

'Headbanging' tests to cut playground injuries

University of Adelaide researchers are calling for a more responsible approach to the placement of "soft" surfacing around playgrounds, to reduce the risk of serious head injuries to children.

Each year about 1300 South Australian children require hospital treatment because of injuries caused by a fall from playground equipment — almost the same as the number of children hospitalised as a result of car accidents.

Although playground accidents do not cause as many deaths as road accidents, they are responsible for just as many non-fatal cases. Recent figures show that of those injured in playgrounds, 19% sustained a head injury and 5% sustained a brain injury.

If a child falls from play equipment to the ground, the "soft fall" material in place around it is designed to absorb

some of the impact, thereby reducing the chance of serious head injury.

Mr Carl Howard and Mr Ian Brown from the Department of Mechanical Engineering's consulting arm, MechTest, are conducting research into the impact-absorbing properties of various types of playground undersurfacing, such as pine bark chips, rubber mats and plastic tiles.

Using a specially designed simulated head (nicknamed "Oscar") wired to a computer, the researchers have been able to get a clear picture of how well the undersurfacing works.

The "head" is dropped onto the soft fall material. Sensors inside the head relay data to the computer about the forces involved at the point of impact, and this information is then used to determine the effectiveness of the undersurfacing.



Carl Howard and Ian Brown with "Oscar", the simulation head used in the playground safety tests. Photo: David Ellis

Continued on Page 6

Repromed celebrates a decade of bringing hopes to life

For the past 35 years University of Adelaide reproductive medicine researchers have run a clinical service to help infertile couples realise their dreams of becoming parents.

During this time many 'firsts' have been achieved in the development of reproductive medicine and the service.

Playing an instrumental role in that over the past 10 years has been the University of Adelaide's company Repromed, which is this year celebrating a decade of "bringing hopes to life".

Repromed Pty Ltd, based at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, was established in 1987 at the instigation of the then Vice-Chancellor, Professor Donald Stranks.

A commercial operation with formal links between 'town and gown', Repromed is a wholly owned subsidiary of the University's commercial arm, Luminis Pty Ltd.

The company's aim was to meet the growing demand for fertility programs such as the IVF (in-vitro fertilisation) program, providing clinical services to couples in need.

About one in seven couples have trouble achieving pregnancy. There can be many reasons for this — age, lifestyle, or because the male partner is infertile, either through a low sperm count or inability to release sperm from his reproductive organs.

The solutions to these problems are many and varied, ranging from the low-

tech (such as simple lifestyle advice) to the hi-tech (such as the latest in IVF technology and micro injection).

A self-supporting non-profit company, Repromed reinvests surplus funds into research, enabling it to remain at the cutting edge of reproductive medicine techniques and technologies.

Repromed's many achievements, in close collaboration with the University's Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, include:

- introducing the revolutionary single-sperm injection procedure to Australia
- achieving Australia's first (and the world's third) micro injection pregnancies
- achieving Australia's first (and the world's sixth) pregnancy from pre-implantation diagnosis
- establishing the donor egg program in 1987
- conducting Australia's first scientific study into weight control for fertility
- establishing centres in Darwin and the Adelaide CBD
- training embryologists from around the world in the latest reproductive medicine techniques
- enabling more than 3000 babies to be brought into the world over the past decade.

"Repromed has proven an extremely successful venture," said the company's general manager, Mr Roger Stables.

Continued on Page 6



The first 1997 Elder Hall Concert on 17 April not only marks the Conservatorium debut of new Senior Lecturer in Violin, Dr Semyon Kobets, but has also been chosen to commemorate the centenary of the death of Sir Thomas Elder. Dr Kobets is pictured above with the Conservatorium's David Lockett. Story page 6. Photo: Mark Spaven



The Abbess of Adelaide muses on globalisation

In recent times we have come to think Globalisation is a Good Thing. In all sorts of areas of life and of business we are exhorted to think Global. For universities globalisation would seem to be something of a natural phenomenon. After all, universities are about knowledge and as we are fond of pointing out, knowledge is universal. The very words university and universal come from the same root.

Despite all the talk there is not a commonly held view of what globalisation really means in universities. Does it mean large consortia of universities working together to do things jointly, to offer joint degree programs, to carry out joint research? In fact we are edging towards this sort of globalisation through our benchmarking agreements. We have such arrangements with two universities, Edinburgh and Nottingham, and are in the process of establishing more. For many universities it seems sensible to benchmark and link with universities which have a similar profile even though they are in different countries.

Perhaps we may learn more and become more truly global as we work with universities that are less similar. This week the State of South Australia signs an education agreement with the State of Baden-Württemberg in Germany. This will bring together the universities of South Australia and some of the great German universities — famous names in the university world such as Freiburg and Stuttgart. The Rektors and the Vice-Chancellors met to discuss how we might move the links forward despite issues of language and very different university systems. There is great enthusiasm which I am confident will be translated into concrete benefits for all involved.

Another exercise in globalisation occurred several weeks ago when our Department of Philosophy organised a seminar entitled Mind and World which was a debate about the differences between Western philosophy and Eastern (Buddhist) philosophy. Two former abbots (vice-chancellors) of two of the leading universities in exile from Tibet debated the Eastern concept of mind with our philosophers and other philosophers from Australian universities, representing Western philosophy.

I found this seminar raised a number of very interesting questions for me. At one level with my own interest in machine cognition I found the differences between the models deeply fascinating and intellectually stimulating. On another level I could see how the processes of translation both hindered and high-lighted the difficulties we were all experiencing with the concepts under discussion. Sometimes translation makes such ideas extraordinarily difficult; sometimes important differences are hidden.

In answering my welcoming speech one of our visitors speaking in Tibetan thanked me for our hospitality. I had my suspicions, I wasn't sure that the translation was exact, and on checking afterwards I did indeed find that the person thanked was the Abbess of Adelaide!

MARY O'KANE

GUEST COMMENTARY

Youth Unemployment — Moving Beyond Despair

After two and a half years of studying youth unemployment in Australia, I continue to be shocked by the dimensions of the problem and the dramatic changes taking place in the youth labour market. With around 250,000 of total unemployed people, young people make up one quarter of those unemployed in Australia. These young people are part of the so called 'lost generation', a generation who feel alienated and frustrated as they struggle to find a meaningful place for themselves in society.

