

Adelaidean

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

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\$12 million Elder Hall appeal

Story on page 3



A flexible 'life plan' is the key

The beginning of a new academic year is a time when you can sense the optimism and expectation across the University. Every corner of our campuses is brimming with students, taking their first steps towards further study.

In welcoming our new scholars, I am drawn to reflect on what defines the quintessential University experience; the unique educational and cultural influences one encounters at university that then leads to a rewarding and successful personal and professional life.

One notion that always resonates with our new students relates to their aims and ambitions upon commencing their University degree – their plan for the future, often focused on one highly sought after outcome, such as a dream job or achievement.

Having a blueprint or 'life plan' may certainly help students to channel their energy and drive them towards a clear result. However, fixating on one particular journey can also mean that students pass opportunities and alternatives that may well deliver even greater fulfilment.

A plan with vision, but without flexibility is limited.

A perfect plan is invariably one that can measure risk, weather change and willingly embrace new opportunities.

That is the plan I encourage our students to develop; one that nourishes their aspirations, rather than just safely containing them.

This is particularly important for our younger students, with many joining us following secondary school. University life can seem quite overwhelming, amid the challenges of navigating a new and comparatively large campus, co-ordinating study timetables with work commitments and developing friendships and networks.

As members of our Alumni community can testify, university life is not just about lectures and libraries. Scholarship is only part of the journey and academic success is enhanced by sport, volunteering, cultural pursuits and involvement in special interest groups.

Adding these extracurricular elements to 'the plan' can make the difference between simply completing university, and absorbing every conceivable possibility that higher education scholarship and culture can deliver.



JAMES A. McWha AO
Vice-Chancellor and President

Adelaidean

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Elder Hall restoration

A \$12 million fundraising appeal will be launched this month to restore South Australia's musical jewel and the State's most loved concert venue, Elder Hall.

The historic University of Adelaide building – home to the oldest tertiary music institution in Australia – is in dire need of urgent conservation works to maintain its original 1898 condition and upgrade the interior.

Development and Alumni Director Robyn Brown said assistance would be sought from the Federal, State and Local Governments as well as the general public to rejuvenate Elder Hall.

"The conservation of this iconic South Australian building has become critical and we need the public's help to restore this wonderful concert hall to its original state for future generations to use and enjoy," Mrs Brown said.

Australian jazz legend, James Morrison, will launch the appeal with two Elder Hall concerts on Thursday 19 April and Saturday 21 April.

The program will pay tribute to the late Kym Bonython, featuring music of the jazz greats that he brought to Australia.

Morrison will be joined by special guest John Morrison on drums, jazz staff Bruce Hancock (piano) and John Aué (bass) as well as Dusty Cox and the Elder Conservatorium Big Band.

In his inimitable style, Adelaide media personality Keith Conlon will relate the special history of both the Elder Hall and entrepreneur Kym Bonython's contribution to the world of jazz.

Mrs Brown said conservation works alone had been costed at \$3 million and would include repairs and cleaning to masonry facades, stained glass windows and internal plaster work.

New audio visual and lighting systems desperately need upgrading, along with a

refurbishment of the Green Room, toilets and kitchenette, estimated at \$1.6 million.

An additional \$7.4 million will need to be found for a five-storey modern extension to the north of Elder Hall, housing practise and teaching rooms and student facilities.

"Elder Hall is the jewel in Adelaide's musical crown," Mrs Brown said.

"Thanks to a generous £20,000 bequest by pastoralist Sir Thomas Elder in 1897, the University was able to establish Australia's first School of Music – the Elder Conservatorium – and build, as its home, Elder Hall.

"Elder Hall is the second oldest building on the University's North Terrace campus (after the Mitchell Building) and stands in the centre of a remarkable set of heritage buildings stretching along North Terrace.

"Its heritage value aside, it has played a major role in the teaching and performance of music in South Australia and the nation, and was home to the first Chair of Music in Australia.

"Elder Hall is not just a University building; it is used by the entire community 364 days of the year, hosting local, interstate and international musicians. It is also a venue for conferences, high-profile lectures, corporate events, school concerts and graduations among other uses."

To book for "An Evening with James Morrison" on Thursday 19 April and Saturday 21 April go to: www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/jamesmorrison.

Turn to page 8-12 for an Arts and Culture feature

Above: Elder Hall and (inset) trumpeter James Morrison who will launch the fundraising appeal on 19 April.

Story by Candy Gibson

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Senior staff appointments

The start of 2012 has seen the appointment of some key strategic roles at the University of Adelaide, including its first Pro Vice-Chancellor to oversee the student experience and a new Executive Dean to chart Roseworthy's future expansion.



Student Experience

A new role which oversees the student experience at the University of Adelaide has resulted in the appointment of **Professor Denise Kirkpatrick** as the inaugural Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience).

Professor Kirkpatrick will be at the forefront of creating and delivering strategies that recognise student needs and provide an environment that encourages them to reach their full potential.

Professor Kirkpatrick has worked as an academic, senior leader and manager in open and distance, dual-mode and on-campus universities in Australia and the United Kingdom.

Her most recent role has been Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning, Teaching and Quality) at the Open University in the United Kingdom. She takes up her University of Adelaide appointment in May.



Earth and Environmental Sciences

Associate Professor Jenny Watling has been appointed the new Head of the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Adelaide.

A plant physiologist with interests in plant responses to climate change, parasitic plants and heat production in plants, Associate Professor Watling has been a member of the School since 2001.

Her PhD research on photosynthetic physiology of rainforest plants was undertaken jointly at James Cook University and the ANU.

After completing her PhD, Associate Professor Watling was a post-doctoral researcher and then a lecturer in the Department of Animal and Plant Sciences at the University of Sheffield in the UK.

Currently she has research collaborations in Japan, the US, the UK and Australia.



