

ADELAIDEAN

Vol 7 No 2

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

MARCH 2, 1998

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Technology award for competitive edge research

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE'S leading position in Australian research has been recognised at the inaugural Australian Technology Awards, with the Department of Plant Science winning the university section.

The University—which was shortlisted in three of the 12 categories—was the only university to win an award in its own right.

The Department of Plant Science won the award for "Excellence in the Development of Technology from a University" for cereal breeding technology developed by Associate Professor Peter Langridge.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mary O'Kane, said the award was a wonderful recognition of Dr Langridge's status as one of the world's leading molecular biologists in this field.

"Peter Langridge and his team based at the Waite campus have developed a technology which puts Australia way ahead of its international competitors," Professor O'Kane said.

"He is a highly-creative researcher who really has led the way in developments in this field."

Professor O'Kane also praised the work of the Department of Mechanical Engineering (shortlisted for "Excellence in Education Delivery Systems") and the CRC for Viticulture (shortlisted for "Excellence in the Development of Agribiotechnology").

Mechanical Engineering was recognised for its Acoustics and Active Noise Control Experimentation Kit, developed by Dr Scott Snyder. The kit is a teaching tool for secondary and tertiary students which generates enthusiasm for the subject, allows experimentation and makes complex technology available to the broad engineering community.

The CRC for Viticulture was shortlisted for its development of an innovative analytical index of grape quality for wine production. The method—the "Glycosyl-Glucose Assay"—was developed by CRC member, the Australian Wine Research Institute.

Through fundamental flavour chemistry research at the Institute, it was discovered that most of the flavour compounds in grapes are present in a flavourless precursor form. The assay is a simple, rapid method to quantify these precursors.

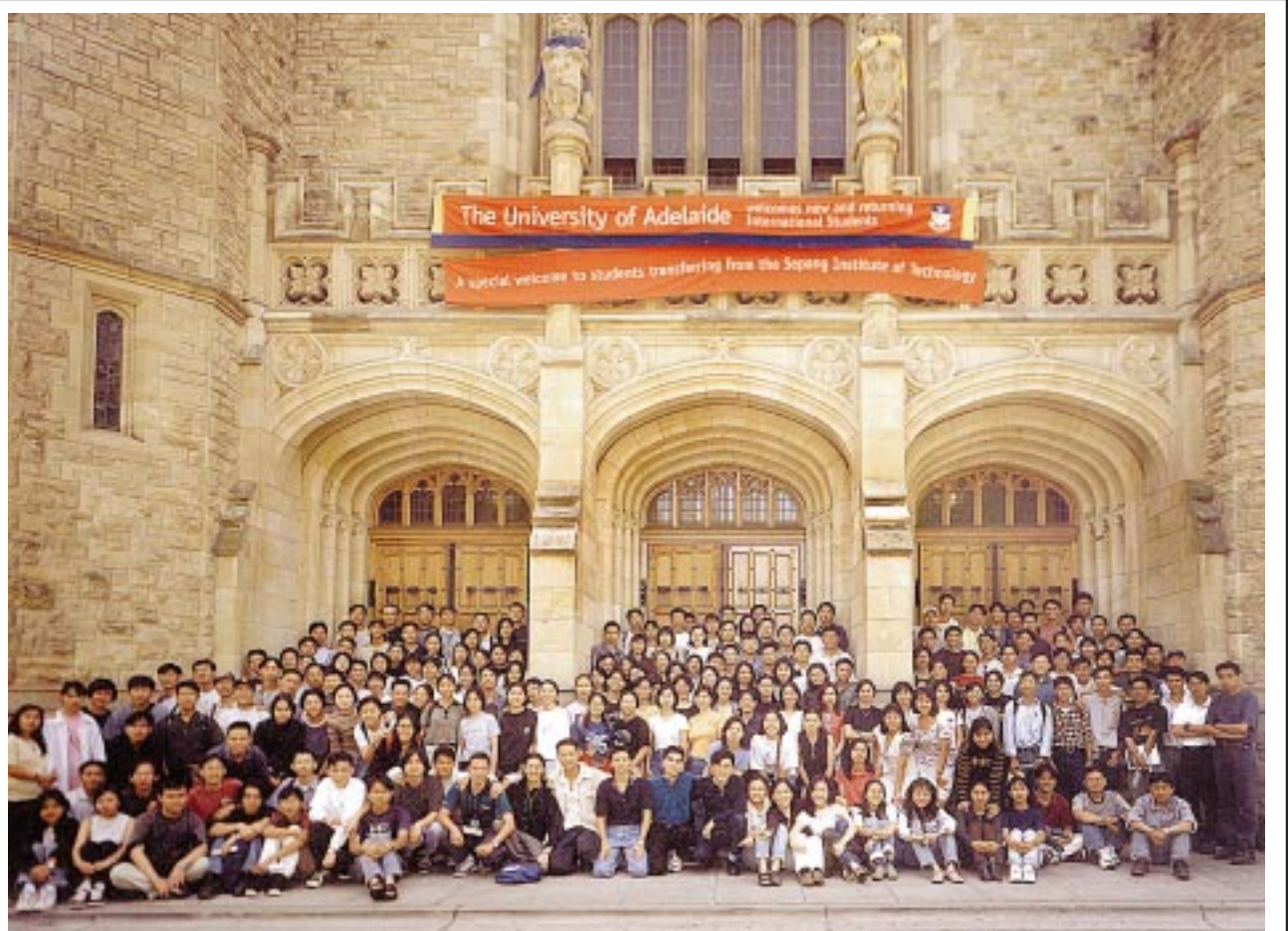
Dr Langridge, Director of the Special Research Centre for Basic and Applied Plant Molecular Biology and Interim Director of the CRC for Molecular Plant Breeding, said the award should also be considered a recognition of the work of his research partners and cereal breeders.

