Koala study targets deadly disease

University of Adelaide scientists concerned about the little-known problem of renal failure in koalas are revealing there’s more to this lovable animal than most of us realise.

It can be a surprising, even heart-warming sight for the unsuspecting Adelaide Hills resident. In a bizarre act of courage, a koala casually climbs down its favourite tree and ambles into your backyard. This time he’s not in search of gum leaves. Instead, it’s your swimming pool that’s got his attention. Or your fish pond, birdbath, or the dog’s bowl of water.

Although seemingly an act of trust and remarkable adaptability, this strange behaviour has koala lovers worried.

“Thirst in a koala can in fact be a symptom of kidney disease.”

According to the dedicated team of wildlife attendants at Cleland Wildlife Park, more than 10% of captive and probably the same proportion of wild koalas contract this fatal disease.

“There is so much that we don’t know,” says Dr Ian Hough. “For instance, we don’t know the role that stress plays in koalas that develop this disease. When an animal is stressed, blood is diverted away from the kidneys to the heart, brain and lungs. This might then reduce the animal’s ability to rid its body of toxins.”

“‘What we do know is that koalas of all ages are being lost to kidney disease. The death of young joeys is especially heartbreaking for koala carers and wildlife park attendants. ‘When concerned residents bring in a koala that is placid and easy to handle, we know something is wrong,’ he says.

continued on page 11

Photo Dick Marks, courtesy of the Australian Koala Foundation
Securing the Future

Like all Australian universities, the University of Adelaide is weighing up the pros and cons of the recent Federal Budget as it impacts on the higher education sector. While much has yet to be discussed, debated and negotiated with the government, one thing is clear: that equity of access to universities is an important issue, and it is one that we need to find ways of addressing.

Universities are full of talented students, and we want to ensure that talented people of all backgrounds have an opportunity to benefit from a quality education. Under the current Budget arrangements to take effect in 2005, there is the potential for that access to be affected.

Two of the South Australian universities have student numbers in excess of our Commonwealth quota. There are more than 1000 of these “overload” students in the University of Adelaide, and these marginally funded students represent a significant contribution to improved access in our State as well as providing some additional income to the university. Under the Budget proposals we will be prevented from enrolling these students and indeed financially punished if we are more than 2% above our quota. This will be a significant loss to educational opportunity in our State.

Admittedly the Commonwealth proposes to put a similar (but slightly less) number of new places into the system and distribute them with the quota allocations. It is vital therefore that we all lobby to ensure a significant allocation of these new places to South Australia despite the indication that preference will be given to other States.

We need to find ways to sustain and grow educational opportunities for South Australians, so that our society, culture and economy are the richer for it. At the same time, we need to make sure that what we are offering, in terms of our teaching, facilities and services, provides a quality experience for the student. Resources provided by the government are likely to remain inadequate for the sort of quality we are pursuing.

The University of Adelaide cannot afford to rest on its laurels and assume that all will be okay. This is why we are working to secure our own financial future by developing alliances with industry, alumni and other key partners locally, nationally and internationally, as well as exploring all new avenues that may become available.

Industry-funded support for education and research benefits not only the university and its partners, but also the wider community. Likewise, acts of generosity from individuals can greatly assist the education and training of some of our brightest minds, leading to great benefits for all.

The appeals currently underway for the Barr Smith Library are just one example of what we can all do to maintain an excellent resource for our staff, students and the wider community. We have also seen the awarding of Vice-Chancellor’s scholarships to two worthy recipients this year, whose talent will benefit from the financial support we offer.

Whether the funding comes from industry, government or members of the public, the message is always the same: an investment in the University of Adelaide is an investment in the future and in the life of our community.

JAMES A. McWHA
Vice-Chancellor
Ideas flow from North Terrace festival

The Adelaide Festival of Ideas begins at the University of Adelaide on Thursday, July 10.

This year’s festival features its biggest ever program of speakers and events, with more than 50 sessions and more than 40 speakers from Australia and overseas.

Australia’s largest free public gathering of thinkers, the festival will be held over four nights and three days from July 10–13 at various venues on North Terrace, Adelaide.

With the theme of “Hope and Fear”, the 2003 festival is dedicated to the life’s work of respected Aboriginal leader Lowitja O’Donoghue, who will give the festival’s opening address at 8pm on July 10 in Elder Hall.

This address will be followed at 8.30pm by the opening keynote session “Disquiet on the Western Front” with speakers Joanna Burke, Richard Butler, Elizabeth Schussler-Fiorenza, Robert Fisk and Robert Manne, chaired by Phillip Adams.

Other keynote sessions are:
- “The Gardens of Eden” with Frank Brennan, Amy B Dean, Ihab Hassan, George Monbiot, Redmond O’Hanlon and Rachael Kohn;
- “To Market to Market” with Lois Bryson, Clive Hamilton, J Budi Hernawan, Humphrey McQueen, Philippe van Parijs and Margot Kingston, and;
- “The Shape of Things to Come” with Unity Dow, Greg Sheridan, Fiona Stanley, Erik Olin Wright and Morag Fraser.

Tickets for the evening sessions above are $28 ($23 for Friends of the Adelaide Festival and $15 concession) and are available through BASS on 131 246 or www.bass.net.au

Among the 50 sessions in the festival’s free daytime program are:
- “Australia and the World after Iraq” with Robert Manne;
- “Where’s the Fun in Fundamentalism?” with Peter Beilharz, Richard Butler, Max Coltheart, Tahmeena Faryal and Ziauddin Sardar;
- “Justice Without Borders—Universal Jurisdiction for Crimes against Humanity” with Unity Dow;
- “Uncertain Identities: National, Virtual” with Peter Beilharz, Tahmeena Faryal, Ihab Hassan, Seth Shostak and Margaret Simons;
- “Crime and Punishment” with John Braithwaite, Frank Brennan and Erik Olin Wright;
- “Freedom from Information” with Richard Butler, Robert Fisk, Margo Kingston, Greg Sheridan and Margaret Simons;
- “The Greatest Threat: weapons of mass destruction or the double standard about them?” with Richard Butler;
- “Gender Agenda in the 21st Century” with Dennis Altman, Lois Bryson, Elizabeth Schussler-Fiorenza, Susan Maushart and Moira Rayner;
- “Getting a grip on Hope and Fear” with Peter Beilharz, Joanna Bourke, Max Coltheart, Stephanie Dowrick, Ziauddin Sardar and Ghassan Hage;
- “Fall from Grace: truth in public life since the Olympics” with Margot Kingston, Humphrey McQueen, Robert Manne, David Marr, Moira Rayner and Irene Watson;
- “One World Ready or Not” with Amy Dean, George Monbiot, Ziauddin Sardar and Michael Woolcock.