Like many other Australians I am often shocked when I hear the monthly Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates of youth unemployment currently running at around 30% nationally. ABS regional youth unemployment estimates for 15-19 year olds run much higher rising to around 40% in some areas. Responding to this crisis, governments of all political persuasions rightly proclaim tackling youth unemployment as a top priority. After two decades of experimenting with a variety of labour market programs, responses to the problem have failed to address the root causes of youth unemployment.

"Yes, we know education and training is important, but where are the jobs. I've done heaps of training courses and applied for thirty jobs in the past month." This is the sort of answer I get from many young people when we talk about the causes of unemployment. So it was that the problem of the lack of available jobs became the central focus of the Social Justice Research Foundation's 'Young Australians Making the Future Work' project.

As I reflect on the work we have done over the last few years I am painfully aware of the hundreds of reports like ours which gather more dust than momentum in the months after they are released. I am not unrealistic about the prospects for change. I have been inspired by the national attention given to the report. My optimism for change however comes not from this but more from the actions of so many young people who throughout the course of the project were strident and articulate advocates for change including a change of mindset. A starting point in this regard is to get away from defining the problem so narrowly. Inevitably this has led to identifying young people themselves as the major cause of youth unemployment and training as the main solution. This victim blaming approach replaces compassion with ridicule and denigration — the sort of phenomena elevated to a media art form through the victimisation of the 'Paxtons', two young people set up by a commercial current affairs TV show to perpetuate the stereotype that thousands of lazy work shy adolescents are turning down 'decent' jobs. While it would be easier for us all to shift the responsibility of youth unemployment onto the shoulders of young people the facts suggest that youth unemployment is largely a consequence of the actions and policy decisions of people over the age of twenty five. Governments, industry and the broader community must all share the burden of the failure to generate enough full-time work for young people — for all people.

Youth unemployment is a complex social and economic problem requiring a community wide solution — the sort of approach that many businesses in Europe have embraced by signing the Charter of Businesses against Social Exclusion. This charter is an expression of the need for a community wide approach to dealing with the problem. It moves from

by
Dr John Spoehr
Centre for Labour
Studies

recognition of the problem as the responsibility of all the community to the need to change practices and policies which have denied young people access to secure term full-time employment. Following this trend we have proposed a similar charter which was recently endorsed by the international firm —The Bodyshop. We are hopeful that many more organisations will endorse the charter. I encourage you to promote it in forums available to you.

Funded by the Australian Youth Foundation the 'Young Australians Making the Future Work' project based at the Centre for Labour Studies has dramatically highlighted some of the key changes taking place in the youth labour market. While the monthly ABS youth unemployment statistics continue to shock, I think a more meaningful representation of the problem can be found by looking briefly at some of the longer term trends in the youth labour market.

The warning signs pointing to the collapse of the full-time youth labour market have been with us for a long time. The number of full-time jobs available to young Australians has been shrinking steadily over the last twenty years.

Between August 1980 and February 1996 full-time employment for 15-19 year olds decreased by 21% or 281,000. In 1980 the proportion of 15-24 year olds in full-time employment was around 84%. In 1996 it had fallen to 35%. On current trends it is likely that there will be no full-time jobs available for 15-19 year olds by the year 2001. Full-time jobs for 20-24 year olds are also disappearing rapidly.

While reasonably secure full-time jobs are declining rapidly, insecure part-time and casual positions have increased dramatically. The number of 14-24 year old part-time workers more than doubled between 1980-96. As an illustration of this change, South Australia's full-time employment among 15-19 years olds has fallen by 75% since 1970. Casual work accounted for over 90% of teenage part-time jobs and 80% of part-time jobs held by 20-24 year olds in 1994.

With each recession the number of full-time jobs available to young people has declined significantly. During the 1990s recession 300,000 jobs were lost by young people 15-20. At the end of the recession the percentage of full-time jobs held by 15-24 year olds had declined from 21% in 1989 to 17% in 1993.

The warning signs are there. Jobs and hope or alienation and despair — neither are inevitable, just the result of policy choices and priorities. Quality education and training will remain a key part of any overall strategy to tackle unemployment. Providing jobs at the end of this process will overcome the despair and cynicism that many young people now feel.

I hope that our project has provided a focus for building towards a brighter, more optimistic future. The challenge remains to harness community concern and build support and momentum for policy change at a national, state and local level. The 'Jobs for Young Australians' report outlines some challenging strategies and a process for putting ideas into action.

Further action on the development of the charter and recommendations of the report will be the subject of a National Youth Employment Roundtable to be held in Adelaide as part of the National Conference on Unemployment, 18-20 June. Contact 08 8302 4567 for further details.



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John Edge
Editor

Julie Ryke
Layout

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Writers

Patricia Cree
David Ellis
David Washington

Contributors

Adrienne Eccles
Geoff Sauer

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Room G07 Mitchell Building, South Australia, 5005. Tel (08) 8303 5174; Fax (08) 8223 6437; Email: jryke@vco.adelaide.edu.au
WWW: <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/Adelaidean/home.html>
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Guy Lloyd scholar announced

Denise McMillan-Hall is the 1997 recipient of a major scholarship from Adelaide-based aviation company Lloyd Helicopters.

The Guy Lloyd MBA Scholarship is worth \$20,000, allowing the recipient to study for a Master of Business Administration (MBA) at the University of Adelaide's Graduate School of Management.

Ms McMillan-Hall graduated from Loughborough University, London, with a BSc (Hons) and a Diploma of Industrial Studies. She has held various management positions in the banking industry in both London and Adelaide, and she hopes the MBA will give her a springboard to attain senior management status in her chosen profession.

Ms McMillan-Hall is the second postgraduate student to be awarded the prestigious scholarship, which is named in honour of the late Mr Guy Lloyd.

At a ceremony held at the Graduate School of Management on Tuesday, 25 March, Ms McMillan-Hall was congratulated by Guy Lloyd's widow, Dr Adele Lloyd, and the chairman of Lloyd Helicopters, Mr Stephen Bond.

The ceremony also saw several other awards presented to MBA students and graduates.