Agriculture, Food and Wine

Professor Mike Wilkinson is the new Head of the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine at the University of Adelaide.

The UK-born research scientist, who joined the University in September 2011, is best known for his work on quantifying the risks associated with GM crops, and has published extensively in this area.

Prior to immigrating to Adelaide in 2011, Professor Wilkinson established the world's first Master of Science focused on training regulators of GM crops, a project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

A specialist in plant genetics, Professor Wilkinson has previously worked at the Scottish Crop Research Institute in crop research and cytogenetics, was Director of the Institute of Biological Sciences at Aberystwyth University and also Trustee of the National Botanic Gardens in Wales.

He has a PhD from the University of Leicester in hybridization and evolutionary processes in wild grasses.



Architecture

Construction and planning expert **Dr George Zillante** has been appointed the new Head of the School of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design at the University of Adelaide. He is due to take up his appointment in July.

Associate Professor Zillante has more than 20 years' experience in architecture, urban and regional planning, building, surveying, business administration and construction. He also has a strong track record in teaching, research and government advisory roles.

His appointment coincides at a key time for the School, which has a new curriculum for its Bachelor of Design Studies and a new Professional Advisory Board, chaired by architectural editor and commentator Justine Clark.



Roseworthy Campus

Professor Iain Reid has been appointed Executive Dean for the University of Adelaide's Roseworthy Campus.

In his new role, Professor Reid will have responsibility for the overarching strategic direction at Roseworthy, particularly the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences, as well as its extensive community engagement activities.

Professor Reid has most recently overseen the next stage of the development of the Vet School, including plans for the new \$10 million Equine Health Centre. He was also Dean, Postgraduate Coursework and Academic Director of the Ngee Ann-Adelaide Education Centre in Singapore.



Business School

Damian Scanlon is the new Director of the University of Adelaide's MBA program.

The Adelaide MBA graduate has more than 15 years' experience as a senior executive in Australian publicly-listed companies as well as 10 years in small and medium enterprises.

Recently Mr Scanlon has been credited with taking the Royal Institution of Australia (RiAus) from two to 22 employees and overseeing the conversion of the old Adelaide Stock Exchange building into the RiAus Science Exchange.

One of Mr Scanlon's key priorities will be to encourage employers to start re-investing in postgraduate education for their senior staff to take advantage of expanding business opportunities in Asia.



World breakthrough on salt-tolerant wheat

A team of Australian scientists involving the University of Adelaide is the first in the world to breed a salt-tolerant variety of durum wheat which shows a 25% improved grain yield in the field.

Using 'non-GM' crop breeding techniques, scientists from CSIRO Plant Industry in Canberra have introduced a salt-tolerant gene into a commercial durum wheat, with spectacular results shown in field tests.

Researchers at the University of Adelaide's Waite Research Institute have led the effort to understand how the gene delivers salinity tolerance to the plants.

The research is the first of its kind to demonstrate the improvement in salt tolerance of an agricultural crop – from understanding the function of the salt-tolerant genes in the lab, to demonstrating increased grain yields in the field.

The results were published last month in the journal *Nature Biotechnology*. The paper's senior author is Dr Matthew Gilliam from the University's Waite Research Institute and the ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Energy Biology. Lead authors are CSIRO Plant Industry scientists Dr Rana Munns and Dr Richard James and University of Adelaide student Bo Xu.

"This work is significant as salinity already affects over 20% of the world's agricultural soils, and salinity poses an increasing threat to food production due to climate change," Dr Munns said.

Dr Gilliam said: "Salinity is a particular issue in the prime wheat-growing areas of Australia, the world's second-largest wheat exporter after the United States. With the global population estimated to reach nine billion by 2050, and the demand for food expected to rise by 100% in this time, salt-tolerant crops will be an important tool to ensure future food security."

Domestication and breeding has narrowed the gene pool of modern wheat, leaving it susceptible to environmental stress. Durum wheat, used for making such food products as pasta and couscous, is particularly susceptible to soil salinity.

However, the authors of this study realised that wild relatives of modern-day wheat remain a significant source of genes for a range of traits, including salinity tolerance. They discovered the new salt-tolerant gene in an ancestral cousin of modern-day wheat, *Triticum monococcum*.

"Salty soils are a major problem because if sodium starts to build up in the leaves it will affect important processes such as photosynthesis, which is critical to the plant's success," Dr Gilliam said.

"The salt-tolerant gene (known as *TmHKT1;5-A*) works by excluding sodium from the leaves. It produces a protein that removes the sodium from the cells lining the xylem, which are the 'pipes' that plants use to move water from their roots to their leaves," he said.

Dr James, who led the field trials, said: "While most studies only look at performance under controlled conditions in a laboratory or greenhouse, this is the first study to confirm that the salt-tolerant gene increases yields on a farm with saline soils."

Field trials were conducted at a variety of sites across Australia, including a commercial farm in northern NSW.

The salt-tolerant wheat will now be used by the Australian Durum Wheat Improvement Program (ADWIP) to assess its impact by incorporating this into recently developed varieties as a breeding line.

Story by David Ellis

Above: University of Adelaide senior research fellow Dr Matthew Gilliam (centre) flanked by research assistant Asmini Athman and PhD student Bo Xu.

Photo courtesy of the *Stock Journal*.

Fulbright scholar will research legal solutions to River Murray dispute

University of Adelaide PhD researcher Adam Webster has won a 2012 Fulbright Scholarship to research possible legal solutions to the dispute over the allocation of water from the River Murray.

The prestigious Fulbright Scholarship is the largest educational scholarship of its kind, created in 1946 to promote mutual understanding with the United States through educational exchange.

Adam will use his Fulbright Scholarship to examine the outcomes of interstate water allocation disputes in the US to see whether the legal solutions developed there could help with the resolution of similar disputes in Australia.