The University of Adelaide is a sponsor of the 2003 Festival of Ideas. The full program is available from selected bookstores or online: www.adelaidefestivalofideas.com.au

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At Satisfac, the teachers credit union, we see no reason why any educator should pay transaction fees. That’s why we give you free and unlimited withdrawals at all Satisfac ATMs and branches. Even if you occasionally use other ATMs, EFTPOS and giroPost, you still shouldn’t have to pay transaction fees, as we give you 8 free withdrawals every month. Additionally, Satisfac does not charge account keeping fees and you can make an unlimited number of fee-free Visa transactions with our Visa card, which also has no annual fee.

If your bank is hitting you hard with transaction fees, it’s time you taught them a lesson and switched to Satisfac.


Adelaidean: News from the University of Adelaide
Volume 12  Number 6  July 2003
Industry links, medical research boosted

The University of Adelaide has further strengthened its links with industry, winning more than $2.2 million in the latest round of funding from the Australian Research Council and a further $2.8 million in industry support.

The money and in-kind support is for 14 industry-linked research projects at the University of Adelaide over the next five years.

Australian Research Council (ARC) funding for these projects will assist Adelaide researchers to develop strategic alliances with industry. Each research project is co-funded by one or more companies or partner organisations. The combined funding and in-kind support brings the total to more than $5.1 million.

“Research with industry is one of the areas in which the University of Adelaide can make a huge impact, and this result is a fantastic one for us and our partners,” said the Vice-Chancellor, Professor James McWha.

“While Adelaide already has a reputation as one of the strongest research universities in Australia—if not the strongest—this latest result shows that our research with industry is a growing and important area for us,” he said.

The 14 successful projects at Adelaide are across the Sciences, Engineering and Humanities & Social Sciences. They include projects that have the potential to make a significant impact on industry and the community, such as:

- $78,000 to investigate improvements to sunscreen, offering stronger protection against ultraviolet-A radiation (Chemistry, in partnership with H.A. Milton Holdings Pty Ltd Group);
- $193,000 to assess the impact of climate change on the wheat industry and identify strategies to help overcome it (Environmental Studies and Agronomy & Farming Systems, in partnership with Primary Industries and Resources SA);
- $80,700 to study the implication of electronic voting for South Australia (Politics, in partnership with the State Electoral Office of SA);
- $350,000 for studies into native fish stocking of Australia’s rivers (Environmental Biology, in partnership with Natural Resources & Environment Victoria and NSW Fisheries).

Meanwhile, Adelaide researchers are among the major participants in two large grants from the National Health & Medical Research Council.

Dr Renato Morona, Professor James Paton and Dr Adrienne Paton (Molecular Biosciences) are among a collaborative research team working with Monash University to investigate how bacteria cause disease in humans. Monash has received more than $15.2 million over five years for the study.

Similarly, Adelaide’s Professor Sandy McFarlane (Psychiatry) is among a group headed by the University of New South Wales that has received more than $4.7 million over five years for a project into post-traumatic mental health.

Story by David Ellis

Dr Barbara Pocock attracted significant national and international media coverage for her new book, The Work/Life Collision. She appeared on the BBC’s Up All Night program (June 7), as well as recording an interview with Singapore Radio (June 6). She also appeared in an extensive Sydney Morning Herald piece (June 8).

Japan’s continuing arms build-up—done with the blessing of allies such as the US and Australia—is cause for concern, according to an opinion piece by Dr Brian Victoria which appeared in the Canadian newspaper The Globe and Mail (June 5).

Adelaide’s new world-class supercomputer, nicknamed Hydra, turned media heads when it was launched at the university. Dr Tony Williams was kept busy, with the story appearing in such media as The Australian (June 5 and 10), The West Australian (June 5), and 891 ABC Radio (June 4), while the story was also picked up by Channel Nine’s Today Show (June 5).

Dr Mark Jaksa told the morning program on Radio 5AA (June 11) that Adelaide homeowners should be vigilant when watering, not only for their garden’s sake but also for their home’s—particularly with the forthcoming water restrictions—as Adelaide houses are prone to cracking because of the soil they are built on.

The impact of the 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires is still being felt, Ms Miranda Van Hooff told Seven Nightly News (June 11). She is looking for people who were school students and living in the areas affected at the time of the fires to take part in a new post-traumatic stress study.

Americans who come to work in Australia quickly learn to quiet down, not work too hard and not go all out for promotion in the workplace, according to Dr David Mosler in a Sunday Age feature piece (June 22) on foreigners’ perceptions of Australian working conditions.

Movies are often a powerful tool in shaping public opinion, with no better example of this than Hollywood’s portrayal of scientists. Dr Chris Daniels co-authored a lighthearted—yet thoughtful and provocative—opinion column for The Times Education Supplement (June 6) which examined what movies tell us about scientists and how this is more often than not quite removed from reality.
At an operating speed more than 250 times that of a high-end desktop computer, Hydra is among Australia’s top three supercomputers and is one of the fastest of its kind in the world, offering unique benefits to South Australian researchers and industry.

Based at the University of Adelaide, Hydra is owned by the South Australian Partnership for Advanced Computing (SAPAC), which is a consortium of the universities of Adelaide, Flinders and South Australia.

The facility was launched last month by the Science and Information Economy Minister, the Hon. Dr Jane Lomax-Smith, who described it as a “giant leap forward” for research.