"The most critical component in the success of this program has been the strong support shown by cereal breeders," he said.

"They accepted the technology at a very early stage, when it was largely untested. This was a risk, but now we have a considerable advantage over our international competitors.

"We can now look forward to the most sophisticated, flexible and rapid wheat and barley breeding programs in the world."

Continued Page 3



The first large contingent of just under 200 students from the University's twinning program with Sepang Institute of Technology (S-I-T) pictured outside Bonython Hall on Friday 20 February. The group was among some 500 new international students welcomed by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mary O'Kane, at a luncheon ceremony on the final day of the two-week SIS (Settling in Successfully Program) organised by the International Programs Office for new arrivals. The Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Doug McEachern, also welcomed the S-I-T contingent at a separate morning tea on Wednesday 25 February. Photo: Jenny Groom, ETU Photography, Waite Campus.

Adelaide students are all wired up

STUDENT Association president Ms Sophie Allouache (right) is smiling because she's received her new student 'smart card' for 1998.

About 14,000 University of Adelaide students are receiving the new cards as they prepare for the start of the academic year.

The University is the first in Australia to introduce 'smart' card technology for all its students.

The cards can be used for a wide range of services, such as photocopying and laser printing, library use, and access to authorised buildings and facilities.

By mid-year the cards will also enable students to store cash for use at a network of retail outlets, vending machines and payphones which are being developed by Telstra.

The University's new Card Centre was launched at the Hughes



Sophie Allouache—lots to smile about. Photo: David Ellis

Plaza on Tuesday, 17 February by the South Australian Minister for Education, Children's Services and Training, Mr Malcolm Buckley.

The 'smart card' is one of

several electronic services now available for the University's students. On 19 February the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mary O'Kane, launched a free student

e-mail service which will see all students provided with an email account from the start of first semester this year.

Continued on Page 4



Bowing the Lion

With a little help from Dennis Murray of International Programs and their friends in Security Services the Bonython Lions are celebrating the start of the academic year by donning large bows in the University colours. The lion on the right looks particularly proud in his bright gold bow; the lion on the left has assumed a slightly roguish air wearing his blue bow at a distinctly rakish angle.

The start of the academic year is always exciting with the hi-jinx of O-week and last minute efforts to get the whole learning and teaching machinery rolling. A spate of new developments has added to this year's sense of enjoyment. At the start of last week Minister Buckby launched our student "smart card", an electronic first for the University. A student service that we have planned for some time, the Card not only provides access to buildings and library services but also to a whole range of "extras" such as travel and entertainment concessions. It has required an immense team effort to get the "smart card" organised and launched on time, with great coordination from Adrian Graves and magnificent work on the part of the Students' Association, the Union and a cast of staff from right around the University. We have also launched new student web services this week, providing E-mail for all our students. The project was carefully planned and introduced in record time by a team comprising Dani Hopkins, Liz Pryzibilla and Terry O'Donnell, with much help from student groups and trialling by staff and students in the Botany Department.

