

# Adelaidean

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

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## Unlocking deadly mysteries of the mind

### Neuroscience

New research at the University of Adelaide will delve into some of the crucial issues surrounding death by brain tumours and stroke.

The research, to be conducted in the joint University/IMVS Centre for Neurological Diseases, will aim to find links between chemical signals in the brain and the reasons why brain tumours or strokes become fatal.

"There are still many mysteries around how the brain works, and this new research will help to unlock key elements we believe are involved in two separate but equally debilitating conditions," said Professor Robert Vink, NRF Chair of Neurosurgical Research and Head of the University's School of Medical Sciences.

"These new areas of research are exciting for staff and students in the Centre for Neurological Diseases – even more so when you consider that the Neurosurgical Research Foundation (NRF) is this year celebrating 45 years of funding lifesaving research," he said.

"To be able to add two new areas of research is great news for our work, and it promises even better news for people's health in the future."

#### Brain tumour research

Brain tumours account for approximately 2% of all cancer deaths. However, a much greater problem is the spread of cancer, with secondary tumours developing within the central nervous system. This accounts for almost 10 times as many deaths as primary brain tumours.

For the first time, the Centre for Neurological Diseases will begin studies of brain tumours focusing on two specific research questions.

"The first is concerned with the swelling, or oedema, caused in neural tissue by tumours, which is the main determinant of patient outcome," Professor Vink said.

"We know that the cerebral blood vessels in the vicinity of the tumour become 'leaky', and this is what underlies the development of the swelling. However, the mechanism that causes this change in vascular permeability is unknown.

"From our research into traumatic brain injury and stroke, we believe that neuropeptides (chains of amino acids in the neural tissue) may play a key role in changing the permeability of the blood-brain barrier.

continued on page 18



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From the Vice-Chancellor

A scholarship can help change a student's life. I was lucky enough to receive a Gibson Scholarship at undergraduate level, and a Queen's University scholarship supported my subsequent PhD studies. So I fully appreciate the importance of this sort of support for students, especially those from rural and sometimes remote areas.

The Gibson Scholarship was valued at £200 per year. That seems a small sum today, but in rural Ireland in the 1960s, it was a substantial sum. It really did help to change a student's life.

I recently welcomed our new undergraduate scholarship winners to the University of Adelaide at a ceremony in Bonython Hall. We are blessed at this University with some of the most gifted young students in the nation. It is very pleasing to be able to say to the hundred or so students who attended the function that we are giving them every opportunity to succeed in their studies, thanks to the financial support they are receiving.

As well as being academically talented, many of these students have also made major contributions to their schools and their local communities.

On the day, it was pleasing to see so many family members and friends – even teachers – helping to celebrate the students' success. With their support, and the financial support afforded by the range of scholarships (see story on page 4), these students already have a solid foundation at this crucial early stage of their university studies.

Also attending the event were Principals of secondary schools who nominated their students for the University of Adelaide Principals' Scholarship. Their support for students and the scholarship program is greatly appreciated. The Principals' Scholarships are only in

their second year, and already they have proven their value to our University – and, hopefully, to the schools and the students themselves.

In awarding these and other scholarships, the University of Adelaide is continuing its long history of attracting the brightest young people to study here – as shown by our 101 Rhodes Scholars and three Nobel Laureate graduates.

Scholarships act as an incentive for students to achieve excellence in their studies. They also, very importantly, provide support for those students who might otherwise be unable to take up a University place – a situation that was very true for me.

Past experience suggests that some of our scholarship students will go on to become the next generation of Rhodes, Fulbright, General Sir John Monash or Menzies scholars, earning them a rightful place in the University's history. In turn, these scholarships will offer our graduates opportunities right around the world, and experience that will help them to make an impact on our society in a wide range of fields.

Scholarships are an investment in our future. The University of Adelaide is pleased to be making such an investment, and I thank everyone who has contributed generously in support of our scholarship programs. Your assistance has made a great difference.

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

## Art & Heritage Collections

The aim of the Heritage Furniture Collection is to showcase and preserve the changing styles of educational furniture through the years.

Some items date back to the establishment of the University in 1874 and include the work of master craftsmen of that era.

While many pieces from the collection are in storage, Art & Heritage Collections believe it is important for items to continue to be used and enjoyed for their functional and aesthetic qualities. This means you will find a selection of pieces throughout the University, with their history and superior design helping to enhance the working spaces around campus.

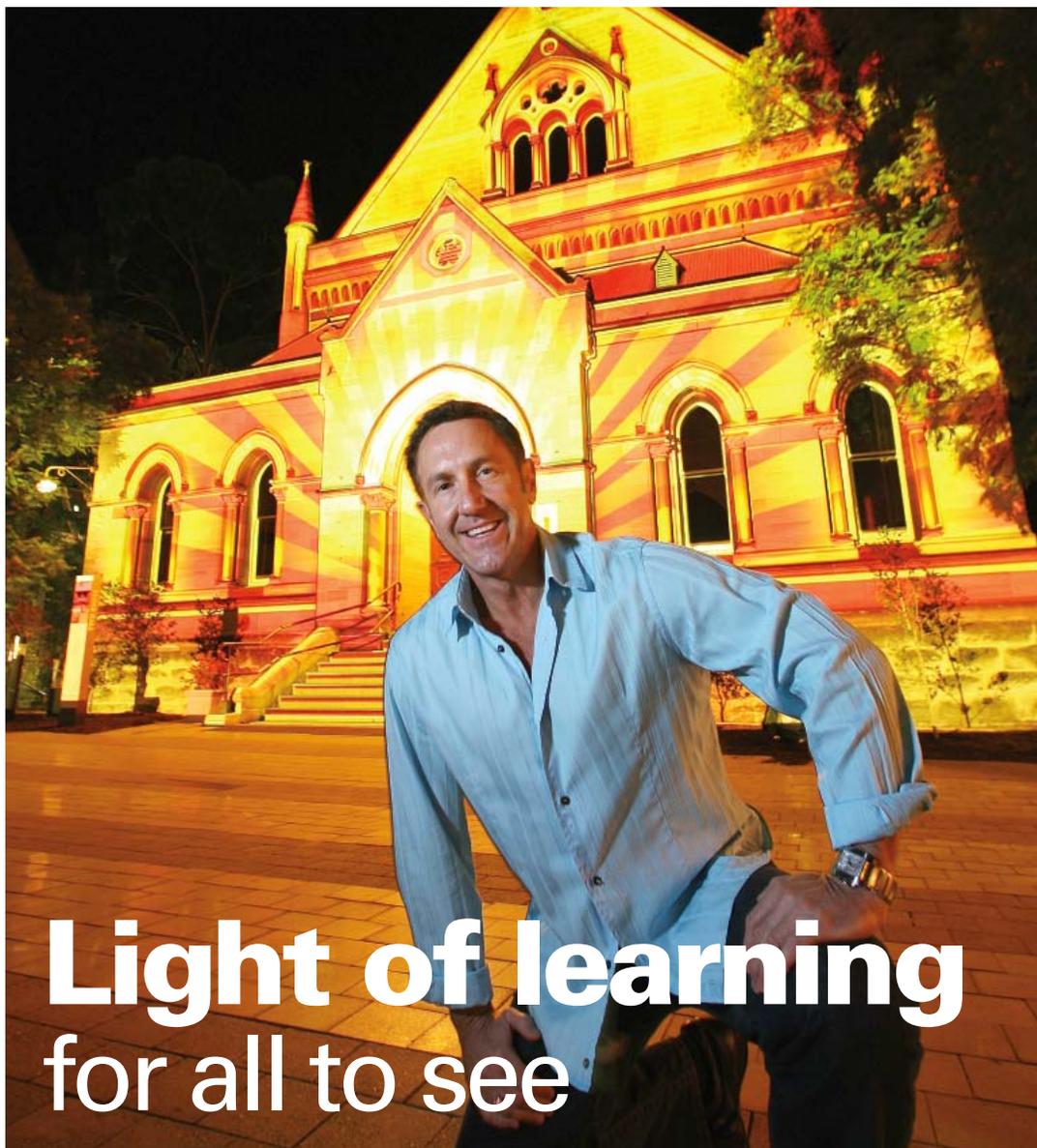
The collection also includes modern pieces of furniture.

■ Anna Rivett, Collections Officer, Art & Heritage Collections



The Elder School of Music commissioned Andrew Parish at Alchemy Iron Works to design and produce a pair of iron bench seats, which capture some of music's whimsicality. These seats can be seen and used outside the western entrance to the Hartley Building, North Terrace Campus, off Kintore Avenue.

Photo by Anna Rivett



# Light of learning for all to see

## Community

The University of Adelaide's motto is *Sub Cruce Lumen*. Roughly translated, it means "the light (of learning) under the (Southern) Cross".

But at the recent opening of the Adelaide Bank Festival of Arts, it was the *Northern Lights* – not the Southern Cross – that lit up the night and the University's historic North Terrace frontage.