“High-performance computing is vital to many research and industry areas in which South Australia has an international reputation. This can only enhance our State’s international competitiveness,” Dr Lomax-Smith said.

The Director of SAPAC is Tony Williams, Associate Professor in Physics & Mathematical Physics at the University of Adelaide and Deputy Director of the Special Research Centre for the Subatomic Structure of Matter.

“Hydra is a major addition to South Australia’s supercomputing capability,” Dr Williams said. “It will play a vital role in fields as diverse as biotechnology, water resource management, defence, petroleum geology, mining exploration, physics, chemistry and engineering.

“Hydra’s speed and versatility will also make it attractive to new research initiatives, powering innovation in South Australia and helping to drive the State’s knowledge economy.”

Hydra was purchased by SAPAC in partnership with IBM, and with support from the Australian Research Council, the three SA universities, Myricom Corporation, and a number of research groups.

A $1.7 million world-class supercomputer called Hydra has been unveiled at the University of Adelaide.

Some features of Hydra:
At a top operating speed of 1.2 teraflops (executing more than one trillion arithmetic operations per second), Hydra is more than 250 times faster than a high-end desktop computer. Hydra is an IBM 1350 “cluster” with 129 “nodes”, each of which contains two 2.4 Gigahertz processors and 2 Gigabytes of RAM.
The nodes are linked by a high-speed communications network that allows many processors to be used to execute a single program.
From IQ to EQ – measuring emotional intelligence

We’ve all heard of IQ, but what’s EQ?

In his book on Emotional Intelligence, Daniel Goleman wrote: “What we need in the workplace and in life more generally, are abilities such as being able to motivate one’s self and persist in the face of frustrations; to control impulse and delay gratification; to regulate one’s moods and keep distress from swamping the ability to think and to empathize and to hope.”

But what is Emotional Intelligence? Does it have a defining role in the workplace? Do our bosses understand its meaning?

Veneta Bastian, a postgraduate student in the Department of Psychology at the University of Adelaide, is studying Emotional Intelligence (EQ) for her PhD.

From the outset, Ms Bastian concedes that Emotional Intelligence is a relatively new construct and as such, “there are still difficulties with its definition and measurement, in particular with concerns that it is heavily related to personality principles”.

However, this is a unique study and her results have the potential of being on the leading edge.

“Most research into the predictive validity of Emotional Intelligence has focused on workplace applications to the exclusion of other life situations,” Ms Bastian said.

“This study examines other factors—problem solving ability, coping ability, level of anxiety and life satisfaction—which are necessary to life success in a number of areas and are not just related to work place success.”

She said that problem-solving ability, coping ability and level of anxiety have not been investigated in relation to Emotional Intelligence before.

So, what potential applications could emerge from the research?

“Emotional Intelligence is currently being heavily promoted as a new construct with potential benefits in areas such as education and business management.

“However, if Emotional Intelligence is found to be highly related to personality—an already extensively studied concept—and to have little predictive validity over and above the contributions of personality and intelligence (known predictive variables), then its relevance as a separate construct is questionable and there is little point in promoting it as such,” Ms Bastian said.

Alternatively, “if Emotional Intelligence is found to be predictive of various important life success variables, then Emotional Intelligence assessments may be useful in education and the workplace”.

“Moreover, it would still be important to determine whether Emotional Intelligence skills were amenable to training and, if so, how best this could be achieved.”

Ms Bastian is currently investigating whether Emotional Intelligence increases with age.

Results from the study, which investigates people aged 40-65, will be compared to those from a previous study, which was comprised predominantly of 18-21-year-olds.

Story by Howard Salkow

Trade forum draws key leaders

This is a year of great challenge, but also significant opportunity for Australia in the trade arena.

That was the sentiment expressed by Andrew Stoler in his opening address to a well-attended June forum on current trade issues.

The executive director of the university’s new Institute for International Business, Economics and Law, Mr Stoler said Australia could benefit multilaterally (World Trade Organization) bilaterally (US and Thai Free Trade Agreements) and regionally (through Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation).

The one-day forum entitled “Horizons in Trade: The WTO Round and Australia’s Free Trade Negotiations in Post-Iraq 2003” was organised by the Institute in partnership with the Committee for Economic Development of Australia.

The keynote speaker was Australia’s Trade Minister, the Hon. Mark Vaile MP, who travelled to Adelaide on a day that began for him in Bangkok where he had been meeting with Thai and APEC trade ministers.

“Australia’s ‘competitive liberalisation’ policy argues that regional and bilateral deals help move WTO talks toward progress,” Mr Vaile said.

“In APEC, where 20 of 21 members are now negotiating free trade agreements of some type, this view is widely shared.”

Politicians, government experts, leading labour and industry sector players and academics discussed issues such as Australia-US FTA negotiations, prospects for the WTO Round’s September Ministerial, regional trade initiatives in Asia-Pacific, and trade and the security dimension.

“Trade is important to Australia and liberal trade has made an important contribution to the Australian economic growth in the past 20 years,” said Mr Stoler, a former Deputy Director-General of the WTO.

“In real terms, Australians are 55% better off today than 20 years ago.”

Postgraduate student Veneta Bastian

Photo Howard Salkow
Suicide project to help with grief

South Australians who have lost a loved one to suicide are invited to take part in a new prevention project.

Around 250 people each year in South Australia take their life. For every death it is believed that six individuals are severely affected by the suicide, translating into 1500 people suffering as a result each year.

According to Dr Sheila Clark, in the University of Adelaide’s Department of General Practice, “the death of a close relationship is one of life’s greatest stresses. And grief following suicide has its own particular difficulties”.

She said the care of those bereaved through suicide is a neglected area of community development.

“Professionals worldwide have been slow to recognise that the support of those bereaved through suicide is an important factor in suicide prevention.”

To better understand how the bereaved are coping with their loss, the University of Adelaide and the Department of Human Services have launched the South Australian Suicide Postvention Project.

The aim of the project is to examine the current approaches for those bereaved through suicide in metropolitan Adelaide and to make recommendations to Mental Health Services.