"In particular, my research examines the dispute between the states of Australia over the allocation of water from the River Murray," Adam said.

"The issue of interstate water rights in Australia is an area of law that has received very little academic attention. Given that in recent years the states have had difficulty in reaching political agreement on how best to solve the problems associated with a shortage of water in the River Murray, it is likely that these legal issues will receive greater attention in the future."

Under his Fulbright Scholarship, Adam will spend his time in the United States at the University of Arizona and the University of Colorado where he will examine the history of interstate disputes in the US regarding rights to water from rivers that flow through more than one state.

"In the US, courts have recognised the existence of an interstate water right. The question of whether there exists an interstate water right in Australia has never been put before a court," Adam said.

"The dispute over water from the River Murray is a uniquely Australian problem but there are many similarities between Australia and the United States which make for an ideal comparative study: both countries, for instance, have federal systems of government and in both countries water is at a premium in arid zones."

University of Adelaide Dean of Law Professor John Williams said: "The Adelaide Law School is thrilled with the award of the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship to Adam Webster. The complex legal issues surrounding the rights that the

Australian states and their people have to the water of interstate rivers needs careful research. Adam Webster is a gifted young legal academic and will make a significant contribution to Australian scholarship."

Adam graduated with Honours degrees in Civil Engineering (2003) and Law (2006) from the University of Adelaide. He also has a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice from the Law Society of South Australia. He has won various awards and prizes including the Zelling-Gray Postgraduate Scholarship in Law.

Two other University of Adelaide graduates also won Fulbright Scholarships this year – Dr Stephanie Reuter Lange (Bachelor of Science) and Dr Richard Collins (BSc in Geology and PhD in Environmental Science). The three University of Adelaide graduates are among 25 talented Australians winning a Fulbright Scholarship in 2012.

Story by Robyn Mills

Below: Fulbright Scholar Adam Webster.
Photo Simon Cross *The Advertiser*.





New women's centre a first for the State

The University of Adelaide has opened a new women's health centre which brings together some of the most highly qualified reproductive health specialists in the State as well as the next generation of doctors.

The Adelaide Women's Health Centre, situated at 77 King William Road in North Adelaide, is a first for South Australia, combining women's health GP services with research and clinical training for senior medical students.

Nine general practitioners are based at the centre, including the Medical Director Dr Jane Elliott, along with two gynaecologists, an obstetrician, reproductive endocrinologist and a psychiatrist.

Health services offered at the clinic include contraception, pre-menstrual syndrome, polycystic ovary syndrome, sexually transmissible infections, pre-conception counselling, menstrual problems, low libido, menopause, osteoporosis and all psychological aspects of women's health.

The centre will provide valuable clinical training for the next generation of doctors, matching fifth-year University of Adelaide surgical and gynaecology medical students with individual GP specialists on a rotational basis.

Clinical trials relating to obstetrics and gynaecology will also be undertaken at the centre to ensure the latest research outcomes are put into practice.

"The breadth of services we are offering at the Adelaide Women's Centre is a first for this city," Dr Elliott said.

"It is important that women have access to holistic advice when seeking treatment for reproductive health issues. GPs with a special interest in women's health are in a good position to provide this, with support from specialist colleagues in the team."

The project is the brainchild of three of Adelaide's most experienced reproductive health care practitioners – menopause specialist Dr Jane Elliott; Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Adelaide, Alastair MacLennan; and the Director of the University's Robinson Institute, endocrinologist Professor Rob Norman.

The Adelaide Women's Health Centre is jointly run by the University of Adelaide and Adelaide Unicare, a University-owned general practice service.

"It has taken two years to get this project off the ground with the help of Federal Government funding. Individual women will be the biggest winners initially but this service will benefit the whole community in the long term," Dr Elliott said.

Women do not need a referral to see a GP at the centre but they will need one to see a specialist. For more information phone the Adelaide Women's Health Centre on 8313 2000.

Story by Candy Gibson

Young scientists win national awards

Two young University of Adelaide researchers have been recognised nationally, winning awards of \$22,000 each for excellence in agricultural science.

The 2012 Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry were presented in Canberra last month.

Dr Matthew Gilliam, Senior Research Scientist with the University's Waite Research Institute (School of Agriculture, Food and Wine) and the ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Energy Biology, won the Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation Award for a project on grapevine rootstock genomics.

Robyn Terry from the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences at the Roseworthy Campus won the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy Award for research balancing welfare and production needs in the pig industry.

Funding for new diabetes research

Five University of Adelaide researchers have won more than \$362,000 in funding for new research projects that aim to make a difference in the fight against one of Australia's biggest health problems: diabetes.

The winning research projects will delve into critical issues relating to both type 1 and type 2 diabetes, with the outcomes of this work potentially affecting millions of Australians who suffer from diabetes or pre-diabetes.

The successful award recipients are: Professor Julie Owens; Associate Professor Leonie Hielbronn; Dr Lisa Moran (all from the Robinson Institute); Professor Jennifer Couper (Children's Research Centre); and Dr Yeesim Khew-Goodall (School of Molecular and Biomedical Science).

25 years of Aboriginal education

The University of Adelaide marked its 25th anniversary of Aboriginal education with a celebration in Hub Central on 30 March.

Professor Lester Irabinna Rigney, Dean of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education: Wilto Yerlo, said the milestone provided an opportunity to reflect on how far the University had progressed in Indigenous education in the past quarter of a century.

Since 1987, the University has recruited increasing numbers of Indigenous people to both tertiary study and jobs within the University, introduced elements of Indigenous culture into parts of the mainstream curriculum, and forged closer ties with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

In the past 25 years, a significant number of Indigenous graduates have enjoyed national and international success in their fields, including Australia's first Indigenous Rhodes Scholar, Rebecca Richards.

