

Staff to vote on EB agreement

A draft Enterprise Bargaining Agreement, supported by the University and unions, will be put to staff at a series of meetings next week.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mary O'Kane, has approved immediate payment of the first instalment of a 12% pay increase, backdated to the first full pay period after 1 July 1997.

Staff will receive the 4% increase from payday on 21 November. Since the payment is in advance of staff endorsement of the agreement, its continuance is conditional on that endorsement being gained.

Professor O'Kane said all members of the Joint Consultative Committee (JCC), made up of management and union teams, had indicated they would support the draft agreement in the upcoming consultations.

The Enterprise Bargaining Agreement has to be approved by Council and staff must also endorse it.

Professor O'Kane said the response of staff would determine whether the agreement was to be signed by the University and the Unions and submitted to the Australian Industrial

Relations Commission for certification.

For this to occur, there must be a majority vote in favour of the agreement from staff attending the meetings. Therefore, a record of attendance will be made and a count of votes by show of hands will take place at each meeting.

Professor O'Kane said the agreement was a total package and if any part was rejected then negotiation on the whole agreement would need to be reopened.

"I believe that this Agreement is a good one for the University in that it will be one of the key means by which the University achieves its strategic vision and strategic objectives," Professor O'Kane said.

"The Agreement should be regarded by all parties as a stage in the achievement of continuous improvement in the productivity, efficiency and quality of services.

"It will also be one of the mechanisms by which best practice in employer/employee relations within the institution is both achieved and

maintained."

Professor O'Kane congratulated all those involved in the bargaining process for their "commitment to the University and their ability to reflect on its needs and aspirations while delivering a balanced and progressive industrial agreement."

A copy of the full Agreement is available to staff on the University's home page on <<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/EB/>>.

EB STAFF MEETINGS

Roseworthy: Tuesday, 25 November at 1.00pm, Stefanson Lecture Theatre

Waite: Wednesday, 26 November, at 9.00am, Charles Hawker Conference Centre

North Terrace: Wednesday, 26 November at 1.00pm, Union Hall.

If any staff member is unable to attend, he or she is welcome to make a response before the first meeting by sending an e-mail, letter or fax to Steve Daysh, Acting Director, Personnel Services (fax: 8303 4353; e-mail: <sdaysh@registry.adelaide.edu.au>.

West paper 'imperfect'

The West committee's discussion paper—released last week—provides a useful framework for debate, according to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor O'Kane.

However, she added that the paper displayed a "very imperfect understanding of the contribution of universities to Australia's research and development".

Professor O'Kane was also concerned about the report's "muddle-headed" approach to regulation—on the one hand appearing to support decreased regulation, but on the other hand proposing an "accreditation process" and the appointment of a "prudential regulator".

However, she welcomed the paper's call for a renewed focus on students.

The paper is on the Web at <<http://www.deetya.gov.au/divisions/hed/hereview/default.htm>>.

Stars of tomorrow strut their stuff today

The Helpmann Academy will hold its second annual Festival from 1-13 December in the Festival Centre under the theme, "Tomorrow's Stars Today".

Students and graduates from all of the Academy's performing arts partners are involved in the festival's twelve programs, each of which is presented as a 'Vision'.

Opening the program are the Elder Conservatorium's Adelaide Connection and Percussion Ensemble, graduate dancers from the University's Department of Dance, and the Flinders Street School of Music's Chamber Choir.

An off-site, outdoor adaptation of Manning Clark's *History of Australia* at Fort Glanville and the Australian premiere of *Cocoon* and *City of the Sky* by Lo Man-Fei from the Taipei Crossover Dance Company, both presented by students at the Centre for the Performing Arts, are among the diverse drama and dance performances.

A wide range of visual arts offerings by graduates from North Adelaide School of Art, Adelaide Institute of TAFE and the South Australian School of Art will be on display in galleries throughout the city.

Further information: Sheila Bryce, Helpmann Academy, tel 8303 3692, or Penny Griggs, Adelaide Festival Centre, tel 8216 8921.



A dramatic moment in Henry Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, with Elder Conservatorium student Johanna Allen as the sorceress. The work will be a feature of the Conservatorium's "A Night at the Opera" during the Helpmann Festival on 4 December in The Space. Photo: Mick Bradley.



Certainly not a First, maybe we should let him rewrite

For academic staff in universities, November is characterised by marking. I found reading and commenting on the West Committee's report to be very much like the process of marking an honours thesis.

Here we have the rather sad case of a student who was given a fascinating but very difficult topic but who should never have been taken into the honours program anyway, and then had the added misfortune of having his supervisor changed late in the year. I had watched this student with interest. I was always doubtful about the result, but had become hopeful after several pleasant conversations (he has very good manners you know); and it was clear he had done all of the field work necessary. So it was with some interest and trepidation that I sat down to mark the thesis.

It begins well, with a section entitled "A policy framework under stress", but by about page three, things are definitely starting to go wrong and by page forty-three things are looking pretty desperate. The most alarming characteristic of the work is its very odd view of the strengths and weaknesses of higher education. There is a clue in a term that is used often; rather than referring to higher education or universities, the West report speaks of "post-secondary education". It would seem West views universities as the extension of what happens in secondary schools; missing almost entirely is the word "scholarship". Research is seen as some strange adjunct to a rather one-sided teaching function, and research training seems to be a concept that has not been grasped at all. The notion of the higher education system as one in which research informs the learning process at all levels is entirely lacking, except in a quote from a paper of mine. Indeed it is interesting that just as scholarship is barely mentioned, so too is the word "learning" absent.

In looking at financing and policy options, West quite rightly emphasises the importance of thinking about the future. However, the great opportunities for the future, whether they be cultural, social or economic, seemed to be missed entirely. There is no discussion on whether universities are necessary and if they are, what forms they could take. There is very little understanding of how we might take current forms and use their strengths to gain greater international advantage. Indeed there is very little well-formed argument at all for any of the conclusions reached.

Overall, this thesis is clearly not going to make it—it's certainly not a first, probably barely a third; I think we had better suggest a rewrite, given the political sensitivities.

There is nevertheless some very interesting material in the appendices which could be used to inform a much better paper, as could many of the submissions that were collected as part of the work. The best plan, however, might be to abandon this student and suggest the topic be taken on and developed by someone else. I wonder if the supervisor would be responsive to that idea.