Dr Clark said the two major objectives were: “To review and form recommendations regarding service provision for the bereaved, and to review and make recommendations regarding support and education of service providers and professionals.”

The project will be run through the Grief Research Unit of the university’s Department of General Practice, with representation from major stakeholders, such as the Coroner’s Office, the funeral industry, police, community mental health services, and the university’s departments of General Practice and Psychiatry.

Dr Clark said the university was staging a campaign to invite those who have suffered the loss of someone by suicide, such as a family member, friend or workmate, to participate.

“We will be asking those who have suffered bereavement through suicide to complete a questionnaire and then possibly be part of the discussion group,” Dr Clark said.

The project will run on a half-time basis over two years. There is no cost to the participants and their confidentiality is assured.

Story by Howard Salkow

More information can be obtained from senior project officer Dr Anne Wilson: (08) 8303 6281 or Dr Sheila Clark: (08) 8303 3463.

Other key points made at the forum:

Gary Banks
(Chairman, Productivity Commission) described how the Australian experience in reducing trade protection since 1980 had dramatically improved productivity, overall economic performance and living standards;

Andrew Lindberg
(Managing Director, AWB Ltd) said for Australian agriculture, the opportunities of the current WTO round are huge. He rejected claims that the AWB (formerly Australian Wheat Board) operates on a non-commercial basis and argued that AWB gained Australian farmers the highest possible prices for their wheat on world markets;

Professor Ross Garnaut
(Professor of Economics, Australian National University) cautioned that an Australian FTA with the US could encourage Asian discrimination against Australia and cited the complex rules of origin associated with FTAs could amount to built-in protectionism;

Alan Oxley
(head of AUSFTA) argued that business-to-business relationships and new foreign direct investment opportunities would provide important benefits to Australian firms and consumers alike;

Michael Delaney
(Economic Counsellor at the American Embassy in Canberra) reported on the AUSFTA negotiations and appealed to the participants to recognise that it would complicate the talks to insist that any particular issue should be off the table at this stage.
The new Australian School of Petroleum has been formed by the merger of the university’s School of Petroleum Engineering & Management (SPEM) and the National Centre for Petroleum Geology & Geophysics (NCPGG).

“The newly amalgamated school is a major step forward for teaching and research in petroleum engineering and geoscience,” said the University’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor James McWha.

“It is one of the very few schools of its kind in the world—and the first of its kind in the southern hemisphere—to combine the engineering and geoscience disciplines into the one school.”

He said the closer integration of these education and research programs would produce unique benefits for students and industry.

“The combination of geosciences and engineering disciplines will mean our education and research programs will be even more closely tailored to international oil and gas industry needs,” Professor McWha said.

“This will produce a world-class educational environment for students that is supported by cutting-edge research across the two key petroleum-related fields, and it will firmly stamp Adelaide as a centre for petroleum research and consultancy.”

Since opening last year, the SPEM has grown considerably. More than 70 full-time undergraduate and postgraduate students are now enrolled, including 24 from overseas. The NCPGG, with more than 17 years’ history, has been

Australia’s pre-eminent centre of excellence for petroleum geoscience research, education and training. Both are already located in the new Santos Petroleum Engineering Building at the University of Adelaide.

“When it provided generous funding to assist in the establishment of the SPEM, Santos emphasised the need for engineers to have strong geosciences and management training. This creation of a new, all-encompassing school confirms that vision even further,” Professor McWha said.

Santo’s Managing Director, Mr John Ellice-Flint, said he was delighted with the announcement and fully supported the merger.

“As separate entities, the engineering school and the national centre are playing pivotal roles in Australia’s oil and gas industry. As a combined school of petroleum engineering and geoscience, the value to the industry will be that much greater,” Mr Ellice-Flint said.

Within the university’s formal structure, the SPEM is part of the Faculty of Engineering, Computer and Mathematical Sciences, while the NCPGG is in the Faculty of Sciences.

“The faculties have already cooperated well in joint teaching programs, but we asked ourselves whether a closer link might work even better,” Professor McWha said.

“The new school will allow each specialisation to continue to report to their respective faculties, but operating with a single management structure for program cohesion and efficiency in the use of University resources.”

Teaching, research and industry services can then draw easily on the complementary skills already existing within the two faculties. Students from both can undertake courses that recognise their potential employers’ needs for broadly trained professional and management staff.

“We believe such a structure will better reflect the university’s role
New petroleum school offers unique benefits in providing research as well as education and support services aligned to its market and community needs,” Professor McWha said.

The Head of the new Australian School of Petroleum is Professor John Kaldi, formerly Director of the NCPGG.

The school comprises a widely respected team of academic staff renowned for their expertise, including Professor Peter Behrenbruch, who holds the Santos Chair in Petroleum Engineering, Professor Richard Hillis, the South Australian State Chair in Petrophysics and Reservoir Properties, and Professor Hemanta Sarma, holder of the Regg Sprigg Chair in Petroleum Engineering.

In addition, Associate Professor Simon Lang, and Professors Reidar Bratvold, Steve Begg and Ashok Khurana will help provide educational and research leadership in the new school.

“The new school is built on our strong belief in combining technical excellence and educational integrity in an environment that is stimulating, inspiring and fun,” Professor Kaldi said.

“The integration of geosciences and engineering is something that is happening in the petroleum industry today, and we are one of the first universities in the world to reflect that.

“Students who come to our school should know that we are global in scope. An education from Adelaide will give graduates the background and tools for direct entry to the petroleum industry anywhere in the world.”

Story by David Ellis

American grants won by Adelaide students

Three students from the University of Adelaide have beaten international competition to win grants from the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG).

The recipients are (from left): Lotte Svensson, Dan Gillam, and Lynn Webster

The AAPG offers annual grants-in-aid to foster research in the geosciences. Grants are made to provide financial assistance to postgraduate students enrolled in Masters or PhD programs. Their research must have application to the search for and development of petroleum and energy-mineral resources, and/or to related environmental geology issues.

The grants range from US$500-$2000, and are based on merit, and in part on the financial needs of the applicant.

The Adelaide students’ success represents the largest number of these extremely competitive awards to any one educational institution outside the United States—and it’s the second time in as many years that Adelaide has earned this distinction.

