At a time when short-term employment schemes and work-for-the-dole programs are making headlines, a new report released by the University of Adelaide’s Social Justice Research Foundation offers a fresh range of solutions to Australia’s chronic youth unemployment problem.

The report, Jobs For Young Australians, is the culmination of a two-year study by the research group, which was funded by the Australian Youth Foundation.

Based on employment data over the period 1988-96, the report highlights unemployment “hot spots” around Australia and makes key recommendations on how to boost youth employment.

The study focused on 64 regions in all States and Territories of Australia. About a quarter of those regions had an average youth jobless rate of 20% or more over the eight-year period — consistently double the overall jobless rate in Australia.

“There is an obligation on the Government to seriously address the youth unemployment problems faced by our nation, rather than simply resorting to bandaid measures such as work-for-the-dole schemes and army ‘boot camps’, said Mr John Speoer, project coordinator with the University’s Social Justice Research Foundation, who co-edited the report with Dr John Spierings.

“There must be a national approach to the development of more comprehensive and long-term strategies, which should involve not only the Federal Government, but governments at all levels, as well as industry, unions and the community. We should all be working together to bring down youth unemployment to at least that level experienced by the population as a whole,” he said.

“This report outlines how that can be achieved, as well as highlighting the scope and seriousness of our youth unemployment problem.”

Among the 28 recommendations are:

• a target of 5% unemployment by the year 2000 be set, and that this commitment be part of a new Charter;
• establish agreements with the Superannuation industry to ensure that a greater share of Australia’s national savings are invested into long-term employment generating industries;
• introduce a National Youth Employment Guarantee, so that every school leaver will receive an offer of employment, Traineeship, Apprenticeship, or Higher Education place within six months of leaving school.
• establish a Full Employment Commission, with leading figures from business, unions and the community, to manage new government employment programs.
• redirect $60 million of labour market assistance funds to regions experiencing chronic youth unemployment, and provide funds for employment strategies developed at a local level.
• ensure that a ‘Youth Employment Dividend’ results from the National Competition Policy through a new levy on the States or through youth employment targets.

Talented students get Uni Headstart

The University of Adelaide has introduced a scheme to enable highly talented and motivated secondary school students to enrol in University subjects while still at school.

The Headstart scheme — being piloted this year — makes a range of University of Adelaide subjects available to high-achieving students in Stage Two of the SACE.

Grades will be recorded and may be used for status if the student is eventually admitted to a course for which the subject attracts points.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mary O’Kane, said Headstart would enable students to fast-track their course or, at the very least, take a wider range of subjects than usual.

“The main value of the scheme will be the extra challenge and stimulation provided by university study,” Professor O’Kane said.

“By the time Headstart students begin full university study, they will be well-equipped for the intellectual rigor of university — not to mention being comfortable and familiar with university-style teaching.”

Exceptional secondary students have been allowed to study at the University on rare occasions in the past under non-award provisions, but the University has decided to formalise and promote the arrangements.

Subjects can be chosen from the Humanities and Social Sciences, Mathematical and Computer Sciences, Performing Arts and Science.

Students eligible for a place in the scheme this year will be completing Stage Two of their SACE. They will need an average score of 15 or better out of 20 for SACE Stage Two subjects already taken, and at least 17 out of 20 for any SACE Stage Two subject which is a pre-requisite for the University subject to be studied.

Students undertaking Headstart will usually be students who do not have a full load — for example, they could have completed some Year 12 subjects while in Year 11, or they could be “Year 13” students.

Students will be admitted on a fee-paying basis.

Information about the scheme was sent to schools earlier this month.

Best jazz talent to be showcased

Ten of the best young musicians from the Elder Conservatorium’s Jazz program will share over $3000 in prize money donated by Adelaide business organisations. The winners will receive their prizes during a Jazz Awards Concert highlighting their talents in the Scott Theatre on 3 April.

The awards were donated by Myer Centre Adelaide, SGIC, Brash’s, Ausmusic, Jazz Action Society, John Reynolds Music City, John Davis Records, Di Magazine and the Helpmann Academy. They will be presented by the Dean of Performing Arts, Dr Anita Donaldson.

