What’s happened to our native species?

A new study highlights the dramatic changes to plant and wildlife species in Adelaide over almost 170 years.

The study is the first of its kind to detail the changes to our urban ecosystem by taking an historical view of Adelaide.

Catherine Tait, an Honours student in the University of Adelaide’s School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, has examined the changes in plant and animal species since Adelaide’s founding in 1836.

Using more than 200 studies, checklists and reports documenting the flora and fauna of the Adelaide region since 1836, Ms Tait has discovered which plant and animal species have arrived, which have been lost, and when they disappeared. She is also trying to discover the reasons for these changes, and chart the impact that introduced species have made on Adelaide’s ecological environment.

Her research has produced some startling results about the changing face of our urban habitat.

She found that the Adelaide area—the region bound by Gawler River in the north, Mount Lofty in the east and Sellicks Beach in the south—has actually increased in species richness (that is, the number of plant and animal species) since Adelaide was founded.

“Since Governor Hindmarsh landed, there has been a significant drop in the number of native plant and animal species in Adelaide, but there has been an overall increase in the total number of species,” Ms Tait said.

This increase was due largely to the high number of “alien” plant and animal species introduced, while the overall number of native plant and animal species has decreased, she said.

Overall, 132 species have become extinct from the Adelaide area since 1836, while 648 species have been successfully introduced (that is, they are still in the area today).

The total number of native animal species decreased from 395 to 352. While 43 native species have been lost, 31 introduced animals are present today.

Of the mammals, 50% of the native species recorded in Adelaide in 1836 are no longer found (a decrease from 40 to 20 species), while 12 mammal species have been introduced (nine of these are still present today).

“Most of the mammals were gone by 1909, under pressure from land clearance and the introduced species, of which most arrived here by the 1870s,” Ms Tait said.

continued on page 11
McWha’s Words

Growth with Excellence

The recent forum hosted by the Chancellor and myself in Bonython Hall was a great opportunity yet again to connect with the university as a whole. I would like to thank all who attended, and also thank the students and staff for their many thoughtful questions.

For the benefit of those who were unable to attend, and for the majority of Adelaidean readers who are outside the university, I will use this opportunity to highlight some of the key points discussed at the forum.

The most important is our immediate direction and focus. Thanks to the efforts and commitment of a great many people, we have now obtained invaluable data from surveys, focus groups, the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) report, and from the community at large.

This feedback has provided us with enough information to concentrate on three clear objectives. They are:

• Growth with excellence in education;
• Student focus, and;
• Scale and focus in research.

You will be hearing more on each of these over the course of the year, and we will be encouraging discussion on what they mean to the university and our future.

It is important to recognise that while the university wants to grow, we will only do so with excellence; that while we are seeking new opportunities in education and research, we will do so with quality outcomes in mind—for the university, for students, for our partners and the community.

The AUQA report identified that previous attempts at strategic planning were poor; that we’ve had too many priorities along with inadequate monitoring and evaluation. This time, and with your input, we will obtain the necessary understanding to achieve our desired outcomes.

During my nine-month tenure, we have made numerous strides. We have learned how to reinforce our strengths and build on our weaknesses. We have also shown that we have a “can-do” attitude and that nothing is impossible.

Thanks to your commitment and passion for this university, we will be able to explore the opportunities and meet our ultimate goal of Growth with Excellence.

You will be hearing more from me as we move ahead and I cannot stress enough the importance of your input as we shape the future of this fine university.

JAMES A. McWHA
Vice-Chancellor

Uni’s finances on track

The University of Adelaide ended the 2002 financial year on a sound footing showing an operating surplus of $12.4 million, according to audited figures released last month.

In announcing details of the university’s 2002 financial performance, Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha said the university’s net assets grew by $58m to $618m, a 10.4% growth.

“In addition we significantly reduced our current liabilities last year by paying out a $20m loan, leaving us debt free,” Professor McWha said.

“As with all universities, part of the surplus relates to pre-committed funds, such as capital funds. However, this is still a sound result.

“I am encouraged by the positive turnaround, but at the same time, cognisant of the hard work that lies ahead to sustain this position. This turnaround would not have been possible without the incredible commitment and hard work of all staff. This result is testament to their efforts over the past year,” he said.

Professor McWha attributed the positive turnaround to a number of factors. In the area of research, there was an $8.2 million increase in revenue. This consisted primarily of an increase of $3.8m in national competitive grants and industry grants of $4.7m.”

Professor McWha said another contributing factor was the $6m reduction in costs from staff reductions and other staff-related savings.

Story by Howard Salkow
More Hawker scholars for Adelaide

Two University of Adelaide students are among the latest to receive the prestigious Charles Hawker Scholarships for study in Australia.

Teegan Waples and Christian Winterfield were among five talented students from around the nation to be awarded the scholarships for 2003.

Both Teegan and Christian are enrolled at the University of Adelaide. Teegan was educated at the Faith Lutheran Secondary School in Tanunda and at Adelaide TAFE. She is now studying for a Bachelor of Agriculture and is the first Hawker Scholar in residence at the Roseworthy Campus.


Teegan excelled academically throughout her secondary education. As School Captain at Faith, she had to juggle her responsibilities in that position with her academic work.

Teegan has been involved with the United Nations Youth Association, the Youth Parliament and was the local regional winner of the Lions Youth of the Year in 2001. She is an Oliphant Science Awards prizewinner and represented her school in public speaking, choir work and fund raising committee. Teegan also has an interest in theatre.

Christian, a former top student at Trinity College in Gawler, is studying for a Bachelor of Engineering (Mechatronics) and Bachelor of Arts (Politics) and is in residence at St Mark’s College.

He completed his secondary studies in 2002 and achieved a merit (20/20) in physics and an overall Tertiary Entrance Rank of 99.35.

Christian was awarded the Trinity College David Strange Memorial Award for the most outstanding student at the College in 2002. His academic achievements have been recognised by a significant number of school-based, state and national awards and prizes, including repeated dux of several subjects and national Mathematics and Science prizes.

During his time at Trinity College, Christian demonstrated excellent leadership skills and held a number of senior house and team sport positions. He participated widely in the academic and cultural life of the College. He has a passion for music, playing various instruments including tenor horn, and now percussion for the Barossa Junior Brass band, and has been awarded College Blues for music. He was one of six students to represent Australia at last year’s London International Youth Science Forum.