The \$400 Australian Society of Corporate Treasurers Ltd Prize in Managerial Finance was shared by Mr Adrian Smith and Ms Alina Lebed, who was last year's inaugu-



Guy Lloyd Scholarship winner Denise McMillan-Hall (centre) with Guy Lloyd's widow, Dr Adele Lloyd, and the chairman of Lloyd Helicopters, Mr Stephen Bond. Photo: David Ellis

ral winner of the Guy Lloyd MBA Scholarship. Ms Lebed was also presented with the \$250 Baron Partners Prize in Business Policy.

The Normandy Mining Group MBA Prize for Best Graduating Student, worth \$500, went to Dr David Thompson. And Mr David Pender and Mr Paul Siwek shared the \$500 MBA Society Prize for

Supervised Project Work.

The top five graduating students of 1996 were also honoured for their excellent academic achievement. They are (in alphabetical order): Ms Barbara Deed, Mr Donald Puckridge, Mr Jonathan Russell, Dr David Thompson, and Mr Gregory Touzeau.

—David Ellis

Arts program benefits research students

A Faculty-wide Structured Program for research postgraduate students got under way in the Faculty of Arts last month. It is the first program to be introduced on a faculty-wide basis since the Structured Program concept was introduced across the University in 1994.

The Arts program was launched on 14 March by Professor Purnendra Jain from Asian Studies, who was responsible for setting it up as Associate Dean (Higher Degrees) last year. It is being coordinated this year by the current Associate Dean, Dr Margie Ripper from Women's Studies.

Under the program, all new research postgraduate students in the Faculty — there are between 40 and 50 this year — are expected to participate in a semester-long series

of seminars and training sessions designed to prepare them for the requirements of postgraduate research.

Generic sessions designed for all the students include work on technology skills including use of email and the WWW, techniques of postgraduate research, seminar presentation, teaching skills, the respective roles and expectations of supervisors and students, interpersonal skills, the structure of the Faculty and its student support mechanisms. Additional discipline-specific training will be offered by departments.

The Advisory Centre for University Education and the Information Technology Division are involved in the program as well as senior members of the Faculty's academic staff.

"The Faculty decided that we were wasting scarce resources duplicating generic work at a departmental level, so we decided to offer Faculty-based core components," said Professor Jain.

"We also believe this common program will help to overcome some of the isolation that postgraduate students often feel — particularly in the Humanities and Social Sciences, where there is tradition of solitary research."

The Faculty hopes to consolidate this benefit by organising informal social functions for postgraduates, and establishing support networks among research students, supervisors, postgraduate coordinators and members of its Higher Degrees Committee.

—John Edge

Careers seminars capture their audience

The Faculties of Engineering and Science have enjoyed a strong response to a series of jointly organised careers seminars, with the first session on Tuesday 25 March attracting around 240 people.

The aim was to give students in Years 9 and 10, their parents and teachers a view of four careers that have arisen from engineering and science degrees.

The speakers — Dr John Harvey (IMVS), Ms Emma Dyer (Environmental Protection Authority), Mr Geoff Wallbridge (Wallbridge &

Gilbert Consulting Engineers) and Dr Anne-Marie Grisogono (DSTO), were chosen to represent females and males, people who had recently graduated and those who had been in the workforce for a number of years.

Faculty of Engineering Outreach and Liaison Officer Jennie Hayes, who chaired the session, said the speakers talked about their jobs, career paths to date, future plans, and especially, why they chose and enjoy their careers.

"Their enthusiasm for their

careers was clearly evident and transmitted itself to the audience," she said.

Mrs Hayes said the evaluation sheets from the evening were very positive. Parents in particular commented on the variety of career paths available to their children through Engineering and Science degrees.

Two further sessions on 13 and 27 May are booked out, while a fourth on 3 June is filling but still has some vacancies.

—John Edge

The News IN BRIEF

ENGINEERING FELLOWSHIPS

Chemical Engineering senior lecturer Dr Anton Middelberg has recently been awarded two prestigious international fellowships.

The first, a Fulbright Fellowship from the Australia-American Education Foundation will enable Dr Middelberg to travel to the United States for six months later this year.

Dr Middelberg will visit the University of California at Berkeley, where he will conduct leading-edge biochemical research.

He has also been elected to a Visiting Fellowship at Corpus Christi College Cambridge for three months starting early in 1998.

At Cambridge Dr Middelberg will collaborate with local researchers, examining and modelling new biochemical engineering operations.

HUBBARD AWARD

Associate Professor David Newble (Department of Medicine) has been awarded a major prize by the National Board of Medical Examiners in the United States.

Dr Newble, head of the Clinical Education Unit at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, is the 1997 recipient of the John P. Hubbard Award.

The award, which consists of a substantial amount of money and a plaque of recognition, is given to an individual who has made significant contributions to the pursuit of excellence in the field of evaluation in medicine.

Dr Newble has a strong interest in medical education and clinical competence, and he has played a major role in curriculum development and management, student learning, staff development and continuing medical education both at a local and international level.

DEETYA APPOINTMENT

Associate Professor David Round from the Department of Economics has been appointed Chair of the Employment Services Regulatory Authority (ESRA).

The part-time appointment will last until December, when ESRA will cease to exist, its functions then being subsumed into various sections of the Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs under the Commonwealth Government's labour market reforms.

COLOURS OF AUSTRALIA

Lovers of the craft of quilting have a rare opportunity to see the latest in contemporary Australian quilt design in "Colours of Australia", a new exhibition currently on display at The National Textile Museum of Australia at Urrbrae House.

One of the first recorded Australian quilts was made in 1841 by a group of convict women on their way to Tasmania.

More than 150 years later, the 40 contemporary quilts in this exhibition represent the diversity of modern Australia as a new wave of quiltmakers tackles styles ranging from the very traditional to innovative techniques with an increased use of alternative fabrics, surface design and embellishment.

• Colours of Australia is open from 10am to 4pm daily until 20 April.

Adelaidean Feedback

The first Adelaidean Feedback Poll was an interesting exercise, with only six people taking the opportunity to express a view on the question of whether summer semesters should be introduced.

Of those, four were in favour and one against. The sixth leaned toward "No", with concerns about possible effects on students, but did not express an unequivocal negative.

Two of the six respondents were members of academic staff — one was for, one against — while the remainder were general staff (one of those being from another University).

TWO COMMENTS:

"I support a summer semester on the grounds that any increase in productivity and student numbers which brings in additional EFTSU's helps with the difficult budgetary situation and avoids staff retrenchments."