• Jazz Awards Concert, 8.00pm, Thursday 3 April, Scott Theatre. Tickets at the door: $8/$5. Helpmann Academy partner students free.

Inside

Commentary: The goods of teaching, p.2
Irrigation project for pipe system experts, p.5
New feature: Adelaidean feedback poll, p.6

Back Row: Cameron Deyell (Jazz Guitar), Scott Griffiths (Most Outstanding Postgraduate), Mario Marino (Jazz Drums), Kane Jones (Jazz Bass, shared), John McDermott (Most Outstanding Undergraduate).
Middle Row: Kym Walker (Jazz Piano), Libby O’Donovan (Jazz Voice), Ben Parkin (Jazz Bass, shared), Front Row: Chris Palamountain (Jazz Saxophone), Julian Ferraretto (Jazz Strings). Photo: Mark Spavin.
Dr Neville Hicks is Reader in the Department of Public Health. He was one of the four recipients of the 1996 Stephen Cole the Elder awards for excellence, in graduate teaching.

In the days of Imperial Honours, it used to be said that the OBE stood for other buggers’ effort. Ditto the Stephen Cole awards, which may say something about a person but say as much about setting. My setting includes two and one-half engines of good teaching. One is the recent influx of mature-age students, the other one a cadre of thoughtful younger lecturers. The half is this university’s rhetoric in support of more-or-less equal standing for good teaching, public service and research.

In 1986 the Department of Community Medicine began a Masters program in Public Health. Students enrolled who were, mostly, well-established in jobs in the Health Commission, for example in delivery and other forms of public service. A good proportion thought that an MPH might change the focus on their work, fifteen years after graduation in science, arts or a health profession. Several had experienced ideas and about community development or adult learning. They have been a delight to teach. They bring information and ideas from their work that would take a lecturer fifty years to find out. In their field work they nurture each other carefully in group work. They say that they appreciate lecturers who question things taken for granted — and they question. They have been a delight to teach. They bring information and ideas from their work that would take a lecturer fifty years to find out. In their field work they nurture each other carefully in group work. They say that they appreciate lecturers who question things taken for granted — and they question.
Unique housing project for indigenous students opens

A housing initiative for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students of the University of Adelaide could become a model for indigenous university student housing.

More than 100 people attended the opening of the Mattanya Housing Association facilities in Finnis St, North Adelaide, on 16 March.

Mattanya, which aims to foster academic excellence and leadership qualities among residents, provides accommodation and academic support for indigenous students of the University of Adelaide.

It is believed to be the first initiative of its kind for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students of one of Australia’s major universities.

Mattanya, opened by the Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Mr Stephen Baker, is already full, reflecting the huge demand among agencies for affordable accommodation in a supportive community environment.

Two heritage houses have been stunningly refurbished to provide single bedroom self-catering accommodation for 18 residents and an Academic Director.

Mattanya — the Kaurna word for “owner” — was opened in fine style, with a dance and song by the group Torrens Strait singing and dancing by the group Kariba Sagul, and music performed by Jai-Raship, Becky Gollan and Lesley Yasso.

Mattanya’s first residents come from all over Australia and range in age from 17 to 56.

The resident Academic Director — final year Law student and former Students’ Association President Mr Haroon Hassan — will oversee the development of an indigenous community of scholars.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mary O’Kane, said Mattanya would make a significant contribution to increasing indigenous participation and success in higher education.

Academic Director Haroon Hassan and Mr Stephen Baker (left of picture) with Mattanya residents. Photo: David Washington.

“Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students come from all over Australia to study at the University of Adelaide,” she said.

“Feedback from potential students and their families indicates that university study opportunities for indigenous people is limited by a shortage of appropriate accommodation.”

“Mattanya will provide affordable and secure housing, and give indigenous students a supportive community in which to study and develop.

“Community is central to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the community aspect of Mattanya will help students achieve their best.”

She said Mattanya may well become a model for similar initiatives affiliated with other universities.

Mr Henry Miller, the Convener of the Mattanya Residents Committee, said he and his fellow students had already responded to the positive atmosphere of Mattanya.

“We are here at Mattanya because we all have dreams and aspirations whatever it is that we do — being at Mattanya is helping us to focus on those dreams,” Mr Miller said.