Described as “Australia’s Rhodes”, the Charles Hawker Scholarship perpetuates the memory of scholar, soldier, pastoralist and statesman Charles Allan Seymour Hawker.

Value up to $60,000 over four years, the Hawker Scholarships are the most generous privately funded scholarships available to Year 12 and undergraduate students in Australia. Selection is based on personal qualities as well as academic ability.

Since 1991, the Hawker Trustees have awarded more than $1.8 million to 39 young Australians, including a significant number from regional areas. This year’s five successful candidates were chosen from a strong field of 140 applicants from Australia and overseas.

“The Charles Hawker Scholarship is one of the most important in Australia.”

Hawker Scholars Christian Winterfield and Teegan Waples (centre) were presented with their scholarship certificates by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Alexander Downer, at St Mark’s College recently. Also present was Hawker Trustee Mr Andrew Hawker (left). Image edited by Chris Tonkin.

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Camera donation makes a difference

A digital video camera donated to the university by Canon Australia is already making a difference in the work of the Learning and Teaching Development Unit (LTDU).

Canon’s generosity was gratefully accepted by the Director of the unit, Associate Professor Geoffrey Crisp, who said use of the camera would result in improved teaching by students and staff.

“We are currently using the digital video camera to record academic staff practising their teaching as part of the Teaching at University course,” Dr Crisp said. “We are recording a 10-minute mini lecture from each participant, then returning an individual copy of a CD to each person of their own presentation. This enables them to review their own teaching presentation and is more convenient than on video tape.”

It is just one of the many ways in which the unit is helping to improve the educational experience of both students and staff.

Online Masters degree a giant of innovation

A new online Masters degree program offered through the University of Adelaide has received a national award for innovation and excellence.

The Master of Mathematical Sciences run by the Cooperative Research Centre for Sensor Signal and Information Processing (CSSIP), is an online program that provides world-class training to engineers and scientists in Australia and overseas.

The course specialises in signal and information processing, which is important for developing the next generation of expertise to work in defence and other industries.

The only course of its kind in Australia, the Masters program receives funding from the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) and involves five universities around Australia.

The new program has earned CSSIP a national award from the CRC Association. The award was presented to CSSIP last month by Prime Minister John Howard at a dinner held at Parliament House in Canberra.

CSSIP Chief Executive Officer Professor Matthew Cuthbertson said the online Masters degree embodied the positive achievements that can be delivered within Cooperative Research Centres.

“We have been able to develop a Masters program that involves five Australian universities, allowing graduates of the course to access the highest level of expertise available in the field of signal processing,” Professor Cuthbertson said.

The degree is the only mathematics Masters by coursework offered in distance mode.

“Students in this course are already working full time in the science, engineering and defence industries and they need the flexibility offered with an online course,” said CSSIP Education Manager Anne-Marie Eliseo.

“Internet education allows us to reach students all over Australia and deliver a world-class course in a highly specialised field.”

Ms Eliseo said the added advantage to conducting the majority of the courses online was the ability to attract overseas students to the program, with students from Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea, the US and Canada.

“Two years ago we did not have any international enrolments and in the past year that has grown to about 15%. We are not only providing education to the next generation of science, maths and engineering experts in Australia, we have developed a world-class product that can be exported around the world.”

Engineer first non-US student to receive special award

A University of Adelaide Masters student has become the first student from outside the United States to receive a special award from one of the US’s biggest universities.

Dr Derek Rogers, who works at Motorola as a Senior Staff Engineer and Product Engineer, is completing his Master of Science and Technology Commercialisation (MSTC) at the University of Adelaide. The course involves an international component delivered in conjunction with the University of Texas (Austin campus).

Dr Rogers has received a special leadership award from the University of Texas for not only his results in the course, but his advice, help and leadership given to fellow students, as well as lecturers. The award has never been given to a non-US student, and is very rarely given at all.

“I’m very pleased, it’s a great honour and I definitely thank my team mates and lecturers who were a part of this,” Dr Rogers said.

“Hopefully this gives people inspiration in what they can do, be that in study or business, either here in Australia or overseas.”

Dr Rogers already holds three qualifications from the University of Adelaide: a Bachelor of Engineering (Electronic and Electrical) with First Class Honours, a Bachelor of Mathematical and Computer Sciences, and a PhD in Engineering.

Academic Director of the MSTC program at Adelaide Mr Antonio Dottore said Dr Rogers’s award was thoroughly deserved.

Story by Ben Osborne
The University of Adelaide has further enhanced its reputation as one of the world’s leading educational institutions in wine sciences thanks to a new state-of-the-art distillation facility at the Waite Campus.

The Angove’s Still House, located at the Hickinbotham Roseworthy Wine Science Laboratory, is a major step forward for teaching and research into the production of spirits such as brandy, whiskey and rum, together with neutral spirits for fortified wine production.

The $500,000 facility features glass pot and continuous stills for research and teaching, and an Italian-manufactured small production-scale copper pot still, with 400 litres capacity.

“The University of Adelaide is the only university in the world offering wine programs with facilities like this for the use of both students and staff,” said Associate Professor Graham Jones of the Wine and Horticulture discipline at the University of Adelaide and project manager for the Angove’s Still House.

“Our teaching and research into distilled beverages and fortified wines has taken place over many years, and these new facilities will ensure that our work is among the best in the world.”

The still house is named after a major South Australian success story, Angove’s Pty Ltd, Australia’s 10th largest wine company in branded wine sales.

“Angove’s has provided generous support for the new facility, and the enthusiasm provided by Tom Angove (who graduated with the Roseworthy Diploma in Oenology in 1940) enabled the still house to become a reality,” said Dr Jones.

The Managing Director of Angove’s, Mr John Angove, was among the many members of the family who attended the official opening of the still house that now bears their name.

“We are proud to be associated with this still house, as it represents an investment into the future of Australian winemaking and the education of Australian winemakers,” Mr Angove said.

“Our company has a proud tradition in producing quality spirits and wine that are recognised throughout the world. It is fitting that the Angove name should be attached to such a world-class facility in Australia.”

Dr Jones said the new still house would also provide a focus for the presentation of advanced, intense short courses in distillation technologies and spirit production.