MARY O'KANE

Musical serpent



The VC's column entitled, "What the Serpent Told Me" (Voice, 3 November), gave an entertaining account of the Open Day at Roseworthy.

The serpent, being a musical instrument, surely would have noticed its own kind in the offerings of the Elder Conservatorium of Music that day. The "Con" was represented by a string quartet, percussion ensemble and jazz group. Unfortunately our pianists could not be heard as they were playing to a packed Elder Hall for the Helpmann Academy's 8 Piano Event.

The contribution of music to the life and soul of this University is indeed significant, and the range and quality is something of which we should be justly proud.

David Shephard
Elder Conservatorium



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GUEST COMMENTARY

An Indonesian experience

Associate Professor Bob Cannon, Director of the Advisory Centre for University Education, returned early this year after three years leave working at the University of Indonesia in Jakarta. With his Indonesian colleagues, he designed and established the Centre for Development and Research in Higher Education. Shortly after his return to Adelaide he was invited by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to lead a national study of the impact of Bank-funded aid in secondary and higher education in Indonesia. In this article he reflects on his experiences in Indonesia.

by
Assoc. Professor Bob Cannon
Director, ACUE

The new colonialism is demonstrated by the spectacular increase in the numbers of expatriate professionals working in Indonesia (and their associated apartment towers now crowding the Jakarta skyline)—filling positions that should be filled in most cases by Indonesians, provided they held the required high-level technical qualifications.

According to the Ministry of Manpower, in 1993 there were about 15,000 expatriates. This figure had grown to 57,159 in 1996 and is predicted to grow five-fold by the end of next year. The major overseas sources of this workforce were, in order, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, India, USA and Australia.

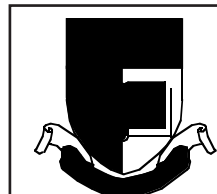
There is another form of this 'colonialism' and it is apparent in the higher education curriculum. Like most developing countries, Indonesia has a dependence on Western countries for the generation of knowledge, its distribution through textbooks and other teaching materials, for the publication of new knowledge and for the provision of high level training in all disciplines. This ultimately influences the undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum.

So an important educational question for Indonesia is, "How 'Indonesian' is Higher Education in Indonesia?". No body of professional knowledge can be correct for all countries partly because knowledge depends on a social context and knowledge changes as the society that supports it changes. Yet the dominant body of knowledge in the formal curriculum of Indonesian higher education is American and European in origin and can be easily detected in both teaching and in research even where the subject of study is Indonesia or Indonesian people.

One of the most disturbing illustrations of this phenomenon was my experience as a reviewer of research proposals submitted to one of the major national funding programs: the majority of submissions gave scant attention to the Indonesian cultural context in which they were framed and seemed as if they were designed to undertake research in a western society.

This is not a criticism of Indonesian education as much as it is an observation of a phase of development. It is often not fully appreciated, even in Indonesia, how young the higher education system actually is, compared to its neighbours such as the Philippines and Vietnam. Nor is there a strong history of higher learning of the kind found in India, China, the Middle East or Europe. The colonial Dutch did very little in the way of providing higher education facilities and significant development of the sector did not begin until after the establishment of the 'new order' government of Suharto in 1966. Thus, there is little in the way of academic traditions, of a local literature and body of accumulated experience to draw on in a rapidly expanding system.

Continued Page 6



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Launch of Social Inquiry department

Welfare activist Lois Bryson—recently retired as Professor of Sociology at the University of Newcastle—will launch the new Department of Social Inquiry on Tuesday 25 November.

The Department was formed on 1 July through the merger of the Department of Women's Studies and the Centre for Labour Studies and simultaneously took up residence on the third floor of 10 Pulteney Street.

Department Head, Dr Margaret Allen said the new structural and physical arrangements had worked well in the first few months of the Department's existence and augured well for the future.

"Both Labour Studies and Women's Studies continue to maintain their own academic programs, but both areas have been considering how they might collaborate in some aspects of teaching," Dr Allen said.

"For example, in 1998 a first year subject ('Gender Work and Society') will be available to students in both

programs. In addition, the new named degrees of BA (Labour Studies) and BA (Gender Studies) to be introduced in 1998 offer further possibilities of synergies."

The new department is a strong research presence within the faculty, with some twenty PhD students and about the same number undertaking MA research and coursework degrees.

"Both 'sides' of the department currently run their own postgraduate student seminars but next year it is expected that the seminar series will be interleaved to enhance discussion and the further development of research links across the department," Dr Allen said. "We are also considering the possibility of a joint staff seminar."

Academic staff research, publish and consult across a wide range of areas including workplace training and reform, the history and politics of feminism, globalisation, "third world" feminisms, cultural and post

colonial theories, sexualities and the body and public policy and regional development.

The Department also hosts the Centre for Labour Research, a centre for collaborative research in fields of employment and industry development and other labour issues.

Dr Allen said the Department enjoys strong links with other departments in Arts and elsewhere in the University, and lively ties with the other South Australian universities as well as with programs interstate and overseas.

Staff in the department also work outside of the university sector with women's groups and women's services, with the labour and women's movements and in cooperation with other social justice movements.

"The launching will provide the opportunity for the public and members of the university to celebrate the creation of the new department and to become more aware of its work," Dr Allen said.

Snowboard takes top student design prize

Some of the most remote alpine regions of the world could be easier to access and enjoy thanks to a new motorised snowboard developed by University of Adelaide Mechanical Engineering students.

The snowboard was the final-year research project for students Andrew Munyard and Ashley Wass, who won first prize for their innovative design at the recent Mechanical Engineering Project and Poster Exhibition at the University.

Mr Munyard and Mr Wass, whose project was supervised by Mr Graeme Secker, have built a prototype of the snowboard, which contains a wheel-like drive mechanism.

Once the rider has skied down the slope, the drive mechanism, operated on the board by a lever arm, allows them to climb back up the slopes for yet another downhill run.

Although still in the development stage, the concept has potential for the international market. Mr Munyard and Mr Wass received a \$500 cash prize for their work.

The Project and Poster Exhibition is an annual event, enabling Mechanical Engineering students to display their research and development interests to the rest of the University and the outside community.

Other students to win awards included:

- Christine Tamblyn, who designed, built and raced a solar-powered vehicle in this year's World Solar Cycle Challenge;
- Anthony Dodd and David Turner, who designed and constructed a portable friction stud welding machine;
- Sorin Tudor and Mohd. Azali Usman, for their design and construction of a friction welding machine;
- James Huxtable and Kirsten White, for developing a machine to fill seedling tubes with soil for Trees For Life.

