

# Adelaidean

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

March 2006

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Asha helps reduce tsunami impact



## \$3 million research centre helps fight against cancer

### Molecular Biology

A new \$3 million research centre at the University of Adelaide's School of Molecular and Biomedical Science will further boost Adelaide's international profile as a leader in cancer research.

The Adelaide Proteomics Centre, located in the Molecular Life Sciences building, is a world-class facility with the latest state-of-the-art proteomics equipment. It was formally opened last month by Ms Jennifer Rankine, Parliamentary Secretary to South Australian Premier Mr Mike Rann.

The Centre was built and equipped with the support of \$1.5 million in funding from the Australian Cancer Research Foundation, which the University and research partner the Hanson Institute won from strong national competition.

It is the biggest private foundation research grant awarded in South

Australia, and is also the largest individual grant awarded by the ACRF in its 21-year history.

The remaining \$1.5 million of funding was contributed by the University, the Hanson Institute, the Australian Research Council and the State Government through BioInnovation SA.

Dr Peter Hoffmann, an internationally-renowned Proteomics specialist, has been recruited to Adelaide to direct the centre. The centre also features such world-class researchers as the University of Adelaide's Professors Shaun McColl and John Wallace, and Professors Angel Lopez and Jennifer Gamble from the Hanson Institute.

"Proteomics is an exciting new science and the establishment of the Adelaide Proteomics Centre here means the University of Adelaide will be at the forefront of developments in this field," Dr Hoffmann said.

Continued on page 4

University of Adelaide researcher Dr Olivier Fahy in the Adelaide Proteomics Centre  
Photo by Randy Larcombe

#### What is Proteomics?

Proteomics is the next step on from the mapping of the human genome.

Scientists involved in proteomics research undertake the identification and quantification of proteins, and the determination of their localisation, modifications, interactions and activities. This will ultimately lead to a complete understanding of the function of all proteins produced in the body.

By better understanding the molecular interactions involved in the operation of living cells, scientists will be further equipped in their quest to cure or prevent cancer, and many other diseases. These include Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and multiple sclerosis.

# Adelaidean

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## From the Vice-Chancellor

As we begin 2006, I am pleased to report that the University of Adelaide is a thriving community, and a University in the midst of change and opportunity.

Demand for places at the University of Adelaide continues to rise – a trend that is not reflected at other local universities and universities around the country. It is certainly encouraging that we remain the university of choice in this State for prospective students.

It is no accident that this is the case. Our staff work hard to reach out to high school students while they are planning their study and career pathways, and a number of recent events hosted by the University underline our engagement at this critical stage.

In December last year, more than 200 Year 9 and 10 students from 30 South Australian schools attended our Maths-Science Life Impact Student Days. A joint initiative of Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Engineering, Computer and Mathematical Sciences, the Days feature students taking part in hands-on Science and Maths activities and learning about the impact these diverse fields of study have on our society.

Similarly, the Siemens Science Experience held in January this year gave Year 10 students the opportunity to experience Science face-to-face. And last month, hundreds of students from Glenunga International High School visited the North Terrace campus for their Senior School Orientation Day: their introduction to university life and all it entails.

Change, and opportunity, also beckon for our current students. The passing of VSU legislation late last year means student services as we have known them will be changed. I congratulate the Adelaide University Union for working together with the University to ensure services wanted by students will continue.

One recent example of providing services that enhance our students' university experience was the official opening of the second stage of the Village, our student accommodation facility on Grote Street. This is a world-

class facility with excellent accommodation, security and learning facilities, and it is gratifying that demand for Village places from both international and domestic students is exceeding our initial estimates.

It was also satisfying to learn that the new Federal Education Minister, Ms Julie Bishop, is an Adelaide graduate, and I congratulate her on her appointment. I particularly look forward to hearing from Ms Bishop regarding a critical portion of our Federal funding which was due to be passed on for the start of the year. This portion represents about 5% of our Federal funding, and I hope that as well as approving this money, the new Minister will also consider a proper annual indexation of our funding.

In April we have the opportunity of showcasing our University to senior university leaders from around the world as the University of Adelaide hosts the 2006 Association of Commonwealth Universities' Conference of Executive Heads. This event features vice-chancellors from some 300 universities in the Commonwealth, and for many of them it will be their first visit to Adelaide. An enormous amount of planning has gone into ensuring these international education leaders have the best opportunity of engaging positively with our city, and the University of Adelaide, and it promises to be one of the major highlights for us in 2006.

We are a thriving University, and I am excited by what is in store for this year. I look forward to working with our extended University community on the many opportunities that we will have.

**JAMES A. McWha**  
Vice-Chancellor and President

## News in brief

### Law line-up debates historical murder case

Human rights lawyer Geoffrey Robertson QC and High Court Justice Michael Kirby will lead a line-up of national panellists in a 'Hypotheticals'-style seminar based on the notorious 1959 Stuart murder case, to be held at the University of Adelaide early next month.

'Politics, Power, Justice and the Media: controversies from the Stuart case' will be held on April 1 in Elder Hall. It is being organised by the University, the John Bray

Law Chapter, the Law School and the Law Society of South Australia.

Further information can be obtained at [www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni) or from the Development and Alumni Office at (08) 8303 5800.

### Health from womb to tomb

The *Human Reproductive Health through the Ages - Womb to Tomb* congress is being held at the Adelaide Convention Centre 7 – 10 March to celebrate major advances in Reproductive Health and mark the contributions to this area of

renowned Adelaide clinicians and scientists.

This international congress will highlight advances in all areas of reproductive health including fertility, human genomics, pregnancy, maternal and infant health, cerebral palsy, reproductive endocrinology, contraception, menstrual control, urogynaecology, menopause and healthy ageing.

For further details contact Ms Bronwen Paine, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, on (08) 8161 7616 or [bronwen.paine@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:bronwen.paine@adelaide.edu.au)

### Adelaide spotlight for Commonwealth VCs

About 300 executive heads of universities across the Commonwealth will gather at the University of Adelaide for the three-yearly Association of Commonwealth Universities conference on 9-12 April.

The conference will focus on some of the biggest issues facing universities worldwide. Daily themes are: responsibilities of higher education; new roles, rules and forms; and dilemmas of international education.

[www.adelaide.edu.au/acu2006](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/acu2006)

# Village opens its doors



## ■ Student Services

Student accommodation in Adelaide has received a major boost with the University of Adelaide recently opening its major 400-bed facility, the Village, in the CBD.