*Northern Lights*, a public light installation created by internationally acclaimed artists The Electric Canvas, was a huge hit at the Festival of Arts. Its ignition at the festival opening, and each night of the festival, drew large crowds of up to 15,000 people.

The exhibit was so popular, it was extended for two weeks after the festival ended.

Supported by the State Library of South Australia and the University of Adelaide, the display used light to transform the facades of a number of historic buildings along the beautiful North Terrace cultural boulevard.

Among the architectural icons to be "painted with light and coloured with life" were the University's Mitchell Building, Elder Hall and

Bonython Hall, as well as the State Library of South Australia, the South Australian Museum, and the Art Gallery of South Australia.

*Northern Lights* was just one way in which the University shared centre stage in the official launch of the Festival of Arts. Among the opening night events was *The Imaginary Menagerie – A Musical Circus*, which was staged in Elder Hall.

*The Imaginary Menagerie* was an exploration of the outer limits of contemporary musical performance, combining classical music, jazz and computer technology, and featuring staff, students and graduates of the University's Elder Conservatorium of Music.

Jazz saxophonist Derek Pascoe and composer and new media artist Luke Harrald were joined by an "imaginary menagerie" of performing emus, robots, genetically engineered mutants, and some of Adelaide's leading contemporary musicians, across three 20-minute live performances.

**For more information about the music performed on the night, visit: [www.lukeharrald.com.au](http://www.lukeharrald.com.au)**

■ Story by David Ellis and Robyn Mills

Brett Sheehy, Artistic Director of the Adelaide Bank Festival of Arts, outside the University of Adelaide's Elder Hall in preparation for the opening of *Northern Lights*

Photo by Russell Millard, courtesy of *The Advertiser*

## News in Brief

### Law lectures celebrate 125 years

The University of Adelaide's Law School is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year with a variety of events including the Law 125 Distinguished Speakers Series of free public lectures.

Coming up in April are two lectures within the series:

On Thursday 3 April, Associate Professor Tim Stretton of St Mary's University in Canada will shed new light on the famous 'pound of flesh' with his talk on "Contract, Debt Litigation and Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*".

On Friday 18 April, international law expert Professor David Kennedy of Brown University and formerly Harvard University Law School will discuss "The Mystery of Global Governance".

All Law 125 lectures are free, open to the public, and will be held at 1pm in the Moot Court Room, Ligertwood Building, North Terrace Campus, University of Adelaide.

For more information on planned events contact Dr Paul Babie, Associate Dean of Law (Research), on (08) 8303 5521 or email: [paul.babie@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:paul.babie@adelaide.edu.au)

### Jazz Awards move to Hyatt

Eight of the University of Adelaide's finest young jazz musicians will receive more than \$6000 in awards and perform in an evening of jazz on Wednesday 30 April from 7pm.

One of the highly popular concerts in the Elder Conservatorium of Music's Evening Concert Series, the Jazz Awards concert will this year be held in the Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency.

"Generous support from the Hyatt Regency has enabled the evening to become a truly prestigious event in the Adelaide jazz calendar," said Claire Oremland, Elder Hall Concert Manager.

The award winners for 2008 are: Brendan Lim (piano), Matthew Sheens (piano), Sam Cagney (guitar), Alana Dawes (bass), Brenton Foster (piano), Ben Harrison (saxophone), Nicholas Pietsch (trombone) and Joel Prime (drums).

Tickets to the concert are \$20. For more information, special student prices and bookings, phone Margo Ongley at the Helpmann Academy on (08) 8463 5014. Bookings for tables of 10 are available.

For more news and events visit: [www.adelaide.edu.au/news](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/news)



Andy Thomas scholar Kerry Halupka (centre) with boyfriend Matthew Orman, and Loxton High School teacher Louise Barry.

Photo by Candy Gibson

# \$1 million scholarships attract best students

## ■ Scholarships

“We are committed to educating high achievers and maintaining a level of excellence at the University”

More than 100 of South Australia’s most outstanding school leavers in 2007 have been awarded undergraduate scholarships to study at the University of Adelaide this year.

The University has provided up to \$1 million to attract the best and brightest students from every area of the State, as well as the Northern Territory, Broken Hill and rural Victoria.

A total of 16 Merit Scholarships and 95 Principals’ Scholarships have been awarded, as well as the highly regarded Andy Thomas Scholarship and four Adelaide Undergraduate Scholarships.

Former Loxton High School student Kerry Halupka is this year’s Andy Thomas Scholar, named after one of the University’s most distinguished graduates, NASA astronaut Dr Andrew Thomas.

Kerry is enrolled in a double degree, studying for a Bachelor of Mechatronic Engineering and a Bachelor of Maths and Computer Science.

In 2007 Kerry also won an SA Great Regional Youth Award for her community voluntary work in the Riverina/Murraylands region.

It is the second time in three years that the Andy Thomas Scholarship has been won by a former Loxton High School student, both taught by Mrs Louise Barry. In 2006 Jordan Gray took out the honours.

Fellow South Australians Lucy Arrowsmith (Belair), Ric Porteous (Wattle Park), Daniel Brookes (Eden Hills) and Mieka Webb (Toorak Gardens) have won the prized Adelaide Undergraduate Scholarships.

Winners of this scholarship achieved a TER of 99.95 (excluding all bonuses) and made a significant contribution to their school and wider community.

Both the Andy Thomas and Adelaide Undergraduate Scholarships provide full fee remission for the approved program, plus \$5000 a year to help with education and living costs, for up to four years.

The Merit Scholarships, worth \$10,000, are awarded to students who gained a perfect TER of 99.95, excluding all bonuses.

The Principals’ Scholarships, worth \$5000, are awarded to students who have been nominated by their former school principal for

outstanding academic merit and for making a significant contribution to their school and wider community.

Three international scholarships – the Adelaide Vietnam, the Adelaide Outstanding Achievers International, and the Malaysia Australia Colombo Plan Commemoration Scholarships – have also been awarded to nine outstanding international students.

The international scholarship award winners are: Aditya Khanna (India); Colin Ng (Malaysia); Mustafa Amiruddeen (Sri Lanka), Johanna Ng (Malaysia); Ki Seok Kim (Korea), Zhi Lin Oh (Malaysia); Yee Mun Fan (Malaysia); Thi Phan (Vietnam); Kim Khanh Nguyen (Vietnam) and Thi Huong Thao Le (Vietnam).

University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha congratulated the students on their scholarships.

“These students have already revealed their outstanding character and academic ability and we are very pleased they have chosen to study at the University of Adelaide,” Professor McWha said.

“We are committed to educating high achievers and maintaining a level of excellence at the University.”

■ Story by Candy Gibson



# National tour creates classic vibe

## ■ Music

Acclaimed concert percussionist Nick Parnell will this month present Australia's first national tour of classical music performed on the vibraphone.

The Elder Conservatorium of Music graduate will be accompanied by fellow alumnus, concert pianist Leigh Harrold, in a 17-date tour that showcases the world's most loved classical masterpieces.

The duo will kick off their *Classical Vibes* tour in Adelaide on Wednesday 23 April, followed by performances in the Clare Valley (24 April), Flinders Ranges (26 April) and Tanunda (27 April) before touring the rest of the country.

Parnell will present the likes of Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata*, Chopin's *Nocturnes* and Gershwin's *Preludes*, specifically arranged for the resonating sounds of the vibraphone.

In conjunction with the *Classical Vibes* tour Parnell will also release his latest CD of the same name, produced by ABC Classics.

"The tour and subsequent CD was born out of my desire to

bring classical repertoire to the vibraphone, an instrument primarily used in jazz. The vibes have a soothing, warm sound that I wanted to use to perform classical music in a completely new and fresh way," he said.

"The music presented on this tour will be very well-known to anyone who loves classical music and, although different, it will be interpreted with integrity and appreciation of the composers' original scores."

Labelled "Australia's most exciting young percussionist", Parnell is an award-winning musician who consistently breaks traditional boundaries.

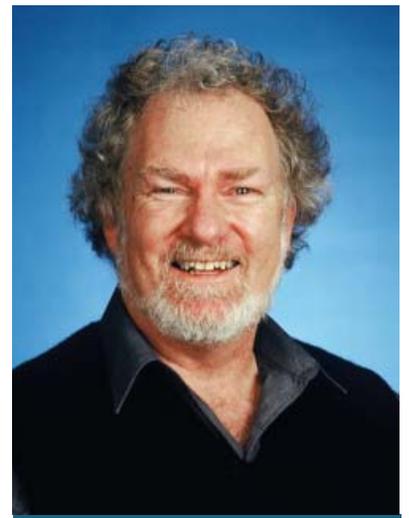
In 2004 he was named the Most Outstanding Graduate of the Elder Conservatorium after completing a Bachelor of Music, Honours and Masters degrees in Percussion Performance.