"Given the funding climate of the past decade, this is bound to increase the amount of work done by individual staff members, despite reassurances to the contrary. The early promises will soon be forgotten, and our valuable research time will be removed. PS. Feedback is a great idea."

Despite the low initial response rate, the Feedback Poll will continue to be trialled. The next question will appear in the 21 April issue.

—John Edge
Editor

Substitute wine filter identified

University of Adelaide researchers have identified an easily-manufactured product capable of replacing expensive imported diatomaceous earth (DE) as a key filtering agent in the Australian wine industry.

A \$30,000 venture capital project run by Luminis Pty Ltd and overseen by Dr Ken Davey from Chemical Engineering's Food Technology Research Group, has established that the substitute product — whose identity remains confidential for commercial reasons — filters faster and better than DE.

Industry partners in the exploratory project, which is just winding up, were Southcorp Wines Pty Ltd at Nuriootpa and the Melbourne and Sydney-based Quality Sands and Ceramics Pty Ltd.

The research brought together strands of consultancy work which Dr Davey did in 1995 for Quality Sand and Ceramics to find applications for their products, as well as recent collaborative Honours projects with both companies.

Diatomaceous earth is a silica-based aid to filtration which has long been used in the "polishing", or final filter step of wines — as well as in the clarification of beers.

Essentially, it works as a filter cake through which the wine is forced at pressure to remove particulates.

Dr Davey and his team — including University of Adelaide Honours graduate Jason Pecanek and Jamal Kadir, a chemical engineering graduate from Loughborough University in the UK — built a stainless-steel pres-



L to R: Jason Pecanek, Jamal Kadir and Ken Davey with testing equipment. Photo courtesy of Dr Davey.

sure vessel which enabled them to simulate at bench-scale process conditions used in the wine industry at Nuriootpa.

Working with white wine, they compared the performance characteristics of several possible substitute filter media against DE as a control.

"One of the substitutes gives comparative technical performance with practical realisation of greater flux," Dr Davey said. "In fact, the flux is statistically significantly greater than DE in our bench-scale processing." [Flux — the quantity per unit area per unit time — is a measure of filter performance.]

Dr Davey believes the results of his

tests are sufficiently strong to stimulate financial backing for a much larger-scale pilot project.

The commercial opportunities for South Australia's internationally expanding wine industry from the development of an effective and cheaply produced local substitute for DE are clear.

DE is currently imported from the United States, with demand Australia-wide at around 12,000 tonne per year — South Australia accounts for 1,500 tonne — at a cost of just over \$1100 per tonne. World-wide demand is many times that figure.

—John Edge

Start to Lower Level work gets nearer

The first physical work on the Lower Level Site Development is getting underway this month with contracts being let for alterations in the Jordan and Fisher Buildings. These spaces will be used as temporary accommodation until the New Science Building is complete.

Project Manager John Larwood says that contract documentation is also underway for the Fisher Stage 1 demolition (scheduled for July this year), the modifications to Union Hall and construction of a new floor on the Chemical Engineering Annex.

Mr Larwood said the Project Team has finalised the design briefs for the two Divisions involved (Science and Engineering and Mathematical Sciences), and has balanced preliminary cost estimates with the funds available.

"After several cost cutting exercises we have a balanced budget and are moving forward," John Larwood said.

One of the major changes during this process has been the deletion of the proposed underground Stage 1 Engineering/Maths Building.

The Division is now moving to

occupy space in the Plaza Building vacated by ITD and Property Services.

Project architects MGT/Hardy have now presented preliminary sketch plans for the proposed New Science Building and the refurbished Benham Laboratories.

John Larwood and Rob Hutson invite anybody interested in the Lower Level Site Development to pop into the Project Office on the Maths Lawns to view these plans or for a chat.

—John Edge

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Lastek aims for the export market

A new line of spectroscopic instruments and computer software is to be unleashed on the world market by Lastek, one of many innovative companies based at the University of Adelaide's Thebarton Campus.

Lastek is an importer, distributor and servicer of scientific instruments, such as spectrometers and high-power laser systems, which are used in research by universities and companies throughout Australia.

Almost a quarter of its business also involves system integration and the custom manufacture of new instruments to cater for specific researchers' needs, as well as developing computer software that can be used with this high-technology equipment.

After years of building one-off, custom-made spectroscopic systems, Lastek has now designed and built a new type of CCD (charge coupled device) camera which can be used to measure light across the spectrum. The new camera can be used for a wide range of applications in spectroscopic research, and is expected to fill a gap in the scientific instrument market.

"We've been building systems like that for several years now, but over the last year we came to the conclusion that perhaps we



Lastek managing director Alex Stanco. Photo: David Ellis

should release our own product into the market," said Mr Alex Stanco, managing director of Lastek.

"The idea for the linear CCD camera came from Dr Mark Aizengendler, who leads our research and development section. We're hoping the camera will be successful, and we believe it will be."

Mr Stanco, a graduate of the University of Adelaide, formed Lastek nine years ago. He describes the company, which employs 14 people and whose clients include the Department of Defence, major Australian

universities and researchers from overseas institutions, as "moderately successful".

"What we did over the first seven years was to build up the company's capabilities and resources," Mr Stanco said.

"Now that we've established the technological resources, we're looking at developing more and more of our own products and hoping to take on the export market.

"Our big hope at the moment is the CCD camera designed by our research

and development team. We've also developed an advanced software package for data acquisition and the analysis of spectroscopic data, and we think that software is good enough to break into the world market."

Mr Stanco said the move to the Thebarton Campus from the Adelaide CBD more than two years ago was "serendipitous".

"I was attracted to Thebarton for a number of reasons," he said.

"I liked the idea that next door there would be the Physics laboratory. Plus, having the University as a landlord seemed quite attractive, in terms of the relationship between our company and the University. The idea of being in a hi-tech park with other companies was also a temptation.

"There are many convenient resources located right here on the campus, such as industrial designers, electronics experts — it's just a matter of walking next door or going down the corridor, and there they all are.

"On occasions that's been a great help to us in our work, and we hope to have a further association with other tenants of the campus in the coming years," he said.