Her Excellency Marjorie Jackson-Nelson, the Governor of South Australia, officially opened the second and final stage of the purpose-built, state-of-the-art accommodation facility that caters for both international and domestic students.

The Village is located at 210 Grote Street, and features accommodation opportunities of differing design and size in 51 townhouses and a six-storey apartment building. The facility is managed by the University of Adelaide, and features fully furnished, modern accommodation in a friendly and safe environment.

"We believe it is the best student accommodation of its kind in Australia," said University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha.

"A lot of research and planning went into the type of facility we provided so that we could offer what students had told us they wanted. The feedback we have received from those who are already staying here suggests that they are extremely happy with it."

"One of its main strengths is the sense of community and support that it generates. Some of its features include academic tutoring, mentoring, organised social programs, a student lounge, computer suite and 24-hour security – not to mention the mix of cultures from Australia and around the world.

The Village also underlines the contribution the University makes to the State of South Australia, Professor McWha said.

"This contribution was recognised at the 2005 Business SA Awards with the University winning



both the Education Adelaide education export award and the most prestigious award on offer, the Premier's Award as overall Exporter of the Year," he said.

"Our international student numbers continue to rise – since 2003 they have risen by more than 50 percent – and the Village will help us to continue meeting the high international demand for our courses.

"We offer a high-quality education and the Village complements that by being a high-quality accommodation facility."

Village resident Angela Byramji, who is from Bahrain and studying Medicine at Adelaide, told the opening that students from any cultural background are made to feel welcome.

ABOVE: Examining the Village are (from left) Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha, Chancellor the Hon. John von Doussa, Her Excellency Governor Marjorie Jackson-Nelson and Accommodation Manager Mr Geoff Denison

TOP LEFT: Angela Byramji  
Photos by Ben Osborne

"If you're looking for a joyride and being coddled by having your meals and cleaning done for you, then the Village is not the place for you," she said. "On the other hand if you value your independence and security, want to make lasting friendships, have a keen interest in travel and other cultures, then we'll be here to welcome you with open arms into our community: the Village People!"

Story by Ben Osborne

# Thebarton home for mental health centre



(From left) Premier Mike Rann, actor Garry McDonald and Head of the School of Psychology, Ted Nettelbeck

## Psychology

A new centre for treating anxiety and depression based at the University of Adelaide's Thebarton Campus will help sufferers come forward rather than struggle in silence.

The Centre for Treatment of Anxiety and Depression was opened last month by State Premier Mike Rann, with help from well-known Australian actor, beyondblue board member and anxiety sufferer Garry McDonald.

CTAD is a joint initiative between the Faculty of Health Science's School of Psychology at the University of Adelaide and the Central Northern Adelaide Health Service.

Its main focus will be treating patients suffering anxiety and depression using a method known as Cognitive Behavioural Therapy. This therapy lasts between 8 to 12 weeks, and has produced significant empirical evidence of success in the treatment of anxiety and depression.

Head of the University's School of Psychology, Professor Ted Nettelbeck, said the centre will treat hundreds of South Australians free of charge each year and also provide training for University of Adelaide Clinical Psychology Masters students.

"I am delighted that the University and Central Northern Adelaide Health Service have

collaborated to establish such an important facility," Professor Nettelbeck said.

"Students in our Master of Clinical Psychology program stand to gain an enormous amount. As part of the requirements of the qualification, they must carry out 1000 hours of supervised clinical training and as part of the partnership with the CNAHS, they will be guaranteed being able to carry out this training at the Centre. There is also scope for our Honours and PhD students to use the Centre for their research projects.

"Mental health is a major health issue in this State and this Centre will enhance the treatment, teaching and research being carried out in this field."

Mr Rann said the actions of people like Mr McDonald and former West Australian Premier, Mr Geoff Gallop, are doing much to erode the stigma surrounding mental health.

"Away from the limelight, it was a very different story for Garry," Mr Rann said. "In 1993, he had a breakdown as the result of long-term anxiety and panic attacks. He bravely spoke out about his difficult experiences at a time when very little was said about such conditions."

Story and photo by Ben Osborne

## \$3 million research centre helps fight against cancer



ACRF Trustee Stephen Gerlach, the University of Adelaide's Peter Hoffmann, Shaun McColl and Peter Rathjen, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier Jennifer Rankine, and ACRF Chairman Tom Dery  
Photo by Randy Larcombe

story continued from page 1

"The Centre has two high-tech laboratories with the latest equipment, including a specialised mass spectrometer which is the most advanced instrument of its kind in Australia."

Professor McColl described the facility as the most sophisticated Proteomics centre in Australia.

"By being able to directly access this technology, University staff and students and other scientists will have the opportunity to significantly increase their productivity in cancer research, as well as research into basic biological processes and other diseases," he said.

"It further underlines the contribution and impact that the University of Adelaide makes in Australia's biotechnology success, and is a significant investment in the future of biomedical and biotechnology research and teaching in South Australia."



## Access gets a lift

The visually stunning new central campus access lift, located adjacent to the Staff Club, was officially opened last month by the Hon. Jay Weatherill, Minister for Disability.

The lift is a key milestone in the University's Disability Action Plan, its ability to meet the requirements under the Disability Discrimination Act 1993 and its commitment to providing universal access for all students, staff and visitors.

The previous route for physically disabled people was circuitous and even more difficult after hours. The new lift provides a 24-hour simple, clear and highly visible route through different levels across the campus.

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# Sounding out high-tech solutions

## ■ Electrical & Electronic Engineering

Crocodile-infested swamps, mosquitoes so fierce they left weals for months, and dripping, energy-sapping heat – that was the environment facing University lecturer Dr Matthew Sorell when asked to help make the latest Rolf de Heer film.

*Ten Canoes*, a cautionary tale of love, lust and revenge gone wrong, is probably the most ambitious film yet from the respected filmmaker whose other works include the multi award-winning *The Tracker*, starring David Gulpilil.

*Ten Canoes* is a unique film shot on and around the Arafura Swamp in northeastern Arnhem Land: it is the first feature film to be shot entirely in Aboriginal language (predominantly Ganalbingu); its entire cast are people indigenous to the swamp region; and the script was just a guide, allowing the 'Yolngu' (people of Arnhem Land) to tell the story in their own way. David Gulpilil narrates the story in English and his son, 17-year-old Jamie, takes one of the lead roles.