**For information and booking details, visit [www.nickparnell.com](http://www.nickparnell.com)**

**Nick is featured on the University of Adelaide's Life Impact website: [www.adelaide.edu.au/lifeimpact](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/lifeimpact)**

Above:  
Nick Parnell

Photo courtesy of  
Andrew Dunbar



## Professor named on broadband panel

One of Australia's top telecommunications experts, Emeritus Professor Reg Coutts, has been appointed by the Federal Government to a six-member panel of experts to assess proposals for a National Broadband Network.

Professor Coutts is the owner and director of Coutts Communications and is Professor Emeritus in Telecommunications at the University of Adelaide. He is also developing another venture, Red Button Technologies, at the Thebarton Campus.

From 1993 to 2003, he was Professor of Telecommunications at the University of Adelaide, where he built the industry-sponsored Centre for Telecommunications Information Networking. As well as building expertise in telecommunications, Professor Coutts nurtured a number of innovative new courses, such as the Masters of Science and Technology Commercialisation, which is now part of the Entrepreneurship, Commercialisation and Innovation Centre (ECIC).

Professor Coutts continues to supervise research students and actively collaborates with a number of groups including ECIC, the Institute for International Trade, and the School of Electrical & Electronic Engineering.

He previously had 17 years' experience with Telstra in roles that included research and business management.



Left: The Teo Chew Building in Singapore, home to the Ngee Ann-Adelaide Education Centre, which is celebrating its 10th year in partnership with the University of Adelaide

Far left: University of Adelaide graduate and former Deputy Prime Minister Dr Tony Tan was the guest speaker at the Singapore graduation ceremony in 2004. Today he is championing the Singapore Adelaide Alumni Fund.

Photos by David Ellis

# Celebrating 10 years of partnership with Singapore

## ■ Graduations

The University of Adelaide will hold offshore graduation ceremonies in Asia this month and will celebrate an historic milestone in Singapore.

More than 200 students will graduate at offshore ceremonies in Hong Kong and Singapore on Sunday 13 and Saturday 19 April, respectively.

An international flavour will permeate the ceremonies with countries represented comprising: India, Vietnam, Malaysia, China, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Brunei, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Canada, Taiwan, Egypt, Croatia, Libya, Macau, Oman, Pakistan, South Africa, Egypt, Norway, France, Great Britain, El Salvador, Switzerland, Andorra, The Philippines, Ecuador, Singapore, Hong Kong and Australia.

A highlight of this year's offshore itinerary will be a special celebration to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the partnership between the University of Adelaide and the Ngee Ann-Adelaide Education Centre in Singapore.

A celebratory dinner expected to attract up to 400 guests will be held at the Orchard Hotel in Singapore on Friday 18 April.

The Chancellor of the University of Adelaide, the Hon. John von Doussa QC, and the Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor James McWha, will attend the dinner, as will the President of Ngee Ann Kongs, Mr Teo Chaing Long, and a number of prominent Singapore alumni.

Among those present will include Singapore's Minister for Transport, Mr Raymond Lim, the Minister for Trade and Industry, S Iswaran,

former Deputy Prime Minister Dr Tony Tan and High Court judge Mr Justice Lee Sieu Kin. All are graduates of the University of Adelaide.

A feature of the evening will be the launch of a Singapore Adelaide Alumni Fund.

Championed by Dr Tony Tan, the fund will further strengthen the close bonds between Singapore and Adelaide by providing financial assistance to undergraduate students who are Singapore citizens or permanent residents, and studying full-time at the University of Adelaide.

To assist the fund, the Ngee Ann Kongs has agreed to contribute one dollar for every dollar donated up to SGD\$250,000.

■ Story by Candy Gibson

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# Research keeps simple things in mind

## ■ Physiology

Every day, millions of people around the world make a cup of tea or pick up a pen without giving a second thought to how it actually happens.

But to victims of stroke, or Parkinson's, or other neurological disorders, these simple tasks can prove extremely challenging and even potentially hazardous.

The impairment of the neurological pathway from brain to muscle has been the focus of Siobhan Schabrun's work for the past two years.

Now part way through her PhD in the School of Molecular and Biomedical Science, Miss Schabrun's research could one day provide some vital clues into how our brain works.

The ability to lift a cup or handle a pen using the appropriate amount of grip force comes second nature to most of us. The brain anticipates the correct amount of force required and is unfailingly accurate.

But very little is known about which parts of the brain are involved in this internal process. This is where Miss Schabrun's research comes into play.

"We know the brain is the most amazing part of the central nervous system, controlling our mental processes and physical actions," Miss Schabrun said. "But there is so much we don't know about how the brain works to carry out everyday tasks."

The 24-year-old researcher spent two months at the Université Catholique de Louvain in Belgium last year to learn more about specific neuroscience techniques, new software and analysis programs.

The trip was made possible after Miss Schabrun won the AUGU/RC Heddle Award in 2007, which enables the University's doctoral

**"We know the brain is the most amazing part of the central nervous system, controlling our mental processes and physical actions"**

candidates to spend time in an overseas institution learning new methods.

Miss Schabrun worked with Professor Etienne Olivier, a leading international neuroscience expert specialising in grip-lift tasks. His is one of the few laboratories in the world that conducts research into this area.

"This was a fantastic experience, working with a research group which is using techniques we don't have access to here, learning new software to locate particular regions of the brain, and employing a different analysis program."

Miss Schabrun is a qualified physiotherapist with an interest in neurological disorders and the rehabilitation processes.

"As such, my PhD project focuses on the neurological mechanisms responsible for object manipulation, such as grasping and lifting a cup of tea. We need to gain a better understanding of these mechanisms so we can help people with neurological conditions who find it difficult to carry out everyday tasks where their hands are involved."



Another aspect of Miss Schabrun's research has focused on a particular group of people – mainly writers and musicians – who suffer from a condition called focal dystonia, which affects the hands.

Focal dystonia is a neurologically based disorder. People suffering from dystonia experience pain, cramping and relentless muscle spasms, preventing them from performing everyday tasks such as signing a cheque. It tends to affect people who use their hands over and over again in a repetitive movement.

"When you are learning to play tennis, your brain reorganises its structure to allow you to become more skilful in the game. In people with dystonia, as they learn, the brain seems to do too much reorganisation so that people have trouble performing normal movements."

Miss Schabrun is due to submit her PhD in April 2009. Her supervisor is Dr Michael Ridding from the School of Molecular and Biomedical Science.

■ Story by Candy Gibson

Above: Siobhan Schabrun demonstrates the transcranial magnetic stimulation technique on physiology postdoctoral student Andrew Lavender

Photo by Candy Gibson

## Employer of choice for women

For the third year in a row, the University of Adelaide has been named an Employer of Choice for Women.

The University was one of only six employers in the State recognised as actively "working for women".

The Employer of Choice for Women citation is awarded annually by the Federal Government's Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency (EOWA). The citation recognises employers that are supportive of women through policies and practices that have a positive outcome for women and for the organisation as a whole.

"The University of Adelaide aims to provide a quality working environment that understands and promotes women's needs," said the Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor James McWha.

"To be named an Employer of Choice for Women for the third year in a row shows that we are moving in the right direction. It shows that the University is a leader in providing professional opportunities for women, and that we are at the forefront of gender, equity and diversity practices among employers in this State."

To be named an Employer of Choice for Women also showed a commitment to continual improvement on gender, equity and diversity issues, Professor McWha said.

"Our Gender, Equity and Diversity Committee continues to play an active role in helping to shape the University's policies and practices for the benefit of our staff and the University community as a whole," he said.

The University of Adelaide supports and promotes many flexible work practices, including:

- 26 weeks paid maternity leave, with the option to take up to two years of leave in total;
- A 12-week 'bonus' option within the 26 weeks of paid maternity leave;
- Special guidelines for staff who need to take care of children.

For more information about Equity and Diversity at the University of Adelaide, visit: [www.adelaide.edu.au/hr/equity/](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/hr/equity/)

■ Story by David Ellis

# WorkChoices expert joins Adelaide

## ■ Law

"I've always considered that academics have an important part to play in contributing to public debate and understanding in their areas of expertise."

Above right:  
Professor Andrew Stewart

Photo by Mark Zed,  
Aspect Photographics

One of Australia's foremost experts on labour law has returned to the University of Adelaide's School of Law.

Professor Andrew Stewart is the new John Bray Professor of Law at the University of Adelaide, and also works for law firm Piper Alderman as a Legal Consultant.

An Oxford law graduate, he held positions at the universities of Adelaide and Sydney before moving to Flinders University in 1991 where he helped to establish the law program.

"I guess in one sense I'm returning 'home' to the University of Adelaide after being away for so many years," Professor Stewart said.

"The time was right for the change, and I'm very pleased to have been appointed to such a prestigious chair."

Professor Stewart's main interests are in employment law and workplace relations, contract law and intellectual property. He has written leading textbooks in the areas of labour law and intellectual property, as well as numerous articles for Australian and international journals.