Mr Miller, who has ties to the Yorta Yorta people of Victoria and the Thursday Island people in the Torres Strait, has come to Adelaide to begin studying for a BA degree.

Mr Baker praised the supporters of Mattanya — the University of Adelaide, the South Australian Aboriginal Community Housing Authority and the Adelaide City Council.

“Without the contributions of each of these partners in this joint venture the magnificent accommodation complex we see before us could not have been completed,” Mr Baker said.

—David Washington

Recycling scheme up and running at North Terrace

The Property Services Branch hopes to reduce the amount of general University waste ending up in landfill by as much as 80% with a new paper waste recycling scheme introduced on the North Terrace campus this month.

The project supports a key objective of the Environmental Policy approved by Council last year — to ensure that materials used in the University are recycled and recycled wherever possible.

It also complements recent changes to the cleaning system, which has resulted in considerable savings but sparked problems in some areas with individual waste bins being left out.

Under the recycling scheme, operated in partnership with Australian Paper Chase, each of the nearly 1500 offices at North Terrace has been provided with deskside cardboard, plastic and first-grade paper waste bins.

The wheelies will be collected once a week, taken to central campus locations where Australian Paper Chase will compact the rubbish on site, before transferring it to a depot where it is gathered into large bales and sent off to the paper mill.

A recycling plan for second-grade waste (such as yellow envelopes, newspapers, magazines, and all cardboard) is also being developed.

The Manager (Cleaning), Mrs Joan Zilm, was given responsibility for waste management earlier this year, and has overseen the introduction of the recycling scheme. Mrs Zilm says she couldn’t believe the amount of recyclable rubbish being thrown away when she started looking into the waste management system.

“North Terrace campus purchases 97 tonnes of copy paper every year, and our cleaners estimate that about 80% of ‘custodial rubbish’, the rubbish that ends up in landfill, is recyclable paper,” she said.

“Cleaners emptied 1387 full, 240-litre rubbish bins in January alone on North Terrace — and that’s in vacation time!”

Apart from its environmental benefits, the new recycling scheme also has an important collateral advantage. It will reduce the amount of dirty rubbish (such as food scraps, drink cartons and plastics) that needs to be collected on a daily basis.

Joan Zilm hopes this will make it easier for departments to find effective ways of managing the disposal of office bin waste.

Many Departments and administrative areas have already established a system whereby staff deposit the rubbish from their individual bins into a larger Departmental bin, reducing the number of bins to be put out at night and retrieved in the morning.

The recycling scheme is strongly endorsed by the Director of the Mawson Graduate Centre for Environmental Studies, Associate Professor Nick Harvey, who says it is important to have action on the University’s Environment Policy.

—John Edge

NEW WAITE FACILITIES

South Australia’s role as a leader in agricultural education has been boosted with the official opening of a new teaching suite at the Waite campus.

Up to 500 students involved in eight different degree courses will be using the state-of-the-art facilities, which include student computer labs, a teaching lecture theatre and separate video-conferencing rooms.

The courses include primary production, environmental science, agribusiness and wine science.

The development further expands facilities on the campus, where the University is co-located with SARDI, Primary Industries SA, the Australian Wine Research Institute, and several divisions of CSIRO.

The $1.1 million facilities were opened by the South Australian Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education, Mrs Dorothy Kotz, on 11 March.

KEY PROJECTS IMPROVEMENTS

The accounting and management consulting firm, Ernst and Young, is currently undertaking a short-term project at the University of Adelaide to identify possible efficiencies and improved productivity.

Vice-Chancellor Mary O’Kane says the firm has been asked, as a follow-on from the O’Kane Review, to consider the University’s operating and financial processes with a view to identifying possible improvements.

The firm gave a presentation to the University Council on Friday 14 March. The project is expected to conclude with a report to the Vice-Chancellor around the end of March.

HIGH COURT IN SPOTLIGHT

The Solicitor General of Australia, Gavan Griffith QC, will present a Public Lecture in the Law School on Tuesday 25 March.

His topic, “The High Court and the Constitution: Where are we now?” will be of timely interest in the light of recent court decisions and financial and property issues flowing from the High Court’s recent activism in the area of implied constitutional rights and on such broader constitutional issues as proportionality, discrimination, and equality.