The University was approached to help find a low-budget solution to the challenge of recording film-quality sound in this harsh

environment where power supply was a key issue and up to 10 actors could be speaking simultaneously in the free-flowing script.

Dr Matthew Sorell took up the challenge. He teaches telecommunications and multimedia technology in the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering and has a longstanding hobby of designing tiny radio microphones.

"I couldn't come up with a radio microphone small enough to be concealed on people who haven't got any clothes on but with enough battery power to last all day and be robust enough to cope with the conditions," he said. "Radio mics are also expensive and hard to manage."

Eventually Dr Sorell found the solution lay in commercially available technology – flash memory music players. For the filming they were fitted out-of-sight in the actors' hair and could record up to nine hours at a time.

The job then was to set up a system for managing the database of recordings to stop overwriting and allow proper synchronisation and sequencing. Two final-year students put together the software suite as



their final-year project: Ben Cheney doing a Bachelor of Engineering in IT and Telecommunications, and Adeline Han, who did a double degree in Computer Systems Engineering and Arts.

"This wasn't a case of new research but the innovation lay in recognising and utilising the potential in existing technology for a new use and then devising a foolproof computer and software management system for this unique situation," Dr Sorell said.

For Dr Sorell this was an eye-opening and rewarding project to be involved in. As well as offering the Yolngu the chance to present their own culture, the film has rekindled

TOP: A scene from *Ten Canoes*  
Photo courtesy of Vertigo Productions

ABOVE: Dr Matthew Sorell  
Photo by Robyn Mills

forgotten indigenous skills while making props, and started a number of spin-off projects in the local high school and community.

The world premiere of *Ten Canoes* takes place during the Adelaide Film Festival on March 19 and the film will be released nationally on June 1 through Palace Films. Further information can be found on [www.palacefilms.com.au](http://www.palacefilms.com.au)

Story by Robyn Mills

# Adelle's Japanese education

## Scholarships

For International Studies student Adelle Neary, the past few months have been truly international.

Currently at an Indonesian university finishing her International Studies degree, she recently went on a prestigious Mitsui Educational Foundation Study Tour to Japan.

Mitsui is one of Japan's biggest and oldest trading companies, with offices in 175 cities spanning 75 countries. Its Australian subsidiary, Mitsui Australia, established the Mitsui Educational Foundation in 1971, which selects students from nominated Australian universities to visit Japan for 18 days each year. The aim is to introduce these students to various aspects of Japanese culture, history, business and contemporary lifestyles, thereby helping to develop and expand the knowledge and friendship between Australia and Japan.



For Adelle, who was chosen as the University of Adelaide's participant for 2005, it was her first time to Japan and she is already planning a return.

"I just loved it," she said. "We were only there for a short time but we got to experience so many different aspects of the country – it's a fascinating place with fascinating culture and people."

Adelle, who already has degrees in Science and Law from Adelaide as well as currently studying International Studies, said the tour covered all of her study interests and even generated some new ones.

"I became really interested in the ways that companies like Mitsui do their business, which occasionally involves working together with their business rivals on a common goal – it's hard to imagine Australian businesses being so open and trusting with their competitors," she said.

Adelle Neary (front centre, in green) makes some new friends in a Japanese classroom  
Photo courtesy of Adelle Neary

"We also toured the Metropolitan Police Department and Tokyo Metro Government offices, which were interesting in terms of my interest in law and politics."

Other highlights of her trip included meeting future Japanese Mitsui employees, and a homestay with a family in the city of Chigasaki.

"I learned a lot about Japan, but I also learned a lot about myself and what direction I want my life to take," she said. "I would recommend the MEF Study Tour to anyone."

For more information about scholarship opportunities at the University of Adelaide, visit: [www.adelaide.edu.au/scholarships](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/scholarships)



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# Jonathon's Rhodes lead to Oxford

Biochemistry, using the development of zebrafish embryos to study an RNA-binding protein that is found in neurons.

Rhodes Scholarships are awarded on a state-by-state basis, with five further Australia-At-Large scholarships being awarded to applicants from the territories or the states. Jonathan received an At-Large scholarship, which is announced later than the state winners.

"It was completely unexpected," he said. Runners-up from the states, plus applicants from the territories, all go to Canberra for a dinner and then the interviews. I thought it would be a nice trip where I got to meet some interesting people – and it was! The decision is made quickly, so when they told me the on the second day that I was a winner, I just about fell over."

Jonathan will use his scholarship to undertake a Masters of Philosophy in the History of Science, Medicine and Technology. He leaves for Oxford in October and will spend two years there.

"It is an exciting and very useful diversion for me. It will be good to have a break from my PhD, and not feel worn out by it.

"I'm looking forward to doing something different, and the study will give a perspective on the science that I am doing now. In the future, I am also interested in communicating scientific research to the wider community and I think a sense of context will help me to do that as well."

Rhodes Scholarships are given to students whose achievements extend beyond the academic, and Jonathan has displayed a high level of community commitment through his work with Anglican Church outreach services and also fundraising for the Multiple Sclerosis Society, performing in many musicals and concerts for the charity, including two seasons of *Les Miserables*.

He also serves on the executive committee of the Australian Interschool Choral Societies' Association.

He performs in a number of choirs and will be touring the US, Canada and the UK in July with the Adelaide Chamber Singers.

"I am a passionate choral singer so I am really looking forward to joining a good choir while I am staying in Oxford."

Story by Lisa Reid

## Scholarships

Jonathan Webb, from the School of Molecular and Biomedical Science, was named the University of Adelaide's 99th Rhodes Scholar in late 2005.

Jonathan (above) completed a BA in 2001 and a BSc [Hons] in Molecular Biology in 2004. He is currently doing PhD research at the University of Adelaide with Dr Kirk Jensen in the Discipline of

# Andy Thomas winner looks to the stars

## Scholarships

Following in the footsteps of NASA astronaut Dr Andy Thomas is not on new student Jordan Gray's immediate agenda – but it's not something he's ruling out either.

"That would be great," he said. "But that's a long road. Let's see what happens."

The 17 year old from Loxton is starting a double degree in Aerospace Engineering and Mathematical and Computer Sciences and is this year's winner of the University of Adelaide's annual Andy Thomas Scholarship.

Jordan is full of enthusiasm about his chosen course. "It's an exciting field of study; everything's new and full of innovation," he said.

"I'm interested in mathematics and science generally, and this course could lead to high places in a number of areas. The career paths are very open.