We have had significant technology and research success winning one of the major categories of the Australian Technology Awards, with Peter Langridge and the Department of Plant Science taking out the award for Excellence in the Development of Technology from a University. Other university finalists were the Department of Mechanical Engineering, the CRC for Viticulture, and the Department of Plant Science (with a second nomination in a different category). Congratulations all. Another occasion linking our teaching, learning and research activities was the reopening of the Johnson building and the launch of the new Chemistry building. Our Departments of Chemistry were reviewed and amalgamated in 1993 and recently the Review Team returned to re-review the Department. They have told us that we now have the best Chemistry facilities in the country which are among the best in the world, and expressed praise for a Department which has successfully reinvented and reinvigorated itself. Congratulations to all students and staff in the area.

It has been a tough time in universities in recent years with a rapid decline in Federal support (and no, I don't agree with my colleague at Melbourne that greater Federal support for universities is "unrealistic and dangerous") and the resulting problems such as overcrowded lecture theatres and overstretched staff leading to low morale in the whole community. However our successes do help to keep our spirits going. Sometimes as I drive in I can see a grin on the faces of the lions. The lion on the left actually looks distinctly happy for quite long periods of time.

MARY O'KANE

A question of coverage



I was interested to read the leading article, "Country teaching practice spreads to Maitland", in the 16 February edition of *Adelaidean*. I found the opening paragraph, claiming nearly half of the GP services on Yorke Peninsula being supplied by the University of Adelaide, hard to comprehend.

Working for the Commonwealth's General Practice Rural Incentives Program, which aims to attract and

retain GPs to rural and remote Australia, I often undertake medical workforce surveys. This was recently undertaken for the Yorke Peninsula and my statistics indicate that currently there is 19.9 FTE GPs servicing Yorke Peninsula. Maitland and Minlaton University practices provide 3.4 FTE GPs. This does not equate to "nearly half of the GP services on the Yorke Peninsula".

I am unsure of whether your journalists check their facts prior to printing articles or is the *Adelaidean*

merely a publicity vehicle for the University?

Caroline Laurence
Project Officer, General Practice Rural Incentives Program

David Washington comments: The figures in the article excluded the big Copper Triangle towns, a point which should have been clarified. My apologies to readers. For the record, at the latest count, apart from the Copper Triangle the University operates two out of five practices on the Yorke Peninsula, or 4.4 FTE GPs compared to five in private practice.

COMMENTARY

ON THE FUTURE OF THE HUMANITIES

Last week I attended a conference on 'The New Humanities: 2000 and Beyond,' held to mark the establishment of the Faculty of Arts, Health and Sciences at Central Queensland University. At a time when, as a recent Australian Higher Education Supplement reported, some Departments and Faculties of Arts are being closed or significantly reduced in size and scope, the opening of this new Faculty was an encouraging note of optimism. But the conference also crystallised some important issues about the place and role of the Humanities in the current changing and sometimes turbulent conditions of tertiary education in Australia.

A key concern for the conference was the apparent disjunction between public understandings and expectations of the Humanities and developments within the disciplines themselves. Keynote speaker Henry Reynolds, a distinguished historian widely recognised as having made a major contribution to the reinterpretation of Australia's past which has found expression in the Mabo and Wik cases, spoke powerfully about the paradox which sees the rise of 'truth commissions' demanding historical accuracy in public debate coinciding with the loss of certainty on the part of many practitioners of the discipline that historical truth is ever genuinely available. His conclusion was that history is able to exercise both moral authority and political effectivity in the public sphere, but only if historians are prepared to reassert the validity of their methodology as a means of establishing truth.

By contrast, Simon During, Robert Wallace Professor of English and Cultural Studies at the University of Melbourne, identified a major shift within the Humanities, away from their longstanding role in the validation and perpetuation of national cultures towards a critical but positive engagement with the authorlessness, commodification and relativism of much contemporary cultural production. The interactions between the continuing central importance of critique and the increasing harnessing of Humanities disciplines to national economic objectives give rise to what During termed a 'prevailing mood of demoralised euphoria' in the Humanities.