University takes a bow for the arts

Over the past 138 years the University of Adelaide has played an enormous role in the cultural development of South Australia and the nation. This month we highlight the expertise and legacy of our writers, musicians and rich built-heritage.

Stories by Candy Gibson



Creative minds pool their talents

A new research centre which draws on the strengths of music and creative writing has been launched at the University of Adelaide by its namesake, Nobel laureate for Literature, J.M. Coetzee.

The J.M. Coetzee Centre for Creative Practice has been established to explore the collaborative processes behind traditional and cutting-edge art forms, including music, opera, film, dance, ballet, and sound installations.

The official launch in the Hartley Concert Room on Thursday 8 March demonstrated the focus of the new Centre with a world premiere of Graeme Koehne and Peter Goldsworthy's complete Ring Tone Cycle, a mini-operetta that tells the story of a love affair in a text message age.

"The Centre launch illustrated what can happen when consummate artists from different disciplines pool their talents to produce outstanding works of art," said Centre Co-Director Professor Mark Carroll.

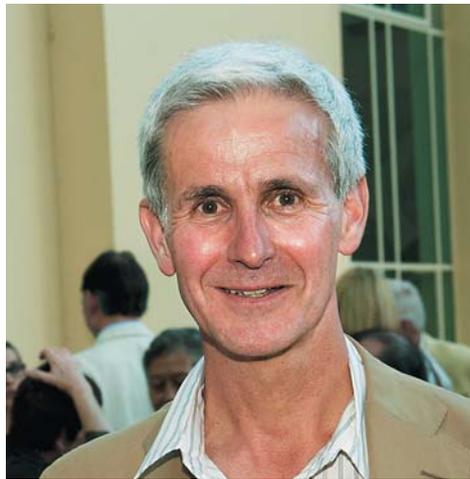
"Graeme Koehne is one of Australia's leading composers and Peter Goldsworthy an award-winning author, whose novels have sold over 400,000 copies in Australia alone. Together they have created an amazing operetta," Professor Carroll said.

The music at last month's launch was performed by the Seraphim Trio, with soprano Lisa Harper-Brown.

The J.M. Coetzee Centre for Creative Practice is unique in Australia in that it aims to produce not just conventional research outputs such as books and articles, but also multidisciplinary works of art.

The two disciplines involved at the University of Adelaide – Creative Writing and Music – are both rated above world standard by the Federal Government's official research measure ERA (Excellence in Research for Australia).

"Given Adelaide's well-deserved reputation as a cultural powerhouse, the establishment of the Centre is timely," said Professor Carroll.



World-class writers

Adelaide has some of the richest literary talent in the country within the University's Creative Writing discipline, boasting no less than eight award-winning writers among its staff as well as an impressive list of graduates making their mark as authors.

"This Centre is a perfect fit for the State, situated on the cultural precinct of North Terrace and showcasing the strengths of the Elder Conservatorium and the Creative Writing discipline.

"The Elder Conservatorium is the oldest and one of the most distinguished music institutions in Australia and is home to many world-renowned musicians and researchers of international repute.

"Its sister discipline in this research centre – Creative Writing – is chaired by award-winning novelist Professor Brian Castro, a past winner of a number of state and national prizes, including The Australian/Vogel literary award, The Age Fiction Prize and the National Book Council Prize for Fiction."

Professor Castro is also a co-director of the Centre.

Nobel laureate J.M. Coetzee is Professor of Literature at the University of Adelaide alongside authors Dr Peter Goldsworthy and Dr Eva Hornung, both household names in the literary scene. All are involved in the new Centre.

Professor Carroll said the J.M. Coetzee Centre for Creative Practice would have a tremendous impact on South Australia's cultural scene and would also attract national attention.

"There will be some really innovative research and creative works coming out of the Centre. It will be a place where curiosity, inspiration, and innovation come together," he said.

The Creative Writing program is chaired by Professor Brian Castro, twice short-listed for the Miles Franklin Literary Award for two of his novels (*The Garden Book* and *The Bath Fugues*) as well as a multi-award winner in literary competitions across NSW, Queensland, Victoria and South Australia.

The Creative Writing discipline is rated at the highest level by the Federal Government's official research measure ERA (Excellence in Research for Australia), with a 5-star rating.

This is reflected in its academic cohort, which includes 2003 Nobel Laureate for Literature, J.M. Coetzee. His novels *Summertime* and *Disgrace* were both shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize for Fiction and the latter was made into a successful film in 2008.

Professor Nick Jose returned to the University of Adelaide's Creative Writing program this year after a spell interstate and also at Harvard University as Chair of Australian Studies, where he taught courses in Australian fiction, fiction from the Asia-Pacific region, and creative writing. He has written eight critically-acclaimed novels (*Avenue of Eternal Peace* was shortlisted for the 1989 Miles Franklin Award) as well as two collections of short stories.

Professor Peter Goldsworthy joined Creative Writing as an Adjunct Professor in 2011. He has published more than half a dozen poetry collections, eight novels, film-scripts, (*Maestro*, *The Kiss*) and opera libretti (*Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* and *Batavia*), the latter winning the 2002 Robert Helpmann Award for Best Opera and Best New Australian Work.

Creative writing PhD graduates who have joined the staff as Research Fellows in recent years include Dr Eva Hornung

(winner of three awards, including the Prime Minister's Literary Prize for her 2010 novel *Dog Boy*), Amy Matthews, (2010 Arts SA Unpublished Manuscript Award winner for *End of the Night Girl*) and Carol Le Fevre (short-listed for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for *Nights in the Asylum*).

Other PhD alumni who are garnering literary acclaim include Filipino writer Miguel Syjuco (*Illustrado*), Julia Leigh (*Disquiet*), Stephan Laszczuk (*The Goddam Bus of Happiness and I Dream of Magda*), Rachel Hennesy (*The Quakers*), Patrick Allington (*Potatoes in all their Glory*) and Sean Williams (*Star Wars: The Force Unleashed*).