• 5.30pm, Lecture Theatre 2, Law School

EIA FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

The British Council (Australia) is the key sponsor for a conference and workshop on environmental impact assessment (EIA) for the 21st century being convened by the Mawson Graduate Centre for Environmental Studies early next month.

The event is part of “newIMAGES: Britain and Australia into the 21st century”, a program celebrating the 50th anniversary of the British Council in Australia.

The first day is a plenary session with keynote speakers and is open to a wide audience; the remaining two days are limited to invited participants.

The British Council has sponsored keynote speakers Professor Chris Wood (University of Nottingham) and Professor John Glasson and Riki Therivel (Oxford Brookes University) — all influential in EIA research in Britain and Australia.

The event will include a keynote address by Professor John Miller (Queensland University of Technology) on “The context for EIA in Australia today”.

Australasian keynote speakers are Associate Professor Tom Fookes (University of Queensland), Associate Professor Gacia (Environment Australia), and Mr. Nick Gascoigne (Environment Australia).

• Wednesday 9 April, Institute Building, North Terrace. One-day fee: $75. Details: Sapiro Marketing, tel 8212 7555.
Robot arm to cut head injury deaths

A new robot arm designed to fire a simulated human head into car bonnets is being put through its paces at the University of Adelaide.

Researchers with the University's Road Accident Research Unit have designed and built the robot arm — called a headform launcher — to test the impact of different makes of car on pedestrians' heads during accidents.

The headform launcher can fire a dummy head into a car bonnet at speeds of up to 70 kilometres an hour. By studying the resulting impact, scientists hope to learn more about head injuries inflicted during accidents.

The National Health and Medical Research Council, which funds the Unit, recognises road accident head injuries as one of Australia's major human health risks, costing hundreds of lives and millions of dollars every year.

Brain injuries are the leading cause of death in road accidents, and non-fatal head injuries are more costly to society than injuries to any other part of the body.

However, scientists still do not fully understand what happens to the head on impact, or how badly the brain can be damaged in even minor accidents.

Over the past 15 years, Road Accident Research Unit researchers have studied in detail more than 200 fatal accidents involving pedestrians in South Australia. The Unit has concentrated on the study of head injuries in pedestrian accidents because it is often possible to work out the exact speed at impact.

The Director of the Unit, Dr Jack McLean, said the new headform launcher would be used to reconstruct the forces involved on impact, to try to learn more about specific aspects of head impact that are the principal causes of injury to the brain.

"The new robot arm is a major step forward for our research, and is one of the few of its kind in the world," Dr McLean said.

"The information we'll gather using the headform launcher will further add to our understanding of head injury, and help in future planning to reduce the head injury road toll.

"Results from the Unit's head injury research could also help draw up better safety ratings for cars, and help improve the design of safety devices like seat belts, airbags and crash helmets," he said.

Dr McLean said the first trials of the new headform launcher were commissioned by the Federal Office of Road Safety, examining the impact of a simulated pedestrian head with the bonnet of a current-model GMH Commodore and a Ford Falcon.

—David Mussared

—David Ellis

Arts access earns community favour

For the third year in a row there has been strong support from members of the public for the Community Access Program run by the Faculty of Arts.

The Faculty's Peter Murdoch reports that 1997 enrolments to attend lectures in subjects offered by the Faculty have already exceeded the 1996 total. Over half the 1997 participants are new to the program.

History remains the leading department for enrolments, while Classics and Anthropology have increased enrolments. French and German Studies, with no enrolments in 1996, have benefitted from descriptive entries in the pamphlet and both gained enrolments.

Professor Penny Boumelha, Dean of Arts said, "The Faculty sees the Community Access Program as a scheme working for the benefit of all, with members of the public gaining the opportunity to explore university level subjects or pursue specialist interests, while the Faculty's departments gain additional funds with no increase to their requirements for assessment and marking."

"The program enables participants who may be considering university study to make informed decisions about the subject choices available to them."

• Telephone the Faculty of Arts Office on (08) 8303 5245 for further information.

Jobs report outlines plan for youth employment

From Page 1

One of the major recommendations, a National Charter for Economic Development, Employment and Citizenship — to be signed by industry, unions, government and the community sector — has already been endorsed by one of Australia's leading employers of young people, The Body Shop.