His most recent book is *Stewart's Guide to Employment Law*, published by Federation Press. Providing the most up-to-date and comprehensive information about Australia's workplace laws and regulatory systems, *Stewart's Guide to Employment Law* is aimed at HR managers, union officials, lawyers, educators and students.



"Anyone who wants to understand the impact the WorkChoices reforms have had, or the changes the Rudd Government is proposing to make this year, will benefit from this book," he said.

Besides completing his new book, Professor Stewart has also been busy analysing and explaining the new government's first tranche of legislative changes to the Workplace Relations Act.

At the request of the Senate Committee that was asked to review the Transition to Forward with Fairness Bill, Professor Stewart gave evidence as to the effect of the Bill, and his views were referred to by all parties in the parliamentary debate that followed.

He has also been widely quoted in the media, both locally and nationally, as to the likely impact of the changes.

"I've always considered that academics have an important part to play in contributing to public debate and understanding in their areas of expertise. It's something I look forward to continuing to do in my new role," he said.

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# Anzac spirit needs to be nurtured

## ■ Landscape

“Whenever community support fades from lack of interest... the trees are in greatest danger”

Above:  
PhD student Sarah Cockerell at one of Adelaide’s best-known Avenues of Honour, Alexandra Avenue at Rose Park

Photo by David Ellis

The Anzac Day march isn’t the only Anzac tradition younger generations of Australians should get involved in, according to a PhD researcher at the University of Adelaide.

Young Australians also have a role to play in maintaining trees planted in honour of those who have served for their country, said PhD student Sarah Cockerell.

Ms Cockerell has been conducting a major national study of “Avenues of Honour” – tree avenues that were planted to serve as memorials to fallen and returning soldiers.

At least one Avenue of Honour commemorating the Boer War exists in Australia, in Apsley, Victoria. After the First and Second World Wars, several hundred avenues were planted across the nation. Some – but not many – have followed the Korean and Vietnam wars, and some older avenues have had trees added onto them as further conflicts have arisen.

There are currently more than 300 Avenues of Honour throughout Australia, with the earliest known World War I example planted in 1916 in Eurack, Victoria, and the largest to be found in Ballarat. More than half of the avenues can be found in Victoria, with South Australia home to more than 30 of them.

“Over the years, many of the avenues around Australia have

been lost due to poor management, urbanisation and natural causes. However, the few that remain in good condition form valuable heritage landscapes, with local and national significance,” Ms Cockerell said.

A large body of research exists on the topic of war memorials, but most investigations have focused on artificial structures – few look at trees or gardens.

“The tree is a commonly used symbol of life, as well as the cycle of life, death and renewal. Therefore, it’s only natural that trees are used as long-lasting memorials,” Ms Cockerell said.

In addition to gaining a better understanding of how many avenues exist and what their condition is, Ms Cockerell’s research has been looking at: threats posed to urban trees, management practices, the cultural and historical significance of the trees, their horticultural significance, and what the future holds for such memorials.

She is also looking into the problems associated with replacing dying or diseased trees.

“If avenues are completely replaced, what significance do the new trees inherit from the old? Do the trees only have significance because of their age, or can historical value transfer from the old to the new? These and many other

issues need to be considered,” Ms Cockerell said.

Ms Cockerell said the role of the community was crucial if Avenues of Honour were to survive as long-lasting memorials.

“These avenues were almost always planned, organised, paid for, and planted by local community groups. They symbolise a community’s grief over the losses of war as well as the community’s pride in their people and their town.

“The survival of Avenues of Honour is very much dependent on the value placed on them by local community groups, including schools, churches, RSL branches, and local councils.

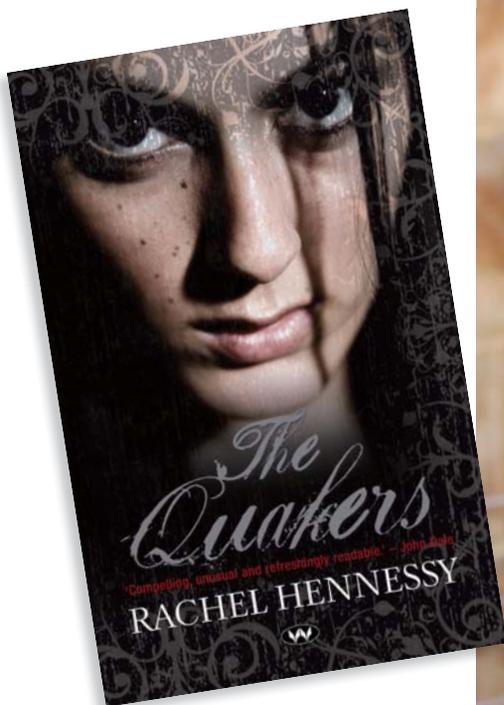
“Whenever community support fades from lack of interest or the fading of community memory, the trees are in greatest danger.

“New generations of Australians have a role to play in better understanding the Avenues of Honour in their area and helping to maintain, restore or renew them – just as young Australians are helping to reinvigorate the all-important Anzac Day marches,” she said.

Ms Cockerell is a joint student within the School of Earth & Environmental Sciences and the School of Architecture, Landscape Architecture & Urban Design.

■ Story by David Ellis

# Love, addiction and death: real-life ingredients for new novel



## ■ Creative Writing

“It’s been a good learning process having written the novel through the Creative Writing program at the University of Adelaide”

Main photo:  
Rachel Hennessy

Photo by David Ellis

If author Rachel Hennessy had written a novel about coincidence and fate, it’s unlikely she would have been able to contrive the kinds of events that have unfolded in her real life.

Within the space of a few short years, the Creative Writing student at the University of Adelaide has become an award-winning, first-time published novelist.

Her first novel, *The Quakers*, was written as part of her Masters in Creative Writing studies and went on to win the \$10,000 unpublished manuscript award at the 2006 Adelaide Festival of Arts. Her book, now published by Wakefield Press, was launched during this year’s Writers’ Week.

*The Quakers* draws its inspiration from Rachel’s real-life high school encounter with a girl called Anu Singh. Rachel sat next to Anu in her religious education class at school; she was friendly with Anu, and was even at her house during the Newcastle earthquake in 1989.

Anu predicted she would have a fairytale relationship with her first love and live happily ever after. Years later, Anu would go on to be convicted of the manslaughter of her boyfriend – Canberra engineer

Joe Cinque – by injecting him with an overdose of heroin.

*The Quakers* stems from Rachel’s questions: who was this girl, and how might she have ended up where she did?

The fictionalised account focuses on the character of Lucy. On the night of her 28th birthday and the day of her friend’s funeral, Lucy tries to make sense of the deaths that have defined her life. She goes back to the day of an earthquake when she became friends with a group of outsiders who named themselves The Quakers. At the centre of this group is the beautiful Narinda, whose energy draws both men and women towards her.

*The Quakers* is described as “a compelling love story where friendship becomes obsession and addictions lead to murder”.

Written entirely separate to – and, at the time, with no knowledge of – author Helen Garner’s own book about the Anu Singh story, *Joe Cinque’s Consolation*, Rachel’s first novel has received widespread praise and has been shortlisted for a number of major writing prizes.

Rachel, who is now studying for her PhD in Creative Writing, said she had had an “amazing editorial

experience” with *The Quakers*, both during her Masters studies and with her publisher.

“It’s been a good learning process having written the novel through the Creative Writing program at the University of Adelaide,” she said.

“The sense of support that you get in the program is excellent, and I’ve made a lot of friends out of it.

“I had never really involved myself in any kind of writing community before I started my studies. In the program, you really get a sense of community with the other writers.”

Rachel is currently writing her second novel as part of her PhD studies. She is also one of the writers whose work is featured in this month’s performances by the University of Adelaide Theatre Guild (see story on page 11).

■ Story by David Ellis

*The Quakers* by Rachel Hennessy sells for a recommended retail price of \$24.95. Thanks to Wakefield Press, the *Adelaidean* has one free copy of *The Quakers* to give away to a lucky reader. To win, be the first to call (08) 8303 5414.



# Acclaimed novelist is writer-in-residence

## ■ Creative Writing

“Eva Sallis is a generous and inspiring mentor whose creative insight and professional experience have a great deal to offer our students”

Above:  
Dr Eva Sallis

Multi award-winning novelist Eva Sallis has become the University of Adelaide’s first Writer-in-Residence.

As Writer-in-Residence until June 2008, Dr Sallis will take on a teaching and mentorship commitment for students on the University’s Creative Writing program, as well as working on her current novel. She will present a graduate seminar and run a workshop in conjunction with the SA Writers’ Centre called ‘Three Tasks for the Emerging Writer’.

Dr Sallis, who completed her PhD at the University of Adelaide in 1996, won the 1997 Vogel Literary Award and the Nita May Dobbie Award in 1999 with her first novel *Hiam*. She also completed a Masters at the University of Adelaide in 1991.