Poet and author Jill Jones, a senior lecturer in the Creative Writing program, was shortlisted for The Age Poetry Book of the Year and the Kenneth Slessor Poetry Prize for her 2006 novel *Broken/Open*.

Professor Castro said the quality of Adelaide's Creative Writing program attracted students from interstate and overseas, as well as established writers looking for a professional qualification.

University of Adelaide Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Mike Brooks said the calibre of staff and PhD candidates within the Creative Writing discipline was on par with the world's best.

"The top ERA ranking of 5 for Creative Writing is solid proof that our expertise in this area is world class. The University of Adelaide has built a rich tradition of excellence in creative writing, offering some of the most engaging and enriching programs in the country."

Above: Nobel Laureate for Literature J.M. Coetzee (centre) flanked by Professor Brian Castro and Professor Mark Carroll at the launch.

Photo by Walter Bulgya.

Above left: Professor Nick Jose
Above right: Professor Peter Goldsworthy
Photos by Walter Bulgya.

New degree in popular music

The Elder Conservatorium is offering South Australia's first degree-level course in contemporary popular music this year, giving aspiring songwriters a formal qualification from the country's oldest music institution.

The Bachelor of Music (Popular Music and Creative Technologies) is primarily a composition degree but will also produce music professionals with skills in sound engineering, production, performance, music research and administration.

The three-year program has an inaugural cohort of 27 students from a wide range of backgrounds, including some country and mature-aged students.

Course co-ordinator Dr Luke Harrald said it was the first time that South Australians had an opportunity to study contemporary popular music in their home State.

"Previously they had to go to the eastern States to get a qualification of this kind," Dr Harrald said.

"This program is also giving the Elder Conservatorium an opportunity to diversify from its traditional classical base into popular music, responding to the current demands of the industry."

While the focus of the program is on song writing, students will undertake practical studies in ensemble performance and also receive comprehensive training in new digital technologies in the music industry.

"Through the program the students will have full access to rehearsal and recording studios in order to record their work and develop their production skills in industry standard facilities," Dr Harrald said.

The Popular Music and Creative Technologies program is one of eight specialisations that Bachelor of Music students can now study under a revamped structure of the music degree offered by the Elder Conservatorium.

The other new stream offered in 2012 is the Sonic Arts program, building on the Elder Conservatorium's reputation in electronic music.

Below: Popular Music and Creative Technologies first-year students Emma Grainger, Simone Karanicolas and Isabella Tobiszewska.
Photo by Candy Gibson





P-platers to maestros

Since 1883, the Elder Conservatorium of Music has blazed a trail in music education across Australia, earning recognition for a number of 'firsts' and producing a long and impressive list of some of the most outstanding musicians to grace the national and international stage.

As an integral part of the University of Adelaide since the early 1880s, the Elder Conservatorium has the longest continuous history of any of Australia's specialist music institutions.

It established Australia's first professorship of music in 1884; awarded the nation's first doctorate in music in 1902; and produced the country's first female Doctor of Music, Ruby Davy, in 1918.

This year, the Elder Conservatorium will also mark the 125th anniversary of running the organisation that ultimately became the Australian Music Examinations Board (AMEB).

Adelaide took the lead in 1887, initiating a program of music examinations for students. In 1902 Victoria followed suit and by 1918 every State had joined the program and the AMEB was officially born.

AMEB State Manager Julie Cranswick said the Elder Conservatorium offered more than 40 different syllabi for 23 separate instruments, as well as singing, speech and drama.

"The piano is the most popular musical instrument and classical tuition is still the dominant genre, but we also offer jazz and contemporary popular music subjects," Ms Cranswick said.

An AMEB certificate is considered the national benchmark for music education in Australia for entry into courses of study and competitions.

"While this qualification is not compulsory, people trust the AMEB certificate because they know exactly what is involved to reach that standard."

More than 90 examiners – including students and graduates from the Elder Conservatorium – are recruited by the Board for 16 different exam sessions in the course of a year, including practical and online theory exams.

"Students range in age from eight to 80 and have access to some of the best repertoire for study purposes," Ms Cranswick said.

Music subjects include piano, accordion, organ, violin, viola, double bass, cello, flute, piccolo, oboe, clarinet, recorder, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, tuba, trombone, band, horn, euphonium, percussion, harp and classical guitar.

The Director of the Elder Conservatorium of Music, Associate Professor Carl Crossin OAM, said the AMEB had enjoyed a "long and fruitful relationship" with the University and played a vital role in the training and assessing of young musicians from beginner to degree level.

For information about AMEB go to www.ameb.adelaide.edu.au/

Above: P-plate piano student Jacob, 7, is at the start of a long journey down the road towards an AMEB diploma, considered the national benchmark for music education.

Photo by Candy Gibson

Well-known arts alumni

The arts world is littered with University of Adelaide graduates who have made their mark in literary and performing arts circles.

Here are just a handful of alumni who fall into this category:

Max Harris: Distinguished poet, writer, journalist, publisher and bookseller, who was credited as "the founding father of Australian modernism in the arts". Mr Harris studied Arts and Economics at the University of Adelaide, where he won 20 academic prizes, and was known as a "rebel editor and extremely talented poet".

Colin Thiele: Australian author and educator. He was renowned for his award-winning children's fiction, most notably the novels *Storm Boy*, *Blue Fin*, the *Sun on the Stubble* series, and *February Dragon*. Colin Thiele gained a Bachelor of Arts, Diploma Education and Diploma of Teaching from the University of Adelaide.

Hazel Rowley: Celebrated author renowned for her biographies of novelists Christina Stead, Richard Wright, Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir as well as the acclaimed book *Franklin and Eleanor: An Extraordinary Marriage* about the former US President and his wife's relationship. Hazel Rowley gained her Bachelor of Arts and PhD from the University of Adelaide.