“A number of Australian and overseas distillers have already indicated support for the running of these courses in 2004,” he said.

The still house was officially opened last month by another University of Adelaide alumnus, Mr Sam Tolley, Chief Executive of the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation.

Story by David Ellis
**Tougher testing urged on alternative medicines**

A leading researcher from the University of Adelaide has renewed calls for alternative medicines to face the same rigorous testing and labelling requirements as standard pharmaceuticals.

Professor Alastair MacLennan, from the University’s Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology (Women’s & Children’s Hospital), is one of Australia’s leading researchers into alternative medicines and therapies. In 2002 he was co-author of a paper that showed Australians spend an estimated $2.3 billion a year on alternative medicines and therapies.

“While I do believe that some alternative medicines and therapies could be beneficial for some patients, I am concerned that many of these remain unproven from a scientific point of view,” Professor MacLennan said.

“I’m also concerned that Australians spend four times as much on unproven therapies as on prescribed pharmaceuticals, which in most cases have been thoroughly tested.”

Professor MacLennan said the public often assumed that alternative medicines promote health and are safe, but in many cases their effectiveness and long-term safety remained unknown or had been disproven in scientific studies.

“It is only common sense that alternative medicines should face the same rigorous testing and labelling requirements as standard pharmaceuticals,” he said.

“The public should have better evidence that their $2.3 billion a year is being put to sound use, and that the money they are spending on alternative medicines is not doing more harm than good.”

*Story by David Ellis*

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**Children of the Gulf War**

A new photographic exhibition at the University of Adelaide’s Barr Smith Library depicts the harsh reality for children and their families in Iraq between the two Gulf Wars.

*Children of the Gulf War* is an exhibition of 58 black and white images by respected photojournalist Takashi Morizumi. The exhibition is on a national tour, and has been brought to Adelaide by the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom Australia.

*Children of the Gulf War* is on display at the Barr Smith Library from June 8-28. The exhibition is open 9am-5pm (Monday-Thursday), 9am-6pm (Friday) and 1-5pm (Saturday and Sunday).

**Emotional Intelligence study**

People aged between 40-65 who are fluent in English are needed to participate in a PhD study on Emotional Intelligence. Upon completion, all participants will go into a draw to win one of 20 double movie passes (five drawn per month until October).

If you wish to participate or would like further information, please contact Psychology PhD student Veneta Bastian on 8303 3855 or email: veneta.bastian@adelaide.edu.au

**Maestros and Apprentices**

The annual Maestros and Apprentices black tie fundraising dinner is on again—7pm Friday, June 13 at the Adelaide Convention Centre. Organised by the Helpmann Academy, the dinner aims to raise money to support the State’s young and emerging artists.

On the menu is a four-course gourmet dinner with wines from the Clare Valley, entertainment, and two auctions of unique and beautiful items. Tickets are $140 per person, with tables of 10 available.

For more information or reservations call (08) 8463 5014.

**Combined choirs in concert**

The second concert in the Elder School of Music’s Evening Concert Series, *Three Choirs in Concert*, will be held on Thursday, June 12 at 8.00pm in Elder Hall.

The evening features the School’s three large vocal ensembles: the Elder Conservatorium Chorale, Bella Voce and Adelaide Voices.

Contemporary works by Swedish composer Knut Nystedt, New Zealand-born Clare Maclean, Australia’s Nigel Butterley, as well as more well-known works by Brahms and Haydn, give the choirs the chance to stretch their vocal talents.

Ticket prices are $22 adult, $14 concession, $8 students. Single tickets available through BASS on 131 246. (University of Adelaide staff receive concession prices on presentation of Staff Card at BASS or at the door.)

To subscribe, contact the Manager, Evening Concert Series on (08) 8303 5925 (Tues & Thurs) or mobile 0402 120 478, or visit the website: www.music.adelaide.edu.au.

Subscribers to at least four concerts receive free parking on campus.
Ash Wednesday study calls for 1500 Australians

A research team is urging more than 1500 people who were children during the Ash Wednesday bushfires 20 years ago to come forward for a world-first study into the impact of traumatic events.

The research team, from the university’s Department of Psychiatry, aims to find out if the childhood trauma of Ash Wednesday continues to affect people’s health and well being in adulthood.

The study is a 20-year follow-up to research conducted after the Ash Wednesday bushfires, which was among the first of its kind in Australia looking at the traumatic impact of natural disasters.

The new study will re-examine 809 people (now adults) who were exposed to the bushfires, and compare them to a control population of 735 adults who did not experience the bushfires.

“This is the world’s first study to do a long-term follow up of children who were exposed to a natural disaster by comparing them to a control population who were not exposed,” said Research Officer Miranda Van Hooff.

“It is also one of the largest studies in Australia to examine the effects of a natural disaster and other childhood traumatic events on a rural population.

“The results will enhance our understanding of the psychological needs of people, especially children, recovering from accidents and other traumatic events, with the aim to devise better methods of treating associated problems.

“We hope to recontact all 1544 people involved in the original study even if they feel they were not affected by the bushfire,” she said.

The original study involved children who attended one of eight rural primary schools in South Australia’s south-east: Kangaroo Inn Area School, Kalangadoo Primary School, Tarpeena Primary, Nangwarry Primary, Mt Burr Primary, Penola Primary and Naracoorte and Naracoorte South Primary.

““We are very keen to speak to anyone who attended one of these primary schools in the years 1983-1985,” Ms Van Hooff said.

While many of these people may still be living in or near the areas where they grew up, many others will have moved within South Australia or interstate, she said.

Story by David Ellis

Potential study participants are urged to call the research team: (08) 8222 6907 (work hours) or 0421 616 351 (after hours).
Students to benefit from library appeal

The annual appeal to raise funds for one of South Australia’s major resources, the University of Adelaide’s Barr Smith Library, is on again.

The Barr Smith is South Australia’s biggest library, with more than two million items in its collection.

Last year, the library launched its first annual appeal for funds to purchase books and electronic resources.

“The support given to the appeal by graduates and friends of the university was outstanding and enabled us to purchase more than 500 titles, including a number of very significant titles,” said University Librarian Ray Choate.

“However, this work must continue, and to enable this we are again seeking the public’s help.