—David Ellis

Videos spread news of menopause research

Associate Professor Alastair MacLennan (Obstetrics & Gynaecology) and Dr Alice MacLennan have added another educational video to their series on the menopause.

The video is a précis of the most recent International Menopause Society Congress and encapsulates over 60 messages from the congress in as many minutes through short interviews with the main international speakers.

The newest video covers topics such as oestrogens and brain function, cardiovascular disease, new therapies for osteoporosis, the politics of the menopause, menopause in other cultures and even the male "menopause".

Three previous videos have refined the team's technique of summarising a conference and quickly spreading the news of recent advances through live abstracts and pertinent questions, and their videos circulate world-wide.

The team has also produced two educational "hypotheticals" — "HRT after breast cancer" and "The Politics of female health: Women and Cardiovascular Disease".

These are available through Foundation Studios at the Women's and Children's Hospital, Adelaide (tel 8204 7339).

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Students well received at perinatal conference

Five Masters and Honours students in the Department of Public Health presented papers on aspects of perinatal medicine at the recent Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand Annual Congress in Fremantle.

Dr Janet Hiller, senior lecturer in the Department, said having five student papers accepted at such a conference, which attracts leading scientists, obstetricians, midwives and others involved in perinatal care, was an outstanding achievement.

Masters student Jan Carter's

paper, which found a slightly increased risk of premature birth among older mothers, was selected for presentation at a plenary session of the conference.

Others included:

- **Kerri Beckmann** (Masters), reasons for mid trimester abortions
- **Bo Zhang** (Masters), asthma as an increasingly common pregnancy complication
- **Elizabeth Griffith** (Masters), insufficient calcium intakes for pregnant women in South Australia

• **Donna Sharp** (Honours), women's satisfaction with medical and other services during pregnancy, at birth and afterwards.

The Department of Public health accepts about 20 Masters students and a small number of Honours students each year.

Dr Hiller said whilst finding funds for student conference visits was always difficult, students benefited considerably both academically and in career development.

—Patricia Cree

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Forum on Career Paths

Three leading Adelaide personnel consultants provided an up-to-the-minute snapshot of jobs, career development and further study options to some 50 University of Adelaide general staff at a Women's Professional Development Network lunchtime forum last Tuesday.

Michael McGregor of McGregor Price Consulting Group, Sue-Louise Newmann, a former personnel consultant and now Human Resources Manager with North West Water, and Trevor Searle, manager of Drake Executive, presented their perspectives on careers in South Australia, and then fielded numerous questions from the audience.

Issues included the benefits of further study and how to choose the

most useful options, whether age is a barrier to employment, job-hunting strategies, and the similarities and differences between public and private sector employment practices.

The WPDN's role is to foster an environment in the University where women general staff can achieve their personal and professional potential.

Future lunchtime forums, as well as other activities, are scheduled for later in the year. Contact convener Kathie Hurst, ext 33277, to be added to the mailing list, or check the electronic Bulletin Board. Participation is open to all women general staff.

—Patricia Cree

Violinist's debut for Elder centenary

The Elder Conservatorium has chosen the opening concert in its 1997 Elder Hall series to mark the centenary of the death of one of the University's great benefactors — Sir Thomas Elder, after whom Elder Hall is named.

The six-concert series has a distinct local flavour, focusing on South Australians and highlighting the excellent staff musicians at the Elder Conservatorium.

The opening concert will give South Australians their first opportunity to hear violinist Dr Semyon Kobets, who has left his posts as Concertmaster with the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestras and part-time lecturer at the Sydey Conservatorium to join the University of Adelaide as Senior Lecturer in Violin.

Dr Kobets will be joined in his program of Beethoven, Brahms and Franck by pianist David Lockett. Associate Professor Lockett has just returned from a recital, masterclass and lecture tour of Canada and Taiwan.

Semyon Kobets's career has taken him throughout Europe, the USA, New Zealand and Australia. He was co-founder, Music Director and First Violinist of the Leontovych String Quartet in Kiev from 1971-1992, and has won numerous music awards.

Dr Kobets describes the concert as "the first page of the new and exciting chapter in my life book."

•Thursday 17 April at 8pm in Elder Hall. Bookings at BASS



The Vice-Chancellor (Professor Mary O'Kane), the Head of PALACE (Professor Judith Brine), and the Registrar (Mr Frank O'Neill) joined Performing Arts staff and students in the Wills Court garden on 20 March for the launch of "Little Ripper", the Elder Conservatorium Wind Ensemble's CD of music by the eminent Australian composer David Stanhope, who came to Adelaide from interstate for the occasion.

Pictured (left to right) are Dr Anita Donaldson, Dean of Performing Arts, Mr Robert Hower, leader and conductor of the Elder Conservatorium Wind Ensemble, and David Stanhope. Photo: Steve Donovan.

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'Headbanging' tests to cut playground injuries

Continued from Page 1

Thanks to a portable rig built especially for this research, "Oscar" has been used for tests in the laboratory and in the field at various playgrounds around Adelaide.

Although the Department of Mechanical Engineering has undertaken research into this area for the past 10 years, it was not until September last year that the first Australian and New Zealand Standard covering the testing of soft fall materials was released.

"It's estimated that if the standard is widely and effectively implemented, the number and, more importantly, the severity of injuries could be cut by half," said Mr Brown.

"The difficulty is getting the message out into the community that by

simply using suitable soft fall materials which comply to the standards, it could mean the difference between a minor fall and a serious head injury requiring hospitalisation.

"I would urge all organisations responsible for playgrounds — such as schools, day care centres, kindergartens, councils and restaurants — to make sure soft surfacing is in place around their play equipment," he said.

"Parents should also be aware that serious accidents occur around play equipment at home, and therefore the extra safety net, in the form of soft fall material, should be installed."

Because of the Department of Mechanical Engineering's expertise in this field, companies from Queensland, New South Wales,

Victoria, Tasmania, and New Zealand have been keen to have their soft fall products examined by MechTest.

The South Australian Health Commission and local manufacturers are also eager to collaborate with MechTest.

Mr Brown said that this study was an excellent example of how the University of Adelaide could play an important role in the community, by helping to improve playgrounds and therefore prevent injury to children.

He said research had already shown that the new Australian standard was not perfect, and as a result he and Mr Howard would be making submissions to Standards Australia suggesting possible areas of improvement.