"I would ideally aspire to gain employment with NASA, however, I would also like to contribute



towards advancing the aerospace industry within Australia."

University Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha said: "The University of Adelaide is delighted to award this scholarship to Jordan and we look forward to seeing him among our new students. Jordan's application stood out from a group of very high-calibre applicants."

Named after one of the University's most distinguished graduates, the Andy Thomas scholarship is awarded annually to a new student undertaking Mechanical, Mechatronic or Aerospace Engineering at the University of Adelaide. The scholarship includes full fee

Jordan Gray  
Photo courtesy of *The Murray Pioneer*

remission for the duration of the program and a living allowance of \$5000 a year for up to four years. The scholarship is extremely competitive with selection made primarily on the basis of academic merit. Successful applicants have usually achieved outstanding Year 12 results.

Other criteria include career aspirations, involvement in the community and leadership qualities. The first scholarship was awarded in 1999 and Jordan is the eighth recipient.

Story by Robyn Mills

# Risti masters her international education

Indonesian graduate Risti Permani is proof of the impact international education can bring.

Risti (pictured right), 23, comes from Bogor in Indonesia and already has a Bachelor of Science from Institut Pertanian Bogor (Bogor Agricultural University).

Last year she completed her Master of Economics at the University of Adelaide, and even more impressively, had the rare honour of being macebearer at her Adelaide graduation ceremony. This honour is given only to the most outstanding students graduating each year.

Since graduating, she has returned to Indonesia to spend time with her family before beginning her PhD. She has also been involved with research work led by the Head of the University of Adelaide's School of Economics, Professor Christopher Findlay. This research is focused on trade between the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries.

Risti will return to the University of Adelaide this year to begin her PhD in the field of econometrics, as well as working part-time as a tutor in the University's School of Economics.

"Studying at the University of Adelaide opened my eyes to the difference that education can make," Risti said. "I have learnt so much already in my time at the University, and it's fantastic to be able to come home to Indonesia to put the skills and knowledge I have gained into practice."

Professor Findlay said Risti is an exceptional student who is likely to achieve even more in her future career.

"We are very lucky to have someone of Risti's calibre in our School," Professor Findlay said. "She is a delightful, hard-working and brilliant student, and I have no doubts that she will go on to bring much more credit to herself and Indonesia."



The first students to graduate from the Graduate Diploma in Urban Habitat Management received their qualification at the December ceremonies. Pictured are (from left) Melissa Batt, Charlotte Lehmann, Peter Zürcher, Jessica Digance and Rosemary Yeomans.





Professor Coetzee with University Chancellor, the Hon. John von Doussa  
**Photo by Ben Osborne**

## Coetzee's latest honour

Nobel Laureate and University of Adelaide staff member Professor John (JM) Coetzee added another honour to his impressive resumé when he received an honorary doctorate from the University for his contribution to literature.

Professor Coetzee, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2003, is an Honorary Visiting Research Fellow in the University of Adelaide's Discipline of English. He was admitted to the degree of Doctor of the University *honoris causa* as part of the University's December graduation ceremonies.

"For the past three years I have enjoyed an association with the University of Adelaide, as an honorary research fellow located in the Discipline of English, an association that I have found useful and rewarding," Professor Coetzee said.

"During that time I have been able to offer guidance to postgraduate students working on projects in creative writing.

"Before I gave myself over to full-time writing, I spent thirty years as an academic, in South Africa and the United States, so I know what a signal distinction it is to be awarded an honorary doctorate. I am most grateful to the University for the award."

University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha says the University is privileged to be associated with someone of Professor Coetzee's international standing.

"Professor Coetzee is regarded as one of the world's finest writers and we are proud of our association with him," he said.

"I am pleased that the University can show its support and appreciation for the contribution he has made in the field of literature by awarding him an Honorary Doctorate."



# Indigenous leader honoured for service

Last year was one of firsts for Professor Roger Thomas.

Not only did he become the first indigenous person to obtain the level of Professor at the University of Adelaide, he was also the first to receive an honorary doctorate.

Professor Thomas, who is Director of the Centre for Australian Indigenous Research and Studies (known as Wilto Yerlo), was admitted to the degree of Doctor of the University *honoris causa* for his creative and original distinguished contributions in the service of society.

"It's an overwhelming feeling, and very humbling," Professor Thomas said. "I'm pleased because it shows that the University is very serious about indigenous education and culture.

"I will receive the doctorate on behalf of all indigenous staff and students associated with

the University of Adelaide, because they're who I work with and for."

Executive Dean of the University's Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor Mike Innes, said Professor Thomas has done much to raise the profile and awareness of indigenous culture and education across the University and the wider community.

"He is a firm leader, with a strong sense of direction," Professor Innes said. "Professor Thomas will continue to lead and to facilitate the increasing awareness of the needs, achievements and contributions of indigenous people to the life of the University of Adelaide and of Australia.

"He is a remarkable man who many are proud to have as their colleague, but also to call their friend."



TOP: Professor Roger Thomas (second from left) with (from left) Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha, Chancellor the Hon. John von Doussa and Executive Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor Mike Innes

ABOVE: Three indigenous graduates had the honour of being macebearer at their respective ceremonies: (from left) Richard Bosworth (Bachelor of Environmental Science, Honours), Teresa Smordowski (Bachelor of Arts) and Kali Hayward (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery)



# Petroleum graduates engineer bright future

Petroleum graduates (back, from left) Ashish Chawla, Peter Kokkoni, Anson Abraham, Joseph Crosby, Myles Regan, David Edge, Michael Dillon, Brendan Hughes, (front) Adelaide Lam, Carrie Broad, Nina Rudduck, Bradley Shipway and Anne Taylor

The future appears bright for the first group of Petroleum Engineering students to graduate from the University of Adelaide.

The 13 students are the first batch to graduate from the University's four-year Bachelor of Engineering (Petroleum) program that began in 2002. All 13 have already been offered jobs in the petroleum industry, both in Australia and around the world.

Acting Head of the University of Adelaide's Australian School of Petroleum (ASP), Professor Peter Dowd, said a number of factors contribute to the considerable success of the program in such a short space of time.

"The quality of the students who are graduating today has been very impressive, and I have no doubt that many of them will go on to make a significant impact on the petroleum industry during their careers," Professor Dowd said.

"The staff at the ASP are all experienced international figures

in the petroleum industry, and their teaching is of a very high standard.