“Donations to the library will underpin our future as the premiere research library in South Australia, as well as helping to provide first-grade resources for all students of South Australian universities,” Mr Choate said.

University of Adelaide students Ryan Cornish, 25, and Sonia Corsini, 20, both agreed that supporting the Barr Smith Library would greatly benefit students.

Dentists to give library new fillings

Adelaide dentists are hoping to raise money to improve a vital resource for dental and oral health workers in South Australia.

University libraries throughout the world are having to cut back the number of journals they receive because of increasing costs.

At the Barr Smith Library, the number of dental journals has dropped from 79 in 1995 to 33 in 2003.

Members of the dental profession, industry and academia in South Australia have now joined forces with the Barr Smith Library to boost the number of dental journals, and they’re seeking help from the public to do so.

The new “Filling The Shelves Appeal” was launched by University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha at the Barr Smith Library last month.

Money raised in the appeal would go towards improving the state of dental research and education in South Australia, and would help oral health professionals to keep up to date with the latest research and techniques, said Dr Janet Fuss, Senior Lecturer at the University of Adelaide’s Dental School.

“The ability of the Dental School to conduct research and to compete for research funding, as well as provide the latest information to students and practitioners, will be greatly enhanced by the addition of several journals that the library cannot currently afford,” Dr Fuss said.

“While dentists are used to dealing with fillings of a different kind, this time around we are aiming to ‘fill the shelves’ of the library, both in terms of hard copy material and online journals.

“To do that we will need to raise more than $100,000 for subscriptions, which will help us to add between eight and 12 important titles to our subscription list over the next 10 years.”

Dr Fuss said the appeal was particularly aimed at members of the dental community, but the support of all members of the public would be welcome.

“After all, it is the public who have the most to gain from improved research and teaching in dentistry,” she said.

Donations can be made to the Alumni, Community Relations and Development office: (08) 8303 5800. Donations of $50 or more will be acknowledged with a named bookplate.
Power to the poor: South Africa study puts information first

The world may be in an age of information, but not everyone has equal access to the benefits that information can bring.

There are few who know this better than Department of Anthropology lecturer Dr Andrew Skuse. Dr Skuse will spend six months in South Africa over the next two years as part of a major international study to examine how information contributes to poverty reduction in poor communities.

He is one of four researchers—and the only based outside of the UK—to take part in the project, which has received more than $600,000 grant funding from the UK’s Department for International Development. The other three researchers, based at the London School of Economics, University College London and Oxford University Internet Institute, will be undertaking similar work in Ghana, Jamaica and India.

Dr Skuse will conduct fieldwork in Philippi, Cape Flats, a poor township on the outskirts of Cape Town, with assistance from local field researchers at the University of Cape Town. His broad-ranging study will examine how information is used and accessed in the Philippi community, ranging from how vital information about issues is communicated through mass media and face-to-face discussions, to the use of mobile phones.

“Statistics only tell part of the story, but they’re a useful starting point,” he said. “A recent United Nations study found that in Africa only one in four people have access to a radio, one in 13 to a television, and one in 160 have access to the Internet—figures vastly less to those of a modern Western country such as Australia.”

“So for the Internet, that’s a total of about five million people in Africa—a significant percentage of those people live in South Africa, and are either white or wealthy. Very few come from poor areas such as the townships. “The project that I’m involved with aims to put information and communication technologies in context without privileging one technology or mode of communication over another. “It’s not just a matter of providing communities like Philippi with the latest computers and email facilities, it’s about supporting information and communication channels that benefit and enrich the whole community, which are inclusive and ultimately help reduce poverty levels.”

Such channels include things like community radio stations, personal communication through outreach, and counselling and peer education, as well as newer technologies such as the Internet, he said.

“But it is also important to understand poor people’s information needs, and the project will also focus upon this aspect.”

“HIV/AIDS is a well-understood problem in places like Philippi, and most adults understand that condom use reduces the risk of HIV transmission, so while it is important for health promotion activities to focus on safe sex and condom use, other factors such as domestic violence, which may be less high-profile and obvious, but lead to female disempowerment and the inability of women to negotiate safe sex, also need to be addressed through communication activities. “On the technology side, telephones are a good example of how an appropriate information technology can be used to reduce poverty.”

“Normal ‘land lines’ generally haven’t penetrated Cape Flats, because the cables are valuable and get dug up and sold, so telephone companies have resisted investing in terrestrial infrastructure in favour of wireless systems. “Mobile phone use has increased rapidly and has revolutionised the way business is done there. People and business who weren’t on the map before are now on the map, and able to do business in a way that they haven’t been able to previously. Technology has opened up new markets for them, markets from which they were previously excluded,” Dr Skuse said. Story by Ben Osborne
New bat's name a bright inspiration

A new species of bat has been named in honour of the Fulbright Scholarships in a gesture of thanks from a grateful student.

University of Adelaide PhD student and Harvard graduate Kristofer Helgen received the Fulbright Scholarship to study in Australia.

Mr Helgen, from Coon Rapids, Minnesota, has identified more than 20 new species of mammal during the past two years, including species from Australia.

Described by one of his professors as one of the brightest undergraduates to come from Harvard University, 23-year-old Mr Helgen is now completing his PhD in Environmental Biology at the University of Adelaide.

During his studies at Harvard, Mr Helgen was inspired by Australian mammalogist Professor Tim Flannery, who was teaching at Harvard as the visiting Chair in Australian Studies.

Following his graduation, Mr Helgen was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to undertake a PhD with Professor Flannery at the University of Adelaide and the South Australian Museum (Professor Flannery is Director of the museum and Affiliate Professor of the university).

To honour the Fulbright program that gave him this opportunity, Mr Helgen decided to name one of the new species he identified after Fulbright.

The new species is Fulbright's flying fox (to be known either as *Pteropus fulbrighti* or *Pteropus fulbrightorum*). It is found only on Indonesia's Talaud Islands, and was chosen because of its distinctiveness, Professor Flannery said.

"It is one of the last, reasonably large mammals to be undescribed until now," he said. "This bat is important because it can tell us a lot about the origin of fruit bats in the region."

Mrs Harriet Fulbright, widow of the late Senator J. William Fulbright, was a guest of honour at a dinner hosted last month by the University of Adelaide and the South Australian Fulbright Alumni Chapter. A painting of the new species was presented to her by Professor James McWha, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide, and Professor Flannery.