Here he was raising a second major issue for the conference: the adaptations being made in curriculum and teaching to the current focus in tertiary education on vocationalism, employability and transferable skills. Speakers variously proposed, discussed and contested a range of strategies, including greater emphasis on marketing and recruitment of students in community contexts, more explicit identification of the skills content of humanities subjects, greater flexibility in course structures to allow more interaction between Arts and other disciplines, the establishment of more double degrees, and the widespread adoption of flexible delivery approaches. Some of these, of course, are

by Penny Boumelha
Head, Division of Humanities
and Social Sciences

initiatives necessary for any academic area as universities become more client-oriented and competitive. My own Division has been considering most of these

possibilities, and it was useful to hear of their introduction and results elsewhere.

Technology was also a recurring theme in conference discussion. Enthusiasm for the possibilities of the new technologies was intense in some and lukewarm in others, but several speakers explored the role for the Humanities in maintaining a focus on the social, cultural and ethical contexts within which other forms of professional and technical activity necessarily take place. Reflecting on our local experience of the complex intersections of engineering, economics, anthropology, theology and politics in the Hindmarsh Bridge story, I found this a point of some importance.

Structural combinations of Arts and Sciences are not uncommon in US universities, but they are rarer here, and one of the points of interest in this conference for me was to see the tentative approaches between new colleagues in the disciplines combining at CQU. One of my own roles was to take part in a panel discussion on the topic 'What will humanities have to offer to the sciences in the next century?', together with academics from humanities, engineering, sociology and plant science. The scientists highlighted ethics, skills of analysis, argumentation and communication, and languages other than English as the contributions Humanities disciplines might make, while their practitioners tended to focus more on their sense of the situated character of all forms of knowledge and its intimate engagement with social facts like class and gender. There was a general agreement that it would be both wise and fruitful to pursue the community of interest between generalist, non-vocational areas of study and between those engaged in basic, non-applied research.

Overall, the conference left me feeling soberly optimistic. There is no doubt that the current social and economic climate of tertiary education in Australia is inhospitable to the Humanities, especially in their more traditional forms. Nevertheless, I do not believe that there is cause for despair or defeatism. Some of the adaptations being made in curriculum and teaching are exciting and productive; new areas of research and analysis are arising from the interactions of disciplines both within and beyond the Humanities; and I am convinced that there is genuine goodwill towards and support for the disciplines in the community. Student enrolments continue to be healthy, in this University at least, and many of the Study Abroad students who come to the Adelaide Faculty of Arts select Humanities subjects with an Australian focus as their preferred studies. Above all, the central projects of the Humanities—the analysis of past and present cultures and of what it is to be human—retain their relevance and significance whatever their changing institutional contexts.



ADELAIDEAN

The newspaper of The University of Adelaide

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Printed by
Cadillac Color

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Deadline for next issue is 5 March

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WWW: <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/Adelaidean/home.html>
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Science scheme offers 'added value'

HIGH ACHIEVERS in science were recently inducted into the Adelaide Science Scholars Scheme at the University of Adelaide.

The scheme is offered by the Faculty of Science to South Australian students who achieve 19 or 20 out of 20 in three science subjects in Year 12. It is also open to interstate or International Baccalaureate students with equivalent achievements.

With 31 scholars in 1998, the Adelaide Science Scholars Scheme has grown considerably since it was introduced last year (with 17 participants). This jump in the number of high-achieving students studying science reflects an increasing awareness of the range of careers opened up by tertiary studies in science. This year, at least one overseas student is also taking part in the scheme.

The acting Dean of Science, Dr Alastair Blake, welcomed the scholars, who represent the brightest students studying science at the University.

He said the scheme provided "added value" to their Bachelor of Science courses and said the Faculty was "committed to



The acting Dean of Science, Dr Alastair Blake, chats with new Science Scholars (l to r): Rosemary Brown, Alan Woodruff and Julie Catt. Photo: David Ellis.

providing these students with an enriched undergraduate experience".

Adelaide Science Scholars get the opportunity to work with a mentor throughout their studies. Through seminars, special lectures and regular contact with the mentor (who is a member of the Faculty's research staff) Adelaide Science Scholars have the chance to explore

science and the diversity of scientific research in greater depth.

Mentors for the Science Scholars will provide individual guidance and extension activities for their protégés, who gain an insight into life as a research scientist in one of Australia's leading universities.

"Adelaide Science offers all its students excellent

facilities, courses that open doors to a wide range of career options and access to leading researchers. We also recognise the need to provide a special service to these gifted students," Dr Blake said.