"Our links with industry are also vital to the success of the program. Students are able to undertake work experience with many of the industry's biggest companies as part of their degree, and this experience not only enhances the skills they learn in the classroom but leads to employment outcomes."

The link between the University and industry is no better illustrated than by the involvement of one of Australia's biggest petroleum exploration and production companies, Santos.

In 1999 Santos contributed \$25 million towards establishing what is now the Australian School of Petroleum, in a sponsorship believed to be one of the largest ever given to a public university in Australia.

"Santos supported the Australian School of Petroleum both for the benefit of the oil and gas industry as well as to give young people the opportunity to enter a dynamic

industry that provides a diverse and exciting career path," said Santos Managing Director Mr John Ellice-Flint.

"We are delighted to see that these goals have been realised with the first group of students to graduate from the school. Many of the students have already been recruited by our industry, which is testament to the quality of the program and the graduates. Congratulations to the graduating students and to the University of Adelaide."

Brendan Hughes, who graduated with first-class Honours, said the Petroleum Engineering degree will give him the opportunity to forge a career and travel.

"I've got a job as a junior reservoir engineer with Sarawak Shell Berhad in Malaysia, so I'm pretty excited about that," Brendan said. "It's a great opportunity for me to travel, which I want to do, and to put the skills I've learnt here into practice."

Fellow graduate Anne Taylor has taken up a position with Origin

Energy in Brisbane and described her experience at Adelaide as an overwhelmingly positive one.

"I chose Petroleum Engineering because it's an organic, changing field – you could be faced with a lot of different situations and have to apply different bits of knowledge to solve them," she said. "The students all got on well together and we had to work really hard to get to the end, but I think it's been worth it."

International student Anson Abraham, who was born in India and has spent most of his life in Sharjah, says he chose to study at Adelaide ahead of universities in the US and Canada because of its facilities and staff. He has begun work with Schlumberger, another major industry partner of the ASP, in February next year.

"I found the facilities to be excellent," Anson said. "The staff were very cooperative and helpful, and the close relations the School has with industry helped me to apply what I had learnt in the classroom."

# Lance Dossor

(1916-2005)

## Obituary

Harry Lancelot ('Lance') Dossor, who died on December 3, 2005, was one of the most long serving and highly regarded teachers of piano at the Elder Conservatorium of Music. Born and schooled at Weston-super-Mare in the West of England, he achieved a great boost to his musical career when, at the age of only 16, he won a major open scholarship to the Royal College of Music in London (a conservatoire with which the Elder Conservatorium has strong, historic links, dating back to the original scholarship endowments by Sir Thomas Elder at both institutions in the 1880s). There he studied piano with Herbert Fryer and composition with Herbert Howells, and won numerous awards and prizes.

He then scored a series of stunning successes in major international piano competitions, including Franz Liszt Prize at the third Vienna International Competition in 1936; Fourth Prize and a Special



Prize at the third Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw in 1937; and Fourth Prize in the third Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels in 1938.

Mr Lance Dossor then served briefly on the part-time staff of the Royal College of Music before being called up for military service in 1939. He was commissioned into the Royal Artillery and

served with them in Egypt. He was then invited to join ENSA (the troops' entertainment wing), whilst still with the RA, and did tours of Germany and Italy. He was in uniform until 1946, when he rejoined the staff of the RCM, now as a full-time "professor of piano".

In 1953 the fourth Elder Professor of Music, John Bishop, headhunted Mr Dossor and enticed him to the Elder Conservatorium, initially on a three-year contract. He stayed and became a central figure in the musical life of the University of Adelaide. After his retirement from full-time teaching, at the end of the 1970s, Mr Dossor continued to teach part-time for another 20 years. In total his teaching career at the University of Adelaide spanned some 47 years.

In November 1940 he married Diana Levinson who had been a fellow student at the Royal College (she was a harpist and pianist). She survives him along with their four children.

In December 2002, Mr Dossor was presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Adelaide. His family have kindly donated a sum of money to award a Lance Dossor Prize in Piano Performance for 2006 and 2007.

Contributed by Professor Charles Bodman Rae, Director/Dean, Elder Conservatorium of Music

# Ribald farce kicks off Theatre Guild season

## Theatre

The history of amateur theatre in Adelaide is replete with scientists who have made the stage a second passion. Alex Kirk is no exception.

The Adelaide Geology graduate (Bachelor of Science, Honours, 1964) is consumed with fascination for the theatre that flourished in England in the decades after the restoration of Charles II.

Last year, he kicked off the University of Adelaide Theatre Guild's 2005 season with a moving one-night reading of Susanna Centlivre's 1714 comedy *The Wonder*.

It was so successful that the Theatre Guild has asked him back to launch the 2006 season later this month – and upped the number of performances to two nights!

This time, he's chosen one of the smash hits of late 17th century theatre, Edward Ravenscroft's *The London Cuckolds*. When it first appeared in 1681, the play was an

instant success – and continued to be revived until the middle of the 18th century.

The storyline revolves around Ned Ramble and his attempts to woo various married women, who in turn try to woo men of their own (not their husbands, needless to say).

It's a gleeful mix of stock characters – idiot husbands, randy wives and wily servants – but Ravenscroft infuses his farcical tale with a unique mix of wit and shameless ribaldry that made it enormously popular in its time and still enjoyable today.

The Theatre Guild's production will also feature music of the age performed by singers and musicians from the Elder Conservatorium.

Theatre Guild Chair John Edge will open the play – and the Guild's 2006 season – by reading the Prologue.

*The London Cuckolds* has two performances only, on Thursday, March 30 and Friday, March 31 at 7pm in the Little Theatre. All tickets \$10 on 8303 5999, or [www.adelaide.edu.au/theatreguild](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/theatreguild).



## Composition scholarship

The Elder Conservatorium of Music has received a generous and very enlightened charitable donation that establishes a new scheme for the creation of major orchestral compositions.

The Schueler Composition Awards (open to composers from or based in South Australia) have been established by Mr Norman Schueler and Mrs Carol Schueler, in honour of Mrs Gogo Schueler (Norman's mother).

Since the introduction in 2002 of a PhD by examination of composition folio the Elder Conservatorium has become a national 'hotspot'

for composition, and has by far the largest concentration, in Australia, of postgraduate composers (from all parts of the country and overseas), supervised by Professor Graeme Koehne (Head of Composition) and Professor Charles Bodman Rae (Director/Dean).

