may be unable to leave Adelaide on study leave for financial reasons. Any disincentives have the potential to affect female academics more than males, so this has the potential to become an equity issue.
- Staff should not be discouraged from staying in Adelaide. Such a policy would inhibit important activi-

ties like rewriting lectures, preparing audio-visual materials, writing books or articles, which are often more easily done at home. Why would anyone want to interfere with study leave in Adelaide anyway?

- In these days of high tech everything, there is almost no need for anyone to have to front up somewhere else to sit at the foot of the 'master' to gain wisdom — it can be achieved through the means of computer networks etc. If there really is a shortage of funds at the U of A, stop wasting money on such indulgences as Study Leave!

- Staff should be encouraged to spend study leave engaged in "scholarship (and) research...of international distinction" [quote from University Mission statement]. Where they do it should be up to them. That's how we get our international recognition. Everything else is bullshit.

- Of course the answer to both questions is YES! The fact that you would even ask the questions indicates a total lack of understanding of what being 'international' means to a university, especially a university in Australia.

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Dr Barbara Hardy AO presented Cassandra Brooke with the Environmental Studies Medal for best MA thesis on Thursday, 24 April. Ms Brooke, who flew to Adelaide from Denmark to attend her graduation ceremony with 54 other Environmental Studies postgraduates, wrote her thesis on marine pollution. She is the fourth student of the Mawson Graduate Centre for Environmental Studies to receive the medal.

### ACCOMMODATION

**AVAILABLE:** An honest and responsible person is offered the use of my house for 3-4 months from circa 20 June. Ideal for postgraduate wishing to write a thesis. References required. Ph 8388 4006 (evenings).

**CUMBERLAND PARK:** 3 br house in delightful cottage garden, convenient to schools, transport and unis. Features open fireplace, 2 modern bathrooms, sep lounge, lge kitchen and new family rm extension overlooking easy-care garden. Avail mid June. \$220 pw + bond. Ph 8272 1969.

**DULWICH:** Wanted - a non smoker to share lge 6-roomed house with owner. Close to shops and bus route. \$100 pw. Ph Peter

8364 4390 or 8303 5086.

**FULLARTON:** Person to share lge bungalow with 2 others. Close to Waite, shops and transport. \$67 pw. Ph Penny 8303 8579 or 8379 4156 (ah).

**GILBERTON:** 2 br townhouse in beautiful garden setting with carport umr. Bus to Uni 10 mins. \$140 pw (includes care of garden). Ph 8223 2366.

**GLEN OSMOND:** Unfurn (some b-ins) 2-3 br house. Close to transport and schools. Walking distance to Waite. No pets. Lawns mowed. Avail late May. \$200 pw + bond. Ph 8379 4869.

**JOSLIN:** 3 br house, ideally situated to both Waite and North Terrace campuses. Peaceful native garden, off-street undercover parking, furn, non smokers

# Adelaidean

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pref. \$200 pw. Ph Pat Venning 8303 5401 or 8362 9559 (ah) or email: pvenning@auu.adelaide.edu.au

**KINGSWOOD:** 4 br, furn home avail from July to Jan 98. Ph 8272 1593(ah).

### FOR SALE

**COMBUSTION HEATER:** Coonara, good condition. Generous sized slate plinth and flue assembly. \$290 ono. Ph Derek 8303 5748 or 8339 2986.

**DRESSAGE SADDLE:** Felsbach Obrist, black, 17.5 inch seat, unmounted, long points, has had very little use. \$850 ono. Ph Jo (08) 8303 7711 or

(08) 8524 8401 or email: jchivell@roseworthy.adelaide.edu.au

**FORD CORTINA:** 1980 sedan, 4 cyl, new front brakes, reliable. VSM 285. \$1,500 ono. Ph 8303 6587 or 8277 2697 (ah).

**FORD METEOR:** 1983, auto, air cond, stereo, exc cond. ULS 513. \$3,600 ono. Ph Sharamat 8303 3106 or 8336 1903.

**HOLDEN COMMODORE:** VN 1989 sedan, V6 auto, power steer, air cond, full metal jacket, exc family car. VBA 084. \$10,750 ono. Ph David 8363 4371 or 8332 5982 (ah).

**HOLIDAY HOUSE:** Second Valley - Close to beach /jetty, 3-4 br (1 ensuite),

spac living/dine, o/head-fans, heater, fully furn (opt). POA. Ph 8327 0761.

**LAWN MOWER:** Scott Bonnar with exc 3 hp Briggs & Stratton motor. \$260 ono. Ph Derek 8303 5748 or 8339 2986.

**VIDEO:** National, remote control, exc cond. \$90. Ph 8297 1848 (after 8pm).

**WATCH:** Collector's item ladies 18 carat gold fob watch, mint cond, C1880's. \$1,500 ono. Ph 8265 4028.

### MISCELLANEOUS

**CATS:** Give away 2 affectionate old cats, 1 is part Siamese. Ph 8338 4385 or 8379 1735.

**FURN OFFICE:** On King William Rd, Hyde Park. For rent on half-time share basis. \$300 per month. Ph 8302 2760.

**HOME TUITION:** Experienced teacher (ex Pembroke), yrs 3-12, all subjects. Also French and Spanish for children and adults. Ph Mrs Abbott-Richards 8339 2986.

**HOUSE CLEANING & IRONING:** Only \$25 for an "introductory clean" on an average 3 br home. North Adelaide and eastern suburbs only. Ph Louise or Neil 8363 2663.

### DEPARTMENTAL

**TENDER:** 1995 Toyota 2WD dual cab, 2.4 petrol, VSY 986. Inspection by arrangement with David Mathew, 8303 7876. Tenders in a sealed envelope quoting AFS97/3 to Agronomy & Farming Systems, Roseworthy Campus, Roseworthy SA 5371 by Wed 7 May 1997.