The recipients are (from left): Lotte Svensson, Dan Gillam, and Lynn Webster

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The clash of work and life... and how to win

The pressures of life and work collide head-on in a new book by a University of Adelaide academic.

_The Work/Life Collision_ by Associate Professor Barbara Pocock, Director of the Centre for Labour Research at the University of Adelaide, examines how changing work and household structures and experiences are affecting the quality of life for all Australians.

Dr Pocock argues that the amount and type of paid work Australians are asked—or required—to do is having a dramatic impact at a social level.

"The research brings together a range of qualitative and quantitative sources, drawing on interviews of 250 different Australian women and men investigating how changes at work and at home are affecting them," she said.

"These conversations show that many are working harder to accommodate work intensification, many are also working longer hours, and more families with children have two earners, while workplaces, schools, cultures of work and maternity, and the distribution of domestic work have changed very little—hence the title of the book.

"There is a collision underway between our behaviours, our institutions and long established cultures like that of 'proper mother' and 'proper worker'.

"The work/life juggle is proving a very difficult task for Australians at the moment: mothers, fathers, children, families, and entire communities are affected. Our institutions lag behind in this kind of collision in some other countries: like effective rights to permanent part-time work, leave regimes that support working/carers and reductions in working hours."

Dr Barbara Pocock
Photo Ben Osborne

"I believe that working hours must be redistributed, and the system of insecure and degraded part-time jobs must be rehabilitated. I also propose a new system of leave from paid work and better support for mothers and fathers, and their dependants.

"There has been such a fundamental change in the nature of work that many are struggling to cope, and while it is impossible to turn back the clock, I believe there are things that can be done to help Australians recover their quality of life—it’s imperative that something is done."

_Story by Ben Osborne_
continued from page 1

“Symptoms include poor coat, weight loss, depression and excessive thirst. The animals progressively worsen and we begin to see sedimentation in their urine. The disease has a zero recovery rate.”

Eager to discover the cause of the problem, researchers from the University of Adelaide’s Department of Anatomical Sciences have joined forces with the Australian Koala Foundation (AKF) and Cleland Conservation Park in a landmark study.

“Health issues facing the koala deeply concern all of us at the Australian Koala Foundation,” says Executive Director Deborah Tabart.

“Koalas are already in serious decline because of 200 years of ecological mismanagement. The remaining populations are mostly small and severely fragmented and individual koalas must contend with dogs, roads and ongoing habitat loss.

“Despite the importance of koalas to Australia’s economy—not to mention those of us who simply love the sight of a koala in the wild—scientists still know very little about them. The health and physiology of these wonderful animals is still one of the great mysteries,” she says.

In line with the not-for-profit organisation’s commitment to good science, Ms Tabart says the AKF is proud to be supporting this urgently needed research.

Already, the researchers seem to have discovered an interesting link between natural dietary aluminium intake and renal failure in Adelaide Hills koalas.

“These koalas are emaciated, show insatiable thirst and produce huge volumes of very dilute urine,” says Dr Julie Haynes, an anatomical scientist with the University of Adelaide and key member of the research team.

“However, veterinary reports do not show up signs of bacterial infection.”

Dr Haynes has spent the past two years researching koalas in the Adelaide Hills along with colleague Chris Leigh. Both share an enthusiasm for their work and a genuine desire for it to lead to practical improvements in koala care and management.

“We scanned for a wide range of elements. Aluminium was the only one that turned up.

“Using the same techniques, aluminium was found to be lacking in bandicoots, brushtail and ringtail possums that share the same environment,” he says.

“He brings expertise in a range of research and laboratory techniques. Outdoors, he’s more like a kind of Harry Butler, learning all he can about local marsupials.”

When the team was asked to look at some gum leaves from koala food trees growing in the Adelaide Hills, they discovered moderate amounts of aluminium in them. Knowing that the most common cause of non-accidental death in the local captive and wild populations of koalas in the Adelaide Hills was renal failure, they were keen to explore the findings further.

“Post mortem examination of the kidneys have shown deposits of aluminium and structural damage only detectable with electron microscopic techniques,” says Chris Leigh.

“Hough says.

“However, we are still in the process of gathering baseline information and it will take a lot more research before we can say why this association exists.

“The support of the Australian Koala Foundation means that we can begin conducting plasma and urine analyses as well as the analysis of tissues for aluminium.”

“In line with the not-too-distant future, the team hopes to compare the South Australian findings with those for eastern states koalas. In the longer-term, they say the work has the potential to generate new ways of creating optimal conditions for eucalypt plantations that are grown as food sources for koalas in captivity.

“It is essential that this work continues if we are to find effective treatments and preventative measures for this fatal disease,” Dr Hough says.

Story by Julie Olsen

Mr Chris Leigh and Dr Julie Haynes from the university’s Department of Anatomical Sciences

Photo courtesy of the Australian Koala Foundation

“It is essential that this work continues if we are to find effective treatments and preventative measures for this fatal disease.”

Until now, very little research has been done on the health of koalas in the Adelaide Hills. These koalas form a unique population that is relatively free from chlamydia infections but has a higher incidence of renal failure compared with koalas in the eastern states.

In the not-too-distant future, the team hopes to compare the South Australian findings with those for eastern states koalas.

More info about the science and protection of koalas is available from the Australian Koala Foundation:

(07) 3229 7233, or
www.savethekoala.com

July Is Save the Koala Month.
Obituaries

Victor Allen Edgeloe (1907-2003)

"You have made an unparalleled contribution to the university’s growth from a small educational centre with an enrolment of 1724 students in 1927... to a major institution for tertiary education with an expected enrolment of 8789 in 1973."

For VAE, as he was affectionately known, this farewell dinner was to mark the end of a long and illustrious working relationship that began in 1927.

Following his retirement and until his death on May 30 this year, Victor Edgeloe maintained his links with the university, visiting the campus regularly and contributing much to the recording of its history.