Postgraduate students who won prizes for their posters were:

- the Towed Array Sonar Group, consisting of Mark Adkins, Milton Woods and Federico Berera; and
- acoustics and vibration researcher Carl Howard.

The event was sponsored by Mobil Refining Pty Ltd and the South Australian Centre for Manufacturing.

—David Ellis



Ashley Wass (front) and Andrew Munyard: winning design. Photo: David Ellis.

Flinders geophysicist to be new Mawson Chair

The University has appointed Professor Stewart Greenhalgh as the Mawson Professor of Geology and Geophysics.

A graduate of the University of Sydney (BSc 1972, MSc 1976) and the University of Minnesota (PhD in Geophysics/Mathematics 1979), Professor Greenhalgh has been on the staff of Flinders University since 1981.

He was appointed Professor of Geophysics in 1993 and has been Dean of the School of Earth Sciences since 1966.

Professor Greenhalgh's research interests lie primarily in seismology, signal processing, petroleum and mining applications, lithospheric studies and earthquakes.

He is regarded as an outstanding scientist and one of the leading lights of Australian seismology, with many publications to his name, strong funding support from both industry and the Australian Research Council, and an international reputation for his work, especially in exploration oriented applications of geophysics and earthquake seismology.

He has also served on several national scientific committees, including the Australian Academy of Science's Subcommittee on Seismology & Physics of the Earth's Interior, and the Education Committee of the SA Chamber of Mines and Energy.

Professor Greenhalgh takes up his appointment this week.

The News IN BRIEF

SOCIAL SCIENCES FELLOW

Professor James Weiner from the Department of Anthropology has been elected as a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia (FASSA).

Professor Weiner has a distinguished international reputation for, in particular, his research on language, culture and society in Papua New Guinea. He is now planning to conduct research into the politics of cultural identity in contemporary Aboriginal society, focusing on South Australia.

STUDENT WINNER IN SWEDEN

Adelaide University student Ben Raymond won the Best Student Prize at a recent international conference on Computers in Cardiology in Lund, Sweden.

Mr Raymond is a PhD candidate in the Departments of Electrical & Electronic Engineering and Applied Mathematics, working under the supervision of Associate Professor Jag Mazumdar from Applied Mathematics.

His presentation—authored with Dr Mazumdar and Dr Nanda Nandagopal of DSTO—dealt with modelling the shift of the low-frequency component of heart rate variability.

It is the second time a graduate student in Associate Professor Mazumdar's group has won a Best Student Prize at an international conference. The earlier recipient was Michel Driscoll at a conference on Biomedical Engineering in New Delhi in 1995.

In addition, Wuryatmo A Sidik, a student from Indonesia who came to work with Dr Mazumdar after completing his Master's degree at the University of Tasmania, was recently awarded an URGE (University Research for Graduate Education) prize by the Indonesian government for the paper "Mathematical Study of turbulent blood flow through an arterial bifurcation", which was published in *Australasian Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine*.

MAGGIE BEER ON BOOKS

The Friends of the State Library's "Books in My Life" series winds up for this year with a talk by Maggie Beer on 3 December in the Art Gallery of South Australia Auditorium.

Maggie Beer ran the Pheasant Farm restaurant for 15 years, winning many hospitality industry awards. Since closing the restaurant in 1995 she has been concentrating on farm produce for domestic and export markets and in March this year opened an export kitchen in Tanunda.

She is also a member of many committees, including the Barossa Music Festival and Barossa Horizons, a non-government funded project assisting local unemployed youth.

- Admission \$5, Friends of State Library and Concession \$3.

NEW NCPGG DIRECTOR

Dr John Kaldi has accepted the position of Director of the National Centre for Petroleum Geology and Geophysics.

Dr Kaldi has a BA and MA in Geology from the City University of New York and received his PhD from Cambridge University. Since working as a Senior Research Geologist for Shell Canada in the late 1980s he has obtained wide industrial experience in Canada, the USA and Indonesia.

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Metal-loving plants find new uses

Plants which absorb heavy metals from the soil could play a vital role in archaeology, cleaning up pollution, or mining, according to researchers from Adelaide and New Zealand.

These plants, known as 'hyperaccumulators', take up relatively large amounts of metals such as nickel, zinc, copper or cobalt, and thrive in areas of heavy metal contamination. The first hyperaccumulator was discovered in Europe in 1885 and since then hundreds have been discovered throughout the world. In Australia there are two known species of hyperaccumulators, with a third yet to be confirmed.

Research into this field is being conducted in the University of Adelaide's Department of Botany by Dr Daniel Schachtman. Dr Schachtman is collaborating with one of the world's foremost experts on hyperaccumulators, Professor Robert Brooks from Massey University, New Zealand, who recently visited Adelaide with postgraduate student Chris Anderson to speak about their work.

Professor Brooks said although hyperaccumulators had been studied for years, the potential benefits from their use were only now being discovered.

"The first potential for hyperaccumulators is in mineral exploration. If you see these plants growing, usually you're looking at mineralisation of the subsoils. This could be very handy for mining companies," Professor Brooks said.

"The second thing that's developed is what I call 'phytoarchaeology'—using the plants to discover sites of archaeological interest. In the former country of Zaire an ancient copper mining operation was discovered because plants which hyperaccumulated copper were growing in an area of the forest. After digging down, many ancient artefacts were found beneath the plant cover.

"Thirdly, and perhaps more importantly, we have the new emerging field of 'phytoremediation'—using hyperaccumulators to clean up soils contaminated with heavy metals.

"For example, if you grow a crop of nickel hyperaccumulators over soil polluted with nickel, in theory the plants will absorb much of the nickel, the plants can then be harvested, and the soils will have been partially remediated.

"There's a lot of interest in phytore-



L to R: Massey University postgraduate student Mr Chris Anderson, Dr Daniel Schachtman and Professor Robert Brooks. Photo: David Ellis

mediation, particularly in the United States where some research into removing lead from contaminated soils has been fairly successful," he said.

Phytoremediation is also the focus of Dr Schachtman's research at the University of Adelaide.

"I'm interested in both the specialised mechanisms of uptake and the strategies that these unique plants use to accumulate heavy metals in non-toxic forms," Dr Schachtman said.