The Fulbright Program is one of the largest and most prestigious educational scholarship programs in the world. The Australian-American Fulbright Commission annually provides up to 20 scholarships for Australians to the US, and a similar number for Americans to Australia.

This year a University of Adelaide music graduate, jazz singer Jo Lawry, was awarded the scholarship to study in New York.

There is also another Fulbright scholar heading from the US to Adelaide this year. Belinda Waltman, a graduate of Brown University in Rhode Island, is coming to the University of Adelaide to study with Professor Russell Baudinette (who was one of Kris Helgen’s supervisors) in Environmental Biology. Belinda arrives this month.

Newsmakers

**Professor Mike Tyler** followed up a recent appearance on *Sixty Minutes* by speaking to *ABC Radio Darwin* (May 14) about the impact of the cane toad in Kakadu National Park—an impact he predicts to be greater than that of mining.

The goalposts for sporting club sponsorship have changed, according to **Professor Pascale Quester**. She told *Win News Albury* (May 6) that business spending on such sponsorship is now much tighter, with an ability to know how to research and target potential clients being critical.

Constitutional law authority **Dr John Williams** was in much demand throughout May as the crisis surrounding then Governor-General Dr Peter Hollingworth continued to deepen, speaking to most major national media outlets. He was also featured in the *Australian Financial Review* (May 17).

**Ms Yvonne Routledge** took *Channel Nine’s Postcards* (May 4) through the history of Urrbrae House and its founder, Peter Waite.

**ABC Radio Mackay** (May 1) spoke to **Professor Chris Burrell** about how the spread of SARS relates to past epidemics such as the plague, tuberculosis and influenza.

Food preservation took on a whole new meaning with the appearance of **Dr Barbara Santich** on *ABC Radio Adelaide* (May 2). She spoke with Carole Whitelock about how she is putting together an Australian Ark of Taste, an organisation which will aim to preserve worthy foods that are in danger of extinction.

**Professor Peter Howe** spoke to *The Advertiser* (May 22) about the potential link between omega-3 fatty acids and treating depression, particularly in pregnant women.

A delighted **Professor Charles Bodman Rae** told *The Advertiser* (May 10) about the achievements of cello-playing twins, Pei-Jee and Pei-Sian Ng.

**Professor Richard Ruffin** appeared on *Imparja Television* (May 6) to talk about his research into how many asthmatics suffer from depression.

Australia has actually experienced a net “brain gain”, rather than the common perception of a “brain drain”, according to **Professor Graeme Hugo** in the *Sydney Morning Herald* (May 5).
What’s happened to our native species?

continued from page 1

“Some of the native species that have become extinct in the Adelaide area include the numbat, quoll, platypus, wombat and western pygmy possum, while the common brushtail possum, water rat and the southern brown bandicoot are still present,” she said.

Introduced mammals include the red fox, koala and rabbit.

“Almost all the medium-sized ground-dwelling marsupials have become extinct from the Adelaide area. Mammal species on the plains have been devastated, but many of the small hill species still remain.”

There has been little change in the overall number of bird species: 21 native species became extinct, but 20 species were introduced. “However, most of the birds became extinct since 1959, and it is clear that many bird species are declining today and are at great risk of extinction,” Ms Tait said.

Two reptile species were introduced, while two became extinct (for a total of 56 species both in 1836 and today). The number of amphibian species (seven) has remained unaltered in almost 170 years.

“It appears that the native reptiles and amphibians in Adelaide are relatively tolerant of the change from natural to urban environments.”

With 617 successful new species, plants represent the biggest increase in introduced species. Some 89 native plant species have been lost (or 8% of the original number of native plant species). Less than 4% of the city’s original vegetation in 1836 still remains and a great many more species are at serious risk.

“The main vegetation at the time of European settlement was temperate and box grassy woodland, but with heavy clearance for the development of Adelaide townships, grazing and agriculture, these woodland communities have been destroyed.

“The orchid and erect perennial groups have also suffered losses, but the climber, annual, herbaceous perennial and tall shrub layer groups have all increased. Most strikingly, trees were aggressively introduced, changing the Adelaide plains from grassy woodland to a forest.

“Initially there were large increases in Mediterranean and European plant species, but this increase has stopped. Now it is predominantly the Southern African species that are still slowly arriving in the area.”

Ms Tait is now working for the newly formed Centre for Urban Habitats, which is headed by the University of Adelaide’s Associate Professor Christopher Daniels (who was also her Honours supervisor). Besides the university, other partners in the centre include the Royal Adelaide Zoo, Adelaide City Council, Botanic Gardens and the South Australian Museum.

Dr Daniels said Ms Tait’s research illustrated the manner in which the centre can investigate ecosystems in the city of Adelaide, and establish Adelaide as a model city for understanding these complex issues in biology.

“When we set up the Centre for Urban Habitats late last year, this was exactly the sort of research we had in mind,” he said. “Catherine has shown a great deal of resourcefulness in tracking down a vast quantity of information particularly relevant to all Adelaide residents.

“It also shows people outside Adelaide and South Australia how much importance we place on our natural environment and how serious we are about working to retain it.”

Ms Tait thanked the large number of people and organisations who gave her assistance in obtaining the data she needed. “They were essential in the success of my project,” she said.

“I’m now looking forward to working at the Centre for Urban Habitats, and examining Adelaide’s environment in even more detail.”

Story by Ben Osborne
**How do you stop the self sabotage?**

A new short course aims to help members of the public take on their worst enemy: themselves.

“People can often be their own worst enemies in their personal and professional lives,” according to course developer and trainer Helen Alm.

“Although sometimes we seek to blame others for the shortcomings in our work and home environments, there are often things we can do to improve the way we work and interact with others, and the way in which we treat ourselves.

“Our course addresses a range of issues that people might not be aware of, or feel powerless to change, in their day-to-day lives. By addressing some of these key issues we can all become more effective workers or managers, and more effective in our personal lives,” she said.

These issues include: taking on too much, finding it hard to say no, procrastination, perfectionism, seeking approval from others, finding it hard to make decisions, needing to control everything, and needlessly apologising.

“Through this thought-provoking course, participants will have the opportunity to explore these limiting behaviours and more, and learn practical strategies to overcome them,” Ms Alm said.