His introduction to the university was in 1925 when he enrolled as a student. Two years later, he assumed his first role when he was appointed Registrar's Assistant, a position he retained for the next 20 years. In the meantime he graduated with his Bachelor of Arts in 1932, and continued to study up until 1940.

In 1947, he was made Assistant Registrar, and from 1955 until his retirement he was the university’s Registrar.

During his tenure at the University of Adelaide, Victor Edgeloe was held in the highest regard and was respected for his firm, humane and wise guidance. He contributed much to the shaping and the reputation of this institution and initiated many changes, new directions and innovations. These include:

• The influx into the tertiary system of soldiers returning from World War Two;

• The commencement of the successful Colombo Plan which marked the beginning of the strong and long-lasting ties with Malaysia and Singapore through the resulting alumni, and;

• The rise of the reputation of the Waite Research Institute to become known throughout the world as a first-class research institution.

In his letter of condolence to VAE’s widow, Jean, Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha said the University was fortunate and proud of its long association with Victor Allen Edgeloe.

"Expressions of this pride are indicated by the naming of the VA Edgeloe Room in his honour; bestowal of the title Emeritus Registrar and the award of Doctor of the University," Professor McWha wrote.

Edgeloe’s services to education were recognised in the 1980 Australia Day Honours when he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia.

As a mark of respect, the Bonython Hall flags were at half-mast on May 30... an appropriate tribute to a remarkable man.

Story by Howard Salkow

Albert Walter Jones (1912-2003)

Dr Albert Walter (‘Alby’) Jones, who died on June 13, will on many criteria be judged South Australia’s leading school educator of the 20th century.

At the same time, through his work in the Australian College of Educators, in official bodies such as the Schools Commission and the Standing Committee of the Australian Education Council, and in international consultancies, his influence was felt globally.

Alby Jones was an exemplar of the capacity of the state’s public education system to support and promote a career based on merit. After primary and secondary education in Adelaide, he went on a teaching scholarship to Adelaide Teachers’ College and the University of Adelaide in 1930. This was the beginning of 14 years study at the university, during which he graduated with a Science degree with strong results in Mathematics and Physics; a Diploma of Education; a BA with Latin, Psychology and Economics; and finally an MA in education.

Alby’s Masters thesis on the validity of examination assessment instruments was the university’s first degree awarded for educational research and his data provided the basis for a follow-up study by a research team in 1979.

He worked for some years as a tutor in mathematics, was a founding member of the Alumni Association and received its first Distinguished Alumni Award.

He completed his PhD at the University of New England after his retirement as Director General of Education.

Alby Jones was a gifted teacher and, with colleague Hartley Searle, the author of a series of successful mathematics texts. As an Inspector of Schools, first Superintendent of Recruitment and Training, Deputy and Director General of Education, he pioneered a wide range of innovations always aimed at the support of teacher professionalism and the learning outcomes of children. He was unashamedly a progressive educator when that term was not universally popular and always strongly defended the inclusive state education system.

At the same time, as a Founder of the College of Educators and member of the Schools Commission, he strove constantly to promote cooperation between private and public education—as well to bridge other gaps, such as those between the sexes, between rural and city educational opportunities, between levels of education, and between the art of teaching and its technologies.

Alby’s contribution was recognised by Gold Medal Awards of the College of Educators, of the Council of Educational Administration and of ANZAS, as well as his appointment as an Officer of the Order of Australia. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Shirley, his two children, and several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Dr Jones’s contribution is recognised in a Biennial Lecture series, last given at the Elder Hall on March 26. Details of the series and of Dr Jones’s career are available at the SA link on: www.austcolled.com.au

Story by Robin Ryan
Who will be Adelaide’s young investigator of the year?

Young scientists have a chance to win $3500 in prizes in this year’s Young Investigator Award.

Now in its fourth year, the Young Investigator Award was established at the Women’s and Children’s Hospital to recognise the excellent work done by young researchers and their ability to communicate that work to the wider community.

This year, the award has joined forces with the University of Adelaide, offering even more young researchers the opportunity to enter. The winner receives a prize of $1000 plus the BioInnovation SA Conference Prize of $1500, and will become the “Young Investigator of the Year”.

The award is offered to researchers at the Women’s & Children’s Hospital as well as researchers at the University of Adelaide and the Child Health Research Institute whose work deals with women’s, children’s or young people’s health. There are no restrictions on the type of research—qualitative, quantitative, clinical, laboratory-based, public health and other areas will all be considered. Applicants must either be studying for a higher research degree or have been awarded that degree not more than 12 months before the closing date.

To become Young Investigator of the Year, applicants must go through a rigorous judging process. Initially they are judged on the excellence of their scientific research by a panel of senior researchers. From there, three finalists present their research in “lay speak” to a panel of media judges and a large general audience at the award night.

All three finalists will be given media training by Channel 9 and Radio 5AA personality Keith Conlon prior to the event.

The award night will be held on November 14. Applications close on August 5. Full details on how to apply, eligibility criteria and judging steps can be found on the Young Investigator Award website: www.health.adelaide.edu.au/yia2003.

Friday, July 4
4pm Obstetrics and Gynaecology seminar: “NK cells and pregnancy” by Dr Ashley Moffett-King (Pathology, University of Cambridge, UK). Level 6, Medical School North, Frome Rd.

Wednesday, July 9
5.30pm Centre for Biomedical Engineering research seminar: “What do insects see with such a small brain?” by Professor G. Adrian Horridge (Australian National University). SG15 Hone Lecture Theatre, Ground Floor, Medical Bid South, Frome Rd.

Thursday, July 10

Friday, July 11
4pm Obstetrics and Gynaecology seminar: “New Roles for MMPs: Terminators of Inflammation and Initiators of Neuronal Apoptosis in HIV Dementia” by Professor Chris Overall (Canada Research Chair in Metalloproteinase Biology, University of British Columbia). Level 6, Medical School North, Frome Rd.

7.15pm Public Lecture: the Annual Galatis Lecture, “Dining in Byzantium” by Professor Eunice Maguire (Curator, Johns Hopkins University Archaeological Collection, and Director of Museums Studies for the History of Art, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore USA). Lecture Theatre 102, Napier Bld. RSVP to han.baltussen@adelaide.edu.au or phone (08) 8303 5288 or (08) 8303 5638.