A reception inducting the students into the 1998 Science Scholars Scheme was held on Friday, 20 February.

—Donald Bramwell

Reconciliation a key theme for symposium

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE is to host a major conference on human rights next month.

The 1998 Fulbright Symposium will be held in Elder Hall from 14-16 April. Organised by the Adelaide Research Centre for Humanities & Social Sciences (ARCHSS), it focuses on the theme of "Tolerance, Cultural Diversity and Pluralism: Reconciliation and Human Rights".

The former President of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, Sir Ronald Wilson, is one of eleven keynote speakers from Australia and overseas who will address the symposium on a range of

topics related to reconciliation and human rights.

The Director of ARCHSS, Associate Professor Susan Magarey, said that in recent years debate about the rights of various groups within Australia—particularly Aboriginal Australians and immigrants—had moved to the centre of the political agenda.

"It is timely, then, to examine these debates and the imperatives that underpin them," she said.

The Fulbright Foundation initiated a series of annual symposia in 1991, with an emphasis on fostering international discussion—part-

icularly between the United States and Australia—which challenges current thinking while providing a vision for the future. Previous symposia have examined topics from the media to the internationalisation of education.

—John Edge

• Further information is available from ARCHSS, tel 08 8303 4817, fax 08 8303 4882, or email <glarsen@arts.adelaide.edu.au>. A registration form is included on page 3 of the BulletinBoard for this issue of the Adelaidean.

Technology award for competitive edge research

From Page 1

Dr Langridge's team has introduced powerful new DNA molecular marker technology into cereal breeding programs in Australia.

The markers will allow breeders to rapidly detect, analyse and monitor genes which improve or detract from the growth and quality of wheat and barley lines. The technology will allow Australian breeders to use natural genetic variation to generate new, improved varieties, with genes introduced to improve growth, disease resistance, and efficient use of soil nutrients.

These developments will not only improve Australia's position in the international marketplace, but will also improve agricultural sustainability through reduced use of herbicides, pesticides and fertilizer.

—David Washington

Sale of the Century

STUDENT AUDITIONS for the television quiz show Sale of the Century will be held at the North Terrace campus on Tuesday 10 March.

The program is planning a "University Challenge" and an initial audition will be held at 1.20pm in the Napier Theatre 102.

The audition, consisting of 50 questions similar to those heard on the show, will be used to narrow the field to 10 students. The top 10 will be re-tested and interviewed before the final participants are chosen.

The auditions are open to all students of the University of Adelaide. Interested students should register for the audition by writing their name, address and course of study on a piece of paper and handing it in at the Student Information Office or the Students' Association office. Then, just turn up on the day (don't be late!).

For further information contact David Washington on 8303 5414.

NEWS IN BRIEF

HISTORIAN OF EUROPE HERE

The History Department and Writers' Week are collaborating to present the inaugural Adelaide Writers' Week Lecture in Napier Theatre 102 on Thursday 5 March at 8.00pm.

Their guest speaker is Professor Norman Davies, author of the phenomenally successful *Europe: A History*, which has sold some 25,000 copies in hardback, and is now released in paperback.

Adelaide's Professor of History, Wilfrid Prest, described it as a "beautifully written, extraordinary book" and says Professor Davies' lecture ("Europe Overseas and Overland") is an event not to be missed.

ENGINEERING EDUCATION HONOUR

Associate Professor Caryl Cresswell from the Department of Mechanical Engineering has won the Australian Association for Engineering Education (AAEE) 1997 Medal for Distinguished Contribution to Engineering Education.

Dr Cresswell's leadership in the area of engineering education has impacted Australia-wide, and resulted in invited membership of the national Committee for the Advancement of University Teaching (CAUT) and the national Committee for University Teaching and Staff Development (CUTSD) where—according to CUTSD Chair, Professor Ingrid Moses—she has "successfully worked as a change agent".

Highly regarded for her teaching ability as a hands-on practitioner, for her rapport with students and for her ability to inspire students to excel themselves, Dr Cresswell has also actively promoted opportunities for women in engineering.