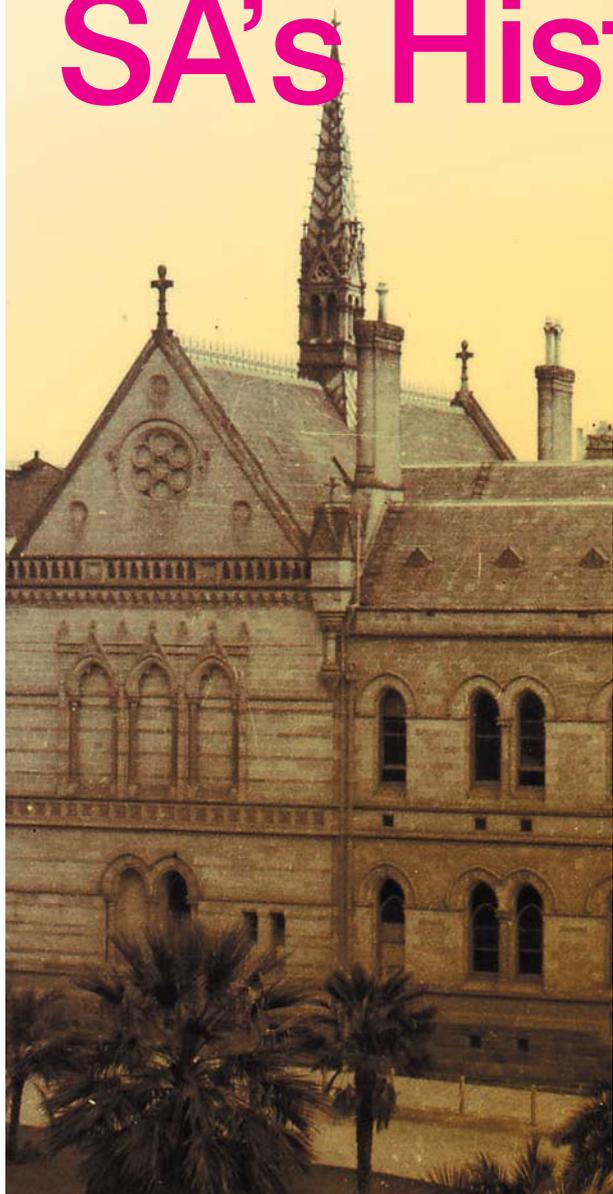
Greta Bradman: The granddaughter of cricketer legend Donald Bradman, soprano Greta Bradman has been described as "one of Australia's finest young singers". Her debut album *Forest of Dreams* was nominated for an ARIA. Since completing her Bachelor of Music studies in 2003, Greta has performed as a soloist with a large number of world class ensembles and musicians around Australia.

Jo Lawry: Jazz vocalist Jo Lawry left for New York in 2003 as one of the most promising jazz graduates from the Elder Conservatorium of Music. Her debut album *I Want to Be Happy* was released in 2008 to rave reviews and named among the "Best CDs of the Decade" in *Downbeat Magazine*. In 2010 she performed with Sting and has signed up for another tour with him later this year.

Timothy Sexton: Freelance composer, conductor, arranger, singer, writer and adjudicator. Timothy has composed more than 200 works, mostly for the theatre and choirs, including operas and musicals. He is CEO and Artistic Director at the State Opera of South Australia. Timothy has a Bachelor of Arts and Graduate Diploma of Education from the University of Adelaide.

Rob Brookman: Chief Executive of the State Theatre Company in South Australia. Rob Brookman has more than 30 years' experience as a theatre producer, working with the likes of Robyn Nevin, Cate Blanchett and Andrew Upton. Former Director of the 1992 Adelaide Festival and founder and director of Australia's leading world music festival WOMADelaide for 12 years (1992 – 2004). Rob has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Adelaide.

The University of Adelaide celebrates SA's History Festival



The University of Adelaide will play a major role in South Australia's History Festival in May, with several public tours of historic buildings, as well as a range of exhibitions and talks.

On Sunday 6 May the public will be able to step back to the grandeur of the 1890s at Urrbrae House, one of the most significant private houses in South Australia and the first to be lit by electricity.

Guided tours of Elder Hall, the Mitchell Building, Ingkarni Wardli and Hub Central will also be on offer during Open House Adelaide on Saturday 19 May.

Renowned South Australian historian Rob Linn, author of *The Spirit of Knowledge* and a Visiting Research Fellow in the School of History and Politics, will discuss the University's rich built-heritage and its social and cultural history in a free talk on Wednesday 16 May.

Another drawcard will be a public talk on Monday 14 May by Yvonne Routledge on James Arthur Prescott, the foundation Professor of Agricultural Chemistry at the University's Waite Agricultural Research Institute in 1924. Prescott is widely considered as the "father of soil science research" in Australia.

On Wednesday 23 May, Emeritus Professor George Rogers will give a talk on the legacy of biochemist Thorburn Brailsford Robinson. This talk will accompany an exhibition in the Barr Smith Library, which records Brailsford Robinson's life and contribution to the University of Adelaide's science teaching and research.

For more details about the History Festival go to www.adelaide.edu.au/sa-history-festival/

Art & Heritage Collections

Mirna Heruc
Manager, Art & Heritage Collections

Right: Edith A Lungley
1876-1939 Australia/Great Britain
Knowledge, 1931, London
stained-glass panel, 2.9m x 0.75m

Photograph Mick Bradley

May is history month in Adelaide. With this in mind the University of Adelaide is featuring one of its most interesting historic scientific superstars, Thorburn Brailsford Robertson (1884-1930), Professor of Biochemistry and General Physiology at this university, after a distinguished career in North America. He pioneered the preparation of insulin in Australia, his research team first producing it in the Darling Building in 1923. He championed biochemistry and was the first professor of the subject in Australia (from 1926).