*Mahjar* won the 2004 Steele Rudd Literary Award and her latest work of fiction, *The Marsh Birds*, set in Iraq, Syria, Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand, won the Asher Literary Award 2005 and was shortlisted for *The Age* Book of the Year 2005; NSW Premiers Literary Awards, Christina Stead Prize for Fiction 2006; National Fiction Award, Festival Awards for Literature 2006; and the Commonwealth Writers Prize, Best Book South-East Asia and Pacific Region 2006.

Other works include novels *The City of Sealions* and *Fire Fire*, and a book of literary criticism on the Arabian Nights, *Sheherazade through the Looking Glass: the Metamorphosis of the 1001 Nights*.

“The Writer-In-Residency program aims to support notable writers in their creative work while making their abilities and experience available to students in the Creative Writing program,” said Professor Nicholas Jose, University of Adelaide’s Chair of Creative Writing.

“Eva Sallis is a generous and inspiring mentor whose creative insight and professional experience have a great deal to offer our students. Many books have entered the world already with an acknowledgement of Eva’s nurturing role.”

Dr Sallis said: “I am really delighted to be actively contributing to this program again. Working with writers in such an intensive hothouse environment is inspiring.”

Dr Sallis is co-founder of Australians Against Racism (AAR), an organisation that seeks to raise public awareness of human rights and social justice through media, arts and education.

She coordinates Ozarabic, an Arabic language course for primary school children, and is involved with an Aboriginal language course hosted at Tauondi College. She is working with elders on editing and publishing Adnyamathanha language and literary resources. AAR’s first such publication, Lily Neville’s *Adnyamathanha Ngawarla*, is just out.

■ Story by Robyn Mills

## New writers create a scene

What happens when some of the University of Adelaide’s most talented Creative Writing students join forces with the Theatre Guild in its 70th anniversary year?

The result is *Page #1, Scene #1 ... the end and other stories*.

To be performed in the Little Theatre this month, *Page #1, Scene #1* is the result of a new and fruitful collaboration between the Theatre Guild and the University’s Creative Writing discipline, which began last year with a pilot project called *Write to Stage*.

In *Write to Stage*, a small ensemble of actors directed by Michael Allen took three pieces of writing by Creative Writing students – a poem, a monologue and part of a short story – and reinterpreted them for performance. All three pieces were performed in the Barr Smith Library’s historic Reading Room at the University’s Open Day in 2007.

The success of that project inspired the Guild to repeat and extend it for the 2008 season. A range of intriguing new material has been added, the show has been expanded in length, and now takes the form of a three-night season in a formal theatre space, again directed by Michael Allen.

Featuring the writing of Henry Ashley-Brown, John De Laine, Rachel Hennessy, Stephen Lawrence and Heather Taylor Johnson, *Page #1, Scene #1* involves bananas, some very odd sales monologues, a disappearance in a cupboard, a train trip to eternity, a seriously black car journey, Eve’s second sin, and someone called Estelle.

“It is always so exciting hearing how your work is interpreted by other people and, in theatre, you get the interpretation of a director, actors and a live audience,” said Creative Writing PhD student Rachel Hennessy.

There will be three performances only: Thursday 10, Friday 11 and Saturday 12 April, at 7.30pm in the Little Theatre (The Cloisters, off Victoria Drive), North Terrace Campus, University of Adelaide.

All tickets \$15, available from the Theatre Guild on 8303 5999.

Book online at:  
[www.adelaide.edu.au/theatreguild](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/theatreguild)

# WOMAD broadcast is just the ticket

## Radio Adelaide

More than one million people are believed to have tuned in to free community radio coverage of one of Australia's best-loved music festivals, WOMADelaide.

The University of Adelaide's community radio station, Radio Adelaide, was on site at Adelaide's Botanic Park to provide coverage of the annual WOMADelaide world music festival.

This year, the festival featured more than 400 artists from more than 20 countries – living up to its status of bringing the public the "sounds of the planet".

The festival proved so popular that, for the first time in its 16-year history, WOMADelaide sold out of its allocation of three-day weekend passes, three days before opening night. It also sold out of its allocation of Saturday day/night passes.

This put Radio Adelaide in the box seat to give those who missed out on tickets a real taste of WOMADelaide.

In a program called *Womadelaide 2008 LIVE!* listeners could tune into



the sold-out Saturday from 5.30pm to 11.30pm. More than 30 diverse performances were presented live on radio.

"More than one million listeners around the country were tuned in, as the program was broadcast nationally via two satellite networks, the Community Radio Network and the CAAMA Radio Network," said the Executive Producer of *Womadelaide 2008 LIVE!* and Radio Adelaide Station Manager, Deborah Welch.

"The program delivered some of the festival's best music to listeners around Australia, including some of the country's most remote areas, as well as to those listeners in Adelaide who missed out on a ticket."

Radio Adelaide has had a long association with the WOMADelaide festival. Ms Welch said this year's coverage was bigger than ever, "with six hours non-stop live-to-air, as well as podcasts, interviews and pictures live from Botanic Park, both on stage and behind the scenes".

The production and presentation team, coordinated by Radio Adelaide, comprised talented broadcasters from stations around the country, including presenters Seth Jordan (from Sydney's 2SER), Roger Holdsworth and Systa BB (both from Melbourne's 3PBS), Steve Hodder (CAAMA, Alice Springs) and Radio Adelaide's Michelle Smith.

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

Left to right: Musician Jake Savona from Melbourne dub reggae outfit Mista Savona, *Womadelaide 2008 LIVE!* presenter Systa BB and Mista Savona singer Jonique, originally from French Guyana

Photo by Kat McGuffie



# Radio Adelaide

## 101.5 FM

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

# Writers Radio

Australian writers & writing with Cath Kenneally

Subscribe to Radio Adelaide in April

annual - \$52 or \$26 concession  
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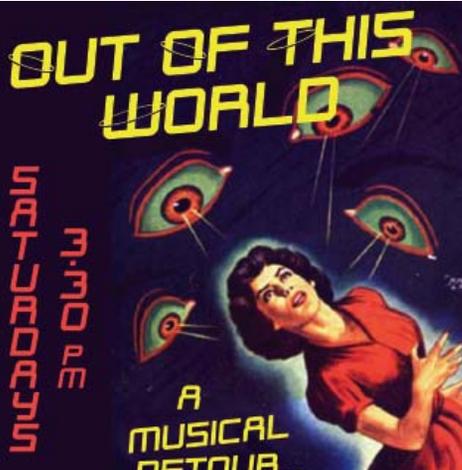
and you'll go into the draw to win a Gold Double Pass to all the movies screening at the Palace Nova East End Cinemas over the three months from May 1 to the end of July valued at \$750



[www.palacenova.com](http://www.palacenova.com)

# OUT OF THIS WORLD

SPECTACULARS



A MUSICAL DETOUR...



# Drug program targets Vietnam HIV epidemic

## ■ Pharmacology

Every day, 100 people in Vietnam are newly infected with HIV, according to that country's Ministry of Health. These include injecting drug users, female sex workers and homosexuals.

In 2007 alone, an estimated 293,000 people in the South East Asian country were living with the human immunodeficiency virus.

In a bid to tackle the epidemic, the Vietnamese Government has turned to the University of Adelaide's Discipline of Pharmacology for help.

Epidemiologist Dr Ha Viet Dong, a Family Health International (FHI) program officer based in Ho Chi Minh City, has just completed a three-month placement at the University. Dr Dong returns to Vietnam this month armed with new skills in monitoring and evaluating methadone treatment programs.

Dr Dong's placement has been sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO) in conjunction with Drug & Alcohol Services South Australia (DASSA).

The Discipline of Pharmacology, in association with DASSA, is a WHO-accredited Collaborative Centre for Research into the Treatment of Drug and Alcohol Problems.

Senior project officer from the WHO Centre Dr Peter Lawrinson said Vietnam's HIV/AIDS epidemic was being largely driven by blood-borne virus transmission through injecting drug use, principally heroin.

"The effective treatment of heroin dependence offered through methadone treatment programs affords an ideal opportunity to reduce the risk of HIV transmission," Dr Lawrinson said.

The Vietnamese Government launched a national methadone treatment program in March as part of a range of treatment options for dependent heroin users. Dr Dong will be among the first to evaluate its effectiveness, using his newly acquired skills.

"It is crucial that we can objectively demonstrate the benefits of methadone treatment for Vietnamese heroin-dependent people," Dr Lawrinson said.

A pilot study of the WHO Centre's evaluation kit in seven developed countries – Thailand, China, Indonesia, Poland, the Ukraine, Iran and Lithuania – showed that the methadone treatment program led to significant reductions in illicit drug use within six months.

"The drug problem is no worse in Vietnam than in most other South-East Asian countries, but compared to Australia, the rate of intravenous drug users that are HIV-positive is very high," Dr Lawrinson said.

The relatively low Australian statistics are credited to a long history of methadone maintenance treatment along with needle and syringe programs implemented in the 1980s, which curtailed an AIDS epidemic.