TOP POSTER PRIZE

Melissa Sandow, a PhD student in Chemistry, was awarded a prize of \$250 for presenting one of the four best student posters at the Inorganic Chemistry conference held by the Royal Australian Chemistry Institute at the University of Wollongong in early February. The conference attracted participants widely from within Australia and from overseas. Ms Sandow's poster described her research on metalocyclodextrins which is part of her PhD project. Her supervisor, Professor SF Lincoln, said that he was delighted with her well deserved success.

PHYSIOLOGY AWARD

The Department of Physiology's Dr Sally Waterman has won a prestigious AMRAD postdoctoral award for 1998 to research the physiology and pathophysiology of autonomic neurotransmitter disease. The \$20,000 award (which includes a commemorative medal) is granted competitively for research and travel to supplement other fellowships or salary support. Dr Waterman is also an RD Wright Fellow and the recipient of other awards, including NHMRC and ARC project grants.

The South Australian Young Achiever of the Year in 1993, Dr Waterman joined the Department of Physiology this year after a time at Oxford as an Oxford Nuffield Medical Research Fellow and a Maplethorpe Junior Research Fellow of Jesus College.

Books in my Life

PROFESSOR BRIAN MATTHEWS will lead off the 1998 series of the Friends of the State Library's popular "Wednesdays at One" series on 11 March.

Described variously as a writer of "spare, polished stories" and as having a "hilarious comic gift", Brian Matthews is the author of books, articles, essays, radio scripts and broadcasts on modern British and Australian literature, and on culture, popular culture and sport.

11 March, Institute Building, North Terrace. \$5 (Friends/concession \$3).

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KI koalas: food habits under scrutiny

THE IMPACT of koalas on South Australia's Kangaroo Island has become a hotly debated topic over the last two years. Three University of Adelaide students are now conducting separate research projects into koalas, their eating habits, and the sterilisation and relocation programs aimed at solving the koala problem on the island.

In this first part of a three-part story, the Adelaidean looks at research into the eating habits of the koalas.

Over the past year, PhD student Soolim Carney has been keeping a close eye on 10 koalas on Kangaroo Island. By day and night, Miss Carney and teams of Earthwatch volunteers have observed and recorded every detail of the koalas' feeding habits over a 24-hour period—which species of trees they use, how much they eat, and how often they eat.

The aim of this research is to better understand the effect of koala feeding on Kangaroo Island's eucalyptus trees.

Koalas were first introduced to the island in the 1920s in a bid to save the species from extinction. Ironically, the koala population has now exceeded the capacity of its habitat, endangering their own lives and the island environment in which they live.

Miss Carney's research project, being conducted under the supervision of Professor Hugh Possingham (Environmental Science & Management) and Dr David Paton (Zoology), is one of a number of projects into koala ecology and management which forms part of South Australia's Department of Environment & Heritage koala research program. The overall aim of the research is to assist the department in developing an effective management program for the Kangaroo Island koalas.

"There's very little understanding at the moment of koalas' feeding ecology," Miss Carney said, "so the idea behind these observations in the field is to gather detailed information about koala feeding.

"Once that's done, I'll be able to artificially defoliate tree saplings, effectively simulating the browsing habits of koalas on the trees. That will give us a better understanding of how trees respond to koala browsing, and how long trees can survive varying levels of defoliation. It could also give us a good idea of the condition of the trees on the island, and also what a sustainable population of koalas on the island might be."

Miss Carney said she hoped the research project, which is still some years from being completed, could have an impact on the future management of the koalas.

"If you go out on the island and you look at the habitat, it's



Photo by Soolim Carney

obvious to see that the trees are being adversely affected. Many of them are dying.

"It would be nice to think that the findings of this project, and others like it, will contribute to effective management programs which could help save the koala population and the Kangaroo Island habitat," she said.

• Part two of this story will look at research into the sterilisation of koalas.

—David Ellis

Adelaide students are all wired up

From Page 1

The student email project has been managed by the University's Information Technology Division (ITD), with academic aspects guided by a working party of the University Information Technology Committee convened by Dr Kingsley Garbett.

The Vice-Chancellor said there were many significant benefits to be gained from increasing the accessibility of e-mail for students.

"Students will be able to communicate electronically with staff and students at the University of Adelaide and throughout the world through the Internet for research purposes," she said.

"The resulting improved communication between staff and students should enhance teaching and learning outcomes."

Benefits should also flow from the ease with which the system can be used to notify students about academic and administrative matters.

The Web interface being used for the student email system will allow students to access their mail from any networked machine with a Web Browser on any campus.