—David Ellis

Repromed — a decade bringing hopes to life

Continued from Page 1

"We're always very early to introduce new technology, to utilise and improve on it, and we've provided our services to couples from right around Australia and overseas.

"For many years now our programs have yielded the best results in Australia and New Zealand. So we have a reputation for excellence that puts us in the top few units in the world," he said.

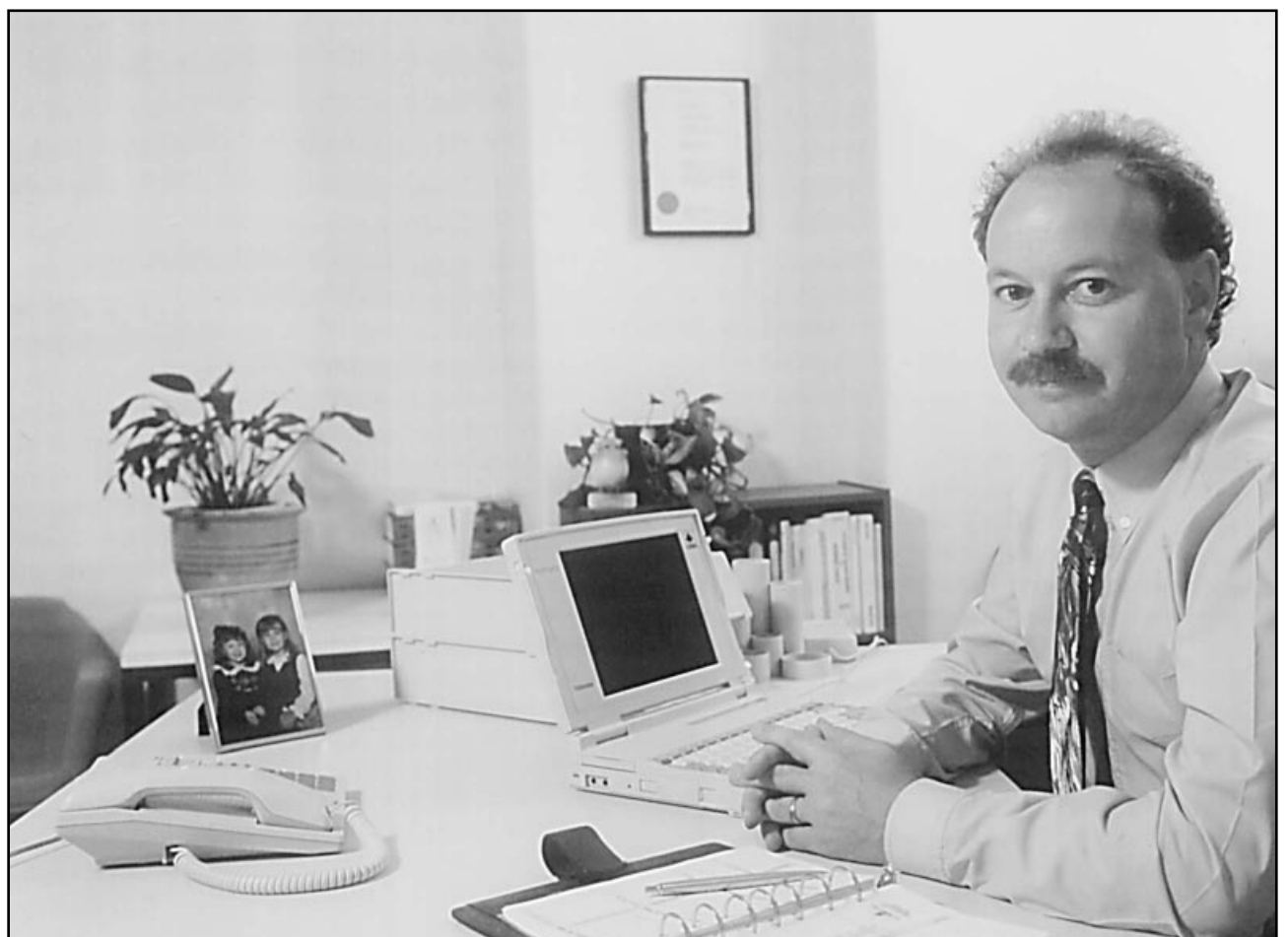
Looking towards the next decade and beyond, Mr Stables said he believed Repromed would continue to grow and provide a valuable service to couples from Australia and overseas.

He said research efforts were constantly refining the latest breakthroughs in reproductive medicine, and negotiations were currently underway for an expansion of activities into Asia.

"We feel as though the first 10 years of Repromed is just one milestone in what has been, and what will continue to be, a long history of excellence in the field of reproductive medicine in Adelaide.

"Hopefully that tradition will continue, and hopefully, thanks to our efforts, many more couples will realise their dreams of having children," Mr Stables said.

—David Ellis



Repromed general manager Mr Roger Stables. Photo courtesy of Repromed

Alumni IN BRIEF

Arts/Performing Arts Prizegiving

The Cornell Chapter is joining forces with the Faculties of Arts and Performing Arts to host a Prize Giving ceremony on Thursday 24 April.

Students who were awarded prizes in those Faculties last year will be invited, along with their families and friends.

Law graduates' celebration

The John Bray Law Chapter invites all new graduates admitted to Law degrees at this year's Commemorations to join them at a Reception in the University of Adelaide Club, on Wednesday 30 April at 4:30pm.

The Hon Mr Len King, the Chair of the John Bray Law Chapter, and members of the Chapter Committee will be present to welcome the new graduates.

A Portrait of John Bray

The John Bray Law Chapter of the Alumni Association together with the University Foundation and the Libraries Board of South Australia has published a volume of essays commemorating the life and work of the late Dr John Bray — poet, jurist, scholar, former Chief Justice of South Australia and Chancellor of the University.

The book is available from the Alumni Office at A\$55.00 (hardback) and A\$32.00 (paperback). Prices include postage. Bankcard, Visa and Mastercard accepted. To order call 61 8 or 08 8303 5800 or fax 8303 5808.

Alumni Ties

Alumni Ties are available from the Alumni Office. In navy, with a single coat of arms flanked by burgundy stripes, the ties are A\$20.00+\$3.00p&h. Order as for John Bray book above.