The half-day course is being run by the University of Adelaide’s Centre for Professional & Continuing Education, from 9am-12.30pm on Wednesday, June 18.

For more information about courses available through Professional & Continuing Education, phone (08) 8303 4777 or visit: [www.adelaide.edu.au/pace](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/pace)

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**Adelaide Festival of Ideas 2003**

Hope and Fear are the themes of the 2003 Adelaide Festival of Ideas, to be held from July 10-13 at various venues on North Terrace, including the University of Adelaide.

A large number of challenging overseas and Australian speakers feature at this year’s festival.

They include former UN weapons inspector Richard Butler, Middle East correspondent Robert Fisk, non-conformist political commentator George Monbiot, Muslim scholar and cultural critic Ziauddin Sardar, and Harvard University Professor of Scripture and Interpretation Elisabeth Schussler Fiorenza.

The festival encourages the public to participate in robust debate and passionate discussion about the big issues in the world today, with speakers who are leading thinkers in their field.

Most of the sessions for the festival will be free and open to all. Tickets for keynote presentations will be available from BASS.

More information about the full program can be found at the official website: [www.adelaidefestivalofideas.com.au](http://www.adelaidefestivalofideas.com.au)

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**Coming Events**

**Monday, June 2**

12.30pm CDRC seminar: "12 months at the Eastman – what did I learn?" by Jeff Mount. Boardroom, Colgate Australian Clinical Dental Research Centre, 2nd Floor, Adelaide Dental Hospital, Frome Rd.

1.10pm History seminar: "The Preemptive Strike: Cromwell in Scotland" by Associate Professor Roger Hainsworth (Honorary Visiting Research Fellow, History). Rm 420, Napier Bld, North Terrace Campus.

8pm Classical Association of South Australia: "The Art of Breathing". Counselling Centre, ground floor, Horace Lamb Bld, North Terrace Campus.

**Tuesday, June 3**

1.10pm Student workshop: "The Art of Writing". Counselling Centre, ground floor, Horace Lamb Bld, North Terrace Campus.

12.30pm CDRC seminar: "The Preemptive Strike: Cromwell in Scotland" by Associate Professor Roger Hainsworth (Honorary Visiting Research Fellow, History). Rm 420, Napier Bld, North Terrace Campus.

8pm Classical Association of South Australia: "The Art of Breathing". Counselling Centre, ground floor, Horace Lamb Bld, North Terrace Campus.

**Wednesday, June 4**

Medical Research Week Expo: featuring research conducted at South Australia’s universities and hospitals, part of Medical Research Week (June 1-6). Rundle Mall.


1.10pm Geology & Geophysics seminar: “Supercritical fluids in the Earth’s crust” by Dr Andreas Schmidt Mumm (Geology & Geophysics). Mawson Lecture Theatre, North Terrace Campus.

**Thursday, June 5**

12.05pm Psychology seminar: "Children’s performance on the travelling sale’s person problem" by Margaret Chandler (PhD student). Departmental Library, Rm 526, Hughes Building, North Terrace Campus.

1pm Chemical Pathology seminar: "Tom Kruse - Stories of the Back of Beyond Mailman" by lan Doyle (Documentary Maker & Historian, Managing Director, Doyle Media Services). Seminar Rm 1, 4th Floor, Reiger Building, Women’s & Children’s Hospital.

**Friday, June 6**

1.10pm Elder Hall Lunch Hour Concert Series: Jazz program, featuring Michelle Nicolle (voice), Bruce Hancock (piano), John Aue (double bass), Laurie Kennedy (drums). Elder Hall, North Terrace Campus. Tickets $5 at the door from 12.30pm.

**Sunday, June 8**

3pm Organ Music Society of Adelaide: free Organ Recital with Philip Swanton (Sydney Conservatorium of Music). Featuring works by Bach, Clerambault, Racquet and Rinck. Elder Hall, North Terrace Campus.

**Tuesday, June 10**

1.10pm Student workshop: “Meditation”. Counselling Centre, ground floor, Horace Lamb Bld, North Terrace Campus.

1.10pm Geology & Geophysics seminar: “Lake Eyre fluvial-lacustrine sedimentology” by Dr Simon Lang (National Centre for Petroleum Geology & Geochemistry). Mawson Lecture Theatre, North Terrace Campus.

**Thursday, June 12**

1pm Chemical Pathology seminar: "Making Our Hospital Safe and Secure" by Anne Leahy (Occupational Health Consultant) and Brian Milde (Security/Fire Safety Manager). Seminar Rm 1, 4th Floor, Reiger Building, Women’s & Children’s Hospital.
Students face $70,000 challenge

Young people with bright ideas are taking up the challenge in a business-like competition that offers more than $70,000 in prizes.

The annual Entrepreneurs’ Challenge (formerly E-Challenge) is run by the University of Adelaide and Hewlett-Packard Australia. Hewlett-Packard Australia is again the major sponsor of the event, which sees participating teams plan for business ventures that have real commercial value.

Teams consult with industry mentors, academics, management consultants and other key supporters throughout the competition, gaining a wide range of skills in the process.

“Teams have to conduct market research, carry out feasibility studies and draw up business plans for their concepts, all within a six-month period—and each team must include at least one University of Adelaide student,” said Karen Franks, project manager of the challenge and Business Development Manager for the Adelaide Graduate School of Business.

“The winning team will receive prizes to the value of $50,000, the second team $17,000 plus and the third $5000. And, just as importantly, the prizes relate to helping the recipients get their venture off the ground.

“The 2002 Entrepreneurs’ Challenge was a tremendous success, particularly due to the involvement of many generous sponsors, and we are very confident this year’s will be bigger and better,” she said.

The past two events have yielded some talented and imaginative ventures, and included a host of brilliant students. Many of these have come from the university’s Business Initiatives from Graduates program based at the University of Adelaide Research Park (Thebarton Campus).

Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha said the skills developed during the Entrepreneurs’ Challenge would be invaluable to the students as they finish their studies and move on into the wider world.

Mr Jack Gargano, Director of Finance and Administration for Hewlett-Packard Australia, said the challenge was an important opportunity for Adelaide’s brightest entrepreneurial minds.