"Professor Brooks has provided us with plant material of an Australian species (*Hybanthus floribundus*) and seeds of an African species that hyperaccumulate heavy metals. We'll soon be determining the location and forms of metals in the plant tissue, using the electron microscopy facilities on campus.

"At the moment hyperaccumulators are mostly wild species that grow very slowly and are poorly adapted to a wide range of soils. But if we're able to understand how these plants take up the heavy metals and store them in non-toxic forms, we may be able in the future to engineer plants that are fast growing to hyperaccumulate heavy metals. These fast-growing plants could then be used to more effectively remediate soils that are contaminated with heavy metals or radionuclides."

Professor Brooks said the latest

application for hyperaccumulators was in 'phytomining'—actually using the plants themselves to mine valuable heavy metals.

Because the plants absorb heavy metals it is possible to grow crops of hyperaccumulators, then harvest the crop, burn it, and end up with the heavy metal in pure form.

"As far as phytomining is concerned, this is completely new. We've only just published the first serious paper on this work, so it hasn't really hit the headlines yet," Professor Brooks said.

"The main difference between phytoremediation and phytomining is that with phytomining you've got to produce a crop of value. With phytoremediation, for example with lead, you finish up with a lump of lead that's not worth anything to anyone.

"On the other hand, nickel is worth about \$7000 a tonne, so nickel is worth doing. And if you can grow a crop that takes only one-and-a-half parts per million gold, that will give you the same value as a crop containing 1% nickel.

"There are no known hyperaccumulators of gold, but we're experimenting with this, trying to get plants to take up more gold, and we've had some quite promising results," he said.

—David Ellis

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5UV⁵³¹ News

• 22 November is Oz Music Day and as usual, 5UV will only be playing Australian Music throughout the day. And talking of music, the station's breakfast program, Radio Espresso, now features a World Music format. For music of another kind, tune in to the Blues Program on 15 November at 7:30pm for Blind Dog Taylor and the Healers live to air.

• The Summer edition of the station's Program Guide will be available at the end of November. It covers the November to January period.

• 5UV has just released its first New Music Sampler which has been sent to all the broadcast media throughout Australia. The project, funded by the Community Broadcasting Foundation, hopes to provide airplay for emerging musicians in SA.

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Botswana agriculture benefits from Adelaide soil expertise

Soil and environmental scientists from the University of Adelaide are using their expertise to implement major soil conservation programs in sub-Saharan Africa.

In bold new moves to 'export' our knowledge, Mr Iain Grierson and other staff from the departments of Soil Science, Environmental Science & Management and Agronomy & Farming Systems, are using their skills, knowledge and resources to assist the Ministry of Agriculture in Botswana to develop a soil conservation strategy.

"Our initial project started in 1992 when we won a six-month contract to set up a Soil Conservation Department with the Botswana Ministry of Agriculture.

"Since then we have been back to Africa on a regular basis to further develop procedures for the adoption of conservation practices by farmers, and a training program for the local 'teachers' of these practices," Mr Grierson said.

"Sustainable agricultural development is a major concern in Botswana, as it is a semi-arid region and water is often in short supply. Methods to overcome erosion and other land degradation problems can include various techniques such as building water banks and improving rotational practices.

"However, these conservation practices need to be integrated into current farm production activities which will not only protect the land resource, but will also contribute to the financial and social well-being of the people."

The initial task in Botswana was to look at the overall picture of agriculture. The landscape in Botswana was divided into similar classes, with land capability, use and current farming practices identified.

A plan was also drawn up identifying who should be involved in the program, how the conservation problems should be tackled, and who would be responsible for implementing the necessary components.

"Our State has a lot in common



Soil and water testing at a community in Botswana. Photo courtesy of Iain Grierson.

with Botswana, with similar climate and rainfall, similar population and similar soil types. The main difference is the wealth of the country, with Botswana receiving 40% of the world's diamond income," Mr Grierson said.

"We are in the process of taking some of South Australia's better and simpler land conservation techniques and practices and establishing them in Botswana. They have been proven here and with the good government support, we hope to improve the current situation in Botswana."

Mr Grierson and a team of people from Botswana, with strong support from the MacPherson Consulting Group, developed a Soil Conservation Procedures Manual to assist in the implementation of new practices.

As well as covering key principles to be applied in the design of soil and water conservation programs, the manual also examined general land capability classification techniques, soil conservation practices, legislation related to conservation and extension techniques.

The development of opportunities such as this brings many advantages for the University of Adelaide.

Through Mr Grierson's liaisons overseas, a joint project with the University of Botswana has been established.

This is looking at the use of satellite imagery and air-borne video to monitor ground cover characteristics and subsequently in predicting potential soil erosion problems.

As well, major infrastructural features could be identified, such as roads, railways and international boundaries.

Several postgraduate students from overseas have now come to study in Adelaide, and there is the potential to attract further students through this continued liaison.

Staff from the University have also had the opportunity to further develop their skills, and to form strong links with people in their field of study.

—Elizabeth Butler

Wool success

The Festival of Wool which was held on the Waite Campus from 13 September to 6 October was a great success.

The collaboration between the National Textile Museum of Australia, the Urrbrae House Historic Precinct and the Co-operative Centre for Premium Quality Wool ensured a varied program which attracted large numbers of visitors.

Visitors were able to experience exhibitions of works in wool and tapestry and a lecture program which included a lunch and lecture by Barbara Scott, ABC Rural Woman of the year.

Science was well covered in the program with a lecture from Phil Hynd on the work of the CRC and displays in the Coach House from both the CRC and the international Wool Secretariat.

During the last weekend of the festival two special tours of the CRC, including a viewing of transgenic sheep, were offered to visitors. The tours were popular and well received.

Urrbrae House looks forward to any further collaborative projects which bring visitors to the historic precinct and promote the scientific work of the campus.

—Peggy Rowe
Urrbrae House

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Experts gather to debate evolutionary future

World experts on human evolution will converge at the University of Adelaide next month to discuss the future of life as we know it.

The 5th World Academic Conference on Human Ecology, to be held at the University's Medical School on 1-5 December, is headlined: 'Is Human Evolution a Closed Chapter?'

More than 120 delegates from 20 countries around the world will discuss issues such as changing body and brain sizes, changing patterns of human disease, and what the future holds for the human race.

The conference convenor and head of the University's Department of Anatomical Sciences, Professor Maciej Henneberg, said this international event was a first for

Australia and the Asian region.