Saturday, July 19
2pm History of Science, Ideas and Technology Group seminar: “Developing Science in South Australia 1836 to 2003” by Tom Gara, Dr John Radcliffe and Dr Enid Robertson. Ira Raymond Room, Barr Smith Library.

Sunday, July 20
11.30am Don Dunstan Foundation SA Chapter Sunday Luncheon: “Public Education – but what kind of education?” by Penny Wong (Labor Senator for South Australia) and Daniel Kyracou (President, National Union of Students). Governor Hindmarsh Hotel, Port Rd, Hindmarsh.

Cost: $22 includes light lunch. More information and bookings from Josie: (08) 8303 3364.

Friday, July 25
4pm Obstetrics and Gynaecology seminar: “Vitamin D and Bone Health” by Dr Alan Need (Clinical Biochemistry, IMVS). Level 6, Medical School North, Frome Rd.

Sunday, July 27
Field Geology Club of SA half-day excursion: Mr Paul Curnow. Planetarium, Mawson Lakes. For more information phone (08) 8278 3726 or (08) 8265 0544.

Tuesday, 29 July
7.30pm Musicological Society of Australia, SA Chapter meeting: speaker John A. Phillips. Rm 1107, Schulz Bld.

Friday, August 15
Roseworthy Information Day: Roseworthy Campus, 10am to 3:30pm. For more information email judy.tucker@adelaide.edu.au or call (08) 8303 7818.

Sunday, August 17
University of Adelaide Open Day: North Terrace Campus, 10am to 4pm. www.adelaide.edu.au/pr/openday/2003/
**2003 Queen’s Birthday Honours List**

Congratulations to the following University of Adelaide alumni who have been awarded Queen’s Birthday Honours.

**Officer (AO) in the General Division**

**Dr Dean Harold Jaensch**
(BA 1967, MA 1969, PhD 1974)
For service to education and the study of Australian politics as an analyst and writer, and to the community through raising public awareness and stimulating debate about the political process

**Mr Peter Ronald Valleey**
(BA 1966)
For service to science through the Australian Academy of Science, and to science education, particularly the development of innovative educational resources and outreach services

**Member (AM) in the General Division**

**Dr Alexandra Jane Bune**
(MBBS 1970)
For service to medical education, particularly through curriculum and medical school development, and to medical workforce planning to meet community needs in rural and urban areas

**The Honourable Judge Ian Brandwood Burnett**
(LLB 1958)
For service to the law and to the judiciary, particularly in the development of judicial administration through procedural reform and implementation of technological advances

**Dr David William Cox**
(MBBS 1981)
For service to medicine and to the community, particularly through the Medical Board of the Northern Territory

**Dr James Logie Davidson**
(BAgSc 1953)
For service to the wheat industry, through the development of new winter wheat varieties suitable for cultivation in the higher rainfall and colder regions of Australia

**Mr Keith Andrew Conlon**
(BA 1968, LLB 1968)
For service to tourism in South Australia, particularly through the One and All sailing ship project, and to the community as a contributor to the Adelaide Girls Choir

**Dr Anita Donaldson**
(BA 1970)
For service to the performing arts as a practitioner, teacher and researcher, and through the development of dance studies at the tertiary level

**Dr John Charles Erlich**
(MBBS 1967)
For service to medicine in the field of paediatrics, particularly to the Aboriginal communities of central Australia

**Mr Alessandro Gardini**
For service to the community as a contributor to the development of a multicultural society in South Australia

**Ms Jennifer Anne Gore**
(BA 1974)
For service in the field of enamelling as a practitioner, teacher and researcher

**Medal (OAM) in the General Division**

**Dr Geoffrey Reginald Bailey**
(DipPharm 1948)
For service to the community through the programs of the Rotary Club of Mitcham

**Mrs Elizabeth Gay Baker**
(BTech 1965)
For service to the performing arts as an advocate for teacher-librarianship and the development of school libraries

**Distinguished Service Medal (DSM): Royal Australian Navy**

**Lieutenant Jonathan David Shannon**
(RAN (PhD Sc 1980))
For distinguished performance of duty as a Boating Party Officer aboard HMAS Melbourne during deployment to the Middle East for Operation SLIPPER

**Emergency Services Medal (ESM): South Australia Emergency Services**

**Mr Allan Leslie McDougall**
(RFD (1971))
For distinguished performance of duty as a Member of the South Australian Fire Service

**Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM): Victoria Fire Services**

**Senior Station Officer Ian Alexander Munro**
(BSc 1949)
For service to the Victorian community through the Mallee Family Care association

**University Archives Volunteer Group**

The University Archives Volunteer Group meets weekly on Tuesday mornings from 9.30–12.30.

The program includes a range of archival processing and research activities including basic preservation work, indexing, rehousing and listing of records and photographs.

These tasks enable the archives to provide better access to university records and assist in preserving the university’s unique documentary heritage.

If you have an interest in archival work and would like to join the volunteer group, please contact the coordinator for more information.

Phone Tupp Carmody on 8303 4194 or email: tupp.carmody@adelaide.edu.au

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**Officer (AO) in the General Division**

**Dr William Middleton Griggs**
(MBBS 1981)
For service to medicine, particularly through trauma, emergency and intensive care management and education, and critical care retrieval and transport in Australia, and in support of the Australian Defence Force internationally

**Mr Richard Frederick Haselgrove**
(BA 1959)
For service to the Australian wine industry, particularly through management in technical and commercial areas and elevation of industry standards, and to the community through Mallee Family Care

**Dr David John Klingberg**
(BTech 1969)
For service to the community of South Australia, particularly through contributions to the tertiary education sector and through engineering projects designed to improve infrastructure and services

**Dr Graham Ronald Nunn**
(MBBS 1973)
For service to medicine, particularly as a cardiologist and surgeon in the field of paediatric surgery, and as an educator and researcher

**Dr Graham Ronald Nunn**
(MBBS 1973)
For service to medicine, particularly as a cardiologist and surgeon in the field of paediatric surgery, and as an educator and researcher