“The challenge encourages entrepreneurship and the building of new Australian businesses. It stands out from other business plan competitions because it focuses on the commercial viability of the idea, not just the business plan.”

Story by Howard Salkow

More information about the challenge can be obtained from: www.adelaide.edu.au/echallenge

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8pm Elder School of Music’s Evening Concert Series: Three Choirs in Concert, with works by Nystedt, Brahms, Haydn, Maclean and Butterley, featuring the Elder Conservatorium Chorale, Bella Voce and Adelaide Voices directed by Carl Crossin. Elder Hall, North Terrace Campus. Tickets $22 adults, $14 conc, $8 students available through BASS on 131 246. (University of Adelaide staff at concession prices on presentation of Staff Card at BASS or at the door.)

Friday, June 13

1.10pm Elder Hall Lunch Hour Concert Series: works by Wagner, Rossini and Tchaikovsky, featuring the Elder Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra with Nicholas Braithwaite (conductor). Elder Hall, North Terrace Campus. Tickets $5 at the door from 12.30pm.

2pm Centre for Asian Studies seminar: "Chair’s Fragmentary Identity: the Failure of National Autonomy Policy in Xinjiang and Tibet" by Greg De Cure (Politics). Rm 518 Ligertwood Bid, North Terrace Campus.

4pm Obstetrics & Gynaecology seminar: "Hormone-refractory prostate cancer: clinical reality or myth" by Professor Wayne Tilley (Dame Roma Mitchell Chair in Cancer Research, Hanson Institute, IMVS). Seminar Rm, 6th Floor, Medical School North, Frome Rd.

7pm Helpmann Academy fundraiser: "Maestros and Apprentices – A Gem of a Night". Black tie event to raise money for young and emerging artists. Adelaide Convention Centre. $140 per person (tables of 10 available). For reservations call (08) 8463 5014.

Thursday, June 19

1pm Chemical Pathology seminar: "A Film Maker’s Lot – Stories From the Other Side" by Rolf DeHeer (Film Director, Vertigo Productions). Seminar Rm 1, 4th Floor, Reiger Building, Women’s & Children’s Hospital.

Friday, June 20

1.10pm Elder Hall Lunch Hour Concert Series: solo and chamber music featuring emerging artists from the Australian National Academy of Music. Elder Hall, North Terrace Campus. Tickets $5 at the door from 12.30pm.

4pm Obstetrics & Gynaecology seminar: “Manipulation of the immune response to apoptotic prostate tissue” by Dr John Hayball (Dame Roma Mitchell Cancer Research Laboratories, Hanson Institute/IMVS). Seminar Rm, 6th Floor, Medical School North, Frome Rd.

Tuesday, June 24

7.30pm Musicological Society of Australia, SA Chapter meeting: Mark Carroll. Rm 1107, Schulz Bid, North Terrace Campus.

Thursday, June 26

1pm Chemical Pathology seminar: "The Latest From Olympus in Digital Cameras" by Mr Peter Hunt (Sales Specialist, Olympus). Seminar Rm 1, 4th Floor, Reiger Building, Women’s & Children’s Hospital.

Friday, June 27

1.10pm Elder Hall Lunch Hour Concert Series: works by Couperin, Milhaud and Klughardt, featuring Peter Duggan (oboe), Keith Crelin (viola), Janis Laurs (cello), Gil Sullivan (piano/arpisichord). Elder Hall, North Terrace Campus. Tickets $5 at the door from 12.30pm.
Leanne’s new life: from work experience to full-time

Leanne Chandler, the School of Commerce’s recently appointed receptionist, firmly believes that life does begin at 40.

Following an 18-year break from the workforce, Ms Chandler began her new career at the university two days after hitting the Big 4-0. And the mother of two sons and a daughter has the university’s Law School to thank for her change in life.

Two years ago the Law School launched a work experience program where Year 10-12 scholars and adult students were invited to apply for weekly placements. Ms Chandler was among the lucky ones to be offered an opportunity.

“She worked for us for a week and stood out with her incredible efficiency, great personality and solid interaction with the students and staff,” said Ms Allayne Webster, personal assistant to the Dean of Law.

“As it turned out, we needed a casual staff member for a six-month period and Ms Chandler proved to be the best candidate.”

For Ms Chandler, this is where it got exciting. While working at the Law School, her current post was advertised; she applied and found herself with a full-time position in Commerce.

“I am still on cloud nine. I never expected it would happen so quickly,” she said. “Allayne has been extremely supportive and I am grateful to the university, to the Law School for its work experience program and to the School of Commerce for appointing me to my current position.”

The work experience program attracts students from across the State and, in Ms Chandler’s case, adult learners from Marden College, where she was completing a business certificate.

“The university will benefit from this program in the long-term,” said Ms Webster. “The Year 10-12 students gain a valuable insight into the university and we will be front of mind when they consider their tertiary education.”

Story by Howard Salkow

For further information about the work experience program, please call Ms Sarah Wickham: (08) 8303 5063.

Postgrad quality papers go online

Australia’s biggest collection of papers on quality in postgraduate research is now a major resource online.

The collected papers from five Quality in Postgraduate Research (QPR) conferences held in Adelaide over the past 10 years are now available thanks to the University of Adelaide and the University of Canberra.

The QPR conferences began in 1994, organised by the three South Australian universities.

Over the years they have become regarded as the most important conferences of their kind in Australia, attracting some of the biggest names in the field, and the significant involvement of postgraduate students.

“What started out as a local concern about the need for discussion about quality in postgraduate research turned into a major event for universities from around Australia and New Zealand,” said Dr Gerry Mullins, one of the organisers of the conferences.

“The website now contains the best—and only—collection in Australasia of discussion papers on postgraduate research quality. It is a major resource for anyone interested in the field.”

Most of the papers presented at each conference are available on the new QPR website, which is hosted by the University of Canberra and can be found at: www.canberra.edu.au/celts/QPR/
Alumni News

Adelaide graduates thriving on Friendly Street

Past and present University of Adelaide students feature heavily in two new poetry collections published recently.

Both works, blue: friendly street 27 and new poets eight, have been published by well-known Adelaide poetry collective Friendly Street Poets with the assistance of Wakefield Press.

blue is the annual anthology of Friendly Street, and showcases 87 of the best poems by more than 70 different poets.