He said the world congress would also incorporate the annual conference of the Australasian Society for Human Biology, bringing together experts in the field from around Australia and overseas.

"We decided to organise it as a double congress to bring together a wide range of academics and to put Adelaide on the world map of human biology. Australia has a strong research interest in human ecology and there are many achievements that we can show the rest of the world," he said.

Professor Henneberg, whose own research work deals with the ongoing evolution of the human race, said the topic of this year's world

conference was expected to generate much discussion and debate.

"There is very little agreement among academics on human evolution, except that it occurred. And there are those people still in this world who disagree that human evolution occurred.

"In this conference we want first of all to set the evolutionary scene, to look at what is happening today in terms of people's biological variation, response to diseases, and their bodily growth and development," he said.

"Then we want to try to chart the future of humankind, which is why the conference asks: 'Is human evolution a closed chapter? Has it stopped? Or is it going to continue? And if so, in which direction?'

"There's no easy answer to all this, and so we are getting together at this conference to see if we can come up with an answer.

"These are very important and fundamental questions we're asking about the human race—where did we come from, why are we the way we are now, and where are we going?"

Professor Henneberg said the conference would conclude with a round table discussion between the 10 keynote speakers.

The delegates and speakers represent almost every corner of the globe, hailing from nations such as India, Estonia, Latvia, Hungary, the Czech Republic, China, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia and South Africa, as well as Sweden, Finland, France,

Israel, the US and Canada.

"This brings to Adelaide a unique variety of expertise, and the conference will expose each of these delegates to the best we have to offer—whether it be research conducted into human ecology or the wonderful South Australian wines which have been donated to our conference for the enjoyment of delegates."

• The conference is sponsored by a grant from the Wenner Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, New York. Day registration at the conference will be available. For more information phone the Department of Anatomical Sciences on (08) 8303 3369 or fax (08) 8303 4398. Email: <mhennebe@medicine.adelaide.edu.au>.

—David Ellis

Thirty year plant breeding achievement honoured

University of Adelaide plant scientist Gil Hollamby has won the Australian Grain Institute's 1997 Sir Condor Laucke Award.

The award recognises excellence, service and achievement in the grain industry. Gil Hollamby—who is Senior Plant Breeder and an Associate Professor at Roseworthy Campus—was nominated because of his work in plant breeding for the past thirty years in South Australia.

Chairman of the AGI South Australian Division, Mr Tony de Vries, said Mr Hollamby was a worthy recipient of the award.

"He is seen as one of Australia's pre-eminent wheat breeders, having developed many agronomically popular wheat varieties, including Dagger, Spear, Machete, Stiletto and Excalibur," Mr de Vries said.

Halberd, one of Mr Hollamby's earlier varieties which he developed in 1969, has become one of the most successful breeds ever, dominating the South Australian wheat crop for decades.

"This variety has also maintained its popularity among customers and is currently classified as Australian Premium White by the AWB," said Mr de Vries.

The Sir Condor Laucke Award recognises not only Gil Hollamby's own career achievements as a plant breeder, but also his extended service to the grain industry, and his inclusive and cooperative approach to sharing scientific information and working with other industry organisations.

"Over the years Gil has gone to considerable lengths to foster strong communication links with growers by freely giving his time and technical advice at grower meetings, field days and Agricultural Bureau conferences," Mr de Vries said.

"He has also liaised closely with the grain industry to ensure market requirements are met."

Mr Hollamby is a University of Adelaide representative on the Wheat Quality Advisory Committee and holds a number of other senior positions with industry bodies.



L to R: Tony de Vries congratulates Gil Hollamby at the presentation of the Sir Condor Laucke Award on 22 October. Photo courtesy Faculty of ANRS.

GUEST COMMENTARY CONTINUED

Another important theme is one of change and development for the better. This is especially apparent in the school system. Ten years ago I undertook an extensive program of vocational schools visits, particularly in North Sumatra, East Java and South Sulawesi. Although there were exceptions, a common observation was students working in settings where there was little or very poorly maintained equipment to work with. Observing students trying to learn to type on a machine frozen with rust, with no paper, or no machine at all, was a common and sad experience.

Today it is very different. In similar schools, classes of students are now working with well-maintained personal computers. Some of these schools have excellent programs in English language development. The most outstanding of these, visited during the ADB project, was in a state school in Semarang, Central Java. Here, a team of mostly

Adelaide-trained teachers, supported by the principal, have implemented a program which requires the use of English for all communication on one day a week and encourages it on all other days. The unusual result, from my point of view, was to be able to move around the school and discuss students' work with them—in English.

The broad outcomes of the experience in Indonesia will be continuing cooperation in development programs. The link with the University of Indonesia continues to flourish and there are promising business opportunities currently being explored with the assistance of Luminis. Moreover, I am hopeful the work with the ADB will yield positive outcomes for the design and management of its massive funding programs in the education sector in Indonesia.

Assoc. Professor Bob Cannon
Director, ACUE

Latest updates at Adelaide medical scientists' meeting

The latest results from medical research conducted right around Australia will be presented at a major conference in Adelaide this month.

The 36th National Scientific Conference of the Australian Society for Medical Research will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre from 23-26 November.

With more than 250 papers being presented over the three-day event, this is Australia's largest gathering of young medical scientists.

Key topics to be discussed during the conference include:

- genetics of intellectual disability
- hormones and breast cancer
- lipoproteins and heart disease
- spinal cord injury: from benchtop

to wheelchair

- gene therapy
- circadian rhythms
- HIV eradication: is it possible?
- osteoclasts: the key to osteoporosis treatment?
- trust and integrity in medical research.

The conference program includes lectures from invited eminent international speakers, short presentations from Australian experts and poster presentations from local medical scientists of work in progress.

Further details contact the conference secretariat at PO Box 153 Nairne, SA 5252, tel 08 8388 6164, or access the conference web page at <<http://www.medstv.unimelb.edu.au/ASMR>>.

Rhodes Scholar seizes life with both hands

Honours student Rachel Buxton has become the latest in a long line of University of Adelaide students to receive one of the world's most prestigious scholarships.

Ms Buxton, who is completing her Honours in English Language and Literature, has been named the 1998 Rhodes Scholar for South Australia. The scholarship enables her to study for a DPhil (PhD) at Oxford University in the UK.