"We strongly believe that the time has come for all sectors of our communities to put prejudices aside, take a hard look at the issue and show a united resolve to create a future for our young people," said Mr Alex McDonald, Campaigns Coordinator with The Body Shop.

"The National Charter for Economic Development, Employment and Citizenship... is a positive step in the path to recovering our young people. The Body Shop is most pleased to endorse the Charter and will encourage other business associates to examine and if possible join in the effort to assist our young people," he said.

The Federal Government's response to the report's recommendations will become the subject of discussion at the 4th National Conference on Unemployment, to be held in Adelaide in June.
Managing the flow: new project for Adelaide’s water system experts

They’ve shown how to save money in the design of water pipe networks; now a University of Adelaide research team is out to do the same for the operation of open channel irrigation systems.

Associate Professor Graeme Dandy and Dr Angus Simpson from the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering have won a $214,000 grant from the Federal and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation (LWRRDC) to apply their pioneering genetic algorithm technique to the development of scheduling systems for channel irrigation systems.

The Tatura irrigation area of Goulburn-Murray Water in Victoria will be used as a case study.

Graeme Dandy, Angus Simpson and postdoctoral fellow Dr John Nixon are working with industry partners Rubicon Systems Australia Pty Ltd (from Melbourne) and Goulburn-Murray Water. The partners are contributing in-kind support to the two and a half year project.

The genetic algorithm optimisation technique is based on natural selection and the mechanics of population genetics. Applications developed by Graeme Dandy and Angus Simpson over the last six years have already achieved substantial savings in the design of six actual pipe networks in Australia and overseas.

The latest project will test whether the technique can be used to improve scheduling and delivery of irrigation flows via open channel gravity systems.

In most irrigation systems around Australia an advance-notice ordering system is used. Irrigators order their water three to four days in advance, specifying when they want the flow to start, how much water they need, and how long they want it for. This is often done using the telephone network and a computer-prompted recording.

It’s then up to a water planner to schedule these orders for delivery within the capacity of the system and with minimum delay. If demand exceeds the system’s supply capacity, the planner has to reschedule some customers to even out the flow. Irrigators ring back a day in advance to confirm their order or find out if they have been rescheduled.

The water planner’s task is a complex one and still very ad hoc — though it has been helped in recent years by the development of computer technology, including graphical user interfaces.

“There are so many factors to take into account,” says Angus Simpson.

“For example, producing constant flow in the channels, reducing spillage, considering outfall at the end of the system and maximising the number of irrigators who can receive their water at the time they asked for.

“You also want to ensure that regulation of flow control structures and Detheridge wheels is kept to a minimum, with the staff who operate them being used efficiently.

“And then it’s important that the same people are not moved from their designated slot every time they place an order. You have to try and ‘socialise the inconvenience’ so that it’s equitably spread.”

To determine the relative weighting to be given to these and other criteria the team recently visited and interviewed irrigation authority personnel in the Tatura region. The variables will be considered simultaneously in the genetic algorithm optimisation.

“We want to develop a methodology which will help to automatically determine the best way of scheduling deliveries,” Graeme Dandy said.

“This can be incorporated as a module in a computer ordering program with the aim of automating procedures as much as possible — although water planners will still have the ability to fine-tune the model output.”

The computer ordering program brings Rubicon Systems into play. The company has already developed an ordering and scheduling system (IPM - Irrigation Planning Module) which is widely used in the Goulburn-Murray irrigation area and elsewhere. The genetic algorithm optimisation module will be integrated into this existing system.

And the savings that might accrue if the project works as expected:

“Our analysis suggests potential savings on water usage of around $270,000 per year, and a further $420,000 potential reduction in operational costs for the Goulburn-Murray irrigation area alone,” said Graeme Dandy. “That amounts to millions of dollars when other irrigation areas are considered.”

The project is part of LWRRDC’s National Program for Irrigation Research and Development, a cross-sectoral program in operation since 1993 to improve the environmental sustainability of Australia’s on- and off-farm irrigation systems.

—John Edge
New Council meets

History was made on Friday 14 March when the new 20-member University Council met for the first time following changes to the University of Adelaide Act which came into force on 6 March. The meeting was also the first to operate under a more streamlined and focused system for the conduct of Council business.