**Medal (OAM) in the General Division**

**Dr Ian Arnold Harrstoff**
(BA 1961, MA 1972)
For service to the community, particularly through the programs of the Rotary Club of Mitcham

**Mrs Elizabeth Gay Baker**
(BTech 1965)
For service to the performing arts as an advocate for teacher-librarianship and the development of school libraries

**Dr Christopher Ross Philpot**
(BMedSc 1966, MBBS 1969)
For service to medicine, particularly as a contributor to improving sexual health service provision and training

**Mr Philip Kimble Read**
(BTech 1964)
For service to engineering, particularly in the areas of hydraulics and hydrology

**Mr Sydney John Rooth**
(Med 1971)
For service to the community of the mid-north coast of New South Wales, particularly in the areas of mental health, disability, and child protection

**Mr John Rendle Stock**
(BA 1971)
For service to children and young people through the Morialta Trust

**Distinguished Service Medal (DSM): Royal Australian Navy**

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(BSc 1949)
Have lunch with Peter Goers

One of Adelaide’s best-known identities—theatre director, actor and all-round social critic Peter Goers—will be the centre of attention at a luncheon at the University of Adelaide on Wednesday, July 9.

The luncheon, organised by the Alumni Association’s Cornell Chapter, features Peter Goers in conversation with well-known music critic Elizabeth Sisbury.

Peter’s most recent theatre productions include *Harvey*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Amadeus*, *Camelot*, *Private Lives*, *Les Miserables* and his own Pringe show *Somebody has to be Peter Goers*. He is a former Artistic Director and Honorary Life Member of the Theatre Guild.

The event promises to be fascinating and entertaining as Peter shares his thoughts on a range of topics.

Alumni Events

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**Mutual Community Postgraduate Travel Grants**

Up to two Mutual Community Postgraduate Travel Grants of up to $2500 each are available to assist doctoral candidates enrolled within the University of Adelaide.

Grants are to be used by the recipient to travel to a conference or similar gathering to present their work, or to travel to another institution to learn a particular method essential to their own work.

Applications are now available for the September round, and can be downloaded from the Alumni, Community Relations and Development website: www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/scholarships/

The deadline for applications is 5pm, July 4.

For more information contact Nada Racki: +61 8 8303 6356 or email: nada.racki@adelaide.edu.au

**Friends of the Library—Author/Scholar Evening**

The distinguished novelist, essayist and critic JM Coetzee will give a reading on Thursday, July 24 at the Barr Smith Library. JM Coetzee has twice received the Booker Prize: in 1983 for *The Life and Times of Michael K* and in 1999 for *Disgrace*. Other literary prizes have included the Lannan Award for Fiction, the Jerusalem Prize, and the Irish Times International Fiction Prize.

He is a member of the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago and Research Fellow at the University of Adelaide’s English Department.

**Architecture Chapter Seminar— the National Trust**

Tim Simpson, architect and founding member of the Architecture Students Association, will be presenting a seminar on the National Trust. All students, staff and graduates are invited to attend. Drinks and nibbles will be provided.

**Young Alumni Networking Opportunity**

Are you under 30, a graduate of the University of Adelaide and interested in leadership and networking opportunities? Come and be part of the team that develops the Young Alumni Program.
Tony’s busy life no obstacle to success

Tony Scoleri isn’t merely running towards his PhD – he’s also cycling and swimming!

The talented student-athlete leads an extremely busy life both at university and in his extra-curricular activities.

Tony, 23, already has an Honours degree in Pure Mathematics and Computer Science, and has just completed the first year of his PhD in the same areas. In addition to this, he teaches classes for Bradford College and tutors first-year Mathematics students.

Then comes his involvement with Golden Key, an invitation-only organisation based on providing community and academic support. Students in the top 15% of their undergraduate course are eligible to join Golden Key.

Tony has been involved with the Adelaide chapter of Golden Key since 1999, and in February this year was elected as the Student Representative for the Asia-Pacific region.

This role sees Tony supervise the 35 Golden Key chapters in Australian, New Zealand and Malaysian universities, and to keep in touch with Golden Key headquarters in Sydney and the US, primarily through copious amounts of email.

And then comes his sporting activities! An accomplished cyclist who represented his birth nation, New Caledonia, at the South Pacific Games, Tony has expanded his sights to compete in duathlons (cycling and running)—finishing fifth in his age group at the recent national titles—and eventually hopes to become a proficient triathlete.

Not surprisingly, this adds up to be one very busy life—Tony estimates that his Golden Key and sporting commitments take up to 30 hours per week on their own, let alone his studies and teaching—but he wouldn’t have it any other way.

“I love doing all the things that I do,” he said. “I’ve always been interested in mathematics and their applications in technology and computers. I’m fortunate to be able to incorporate study for both into my PhD.

“I really enjoy my work with Golden Key. It’s an organisation that provides of lot networking opportunities, and it also contributes to the community—this year’s theme is Helping the Homeless, so we are doing a lot of work in that regard.

“In sport, my short term objectives are the duathlons this winter and the cycling events in the University Games in Newcastle later in October. I am also working on my swimming now and will hopefully be good enough at it to compete in the local triathlon series next summer.”

Story by Ben Osborne

Accomplished student-athlete Tony Scoleri. Keep up to date with Tony’s achievements by visiting his website: www.cs.adelaide.edu.au/~tonyscoleri/

Photo Ben Osborne

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July 2003 101.5fm radio.adelaide.edu.au

PUBLIC DOMAIN BRINGS YOU

**Coffee** Sunday 6 July
Osram Community Aid Abroad presents: Zeddy, Jonathan speaking about fair trade in Ethiopian Coffee and the International Coffee Crisis.

**Arts** Sunday 13 July
David ‘Shaobo’ Yee keynote address to the State Government Arts Summit. Get the lowdown on how the Arts contribute economically and socially.

**Ecology** Sunday 20 July
Adelaide’s inaugural Thinker in Residence, Emily Durrant, presents insights into making Adelaide a greener city.

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