The new Schueler Awards will be announced later this year and will result in major new orchestral works that will be offered for performance in 2007 by the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra.

Pictured are (standing) Graeme Koehne, Charles Bodman Rae, (seated) Carol Gogo and Norman Schueler.



# Nick's Fringe impact

## Music

University of Adelaide music graduate and one of the stars of the University's award-winning Life Impact campaign, Nick Parnell, will perform three Adelaide Fringe solo concerts as a prelude to a national tour.

"It's Nothing But Rhythm" combines pulsating African rhythms with exotic Brazilian melodies, featuring world music from his debut ABC Classics CD, *Generally Spoken It's Nothing But Rhythm*.

Nick is widely regarded as Australia's most exciting concert percussionist. He began teaching himself the drums at 10 years of age in his home town of Orroroo. In 2004 he was named the most outstanding graduate of the Elder

Conservatorium of Music after obtaining undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in Percussion Performance.

He has gone on to win a variety of awards and has studied with some of the world's top musicians. His performances throughout Australia, in Asia and the UK have received critical acclaim.

Nick Parnell's national tour starts in April and includes the Canberra International Chamber Music Festival. The Adelaide concert will be held at the State Opera Studio on April 21.

"It's Nothing But Rhythm": March 1, 2 & 3, 8.30pm, Holy Trinity Church on North Tce. Bookings through FringeTIX – ph (08) 8418 8666 or [www.adelaidefringe.com.au](http://www.adelaidefringe.com.au), or at the door. Further details from [www.nickparnell.com](http://www.nickparnell.com)

# Fringe is the hot ticket

## Performance

Join the excitement of the Fringe and check out the following productions.

North Terrace campus venues Union Hall, Union Cinema and the Little Theatre, will be transformed into Fringe Venues during late February and early March.

Full details can be found in the Fringe Guide, [www.adelaidefringe.com.au](http://www.adelaidefringe.com.au) or ringing Fringe Tix on (08) 8418 8666.

### UNION HALL

**Kransky Sisters** (Feb 24 – Mar 5) Tickets \$25/\$20/group \$23

**Eddie Perfect** (Feb 24 – Mar 5) Tickets \$25/\$23 Group/\$20 concession

**The rehearsal - Umbilical Brothers** (Mar 7– 19) Tickets from \$22 - \$29.50

**The Travellers – Fortune Cookie Theatre Company** (Feb 23 – Mar 5) Tickets from \$20 - \$26.50

**Under Milk Wood** (Feb 25 – Mar 8) Tickets from \$20 - \$29.50

**White Men with Weapons** (Mar 9–19) Tickets from \$20 - \$26.50

**Trad** (Mar 9–19) Tickets from \$20 - \$29.50

### CINEMA, UNION HOUSE

**The Good Body by Eve Ensler** (Feb 27 – Mar 18) Tickets \$25

### LITTLE THEATRE

**Donny - the Rock Opera** (Feb 27 – Mar 5) Tickets from \$12 - \$18

**Omon Ra** (Feb 26 – March 5) Tickets from \$10 - \$24

**Sort of the Rings** (Mar 7–12) Tickets \$20/\$15

**An Anthology of Set Shakespeare** (Mar 5) Tickets \$20/\$15/\$10

**Peep** (Mar 14–19) Tickets \$15/\$13

Radio Adelaide presents "Fringe Magnet", live from the balcony of the Exeter Hotel, 3.30pm – 5.30pm weekdays from February 27 – March 10.

Fringe Magnet is the best way to catch the Fringe vibe live from the heart of the action with reviews and interviews

and the hottest shows to catch. Radio Adelaide is also going to WOMAdelaide, broadcasting live from 5.30pm – 8.30pm on Saturday, March 11 and Sunday, March 12 from Botanic Park.

**Tune to 101.5FM, or visit [www.radio.adelaide.edu.au](http://www.radio.adelaide.edu.au)**



March 2006

101.5fm

[radio.adelaide.edu.au](http://radio.adelaide.edu.au)

## Festivescience

the essence of the Adelaide Festival of the Arts. live to air from the Radio Adelaide studios. Join Cath Kenneally each weekday.

9am to noon

## Womadelaide 2006 LIVE!

national community radio broadcast

the best of the Fest live from Botanic Park  
Sat March 11 & Sun March 12  
5.30pm to 8.30pm in Adelaide  
check your local guides elsewhere

## FRINGE Magnet

FRINGE NEWS TICKET SPECIALS  
GIVEAWAYS REVIEWS MUSIC

Broadcasting LIVE on  
Radio Adelaide 101.5fm from the  
Exeter Hotel balcony on Rundle St  
3:30pm - 5:30pm weekdays  
Mon 27 Feb - Fri 10 March



## University says thank you

### Alumni

Anne Gribbin, James McWha and Amber Halliday at the Thank You Event

University of Adelaide friends and benefactors recently enjoyed an evening of Latin-themed festivities at Latin American-themed Thank You Event, Gracias El Acontecimiento. Set in the shade of the magnificent Barr Smith Library, the Santos marquee provided an attractive venue for over 300 donors, friends and corporate sponsors, who have given generous support to the University during the past year.

Guests enjoyed the sights and sounds of Latin America, including Spanish-style cocktail food, decorations and entertainment. The rhythms of band Fuego provided background music, and the colourful dancers of La Bomba Productions even managed to get a few brave people onto the dance floor.

The evening's speeches began with a warm welcome from Development and Alumni Director, Anne Gribbin. Vice Chancellor, Professor James McWha, followed with a speech that emphasised the many ways of supporting the University. Olympic rower, University of Adelaide alumnus and Life Impact star Amber Halliday, whose anecdotal speech highlighted the importance of saying thank you, proved a popular guest speaker.

The fiesta was the inaugural event of this type, held to celebrate and acknowledge the contributions of our donors, supporters, friends and partners across the University community. Their valuable gifts of time, money and resources are a central part of the University's continued success.

## Development & Alumni Events

### Commerce Alumni dinners

During 2006 Commerce Alumni will be hosting a series of informal dinners where we get small groups of graduates together, mixing with old and new friends from commerce and business studies at the University of Adelaide. Dinner places are limited and thus filled by invitation, but are open to all members who express an interest in attending.

For more information, email [commerce.alumni@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:commerce.alumni@adelaide.edu.au) or visit the Commerce Alumni website at [www.commerce.adelaide.edu.au/alumni](http://www.commerce.adelaide.edu.au/alumni).