Mr Richard Pash, a partner with Minter Ellison Solicitors, attended the meeting to give members a presentation on their own and the Council’s duties and responsibilities.

Members of the new Council are:

- Ex-officio: The Chancellor, Mr Bill Scammell (Vice-Chancellor), Professor Mary O’Kane
- External members appointed by a selection committee:
  - Mr Maurice J de Rohan (Principal, Australian Office, Sedgwick Noble Bond, Architects and Planners, and Director, Multi-Function Polis Development Corporation)
  - Ms Josephine Dundon (Group Manager, Legal and Intellectual Property Group, Corporate Services Division, FH Faulding and Co Ltd)
  - Ms Dawn Garrett (Manager, South Australian Office, Sedgwick Noble Lowndes)
  - Ms Jane Jose (Principal, Jane Jose McEachern), with input from Director, Quality (Mrs Heather Howard) on issues relating to the Climate Survey.

The questions invite a straightforward YES/NO response, but succinct reasons will also be welcome. Results will be printed in the following issue of the Adelaidean, and may include quotation as appropriate, although respondents will not be identified.

Using Genes to Get Into Shape

The shape and overall body plan of animals is encoded in the genetic information they inherit. We know this thanks to the study of a bizarre set of mutations, termed homeotic mutations, that cause entire body parts to develop in the wrong place on an animal.

On Wednesday 26 March at 12.30pm, Professor Sean Carroll will discuss changes in homeotic genes that have resulted in dramatic changes in body plans during the evolution of animals when he presents the Fish Lectures in the Stirling Lecture Theatre, Medical School South.

Professor Carroll — who is a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator of the Laboratory of Molecular Biology at the University of Wisconsin — has established a formidable reputation in the area of developmental genetics.

Over the past few years he has turned his attention to the genetic basis of the evolution of body plans and it is this topic that he will discuss in the Fish Lecture, entitled “Living in the Past: Hox Genes and the Evolution of Animal Body Patterns”.

Permaculture in focus

Permaculture is the focus of the next public lecture in the series presented by USERP (United Scientists for Environmental Protection), to be delivered by Graham Brookman on Thursday 27 March.

Graham Brookman has worked for Roseworthy and the University of Adelaide for many years and also has strong connections with the farming community.

On 14 years, he and Annamaree Brookman have been developing a 16ha Permaculture property known as “The Fond’Forest” at Gawler.

Systems include agroforestry, free range poultry, organic grain production, market garden-poultry rotation, and mixed roof gardens as grazers, apriary, a native predator pool for pest control, bush tucker, human by-product cycling via composting toilet and reedbed, ground water recharge, eco-agriculture and agricultural value adding.

Some 160 varieties of fruits, nuts, vegetables and grains are grown for both self sufficiency and the certified organic food market in Gawler and Adelaide. The illustrated talk will be of interest to anyone interested.
Alumni in Brief

Nobel Laureate to give Foundation Lecture
1996 Nobel Laureate Professor Peter Doherty will give a University of Adelaide Foundation Lecture on Friday 18 April 1997 in the Bonynge Hall at 6:00pm.

The title of the Lecture is “Dealing with Cancer: A New Perspective”.

There will be no charge for admission but in view of the likely large attendance an entry ticket is required. Call the Alumni Office on 34275 to obtain your tickets.

The Mathematics of Money
The Science and Mathematical Sciences Chapter’s 1997 Public Lecture Series will open with a presentation by Professor Robert Elliott on “Markets, Money and Mathematics”. Professor Elliott lectures in the Department of Applied Mathematics.

The lecture, to be held in the Horace Lamb Lecture Theatre at 7:30pm on Thursday 3 April is free and is open to the public. Individual, family and group bookings are all welcome. Please contact the Alumni Office to obtain a free ticket to guarantee your seat. Phone 8303 4275 or email eclec@registry.adelaide.edu.au.

Science/ Maths Sciences AGM
A final reminder that the Science and Mathematical Sciences Chapter’s annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 26 March at 5:30pm in the Science Faculty Meeting Room, level 5, Grosvenor Building. All graduates and friends of the Faculty of Mathematical and Computer Science are invited to attend. Further information may be obtained from Adrienne Eccles at the Alumni Office, 8303 3196.