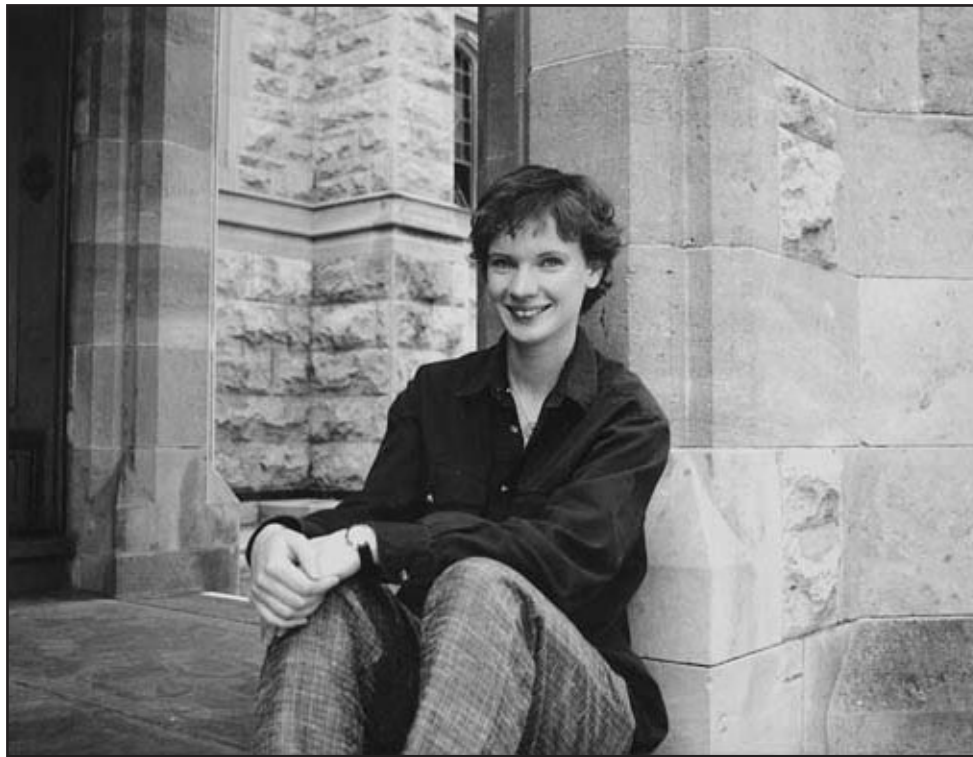
Rhodes Scholars are chosen for academic excellence and their contributions to community service and sport.

Ms Buxton is currently the student president at St Mark's residential college. Having migrated to Australia from England with her family in 1991, she completed her Year 11 and Year 12 studies at Annesley College, receiving a perfect matriculation score in all five PES subjects. She plays many sports, including hockey, Aussie Rules Football and cricket, and is captain of the women's soccer team at St Mark's. Other interests include music, drama, history and politics.

The 22-year-old said she was excited about receiving the Rhodes Scholarship, which pays for tuition and travelling expenses, as well as providing a generous stipend for living expenses.

"I first heard about the scholarship about seven years ago, but I never thought I'd have the opportunity—I didn't think I had the right skills or that I'd be the kind of person they'd consider," Ms Buxton said.

"I was encouraged to go for it by a



Rachel Buxton: seizing life's opportunities. Photo: David Ellis.

few of my friends, and I'm grateful for that because otherwise I wouldn't be in the position I am now. But I still can't believe that it's really happened to me."

Ms Buxton, who undertook her Bachelor of Arts (majoring in English) at the University of Adelaide, has just completed her Honours thesis under the supervision of Mr Phil Waldron. Her thesis analyses the latest body of work by poet Geoffrey Hill, whose poems often deal with acts of atrocity, such as the Holocaust.

"One of the best things about studying in Australia as opposed to studying in England is that you're able to structure the degree courses the way you want to," Ms Buxton said.

"I've been able to follow a few of my other side interests, such as Classics and Arts, Politics, History, instead of doing straight English Literature, and that's been great for me because I've been able to broaden my outlook a little more instead of narrowing my field of study.

"The teaching here at Adelaide University has been excellent and my supervisor has been very encouraging. All departments are going through tough financial times, but the level of teaching here is fantastic."

Ms Buxton said she was very much looking forward to beginning her studies at Oxford next year—but before she even gets to Oxford she's heading to India for six months to work with an aid organisation in Bombay.

"I saw myself walking down this fairly blinkered path to academia and I felt it was necessary to take some time out and do something different and challenging, something I haven't experienced before," she said.

"I like to go out and seize life with both hands, and this is a really good opportunity to do that. I'm not quite sure where my skills of poetry analysis are going to come in handy working in India, but you never know..."

Ms Buxton said she already planned to return to Australia once her study in England was over.

"I anticipate being an academic, and I anticipate coming back to South Australia, so hopefully one of the universities will have me. I'm also interested in being involved in public life, public service, writing for literary journals, that kind of thing.

"I want to make the most of the opportunities I've been given, and right now the Rhodes Scholarship is a very important opportunity. I'm going to make sure it counts for something," she said.

—David Ellis

Distinguished Alumni Award to Jack Messenger

At a small ceremony in the Equinox Cafe in the Adelaide University Union on 7 November, Jack Messenger was presented with a Distinguished Alumni Award by the Chancellor of the University, Mr Bill Scammell in his capacity as President of the Alumni Association.

Jack Messenger was a student of Agricultural Science in the early to mid 1950s and was awarded the Roseworthy Diploma in Agriculture in 1957 and accordingly is an alumnus and a graduate of the University of Adelaide.

He worked for the South Australian Department of Agriculture as a Sheep and Wool Adviser from 1957 to 1967.

In 1965 he was admitted to the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants. For his work in their State Council and other committees of that Society he has been admitted as a Fellow. He is also a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants to which he was admitted in 1971.

Community service

Jack Messenger has rendered much community service both in local gov-

ernment and to the National Trust of South Australia. He has served on the Human Ethics Research Committees of Flinders University of South Australia and the Women's and Children's Hospital.

Unibooks

Thirteen years ago, in September 1984, Jack Messenger became the third Chairman of the Adelaide university Union Bookshop Pty Ltd (Unibooks).

Under his stewardship Unibooks has consolidated and enlarged its outlets in the three Universities of South

Australia. The quality of this essential service that it provides to students, to staff, to graduates, to the professions and to the general community is exemplary and particularly with its delivery of annual benefits to its customers of an amount of some \$750,000.