### Cornell Chapter: Celebrate the Festival

Liza Lim, Curator of Adelaide Festival of Arts Concert Series "As Night Softly Falls", will be interviewed by Stephen Whittington, well-known University of Adelaide lecturer, composer, and critic.

**Venue:** University of Adelaide Staff Club, Robing Room

**Date:** Friday, March 10

**Time:** 12.30pm

**Cost:** Light Lunch \$15

Bookings essential by COB Friday, March 3 at (08) 8303 6356 or [gaynor.tyerman@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:gaynor.tyerman@adelaide.edu.au)

### Distinguished Alumni Award

Distinguished Alumni Awards are given to people who have given outstanding service to the University of Adelaide and/or the Alumni Association, as well as giving outstanding service to the community or have made an outstanding contribution in their chosen fields.

Two awards were given for 2005:

**Richard Brock MBBS 1949**

In recognition of his sustained and distinguished service to the medical profession, and in particular to the improvement of Aboriginal health, and for his vision and ongoing commitment as Curator of the Florey Exhibition, as well as his continued contact with and support of the University of Adelaide over many years.

**Maurice John de Rohan B.Tech 1960**

In recognition of his sustained and distinguished service to Australian management, architectural and planning practices and as South Australia's Agent-General in London, and his continued contact with and support of the University of Adelaide over many years, particularly the UK Alumni Chapter.

### Alumni Association AGM

The Alumni Association Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday, June 30. Further details to be advised.



## AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS 2006

Congratulations to those members of the University of Adelaide alumni community whose contributions to their field and their community were acknowledged in the 2006 Australia Day Honours List.

### Companion in the Order of Australia (AC)

**Professor Vilis R. Marshall AC**  
(MBBS 1965, MD 1969)

for service to medicine, particularly urology and research into kidney disease, to the development of improved health care services in the Defence forces, and to the community through distinguished contributions to the development of pre-hospital first aid care provided by St John Ambulance Australia.

**Professor Harry Messel CBE AC**  
(PhD 1952)

for service to Australian science and to education as an outstanding educator raising awareness of the importance of the study of science and in particular physics, for instrumental contributions to improving science teaching in schools, and for conservation advocacy relating to endangered crocodile and alligator species.

### Officer in the Order of Australia (AO)

**Professor Gavin Brown AO**  
(Former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide (1994-1996))

for service to tertiary education in Australia and internationally as an advocate for excellence and through the establishment of strategic links with overseas institutions, and to mathematical research.

**Professor Ian R. Falconer AO**  
(PhD 1961)

for service to science, particularly through research in the area of algal toxins relating to water quality management, to education internationally, and to the conservation movement.

**Dr John B. North RFD AO**  
(MBBS 1963)

for service to medicine as a clinician, surgeon and teacher, and as a significant contributor to research in the fields of neurological diseases and treatment of severe head injuries.

**Mr K. J. Seppelt AO**  
(1949-1954 Roseworthy College)

for service to the Australian wine industry through pioneering viticulture initiatives and as a contributor to a range of industry organisations.

**Ms Imogen de Mortimer Zethoven AO**  
(M Env St 1992)

for service to conservation and the environment, particularly as an advocate for the protection of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and as a proponent of legislation to promote biodiversity in Queensland.

### Member of the Order of Australia (AM)

**Mr Murray I. H. Brooker AM**  
(B Ag Sc 1957)

for service to botany, particularly through research leading to the identification and classification in the genus *Eucalyptus*, and as an author.

**Dr Kenneth A. Brown AM**  
(BDS 1950)

for service to forensic dentistry, particularly in the area of identification methods and questions of law, and to specialist education and professional organisations.

**Mr Dilip G. Chirmuley AM**  
(Grad Dip Env St 1989)

for service to the community, particularly through leadership roles in a range of multicultural, religious and Hindu organisations in South Australia.

**Dr Brian C. Crisp AM**  
(BDS 1945, MDS 1952)

for service to dentistry and dental education, particularly the development of the specialty of orthodontics in Adelaide, and to the community through the Art Gallery of South Australia.

**Professor Sasson S. Gubbay AM**  
(MBBS 1957)

for service to medicine in the field of neurology, particularly through clinical and academic contributions to the neurological care of both children and adults, and as a teacher and mentor.

**Dr Jeffrey N. Hanna AM**  
(M Pub Hlth 1989)

for service to medicine in the fields of public health and epidemiology, particularly through contributions in the area of communicable disease prevention and control.

# Conservatorium's concerted effort

## Music

The Elder Conservatorium of Music will again affirm its status as one of the State's most important musical institutions with its Lunch Hour and Evening concerts for 2006.

### A date for lunch

The Lunch Hour concerts in Elder Hall are a staple of live performance for most Fridays during the university year, and feature staff and students from the Elder Conservatorium of Music and distinguished visiting artists from across Australia.

The renowned Macquarie Trio Australia will launch the 2006 series on March 17, and will be followed by a succession of outstanding performers, many of whom are well known to Adelaide audiences.

These include pianist Clemens Leske, the Australian String Quartet and ASQ members Natsuko Yoshimoto and James Cuddeford who are also performing individual recitals.

Others like Igor Machlak and his wife Olga Kharitonova will be performing in Elder Hall for the first time. Also pianists, they were born and trained in Russia but are now based in Melbourne where their performances have won wide critical acclaim.

As in previous years the Conservatorium's large ensembles form an important part of the program and this year some exciting

performance opportunities have been given to students. In April, Joanna Drimatis, a PhD candidate, will conduct the Elder Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra for the first time. The soloist is also a student, Amy Elks, who will join the orchestra to play Mozart's *Flute Concerto in G major*. Then in May masters student Yuh T'Sun Wu will perform Mozart's *Piano Concerto in A major* with the Elder Conservatorium Chamber Orchestra.

Lunch Hour concerts at Elder Hall every Friday at 1.10 pm from March 17 until June 23. Admission is \$5 and tickets are available at the door from 12.30 pm on the day of each concert.

### Make an evening of it

The Evening Concert Series opens its 2006 season on June 10, featuring the Elder Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra at Elder Hall under the baton of Conservatorium Dean and Elder Professor of Music, Professor Charles Bodman Rae.

Subsequent Elder Hall concerts will follow on August 12, September 9, October 14 and November 25, and will highlight the diversity and quality of music emanating from the Elder Conservatorium and featuring rising stars in voice, wind, string and jazz.