Activities Program

The Association has arranged another interesting and different activities program for 1997 including a visit to the Courts Authority of South Australia, Traditional Music of Japan and a visit to Ngapartji Cooperative Centre. Details available from the Alumni Office on 08 8303 4275.

Nobel Laureate Lecture

1996 Nobel Laureate Professor Peter Doherty will give a University of Adelaide Foundation Lecture on Friday 18 April 1997 in the Bonython Hall at 6.00pm. The title of the Lecture is "Dealing with Viruses".

There will be no charge for admission but an entry ticket will be required. Call the Alumni Office on 8303 4275 for your ticket.

Singapore AGM and KL dinner

The Adelaide Chapter of Australian Alumni Singapore is holding its AGM on Thursday 22 May next at the Medical Alumni Centre in Singapore.

The AGM will be followed by a buffet dinner and a talk by Vice-Chancellor Professor Mary O'Kane.

Adelaide Alumni (Malaysia) Bhd is holding a dinner in Kuala Lumpur immediately after the University's Graduation Celebration on Sunday 25 May at the Hotel Istana.

For details about both functions call Geoff Sauer on 61 8 8303 4277.

Alumni reception in Melbourne

The Alumni Association held a Reception for graduates and friends living in Victoria on Tuesday 25 March at the All Seasons Premier Hotel, Melbourne. Some 85 alumni attended.

The guest speaker was the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mary O'Kane, who spoke about the University's innovations in teaching and research which are enabling the University to participate in a much wider field across Australia and internationally.

The alumni who were present represented the full range of Faculties and ranged in age from graduates of the early 1930s to young alumni who completed their studies last year. The Vice-Chancellor remarked that the breadth of experience and knowledge represented by the alumni at the Reception was quite extraordinary.

A Melbourne Chapter will be formed to strengthen the Association's ties with alumni living in Victoria. This group will be able to assist in organising an annual Alumni Reception and other events of benefit to the University and its alumni.

Economics and Commerce to launch new Chapter

The Alumni Association is establishing an Economics and Commerce Chapter.

The aim of the new Chapter is to foster relationships between the Economics and Commerce faculty, staff, undergraduates, past students and the business community.

The Alumni Association would be pleased to hear from those interested in participating in the Economics and Commerce Chapter.

You can contact Adrienne

Eccles at the Alumni Office on 8303 3196 or Christine Evans on 8300 6726.

Alternatively, the Alumni Association is participating in the Economics and Commerce Faculty prize-giving dinner on Monday 28 April 1997.

If you would like to attend, please contact Helen Pountney on 8303 4497, and register your interest in the Chapter at the same time.

—Christine Evans
Economics Trustee



Some of the Adelaide alumni at the Melbourne reception on 25 March. Photo: Adrienne Eccles

Readers living in Victoria who would like to know more about this can contact Adrienne Eccles at the Alumni Office: phone 08 8303 3196, email <aeccles@registry.adelaide.edu.au>; or our contact in Melbourne, Mel Yuan (BEc 92):

phone 9347 3705 (h), email <myuan@looksmart.com>. Mel Yuan is a former President of the Union Board and former member of the Alumni Association's Executive Board.

—Adrienne Eccles

Science Sunday at Waite

The Alumni Association will visit Waite Campus for a guided tour of the Science Museum that has been established in restored Urrbrae house outbuildings.

View the Mawson Collection and Frank Hurley's photography. See a reconstruction of the old Waite laboratories and the Florey Collection set up by the Florey Medical Chapter to commemorate Adelaide's Nobel Laureate.

Bring a picnic basket and have lunch in the Urrbrae House gardens, then treat yourself to a walk through the rose garden and Arboretum.

Sunday 4 May, 11:00am. Please call the Alumni Office on 8303 4275 to make a booking. Individual, family and small group bookings all welcome.

Singapore Afternoon Tea

The Adelaide Chapter of Australian Alumni Singapore held a most successful Afternoon Tea on 29 March at the Medical Alumni Centre in Singapore. Some 60 alumni including a few from Flinders and the University of South Australia attended.

It was very pleasing that many of our younger Singaporean alumni attended. Special thanks are due to Victor Lye, Richard Yung and especially "PK" Yap for their hard work which made the afternoon tea a success.

Sarawak Alumni

Rodger Chan (BArch 86) has advised that the Sarawak Adelaide University Alumni is hosting a function in Kuching on Tuesday 20 May next, particularly to welcome Australia's new High Commissioner to Malaysia. Further details available from the Alumni Office.

—Geoff Sauer



Lucky Draw Winner receives tickets

Richard Feasey from Property Services, winner of the lucky draw associated with the Mutual Community promotion, was presented recently with his tickets for a trip to England. The prize was made available by Lifeplan Travel. Richard is pictured (centre) with left Joseph Toleman (Manager, Lifeplan Travel) and right Bill Hovey (State Sales Manager, Mutual Community).

Young designers get community experience ..

Thanks to an idea from graduating Architecture students from the University of Adelaide, South Australians have recently been able to experience an entirely new form of cinema.

Acting on the idea, the Take Over youth arts festival created a paddleboat cinema on the Torrens River. Sitting on a paddle boat, viewers could watch films on a screen erected on the banks of the Torrens.

The idea was one of many produced by 10 Architecture students last year, whose graduating projects involved producing designs for the festival's central hub at Elder Park.

Architecture lecturer Dr Sam Akkach said Take Over organisers wanted an exploration of ideas and contributions from young designers, and festival staff worked closely with the students.

He said the students generated a wide range of interesting ideas, some of which were adopted including the paddle-boat cinema, a particular form of vertical signage, and the use of recycled materials to create a mural wall.

Students, working individually and in pairs, created integrated designs for the

whole festival ground, including performance spaces.

Final presentation of the designs included two and three-dimensional visual materials, a walk-through computer model and a film presented to the final jury on the Torrens, in a similar set-up to the paddle-boat cinema.

Dr Akkach acknowledged the assistance provided by the Educational Technology Unit in producing the high quality film.

Students also had to consider broader issues including costs, lighting, environmental considerations and others, to produce a comprehensive report to accompany scale models which are on display at Take Over.

Although disappointed that none of the design or ground organisation concepts were adopted, Dr Akkach said the project was a good opportunity for student architects to get involved in a community project of this kind.