Jack Messenger's Distinguished Alumni Award is "in recognition of his distinguished service as an alumnus to the students, staff and graduates of the University and to the extended community through his Chairmanship of Unibooks."

—Geoff Sauer

Golden Jubilee Reflections from a 'doctor at sea'

An extract from Dr Allan Kerr Grant's Golden Jubilee Commemoration Address, delivered in Bonython Hall at the recent Golden Jubilee Commemoration. Dr Kerr Grant graduated MBBS in 1947.

In 1953, after two years of postgraduate training in England in the discipline of gastroenterology, my wife May and our 18 month old first-born and I departed from Filbury Docks homeward bound on the MV Port Townsville, a refrigerated cargo ship of the Port Line. She carried a crew of 70-odd and 12 passengers. Mary and our son were in passenger cabins and I was confined to the officers' quarters since I was travelling as the ship's doctor.

We moved around the West Coast of Africa and berthed to take on fuel at Las Palmas in the Canary Isles where it was much cheaper. After oiling we

sailed South towards the equator on 14 October. About 12 hours out of Las Palmas, Freddie (the baker's assistant) reported to my sick parade in the morning.

He complained of pain in the right lower abdomen where there was also some tenderness. Much to my sorrow there was no operation scar to indicate a previous appendicectomy. In response to my inquiry why he had not reported in Las Palmas came the reply, "Blimey, doc, didn't want one of them foreign doctors operating on me."

I choked back a comment that he would be more concerned if I told him that it was nearly six years since I had handled a surgical knife and fork as an intern at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

Relatively mild symptoms, combined with a singular lack of confidence,

prompted a decision on the conservative treatment: bed rest, water, and hourly observations. This was accompanied by silent prayer on my part and Freddie was bedded down in the small sick bay near the blunt end of the ship.

The news of a possible appendicitis spread like wild fire through the ship. The first officer said that it would be his third and put in a bid to be assistant. The purser arranged to sit by the bed with a good book and take the hourly observations. The refrigerating engineer offered ice packs to soothe the pain and the chief electrician busied himself with making a pseudo-operating theatre light. The chief engineer informed me that putting anyone ashore at Sierra Leone on the equator would be sheer hell. The Captain observed my distress with quiet amusement.

Worsening abdominal pain forced a

decision to operate. Frenetic excitement followed and the chief cook offered to boil up the surgical instruments. Bids were put in for seats in the stalls.

At this stage a strong perfume of horse manure pervaded the sick bay, arising from the droppings of a race horse being carried on the after-deck. The thought came to mind that tetanus spores in the operation wound would be a bad thing and the scene of action was transferred to the Captain's table in the dining room. This allowed more room for the audience.

A moderately inflamed appendix was removed after some blood, and considerable toil, sweat and great personal relief. I swallowed three stiff scotches, moved a couch into the sick bay and spent a sleepless night listening to his breathing. I had read *Doctor at Sea* and thought it quite an amusing tale!

Aboriginal student experience on tape

A Wilto Yerlo-funded audiotape produced at Radio 5UV by lecturer in Indigenous Studies Steve Troon has attracted interest from as far away as Canada.

"Uni Groove" features music by various bands from the Centre for Aboriginal Studies in Music (CASM), and interviews with band members as well as with 1997 Arts graduate Jared Thomas and first year medical student Daniel Dean about their experience at the University of Adelaide.

Steve Troon—who has been lecturing in Wilto Yerlo for two years—said public and community-based stations in Australia, New Zealand and Canada had shown interest in the tape, which he hoped could be the forerunner of a regular magazine show on Radio 5UV.

He said the cassette was originally conceived as a marketing idea for the services offered by Wilto Yerlo—the University's Aboriginal programs office—but had grown into something which tried to give a sense of the range of disciplines now represented among indigenous students at the University, and the variety of career opportunities open to them in all areas.

"There are around 130 ATSI (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) students at Adelaide," he said. "They are in many different disciplines, including the professional disciplines, and there is lots of potential for further growth in Wilto Yerlo."

From Aboriginal musicians talking about the role of CASM in the development of cutting-edge bands, through Jared Thomas (now a Trainee Editor at Tandanya) reading one of his poems and discussing plans for a play he has written to be translated into Swahili and staged in Africa, to Daniel Dean commenting on the value of Wilto Yerlo's science foundation course and what it's like to be one of only four Aboriginal students in Medicine, the tape is a good beginning in giving expression to the many voices of indigenous experience at the University.

And the common advice from all those interviewed for other Aboriginal students, whether already at University or considering it?

"Don't lose sight of the bigger picture, don't give up, just keep at it."

—John Edge



Front row L to R: medical student Daniel Dean, Jimmy Taylor (CASM, the band Godzilla), Jason Ryan and Daryll Mitchell (CASM, the band Rasta la Vista). Back Row, R to L: Moses Warisan (CASM, Rasta la Vista), Steve Troon and his son Bruno. Photo: John Edge

Conservation calls for ambitious mix of qualities

Conservation and environmental groups must fully accept that people are part of nature and balance commitment to both the human and non-human environments, says the new President of the Conservation Council of Australia (CCSA), the University of Adelaide's Dr Tim Doyle.

Dr Doyle, a senior lecturer in the Mawson Graduate Centre for Environmental Studies, was unanimously elected as incoming President of CCSA at the organisation's Annual General Meeting on 17 October.

The CCSA is an umbrella organisation representing approximately 60 member groups, and 60,000 individual members, whose main purpose is conservation and protection of the environment.

Recent times have been particularly difficult, Dr Doyle believes, not just for conservation groups but for all in the community sector.

Future environmental strategies will demand an ambitious mix of political resilience, interconnectedness, complexity, flexibility, courage, diversity, adaptability, creativity, ambiguity and humour, he says. Conservationists must also take different political pathways rather than merely lobbying governments.

"The Conservation Council should be and should be seen as a vibrant, effective and fun community of committed people with conservation concerns," Dr Doyle said.

"The Council must pursue all political pathways to achieve environmen-

tal goals: with and against governments when appropriate (at all levels and across all parties); with and against corporate interests when appropriate; and with and against all other sectors."

An active Australian environmentalist since the late 1970s, Tim Doyle was involved in a campaign to stop BP discharging tanker ballast into Westernport Bay in the late 1970s.