**For more information about all Elder Conservatorium concerts, visit:**  
[www.music.adelaide.edu.au](http://www.music.adelaide.edu.au)



Joanna Drimatis  
Photo by Ben Osborne

#### Ms Pamela Linke AM (Dip Soc St 1963)

for service to children, particularly early childhood development as a researcher and author on parenting skills and infant mental health.

#### Dr Joseph M. Lubich AM (MBBS 1954)

for service to local government and to the community of the City of Albany as a general practitioner, and as a contributor to the Western Australian health service.

#### Mr David W. Moyle AM (BA 1967)

for service to conservation and the environment, particularly as a contributor to the development of the Nature Foundation SA Incorporated and through the Nature Conservation Society of South Australia.

#### Emeritus Professor John C. Thonard AM (PhD 1967)

for service to dentistry and the advancement of dental education, to the promotion of dental research, and to improved multidisciplinary health science networks.

#### Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)

#### Mr John E. Butler OAM (BA 1969, BA (Hons) 1972)

for service to education, particularly in the field of geography as a teacher, author and administrator, and to the community.

#### Dr Roslyn A. Glow OAM (PhD 1980)

for service to the community, particularly Palliative Care Victoria.

#### Mr Mark A. Henschke OAM (BSc (Hons) 1972)

for service to medicine as a general practitioner and to the community of Armidale.

#### Mr John Herendi OAM (BA 1966)

for service to the Hungarian community of South Australia through cultural, social welfare and educational activities, and to the promotion of multiculturalism.

#### Mrs Glenys Jones OAM (Friend and Former Staff of the University of Adelaide)

for service to the community through the National Council of Women of South Australia, and to the arts.

#### Mr Kevin Aquila Miller OAM (Friend and Former Staff of the University of Adelaide)

for service to the performing arts, particularly opera as a performer, producer and educator.

#### Mr Peter L. Mussared OAM (BE 1955)

for service to the electricity industry and to the community of Belair.

#### Professor Uwe Proske OAM (B Sc 1963)

for service to physiology, particularly in the area of neuroscience, and to medical research.

#### Mr P. Earle Scott OAM (BE (Arch) 1954)

for service to architecture and to the community through welfare and heritage organisations.

#### Mr Ashleigh H. Tobin OAM (B Mus 1964, M Mus 1972)

for service to the community of Adelaide through music education and organ recitals.

#### Mr Philip B. Walsh OAM (B Pharm 1972)

for service to the community of Maroubra as a supporter of a range of educational, arts, medical, sports and seniors organisations and events, and to pharmacy.

#### Mr Richard B. Walsh OAM (B Pharm 1971)

For service to the community of Maroubra as a supporter of business, educational, arts, medical, sports and seniors organisations and events, and to pharmacy.

#### Dr Susan J. Wareham OAM (MBBS 1976)

for service to the community and to the peace movement, particularly through the Medical Association for Prevention of War.

#### Public Service Medal (PSM)

#### Mr Neville F. Alley PSM (BA 1968, MA 1971)

for outstanding public service in the field of geology.



Asha Patel (left), and pictured proving a popular visitor with her Sri Lankan hosts  
**Sri Lanka photos**  
 courtesy of Asha Patel



# Asha helps reduce tsunami impact

## ■ Medicine

**University of Adelaide medical student Asha Patel was featured in the *Adelaidean's* November 2005 edition ahead of her trip to help families affected by the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami, assisted with some funding from the University of Adelaide. She has now returned to Australia and has written of her experiences in Sri Lanka.**

My trip started with a week in Perth – I spent this time grading glasses (using a 20-year-old machine to manually read off the power of each and every lens on each and every pair of glasses... urgggh), and getting to know four of the other people going on the trip.

Galle is the town we stayed in when we got to Sri Lanka, and it was badly hit by the tsunami. On the way down the coast, we stopped to see the site of one of the world's worst train disasters.

When the tsunami hit, the train driver slowed down because of the water in the tracks, and 500 people from the beach ran to the train to jump up on the roof of the train, that already had about 1000 passengers, to get away from the rising water. Then the second wave hit and pushed the train straight over and off the tracks, and killed everyone on and in the train.

As we went down, we saw the remains of hundreds of buildings that were made uninhabitable by the tsunami. The beaches are so sandy and long and just beautiful. There were lots of fishing boats, people selling fish, and people living in shacks beside the remains of their old concrete houses.

There were Catholic and Buddhist temples, and some mosques and Hindu temples too. It was very much like India – people everywhere buzzing around and very busy, but somehow more laid back. And the kids are so friendly!

We spent the first week in the hospital, and saw lots of rheumatic fever and congenital problems on the paediatric ward and also lots of serious infections and hepatic diseases. It was mostly the same stuff you see at home, but in different proportions and often in far

more advanced stages of disease. Heart disease is a big problem, obesity not so.

I worked several hours a week at a Tsunami Trust community centre that takes kids before and after school, teaching English, playing games and reading books.

I spent a whole day there teaching them about health – I talked about the idea of a food pyramid, and we did things like brushing teeth, and colouring in. I cleaned and dressed all their wounds and made up songs about eating food after washing hands. That day was my idea and I was in charge of organising it. It was my little baby and I was so, so proud of it!

The kids made posters with the lyrics to our songs, posters about eating healthily and games about dressing our wounds and using Dettol.

We bought a world map and heaps of stationery for them, using money we had left over from sponsorship, then went and bought desks and chairs and exercise books out of our own pockets.

I made a photomontage of all the kids from the pics we'd taken of them over the past three weeks

– they loved it so much!! They were all pointing out, "Oooh that's me," and loved, loved, loved to see themselves in printed photos!

I got to travel around a bit in the weekends – on one occasion, we went north to the hill country, climbed 7.5km up hill in a tea plantation and got lost because the clouds were so low that we couldn't see the road. I also visited monasteries, a lake and temples, cinnamon plantations, spice gardens and a tea factory.

We went into the rural villages and held eye camps – mostly checking vision, looking for cataracts, glaucoma and manually checking vitreous pressure with hand-held tonometers that they used in Australia in the 1940s! A local ophthalmologist came with us, and he helped us diagnose the hard stuff. Lots of glasses prescribing eventually drove us up the wall...I am so sick of glasses!

I'm absolutely sure that Sri Lanka is the best country I've visited in the world. I love the people so, so much. There's so much left to do there – if anyone wants to come with me, I hope to get back there this time next year!