A stained-glass window by Edith Lungley, installed in the Mitchell Building a year after Professor Brailsford Robertson's death, commemorates him. Lungley (a granddaughter of Henry Ayers) has adopted a liturgical and symbolic

approach to celebrating Robertson's achievements, finely crafting glass with hand painted borders.

University Archives, Rare Books & Special Collections and the Art & Heritage Collections unit will present a Cultural Conversation about Professor Brailsford Robertson on Wednesday 23 May.

A display of Professor Brailsford Robertson material consisting of letters, books and lecture notes, as well as (remarkably) children's books written by Robertson will also be open for viewing from 1 May-3 June during Barr Smith Library opening hours.

For more information on University activities in History Month go to: <https://webdev.adelaide.edu.au/sa-history-festival/>



Sandra breaks down the barriers in a silent world

A 62-year-old Adelaide woman will this month become the first profoundly-Deaf person to graduate with First Class Honours in the University's 138-year history.



Sandra Hoopmann has spent the past 11 years studying part-time at the University of Adelaide with the help of sign-language interpreters, who worked with her during lectures, tutorials and meetings with her supervisors.

In 2011, Sandra completed a Bachelor of Arts (First Class Honours) in the Discipline of Gender, Work and Social Inquiry after earlier obtaining a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Anthropology, and Media and Communications in 2008.

"Because I live in a predominantly hearing world, those extra services provided by the University's Disability Liaison Office (DLO) have been a real boon and absolutely essential in order to obtain a higher degree without disadvantage," Sandra said.

The DLO has provided both sign-language interpreters and transcribers for Sandra during her studies. The ability to lip-read has also come in handy, although that has its challenges, too:

"Every person has unique lip shapes and not all lecturers are easy to lip-read. With some people I pick up quickly but, with others, it is a continual 'Mt Everest' climb – especially those academics who mumble and have thick beards! There are times I am sorely tempted to get a pair of scissors and snip off an overhanging hair or two."

Sandra was born congenitally-deaf in Brisbane as a result of a rubella epidemic in the late 1940s.

Although very keen to attend university in her earlier years she was often confronted with barriers because of the lack of services for Deaf people.

"I got married and had children, yet always focused on my dream to study for a higher education because of my love for learning."

Sandra enrolled at the University of Adelaide in 2000 when the disability services were still in their infancy and the learning curve was steep for both parties.

"To my knowledge, it was the first time the University had provided services for a profoundly-Deaf student like me. I was initially frustrated by the red tape and had to chip away at the layers of bureaucracy, but now I receive all the services I need.

"I feel extremely fortunate to have studied at such a prestigious university as Adelaide. Doing my Honours degree has been both challenging and inspiring, thanks to the support of Gender, Work and Social Inquiry colleagues and my wonderful supervisor Dr Megan Warin, who was a wise mentor for me."

The latter described Sandra as a "meticulously-organised researcher" with a "razor-sharp reading of body language".

"Sandi has a wonderful ability to open up the world to more diverse and conceptual ways of thinking and communicating," Dr Warin said. "She negotiates the hearing world every day with great confidence,

creativity and a wonderfully robust sense of humour". Sandra's Honours thesis focused on the community of Deaf women in Adelaide, their history, kinship and identity.

"The Second World War created conditions for the Adelaide Deaf community to become visible through their contributions to the War Effort. Through the Deaf Women's Friendly Society (connected with the Adelaide Deaf community), a sisterhood without blood-ties was forged and still remains today."

After graduation Sandra hopes to further develop her writing skills and make "valuable contributions to Adelaide's Deaf community", through community work, research and teaching.

"At this stage I am not sure what is around the corner but, at the ripe age of 62, the world is my oyster."

Note: The capital "D" denotes Sandra's identity as a culturally Deaf person because of her use of signed language and cultural habits that are different from mainstream hearing norms. The capital "D" is used internationally when talking about Deaf communities and their members.

Story by Candy Gibson

Above: Sandra Hoopmann

Photo by Candy Gibson

University builds multicultural harmony

Australia's Harmony Day last month took special significance at the University of Adelaide with the launch of its Multicultural Action Plan.



As part of its Harmony Day celebrations, the University outlined its commitment to cultural diversity and its plans to continue to build an inclusive environment for all staff, students and visitors.

"We are committed to a culturally rich and diverse staff and student body," said University Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha. "We want an inclusive and respectful environment for all and we will deliver services and facilities that meet the diverse needs of our ever-changing cultural community."

"Embracing multiculturalism requires more than words - it demands action."

Professor McWha said the University wanted to build an academic and professional workforce that reflected the diversity of the community.

"Harmony Day is a celebration of Australia's cultural diversity and heritage," said Professor McWha.

"Similarly, the University wants to show how much it values its own unique cultural diversity."

"We are launching our Multicultural Action Plan as an important new step in our commitment to meeting the needs of our multicultural community and providing an environment where all cultures become part of one broader University culture."

The Multicultural Action Plan aims to:

- foster an inclusive and respectful environment for all students, staff and visitors;
- establish a responsive, coordinated and systematic approach to the culturally diverse needs of staff and students;

- embrace the contribution of people from all backgrounds; acknowledging their rich cultural diversity;
- attract and retain the best staff and students from culturally diverse backgrounds.

The University community will work together in four main areas: student and staff engagement; community partnerships; fostering inclusiveness and equity; and shaping the physical environment.

Story by Robyn Mills

Above: Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) Professor Kent Anderson, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Pascale Quester, Chairman of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission Mr Hieu Van Le, pictured with students Amanda Wareham and Yuxiang Xia.

Photo by Ben Osborne

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Guiding young children towards university

The University of Adelaide is helping guide children in Adelaide's northern primary schools on a path towards university.