He also worked with the Australian Conservation Foundation's Antarctic Action Group in Melbourne in the early to mid 1980s, and with the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland's Wet Tropics Campaign from 1983 to 1988.

More recently, he has chaired the

Public Inquiry into Uranium with the Nuclear Issues Coalition and the CCSA, and established a new course unit, "Environmental Organisation and Activism" at the University of Adelaide.

In close association with a number of environmental groups in South Australia, he is supervising a group of graduate students in preparing the conservationist position paper for the Coongie Lakes under the Ramsar Convention.

Another group of students is working with Friends of the Earth (Nouveau) on the launch on 17 November of their sustainable societies campaign in South Australia. Details of this launch are available from the Mawson Graduate Centre.

ACCOMMODATION

ALDINGA BEACH: Cosy, relaxing, self-catering, 2 br holiday unit on seafront. \$70 per night (minimum 2 nights). \$450 pw. Ph 8211 7500.

BEACH HOUSE: Silver Sands Esplanade, 2 storey, full furn. \$500 pw. Ph 8267 1081.

ERINDALE: Fully furn, 3 br house in leafy eastern suburb, 10 mins to Uni. Walk to shops & bus. Avail 5 Dec 97 - 3 Feb 98. Rent neg. Ph 8361 2879.

FORESTVILLE: Share house. Lge br & sep study, beautiful furn house, 2 mins walk to transport. \$120 pw + bond. Ph Suzy 8297 2942.

GLANDORE: Immac, 2 br unit in small group, close to city & transport, air cond, carport. \$105 pw. Ph 8295 6655.

HECTORVILLE: Spacious, new, 2 br townhouse with extra area for study or leisure, 2nd toilet, downstairs, attached carport &

space for 2nd car. Fully serviced, furn, equipped. Close to transport, facs and shops. \$320 pw. Ph Janet 8365 1012.

HOLIDAY BEACH HOUSES: Kangaroo Island, beautiful beach, bush, wildlife. Goolwa: backs onto ocean, beach. Ph 8388 6404.

HOLIDAY BEACH HOUSE: Hayborough, Victor Harbour. Avail during school holidays, very comfortable, views, opp reserve, very close to beach, sleeps 6. Ph 8297 9371.

KANGAROO ISLAND: Holiday house on 100 acres, panoramic views of American River, secluded bush, 8 beds, no pets. Ph 8338 2131.

PASADENA: 4 br, furn flat, huge lounge, balcony, garage, on bus route. Avail for 6 mths from 13 Dec 97 - 30 June 98. Ideal for academic on sabbatical. \$135 pw. Ph Dimitris 8201 2987 or 8357 4054.

PARKSIDE: Person to share comfortable, modern

Adelaidean

CLASSIFIED

home, close to Uni. Overseas student welcome. \$65 pw + exp. Ph 0414 447 015 (after 4pm).

PLYMPTON PARK: 2 br, fully furn unit. Suit responsible person/couple. \$110 pw + bond. Ph 8293 7672.

WANTED: Accommodation for quiet, non smoking, employed female, Mon - Fri. Must be very close to city, off street parking required. Clean rm + use of bathrm & kitchen (breakfast only). Up to \$55 + neg exp. Ph Ann 8415 7866 (pager).

WANTED: Visiting Canadian academic & family (2 young children) require accommodation from Jan - Jun 98. Prefer close to Waite or beachside. Ph Lynne Barker 8303 7958 or email: <lbarker@roseworthy.adelaide.edu.au>.

WANTED: Visiting academic & wife from Canada require furn accommodation from

18 Jan - 30 June 98. prefer Nth Adelaide, or close to Uni. Ph Diane 8303 5408 or email: <dparish@maths.adelaide.edu.au>.

WANTED: Visiting surgeon & family from UK require 4 br, furn house close to beach & QEH, Feb - Aug 98. Ph Paula 8222 7045 or email: <sireland@medicine.adelaide.edu.au>.

WANTED: Academic couple require furn house for 1st semester of 98 (and possibly beyond). 2 br, study, lounge. Prefer near Goodwood or Unley Rds. \$150-\$220 pw. Ph Frank 8201 3847 or 8370 2605 (h) or email: <LSMAI@flinders.edu.au>.

WANTED: Visiting surgeon & family require 3 br, furn accommodation, close to QEH from 2 Jan - Dec 98. Ph Paula 8222 7045 or email: <sireland@medicine.adelaide.edu.au>.

FOR SALE

DEVELOPING TANK: Patterson 2 spool super system 4 film developing tank. Universal tank made in England. \$10. Ph 8296 3601.

DOG KENNEL: Lge, 85cm (w) x 100cm (l), colourbond roof and sides, lined inside with plywood, includes foam pillow & quilt. \$100 ono. Ph 8303 5292 or 8332 0626 (ah) or email: <gganf@botany.adelaide.edu.au>.

HG PREMIER: 1970, 186, 1 owner, 99,000 miles, no rust in frame or body, exc cond. RGO 020. Ph Ali 8303 3682 or 8298 8007.

MAC POWERBOOK: 520C, 8mb RAM, 150mb Hard disk, system Z-7.1.1, Ethernet card, about 3.5 years old. \$500ono. Tel Penny Kempster 8303 7235.

PORTFOLIO: Express presenter black with 8 sleeves, zip sided with carry handle, suitable for graphic designers or photographers.

490mm x 650mm. \$45. Ph 8296 3601.

POWER MAC: 6100/66 DOS compatible-601 processor, 16Mb/500 HD, 256k cache, loaded with Mac OS8 and Windows 3.1. \$1,500 or \$1,750 with 14" monitor. Ph 8344 5616.

UNIT: Broadview - 2 br, lge lounge, sep dining & kitchen, recently painted, new carpets, air cond, gas heater & stove. Currently rented at \$390 pcm. \$60,000. Ph 8267 4446.

WALKER: 12-way for jogging, rowing, sit-ups, push-ups, bench press, etc. \$250 ono. Ph 8303 5901.

MISCELLANEOUS

CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION & SALE: 28 Nov, 10am - 4pm, Hoods Rm (upstairs, Staff Club). Wool shirts, silk & wool scarves and other gift ideas from \$12 by Ditchfield Designs. Ph Jan Ditchfield 8303 6517 or 8278 1614 (ah), email: <jditchfield@waite.adelaide.edu.au>.