"Australia has only 1-2% of intravenous drug users who are HIV-positive, thanks to the harm reduction approach launched two decades ago, along with the Grim Reaper campaign."

The WHO Centre, established in 2003 at the University of Adelaide, has developed research-based collaborations with many countries throughout the world interested in evidence-based treatment.

Dr Dong is the second person to be awarded a WHO Fellowship to the Centre in the past four years. In 2006, a female psychiatrist from Mongolia spent three months working in the Discipline of Pharmacology.

"The drug problem is no worse in Vietnam than in most other South-East Asian countries, but compared to Australia, the rate of intravenous drug users that are HIV-positive is very high"

Above:  
Street scene in  
Ho Chi Minh City  
Photo by Craig Narroway

Inset:  
Dr Ha Viet Dong  
Photo by Candy Gibson

■ Story by Candy Gibson



## Renowned architect is visiting professor

Celebrated international architect Hijjas Kasturi (pictured) has been appointed Visiting Professor in the University of Adelaide's School of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design.

Professor Kasturi made his first official visit as Visiting Professor over three days in March, spending time with students and giving an evening lecture on the latest projects in South-East Asia and the Middle East of his international practice, Kasturi Architects, Malaysia.

"The School is honoured to have this noted designer in our midst," said Professor Nancy Pollock-Ellwand, Head, School of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design.

"He spent one-on-one time with the students, providing valued studio criticism, and gave an inspiring lecture on his recent projects.

"The presence of such a venerated architect in the School is immensely instructive to students and staff alike, and we look forward to many more visits over the coming months and years."

Professor Kasturi also visited the University of Adelaide in December when he was awarded the title Doctor of the University (*honoris causa*) in recognition of his service to society and the profession of architecture.

His distinctive architecture includes some of Kuala Lumpur's iconic skyscrapers and his work has received many honours, including the Tokyo Creation Award in 1998 and the Malaysian Architects Institute Gold Medal in 2001.



# Senator rejoins politics – as a researcher

## Politics

**"This is an honorary position, recognising the depth of experience Senator Stott Despoja brings to the Discipline of Politics"**

Above:  
Senator Natasha Stott Despoja at Henley Beach, Adelaide

Photo by Brett Hartwig, courtesy of *The Australian*

Senator Natasha Stott Despoja has become a Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Adelaide.

"I am pleased to announce that Senator Natasha Stott Despoja has accepted an offer to become a Visiting Research Fellow with the University's School of History & Politics," said the Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor James McWha.

"This is an honorary position, recognising the depth of experience Senator Stott Despoja brings to the Discipline of Politics."

As a Visiting Research Fellow, Senator Stott Despoja will conduct research in Politics and engage with students and staff at the University of Adelaide.

The University of Adelaide has had a long association with Senator Stott Despoja, who is a graduate of the University (Bachelor of Arts 1991) and a former President of the Students' Association.

"The University has many links with individuals who have a depth of experience and expertise in specific fields," Professor McWha said.

"These links are of great benefit to the University, our students and staff. This complements the University's academic expertise and is an important part of our research, teaching and community engagement efforts.

"Throughout her career, Senator Stott Despoja has made an outstanding contribution to Australian politics and education. We are very excited about her involvement in Politics at the University of Adelaide," he said.

In 1995, at the age of 26, Natasha Stott Despoja was the youngest woman to enter Federal Parliament, as a Senator for South Australia. From 2001-2002 she was Leader of the Australian Democrats.

She has recently become her party's longest-serving parliamentarian, with more than 12 years of service in the Senate.

Senator Stott Despoja announced in October 2006 that she would not recontest at the 2007 Federal election. Her term in the Senate expires on 30 June 2008.

■ Story by David Ellis

# Natalie benefits from overseas experience



## ■ Music

Flautist Natalie Nowak is that rare breed – a talented musician who is also blessed with superior organisational skills and marketing initiative to boot.

The 22-year-old, who is in her final year of a Masters in Music Performance with the University's Elder Conservatorium of Music, returned from the United States in late January after a whirlwind trip to meet some of the world's leading composers and flautists.

In the space of just four weeks Natalie criss-crossed the country from New York to Louisiana, back to Boston and across to New Jersey, conducting interviews with – and receiving lessons from – the likes of well-known flautists Dr Katherine Kemler, Paula Robison, Susan Rotholz and composers Lowell Liebermann and Robert Beaser.

In between, Natalie also managed to squeeze in a visit to Powell Flutes, the world's leading producer of professional quality flutes and piccolos.

The whole trip was organised off her own bat, including the budgeting, applications for funding, flights, accommodation and teeing up meetings with all the musicians.

Natalie's postgraduate studies at the Elder Conservatorium are centred on the works of US

composers Lowell Liebermann and Robert Beaser. At the conclusion of her studies Natalie will present selected works by these composers in two recitals and hopes to one day record them.

In New York she organised a lesson with Paula Robison, the first American to win the Geneva International Competition, one of the world's oldest and most prestigious music competitions.

"Her recordings have inspired me greatly. She has such a wealth of knowledge and is one of the most highly regarded and respected flute players in America," Natalie said.

She also organised a lesson with New York-based Susan Rotholz on the Variations for Flute and Piano, a piece commissioned by Susan for her debut recital at Carnegie Hall.

In Louisiana, Natalie met up with Dr Katherine Kemler for a lesson on the Sonata for Flute and Piano, and the Soliloquy for Solo Flute. "I gained a much better technical understanding and approach to playing these works, thanks to her guidance."

In Boston, Natalie visited three flute factories – Powell, Brannen and Nagahara – to learn about each step of the crafting process and how custom model flutes differ from the intermediate range.

A highlight of the trip was her interview with Lowell Liebermann, one of America's most frequently performed and commissioned composers. "It was wonderful to finally meet the man behind the music I have been playing, music that so many others have enjoyed in Australia as well," she said.

Natalie was also granted an audience with Robert Beaser, composer of the Variations for Flute and Piano, which she performed for him. "He gave me some very useful feedback, particularly in regard to the subtleties I was missing, and I came away with a new level of insight into the music."

Natalie received funding for the trip from the University of Adelaide, Foundation for Young Australians, Helpmann Academy and Performers' Trust Foundation.

She is due to finish her Masters at the end of 2008 and hopes to secure an orchestral job and continue her teaching work in Adelaide.

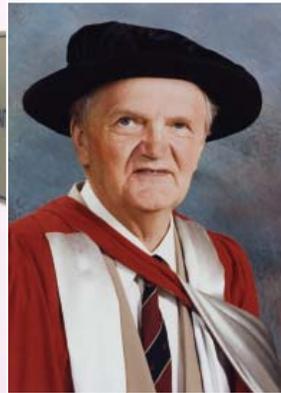
"I love both teaching and performing because each offers its own rewards," she said. "My United States trip has also given me a taste for more international study which I would like to pursue down the track."

"I love both teaching and performing because each offers its own rewards"

Above:  
Natalie Nowak

Photo by Candy Gibson

■ Story by Candy Gibson



# Engineer ahead of his time

## Chemical Engineering

Above:  
Mrs Norma Tait with  
Professor Keith King in the  
Robert W. F. Tait Room

Photo by David Ellis

Above right:  
Professor Bob Tait

Photo courtesy of the School  
of Chemical Engineering

Desalination and alternative fuels are not new ideas – just ask the University of Adelaide’s School of Chemical Engineering.

A former Head of Chemical Engineering, Professor Robert (Bob) Tait (1917-1997), was known for his research interest in water desalination, and served as a member of the former State Energy Commission to help look into alternative water resources and fuels.

The School recently named a seminar room in Professor Tait’s honour – the Robert W. F. Tait Room – acknowledging his enormous contribution to research and education at the University.

Born in Scotland, Professor Tait was a graduate of Edinburgh and Birmingham universities. He became Professor and Head of Chemical Engineering at the University of Adelaide in 1963.

At the official opening of the Tait Room in the Engineering North Building, the current Head of School, Professor Keith King, said Bob was “instrumental in leading and nurturing the development and growth of chemical engineering at the University of Adelaide until his retirement on 31 December 1982”. He was then accorded the title of Emeritus Professor.

Professor Tait, whose main research interest was in the heat transfer of boiling liquids – a relevant factor in the operation of nuclear power generators – remained in close contact with the School until his death in 1997.

His wife, Mrs Norma Tait, was among the guests who attended the opening of the Tait Room, and was presented with photos of Professor Tait taken during his years at the University.

## Development & Alumni Events

### MBA AA

Event: Annual General Meeting and Election of 2008 Executive Committee

**Date:** Monday 31 March

**Time:** 5.45pm (doors lock at 6.00pm)

**Venue:** 13th Floor, Business School, 10 Pulteney St, Adelaide

**RSVP:** Wednesday 26 March to Carol McHugh, Admissions Executive Officer, phone (08) 8303 4650 or email: carol.mchugh@adelaide.edu.au

### Friends of the University of Adelaide Library

Event: “The Diplomatic Gardener. Richard Schomburgk: explorer and Botanic Garden Director”. A free public talk by Dr Pauline Payne.