In past years, graduating Architecture students have created designs for redeveloping the Glenelg foreshore and Port Adelaide, among others.

—David Washington



Dr Sam Akkach. Photo: David Ellis

.. and a Willunga challenge

Students in the newly-introduced Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree have been presented with their first challenge — designing a sustainable and ecologically creative master plan for a school in Willunga.

The school is the Rudolf Steiner Waldorf Primary and Secondary School on the outskirts of Willunga.

Senior Lecturer in Landscape Architecture, Dr David Jones, says the school is set on a windswept site sandwiched between an industrial park, an outpost of suburbia and an elderly almond orchard.

"The site comprises a disorganised collection of timber and curiously designed classrooms strongly influenced by organic architecture principles espoused by prominent Melbourne architect Greg Burgess and the theoretically rich Steiner education philosophies," said Dr Jones.

"The key words shaping the work of the students in the design studio are 'creativity' and 'sustainability'."

"Creativity is the cornerstone of the Steiner philosophy in nurturing students through an alternative educational journey.

"Sustainability derives from the use of timber symbolically in the architectural designs, the need to better harvest and recycle water systems especially a major drainage line that dissects the site, and the need to involve the students, parents and teachers in the design formulation."

A third key word is "internationalism", and this too is rich in the studio class, which includes the first group of four exchange students to come from the Université de Montréal to the University of Adelaide together with new students from RMIT and India.

"The Montréal students have already survived the Mackay floods and sunburn in Coober Pedy to join the class in Adelaide," Dr Jones said.

The project, which concludes in about one month's time, is being led by guest landscape architecture lecturer



Architecture students at the Waldorf Steiner School in Willunga with Université de Montréal exchange students in the foreground. Photo courtesy of Dr David Jones.

Graeme Hopkins together with new staff member Jillian Walliss.

"Graeme, a recent emigré from Coffs Harbour, is finding the studio stimulat-

ing and enjoyable," said Dr Jones.

"He is looking forward, as are the Steiner School staff, to the proposed design solutions by the students."

ACCOMMODATION

BELAIR: House (with cat) in Belair avail from mid June to end Sept 1997. Fully furn, next to train and bus services. Reasonable rent. Ph Miles 8278 6953.

GILBERTON: 2 br townhouse in beautiful garden setting with carport umr. 10 mins bus trip to Uni. Care of garden included in rent. \$140 pw. Ph 8223 2366.

GLEN OSMOND: Unfurn (some b-ins) 2-3br house. Close to transport and schools. Walking distance to Waite. No pets. Lawns mowed. Avail late May. \$200 pw + bond. Ph 8379 4869.

MIDDLETON: Lovely beach house avail for week-end retreats or longer periods. Good sea views from most rooms. Suit

couple for spacious living, or sleep up to 8 (2 double, 4 single beds). Ph 8331 7887, fax 8364 6109.

NORWOOD: Share exec house with one female. Fully furn and equipped. \$120 pw + exp & bond. Ph 8362 5710.

PARKSIDE: Female to share 2 br villa with another. Non-smoker. \$80 pw + exp. Ph 8271 8151 (before 9am or after 8pm weekdays).

ROSSLYN PARK: 3 br executive residence, furn, double storey, security system, large fenced yard with gazebo, in ground heated pool & spa. Avail 22 May to 15 Aug 1997. \$300 pw + bond. Ph J Schultz 8235 7408 (w).

SECOND VALLEY: Fleurieu Peninsula - holiday house for short, medium or long term rental. Ideal for

Adelaidean

CLASSIFIED

holiday or as a retreat. Architecturally designed, views to hills and sea. Sleeps 5. Variable rates. Ph 8379 6510.

SOMERTON PARK: Fully furn bungalow 5 min to beach. 3 br, study, formal lounge (or 4th br), large modern Mediterranean family rm with modern facs. Beautiful patio and large garden area with outdoor furniture. Furn garden studio. Fully ducted gas heating. Avail May - July 1997. Rent negotiable. Ph 8294 7988, fax 8226 1281.

WANTED: Furn, 3 br house for visiting academic from early October - Xmas. Prefer close to Kensington Park. Ph Daryl Catt 8952

9590 (h) or email: dcartt@ozemail.com.au

FOR SALE

BIKE: Apollo 20" boys 'Toughstuff' MTB Coaster with Shimano coaster brakes and extras. Very good cond. \$85. Ph Neil 8363 2663.

LASER: 1982, 1.3 ltr, 4 speed, white, 130,000km, well maintained, excellent body, engine and tyres. VKM 022. \$3,800. Ph Don 8267 3298 or 8303 5028.

MATHS BOOKS: *Introduction to Statistics - Concepts and Applications* (3rd edn) - \$25. *Discrete Mathematics* (3rd edn) -

\$20. *Discrete Mathematics: Applied Combinatorics and Graph Theory* - \$20. Avail from Pene Bartlett, Secretary, Clubs & Sports Association, Lady Symon Building, tel 8303 5403.

MISC: 3 arm chairs, good cond, \$40 ea or \$100 for all. Mans bike, \$20. Womans bike, \$50. Girls Standish bike, \$50. Ph Lynn 8303 3256 or 8248 4847.

MISC: Boys cycle, suit 7-10 yo. Double-sided blackboard. Pedal car. Ph 8379 6510.

MISC: Mac SE with lots of software including music program, SimCity and Stylewriter printer. Hifi equipment. Large low pine table with yellow laminex top suitable for kids playroom. Old bikes. Upright vacuum cleaner. 'Time' and other magazines. Mirrors

and framed pictures. All cheap. Ph Anne-Marie 8373 3089 (ah) or email: pbouwkne@physics.adelaide.edu.au

OVEN: Chef Regal gas convection oven, elevated table model GEB4/FC. \$150 ono. Ph 8271 3376, email: rfinlay@library.adelaide.edu.au

RESIDENTIAL BLOCK: Kingscote, Kl. Water, electricity and phone all accessible. \$14,000. Ph 8336 6965 (ah).

ROVER: 3500 V8, 1970, auto, white, 68,000 miles, excellent original cond. VLH 118. \$3,150 ono. Ph 8370 9499 or 8363 4238.

MISCELLANEOUS

WORD PROCESSING: \$2.75 p/page, after hours service. Ph Anne Every 8212 6869 or 8415 7866.