It is edited by Adelaide graduate K*n Mann and Graham Catt. Mann’s poetry has won several prizes and been published in newspapers, journals, books and online. She has also performed at festivals around Australia. She completed a Master of Arts in Creative Writing at Adelaide in 2002 and is now working on her first novel, as well as writing the script for a new play and co-writing an a cappella, both on commission.

new: poets eight is part of the Friendly Poets’ New Poet series, which publishes writers whose work has not previously appeared in collection form.

All three authors featured, Elaine Barker, Tess Driver and David Mortimer, are Adelaide graduates.

Barker was formerly a librarian at the State Library of South Australia. She teaches Creative Writing at Adelaide, and now writes full-time.

Mortimer, who has a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in Philosophy, writes happily and extensively on a range of issues and interests.

The Adelaideans has one copy each of blue: friendly street 27 and new poets eight to give away to one reader. To win, please phone (08) 8303 5174 and leave your name and contact details.

Driver has taught communication skills, drama, English and creative writing. She has completed an MA of Creative Writing at Adelaide, and now writes full-time.

Mortimer, who has a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in Philosophy, writes happily and extensively on a range of issues and interests.

The Adelaideans has one copy each of blue: friendly street 27 and new poets eight to give away to one reader. To win, please phone (08) 8303 5174 and leave your name and contact details.

Alumni Association Annual General Meeting 2003

The 19th Annual General Meeting of the University of Adelaide Alumni Association will be held on Tuesday, June 17 from 5.30-7pm in the Margaret Murray Room, Level 4, Union House (opposite the Equinox café), North Terrace Campus.

The agenda includes the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the calendar year 2002 and revisions to the Alumni Association Constitution.

Relevant documents can be obtained from the Alumni, Community Relations & Development office, Level 1, 230 North Terrace, ph: +61 8 8303 5800, fax: +61 8 8303 5808 or from: www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni

All members are encouraged to attend. RSVP by June 16 to Kim McBride at +61 8 8303 3196 or kim.mcbride@adelaide.edu.au

Alumni Association Annual Dinner

Guest Speaker: University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha

Date / Time: Tuesday, June 17 - 7pm for 7.30pm

Location: Eclipse (former Upper Refectory), Level 4, Union House

Cost: Tickets $30 from the Alumni, Community Relations & Development Office

Includes complimentary pre-dinner drink and nibbles, main course, dessert, soft drinks, juices, tea and coffee. Cash bar available.

RSVP: by June 11 to Kim McBride, ph: (08) 8303 3196 or email: kim.mcbride@adelaide.edu.au

Peter Goers in Conversation with Elizabeth Silsbury

Luncheon organised by the Cornell Chapter (Arts and Performing Arts)

Date / Time: Wednesday, July 9 - 12.30pm

Location: Eclipse (former Upper Refectory), Level 4, Union House

Cost: Tickets $20 from the Alumni, Community Relations & Development Office, ph: (08) 8303 5800, fax: (08) 8303 5808 or email: kim.mcbride@adelaide.edu.au

Includes baguettes and focaccias with gourmet fillings, platters of fresh seasonal fruit, orange juice, tea and coffee. Cash bar available.

For information on any Alumni events please contact the Alumni, Community Relations and Development office, telephone 8303 5800 or visit www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/
Double scholarship success for twin cellists

Identical twins Pei-Sian and Pei-Jee Ng have the music world at their feet after being awarded major scholarships to further their study in the UK.

The 18-year-old cellists, who are studying for their Bachelor of Music (Honours) degree at the Elder School of Music, have each been awarded two-year scholarships valued at a combined total of more than $120,000 for postgraduate study at the acclaimed Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. They will leave to take up the scholarships in September this year.

Pei-Sian will receive the Elder School of Music’s most prestigious scholarship, the Elder Overseas Scholarship. This scholarship was established in 1883 by an endowment from Sir Thomas Elder, and has been held by such notable Adelaide musicians as Miriam Hyde and most recently the baritone Grant Doyle.

In addition, Pei-Sian has received another award linked to the Elder Overseas Scholarship, from the Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship SA.

Pei-Jee has been awarded one of the world’s most coveted and valuable music awards, an International Postgraduate Scholarship from the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.

Pei-Sian and Pei-Jee are regarded as exceptionally talented and accomplished musicians, who, under the guidance of Janis Laurs, have each won numerous State and national awards and prizes.

Pei-Jee was the winner of the Symphony Australia Young Performers’ Awards in 2001, while this year Pei-Sian has performed with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra.

The twins said they were appreciative of the support given to them by the Adelaide music community, and were excited about embarking on the next stage of their careers.

Pei-Jee said: “Without the help of the Elder School of Music and Professor Charles Bodman Rae, it would be impossible to even dream of studying in the UK.” Pei-Sian said: “We can’t wait to participate in the RNCM International Cello Festival and listen to all the great cellists of today, perform and teach.”

Elder Professor of Music and Dean of the Elder School of Music Professor Charles Bodman Rae said the scholarships would further prepare Pei-Sian and Pei-Jee for their careers as international-class musicians.

“This is an absolutely fantastic achievement, not least of all for Pei-Jee and Pei-Sian, but also their family, the Elder School of Music and the South Australian music community in general,” Professor Bodman Rae said.

“I am delighted that the Ng twins will be able to study together at the Royal Northern. They are at the stage of their careers where they need to travel and study overseas to gain the experience and learning necessary to become world-class musicians.

“Such achievements also show that Adelaide can produce performers who are capable of obtaining careers on the world stage.”

Story by Ben Osborne

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MEMORIES OF A JAZZ LEGEND

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The Dave Dallwitz Diaries
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All is to know about the Adelaide Cabaret Festival June 6 - 22, including performances and giveaways:

Espresso WEEKDAYS 7:45 AM • State of Play, MON 8 PM
The Range, WEEKDAYS 5 PM • Arts Breakfast, SAT 9 AM
Aquarium SAT 11 AM

Gala Showcase Fringe of Cabaret Festival, SUN ON AIR!
FRI 6 JUNE 9 PM - 12 MIDNIGHT

The first ever Cabaret Fringe live from the charming studio of The Weinab Room – hosted by wacky regulars Jason Cheng & Craig Jackson featuring tantalizing snippets from most Fringe acts.