**Date:** Thursday 10 April

**Time:** 1.05pm

**Venue:** Ira Raymond Room, Barr Smith Library, North Terrace Campus

**Cost:** Free and open to the public

**RSVP:** Bookings by Tuesday 8 April to: robina.weir@adelaide.edu.au or phone (08) 8303 4064

### Commerce/Business School Alumni

Event: Adrian Morrissy, Owner/ Founder of Wok in a Box, tells his story

**Date:** Wednesday 7 May

**Time:** 7.00pm

**Venue:** Fad Bar, 30 Waymouth Street, Adelaide

**Cost:** \$20-\$30 (to be confirmed)

**RSVP:** Booking information to be confirmed. Call Paul on 0433 221 274 for more details.

# Using ancient DNA to study climate change, mass extinctions, and human evolution

FREE PUBLIC LECTURE



## Research Tuesdays – sharing great research with the community Tuesday 8 April at 5.30pm, Professor Alan Cooper

Ancient DNA provides a unique means to watch evolution occurring in real time. By tracking genetic changes in ancient populations we can examine the effects of major climatic changes on animal and plant populations from around the world through the last 100,000 years, as well as human impacts and other evolutionary phenomena such as volcanic eruptions and meteorites.

### Venue:

Bonython Hall, North Terrace Campus.  
Duration approximately one hour. Admission free.

### Bookings essential:

Email: [research.tuesdays@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:research.tuesdays@adelaide.edu.au)  
Phone: 8303 3692

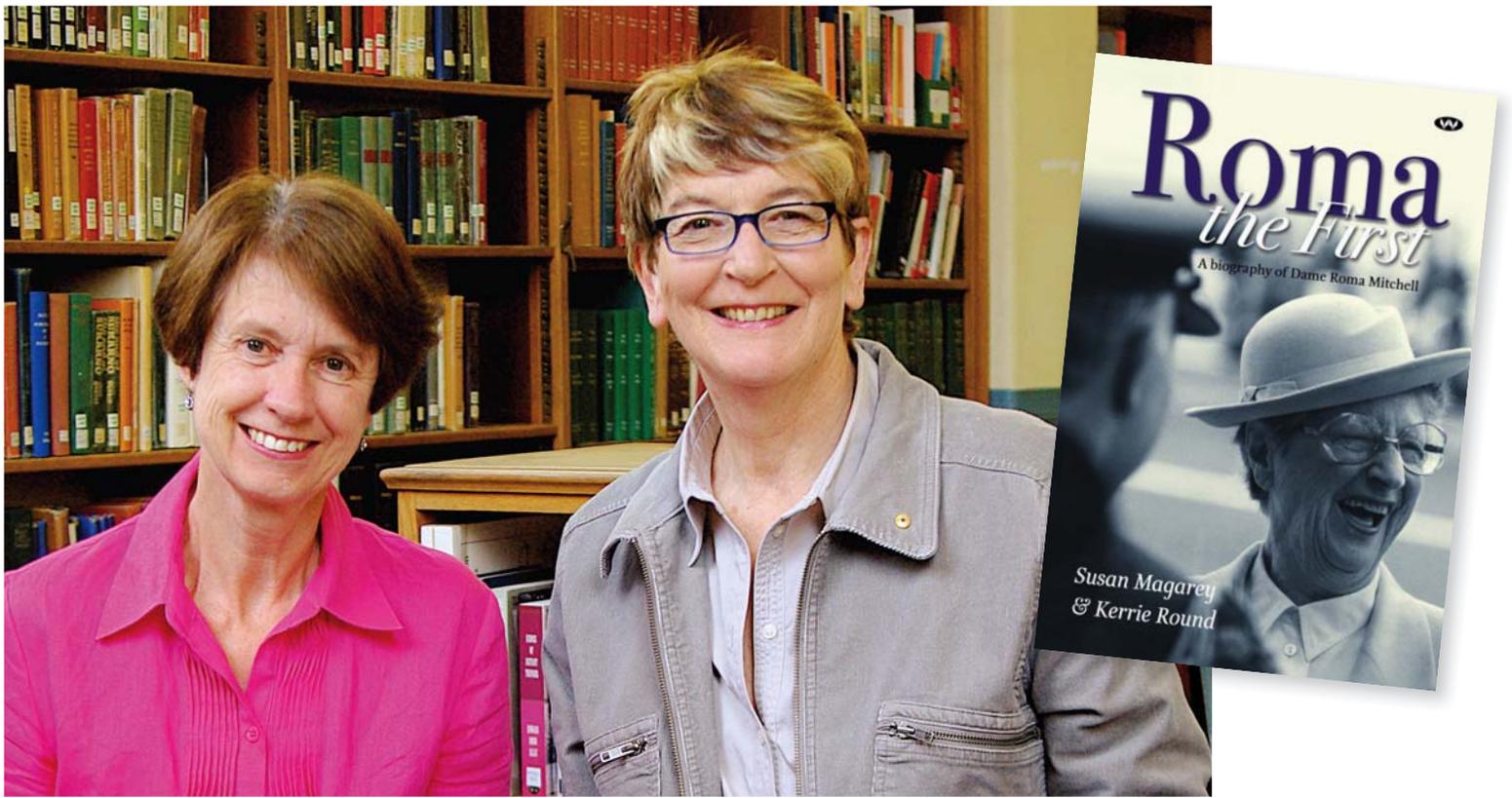
### Further information:

Visit the University of Adelaide’s Research website: [www.adelaide.edu.au/research](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/research)



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# From pioneer to page-turner: Dame Roma's life in print

## History

“Roma became prominent at a time when it was most unusual for a woman to do so. I often wondered where she got the courage to do that”

Above from left:  
Co-authors Dr Kerrie  
Round and Adjunct  
Professor Susan Magarey

Photo by Mick Bradley

Dame Roma Mitchell was a woman of many firsts.

She was the first female Queen's Counsel in Australia, the first woman in Australia to be appointed a judge in the Supreme Court, the first woman in Australia to become a university Chancellor, and the first female Governor of an Australian State.

Arguably one of the most significant figures in Australian history, her life is now the subject of a detailed and extensive – and page-turning – biography, *Roma the First*.

*Roma the First* depicts the sources of Dame Roma's ambition and achievements, and explores the complexities and contradictions of her personal life and her career. It asks questions about her sex life and her politics, and also provides a rich social and historical context for the events as they unfold, adding depth to the personal tale.

The biography is co-authored by two researchers in the University of Adelaide's Discipline of History, Adjunct Professor Susan Magarey and Visiting Research Fellow Dr Kerrie Round.

Professor Magarey said she wanted to write the biography because Dame Roma (who lived from 1913 to 2000) was a pioneer of women in public life in Australia.

“Roma became prominent at a time when it was most unusual for a woman to do so. I often wondered where she got the courage to do that, and how different it was for her being a woman who was a public person,” Professor Magarey said.

“Another thing that attracted me to the project was, quite simply, that I liked her. I thought she was an immensely generous person. She had been a friend and colleague of one of my uncles and both of my parents. She wrote to me a letter of sympathy about my father's death on the day that her appointment as Governor of South Australia was announced. I think that takes the cake! You'd think, wouldn't you, that if you were just made Governor you'd be a bit pre-occupied with your own matters!”

Professor Magarey won an Australian Research Council (ARC) grant to support the biography project, and began collaborating with Dr Kerrie Round, who had co-edited the *Wakefield Companion to South Australian History*.

The biography took five years to research and write, and has now been published by Wakefield Press.

One of the more controversial aspects of the book is its treatment of Dame Roma's sex life.

“Everybody who knew Roma has a view about her sex life. Even the plumber. So if we didn't write anything about it, it would have suggested that either we were ignorant and hadn't done our job properly, or we hadn't asked,” Professor Magarey said.

“The hardest information to find out was about her politics. She always said that she had no interest in politics, but I think that was a way of avoiding the issue.”

Professor Magarey said she was proud of the biography, which has received positive reviews across Australia and was selected for *The Advertiser's Big Book Club*.

“I learned a lot in the process, and writing the book was a great adventure. We've done our best to make it a real page-turner; people tell me it is, so I hope that others who read it will enjoy it.”

***Roma the First: A biography of Dame Roma Mitchell* sells for a recommended retail price of \$39.95. Thanks to Wakefield Press, the *Adelaidean* has one free copy of *Roma the First* to give away to a lucky reader. To win, be the first to call (08) 8303 5414.**

■ Story by David Ellis

## Unlocking deadly mysteries of the mind

continued from page 1

"This could also offer a novel therapeutic approach to managing the oedema caused by tumours, and therefore play an important part in helping to save patients' lives," he said.

The second research question focuses on how cancerous cells enter the central nervous system, because the blood-brain barrier should normally prevent any cells – including cancer cells – from infiltrating the brain.