A new program, Adelaide Compass: find your way to higher education, is being established in Adelaide's north with a pilot program at Mark Oliphant College, before being rolled out to other schools in the Peachey Belt Cluster.

The program, for school teachers and students, will deliver outreach, mentoring and professional development, with the aim of helping to build school completion rates and attainment, lifting community expectation and helping children aim for higher education in the future.

Adelaide Compass is an extension of the University of Sydney's Compass: find your way to higher education program. An agreement to work together to implement Adelaide Compass has been signed by both universities.

University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha said: "Research shows that it's vital to start working with children at a much younger age to get them excited about life-long learning and university education, to start building a pathway towards university.

"Sydney has shown great success with their Compass program and we want to use that model to help raise aspirations in Adelaide's northern

suburbs where many families have never had anyone at university, and it often doesn't even feature as a possibility, never mind being seen as achievable.

"We know the benefits that university education brings to individuals and to Australia and we are very keen to open up that choice to every child."

University of Sydney Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) Professor Derrick Armstrong said: "Social inclusion in higher education requires generational change. It is exciting that the University of Adelaide has embarked on this venture with northern Adelaide schools."

Adelaide Compass will build familiarity between schools and university campuses, staff and students through exchange visits with all activities being supported in class within the curriculum, from Reception upwards.

There will be a lot of emphasis on maths, IT and science with older years looking at media and law.

The two universities will share research, data and results to be able to evaluate and further develop the program.

Story by Robyn Mills

Students and staff from Mark Oliphant College.

Photo by Ming Feng Goh

Recognition for young achievers

University of Adelaide students and graduates were strongly represented in the 2012 Channel 9 Young Achiever of the Year Awards held at the Hilton Adelaide last month.

Of the 10 category winners, half were students or graduates of the University of Adelaide.

They are:

Renae Kirkham, 25, of Port Augusta – winner of the Rural Doctors Workforce Agency Rural Health Award

Renae is a PhD student in the University of Adelaide's Discipline of Public Health. She works with Aboriginal groups to alleviate disadvantage and improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people.

Dr Ashley Flavel, 28, of Northgate – winner of the University of Adelaide Faculty of Sciences Science and Technology Award

Dr Flavel is a three-time graduate of the University of Adelaide, with a Bachelor of Science (Mathematical and Computer Sciences) (2003), Bachelor of Engineering (Information Technology & Telecommunications) (2004) and a PhD in Electrical Engineering (2009). Dr Flavel designs technologies that improve the speed of the internet.

Adam Kilpatrick, 27, of North Adelaide – winner of the Flinders Ports Environment Award

Adam is a PhD student in the University of Adelaide's School of Earth & Environmental Sciences. Adam is passionate about biodiversity, conservation and management in arid environments.

Hannah Davis, 26, of Glenelg – winner of the Worldwide Online Printing Sports Award

Hannah has both a Bachelor degree (2010) and Masters (2011) in International Studies at the University of Adelaide. A world-class kayaker, Hannah won a bronze medal in the K4 500 metre event at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and has qualified for the London Olympics later this year.

Cr David Speirs, 27, of Kingston Park – winner of the Adelaide Airport Limited Community Leadership Award

After migrating to Australia in 2002, David Speirs graduated from the University of Adelaide with a Bachelor of Laws in 2008. He has a passion for the environment and serving the community. He is a competitive surf life saver and National Director of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. In 2010, he became the youngest person elected to the City of Marion Council and now serves as Deputy Mayor.

For more information about the Young Achiever Awards for South Australia, go to www.awardsaustralia.com/YAA_sa.html

Story by David Ellis



\$1 million facilities boost in hockey's centenary year

University hockey has had a major boost with the opening last month of the redeveloped West Beach Hockey Centre, home to the Adelaide University Hockey Club which celebrates its centenary this year.

More than \$1 million has been spent on a new state-of-the-art and international standard hockey pitch and surrounds, together with upgraded clubrooms and changerooms.

"We now have one of the best hockey facilities in the State, not only for University of Adelaide hockey, but also for the local community," said Tim Collin, Adelaide University Sport President and AU Hockey Club President.

The Adelaide University Hockey club is one of the largest hockey clubs in the State with over 200 members and both men's and women's Premier League teams.

The upgraded facilities were officially opened last month by the Hon. Tom Kenyon, Minister for Recreation and Sport. Celebrations included exhibition matches of both the men's and women's Premier League teams playing against Forestville.

The renovations were supported with a \$250,000 State Government grant, more

than \$100,000 worth of donations from Hockey Club benefactors and members, and a grant and loan from Adelaide University Sport.

Much of the work was undertaken by Club members and volunteers, and the future of the grounds has been secured with a new long-term lease from Adelaide Airport.

"This has been a massive project for the Club and we're grateful for the fantastic support we've had," said Tim Collin. "I want to thank everyone who has helped, particularly the Project Control group for its many hours of behind the scenes work in helping to complete the project to everyone's satisfaction."

This is the third project in the Adelaide University Sports Facility Plan 2010-2020 to have been completed, following the renovation of the Boat Shed in 2010 and the Park 12 Grandstand and Long Room refurbishment completed in October 2011.

The Grads Oval Clubrooms upgrade is scheduled for later this year.

The West Beach Hockey Centre is not only the home ground for Adelaide University Hockey Club. Other clubs and local schools will also be using the facilities as their home ground. There are also plans for women's lacrosse to be played there in future.

The renovated facilities have been opened in time for the Club's centenary. In June this year, they will hold a Centenary Ball to recognise the history and contributions of past and present club members. Anyone with historical records, photos and information is asked to contact Jemina Daws at secretary@auhcn.asn.au.

Story by Robyn Mills

The Adelaide University Hockey Club's Metro Division 5 team after their premiership win last year.

Photo courtesy of the AU Hockey Club.