Earth Sciences educational tours
The University of Melbourne School of Earth Sciences, in cooperation with colleagues from The University of Adelaide, is offering three education tours in 1997, designed to appeal to geology graduates, as well as alumni and friends of the two Universities without any prior geological knowledge.

Articulate and enthusiastic academics from the two Universities will provide expert guidance. Places are limited to approximately 20 on each tour to maximise your enjoyment. Only limited places remain on the Flinders Ranges tour.

In the Footsteps of Mawson: A Geological Tour of the Flinders Ranges

The Flinders Ranges offer a scenic natural laboratory full of evidence for a wide range of processes that have affected the earth. The tour takes in a number of well known and out of the way geological sites, many discovered by Sir Douglas Mawson and his students. Highlights include fossil evidence of the earliest animals on earth, unusual minerals at Mount Painter, evidence of ancient extreme climates, the scenery of the central Flinders Ranges around Wilpena Pound, and the rugged beauty of the Arkaroola Sanctuary.

Tour Leaders: Assoc Prof Vic Gostin (University of Adelaide) and Prof Ian Plimer and Dr Malcolm Wallace (University of Melbourne).

Australia Adrift: The Break-up of Gondwana

Australia was once part of the southern supercontinent, Gondwana, and was freed only 50 million years ago to become an island continent with a gradually evolving unique flora and fauna. This tour follows the Great Ocean Road west from Geelong and continues on to Mount Gambier in South Australia, explaining the geological events that took place along our southern coastline.

Highlights include the coastal scenery and how it reflects continental break-up. Sites include Gondwanan forests and the beautifully preserved valleys in western Victoria and South Australia.

Tour Leaders: Assoc Prof Vic Gostin (University of Adelaide), Dr Anne Felton (University of Hawaii) and Dr Carol Simpson (University of Melbourne).

Contact Suzanne Baxter-Smith in the School of Earth Sciences on (03) 9344 6520 or Carol Simpson on (03) 9397 6743 for details of any tours.
The University of Adelaide's Thebarton Campus has been doing its bit for the environment by getting involved in a range of 'green initiatives.'

A meeting of the Kids Congress For Catchment Care was held at the campus last month, bringing together students from dozens of South Australian schools, University science students, environmental groups KRSAB, local councils, and the State Government.

At the same time, the University of Adelaide has launched a new course in catchment care, focusing on the importance of waterways and their role in the environment. The course is designed to give students the tools they need to work with the community to protect our catchments.

Meanwhile, the Thebarton Campus has “adopted” a patch of the River Torrens to create a “living laboratory”. Adoption of river patches is being promoted by the River Torrens Water Management Board in a bid to clean up and revitalize the Torrens.

The Thebarton Campus, in collaboration with the Thebarton & Hindmarsh Rotary Clubs and SA Brewing, has adopted a patch of the river between the Port Road and South Road bridges.

This area is to be used in the study of feral and indigenous animal life, monitoring the level and effects of pollution, monitoring the effects of flooding, and for the study of the history of human usage and environmental change in the area.

On “Clean Up Australia Day” (Sunday, 2 March) about 50 University staff, including the Vice-Chancellor and Professor Mary Glynn, Thebarton Campus commercial tenants, and members of local community groups pitched in to clean up around the adopted patch of the Torrens.

Paper, metal scraps, dead wood, plastic, needles, and other items were all removed from the riverbank. The most interesting finds of the day were a wallet full of plastic bank cards, a radio, a calculator, and a 1930s English penny!

—David Ellis

D N urs under way

The first students to undertake a professional doctorate at the University of Adelaide have begun their studies with the Department of Clinical Nursing.

Applications for the DNurs were received from around Australia and New Zealand. The professional doctorate is equivalent to a PhD but is designed to have a larger course work component and a strong emphasis on workplace-related research, making it ideal for senior practising nurses who wish to further their study.

Ph Nicki 8303 5899 (w) 8271 6103 or fax 8281 6334.

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1997 DNurs students. (from left): Edwina Thomas, Jennifer Austin, Jocelyn Parkes, Trudy Wright and Sigrid Birzer. Photo: David Ellis.