"We will examine whether neuropeptides play any role in enabling these cancerous cells to cross the blood-brain barrier and facilitate secondary tumour development," Professor Vink said.

These studies are being conducted in collaboration with Associate Professors Alan Nimmo (Pathology) and Mounir Ghabriel (Anatomical Sciences).

### Stroke research

This year, the Centre for Neurological Diseases has begun two new research projects investigating the role that a specific neuropeptide – known as substance P – can play in helping to prevent injury and death in victims of stroke.

Substance P is a neurotransmitter and modulator that appears to be connected with brain haemorrhage.

"These haemorrhages exacerbate the injury caused by stroke or brain trauma and are known to significantly increase mortality and worsen outcome in survivors. However, the mechanisms associated with how this exacerbation occurs are still unknown," Professor Vink said.

"Our lab has evidence to suggest that substance P may play a major role in the injury process, and the use of antagonists which act to block substance P may therefore be highly beneficial in improving a patient's outcome."

This research is being conducted by School of Medical Sciences PhD students Christine Barry and Dr Tim Kleinig under Professor Vink's supervision.

For more information about the Centre for Neurological Diseases, visit: [www.health.adelaide.edu.au/pathology/](http://www.health.adelaide.edu.au/pathology/)

For more information about the Neurosurgical Research Foundation, visit: [www.nrf.com.au](http://www.nrf.com.au)

■ Story by David Ellis



# Four-pronged attack on key health issues

## ■ Health

"One of the important features of this research centre is that it spans several disciplines and institutions"

Millions of Australians stand to benefit from a new powerhouse research centre at the University of Adelaide, which aims to tackle some of the biggest health problems facing the nation.

South Australia's top researchers in the field of nutrition have been brought together in the new Centre of Clinical Research Excellence (CCRE) in Nutritional Physiology, Interventions and Outcomes.

The centre, supported by a \$2 million grant from the National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC), has been formed by experts from the University of Adelaide, Royal Adelaide Hospital, CSIRO Human Nutrition, Hanson Institute and IMVS, and is based in the University's School of Medicine.

### The CCRE has four main focus areas:

- Diabetes (including the role of the gut in blood glucose control);
- Obesity (including fast food consumption; tools for obesity management in primary care; long-term effects of low-carbohydrate diets and other nutritional strategies);
- Nutrition in the elderly (nutritional, behavioural, and pharmacological interventions to reduce deaths and avoid hospital admissions);

- Nutrition in critical illness (optimising gut function and nutrition in the intensive care unit).

"The CCRE in Nutritional Physiology is taking a 'bench to bedside' approach," said Associate Professor Chris Rayner, of the School of Medicine.

"Research conducted by the centre will provide an evidence base for dietary and clinical interventions that will ultimately translate into improved health and quality of life for a wide cross-section of Australian society.

"One of the important features of this research centre is that it spans several disciplines and institutions. The centre brings together internationally regarded researchers in the field, whose collective work will make an enormous contribution to understanding a wide range of health issues associated with nutrition."

The CCRE consists of eight Chief Investigators and several Associate Investigators, and is led by Professor Michael Horowitz of the University's School of Medicine.

For more information about the centre, visit: [www.adelaide.edu.au/ccre-nutrition/](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/ccre-nutrition/)

■ Story by David Ellis



Professor Charles Bodman Rae and Gabriella Smart



# Musical vision helps to keep festival spirit alive

## ■ Music

Two Elder Conservatorium of Music staff are helping to maintain Adelaide's festival spirit with key roles in a new event, the Adelaide Contemporary Music Festival.

The weekend festival, during 4-6 April at the Adelaide Festival Centre, presents new classical music from Australia, Europe and Asia, featuring works from the 1950s through to premieres by emerging and established Australian and international composers.

Gabriella Smart, who teaches piano at the Elder Conservatorium, is the Festival Director and will also be performing.

The University of Adelaide's Elder Professor of Music, Professor Charles Bodman Rae, will chair a free forum on Sunday 6 April at 1pm, featuring an informal discussion between composers whose works are being performed during the festival.

"As a pianist specialising in the performance of new music, it has

been my vision for many years to establish a festival of this kind in Adelaide showcasing Australian works alongside international icons," said Ms Smart.

Ms Smart has recently returned from a solo concert tour of Europe and China where she performed premieres of works by Australian and Chinese composers.

The Festival will open with a *Gala Concert* on Friday 4 April at 7.30pm with the Grainger Quartet, Gabriella Smart, and the Telesto Duo performing works by well-known radio personality and composer Andrew Ford, Ihos Opera artistic director Constantine Koukias and other works from the 1970s.

On Saturday 5 April at 2.30pm, the Festival continues with *Tour de Force* featuring soprano Greta Bradman performing Tristram Cary's semi-staged work *I am Here*, where the singer performs inside a frame specially designed by Adelaide artist Bert Flugelman.

Other works include 1960s Elder Conservatorium composer Henk Badings's *Capriccio* performed by Tiziana Pintus as well as performances by Telesto Duo from Amsterdam (Australian premiere of Gubaidalina's sonata for violin and cello) and Gabriella Smart (Willem Jeths's *Piano Trio*).

The final concert of the Festival, *Asian Songlines*, will be held on Sunday 6 April at 2.30pm and includes world premieres by Korean composer In-Sun Cho and Adelaide composer Anne Cawrse performed by Trio d'anche Suave in their Australian debut.

Tickets for the Festival are \$35 adults/\$25 concession for the *Gala Concert* and \$25/\$18 for the *Tour de Force* and *Asian Songlines*, or \$60/\$43 for all three concerts.

**The Forum is free. Book through BASS on 131 246 or online at [www.bass.net.au](http://www.bass.net.au)**

■ Story by Robyn Mills

"As a pianist specialising in the performance of new music, it has been my vision for many years to establish a festival of this kind in Adelaide"

# Cello bares its soul at new festival

## ■ Music

For 10 days in April, Elder Hall will become the hub for Australia's first international cello festival.

The Adelaide International Cello Festival (11-20 April) features a wide range of events aimed at giving the public a better understanding of and appreciation for the cello.

Hosted by the University of Adelaide's Elder Conservatorium of Music, the festival is supported by the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra (ASO).

"Musicians and music lovers around the world thrill to the magic of the cello as a great stringed instrument with real personality and soul," said the festival's Artistic Director, Janis Laurs, Principal Cellist with the ASO and cello lecturer at the Elder Conservatorium.

"The festival will be a unique opportunity – the first in Australia – to celebrate this wonderful instrument, the rich repertoire written for it, the musicians who master it, and even the art of cello-making."

Among the festival's wealth of live music is the special *Cellos at Lunch* concert mini-series in Elder Hall.

Every weekday between 11–18 April at 1.10pm, Elder Hall will present hour-long concerts featuring artists such as: Lu Bing Xia and Wu Dai Dai from Singapore; Nicholas Altstaedt from Germany; Frenchman Michel Strauss; Natalie Clein from England; Chinese/Australian Li-Wei; and Adelaide's very own rising global stars, Pei-Jee and, Pei-Sian Ng.

Staff and students of the Elder Conservatorium are an integral part of the lunch hour recitals, which feature pianists David Lockett, Rodney Smith, Lucinda Collins, Diana Weekes and the

Elder Conservatorium Chamber Orchestra, as well as guest pianist Caroline Almonte.

Claire Oremland, Elder Hall Concert Manager, said the International Cello Festival was a perfect opportunity for music lovers to engage with music and the music-making process.

"Back-to-back activities will thrill audiences morning, noon and night as internationally renowned musicians will feature in recitals, chamber music, concertos, masterclasses, forums and much, much more," Ms Oremland said.

"Concert programs will be a veritable feast, ranging from the great and much-loved classics of the cello repertoire through to modern and innovative works.

"This includes two Australian premieres and *Crouching Tiger* – Tan Dun's concerto for cello and chamber orchestra known to most from the film *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*."

Other highlights of the International Cello Festival at Elder Hall include a daily *Twilight Series* of concerts, with many local and international guest artists including the Australian String Quartet, and four *Evening Series* concerts, including Natalie Clein performing one of the most loved of all concertos – the Elgar Cello Concerto – and world-renowned cellist Ralph Kirshbaum, who will be joined by pianist Kathy Selby.

The final *Cello Extravaganza* will occur in Elder Hall on Saturday 19 April. This concert will feature Le-Wei performing on a newly made cello, the result of the Cello Challenge being held at the Migration Museum during the festival.

Photo by Randy Larcombe

Tickets to *Cellos at Lunch* are \$6, available at the door from 12.30pm each day from 11-18 April. Special subscription passes are also available – for more information contact the Concert Manager on (08) 8303 5925.

For *Cellos at Lunch* program details, visit the Elder Conservatorium website: [www.music.adelaide.edu.au](http://www.music.adelaide.edu.au)

Check the Festival Guide for details of other sessions. For more information about the Adelaide International Cello Festival, visit: [www.adelaidecellofestival.com](http://www.adelaidecellofestival.com)