This has positive implications for students undertaking cross-campus

or cross-institutional studies, as well as those with disabilities and those studying part-time.

In another recent development, South Australia's three universities have concluded an agreement with CAMTECH for the provision of specially priced remote dial-up modem access services to university networks.

Staff and students who register with Camtech will have access to university networks, via a high-speed fibre optic link.

Using their own personal computers, students will be able to work on projects, send and receive email, access university computer resources and course material, and also lodge assignments electronically.

Staff will have similar benefits, including the opportunity to work from home and access the Internet for research purposes at a cost-effective rate.

Camtech's chief executive officer, Mr Bruce Linn said that the new remote access services would open up communication between staff and students.

"There are 40,000 staff and students at the three universities and we believe a significant percentage of

these will take advantage of this offer," he said.

"There is the potential for staff and students to create a sub-Internet community within the bigger Internet framework."

Students in country areas will also have access to the service via Camtech's many point of presence (POP) sites throughout the State.

Camtech will offer two connection options. The first provides access to university networks, while the other offers a comprehensive service, including access to the university networks, full Internet access, an email account and webspace.

Camtech says these options are available at highly competitive rates, with a benchmark cost of \$45 for a 100 hour block of Intranet access time.

Further information on the student email service is available at <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/ITD/student_services>.

Further information on Camtech's remote dial-up access service is available at <Camtech.net.au/uniserv.html>.

Research to decipher how ovarian cells communicate

ADELAIDE PHD CANDIDATE Melinda Jasper has won the Australian Society for Reproductive Biology (ASRB) Junior Scientist Award for an outstanding oral presentation at the society's annual conference in Canberra last year.

Ms Jasper was one of six students invited to present their research. Hers is concerned with aspects of ovarian function and is being carried out at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Medical School under the supervision of Associate Professor Robert Norman and Dr Sarah Robertson from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

In the past, the control of the ovaries has largely been attributed to the interaction between hormones produced by the pituitary gland in the brain and progesterone and estrogen.

"However, in the past decade a wide range of additional regulators of ovarian function have been discovered, which act locally to modulate hormone action," Ms Jasper said.

Study of the cells and mediators shown to be important in ovulation has revealed a surprising similarity between ovulation and the classic

inflammatory processes which occur elsewhere in the body in response to pathogenic stimuli or during allergic reactions.

"Most significantly, white blood cells of the immune system such as leukocytes have proved an integral and dynamic cell population in the ovary," she said.

The mechanisms by which leukocytes are implicated in various ovarian events are complex and involve interaction with signalling substances called cytokines. The key lies in the fact that leukocytes and cells that make up the structure of the ovary both produce and respond to cytokines.

"The cells talk to each other through this common language of cytokine signals, and my work involves trying to decipher the networks used in such communication," said Ms Jasper.

During her PhD, Ms Jasper has been elucidating the role of cytokines in the ovary by correlating how their expression is connected with fluctuations in the number of leukocytes during events of the reproductive cycle.

One way she is examining this is by looking at animals genetically

deficient in certain cytokines to determine if such deficiencies are linked with a disruption in any of the normal processes.

The research Ms Jasper presented at the ASRB ("Tissue compartment specific mRNA expression of the GM-CSF signalling system in the mouse ovary") was based on earlier work carried out by Associate Professor Norman's team and involved the measurement of a particular cytokine in the ovary, oocytes [female germ cells] and surrounding cells.

As the concentrations of this granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor (GM-CSF) fluctuated around ovulation, Ms Jasper concluded that the substance helps to regulate the recruitment and activation of leukocytes which remodel the tissue discarded by the oocyte.

The different populations of cells and the various cytokines operate through networks. Thus, attributing specific functions to individual agents is a highly involved, difficult process. However, Melinda Jasper stressed the importance of this work.

"When cytokine levels are abnormal

and regulating processes of the ovary are compromised, clinical conditions such as endometriosis, ovarian cancer and early menopause may arise, which affect a large proportion of the female population," she said.

Any advances in understanding of the underlying processes would be welcomed by those women suffering from the menstrual dysfunction, infertility and significant pain associated with these conditions.

Melinda Jasper is expected to complete her PhD shortly. Apart from the recognition it brings her research, the ASRB award itself has made the hard work worthwhile. She may use it to offset costs associated with attending an overseas conference of her choice—a valuable award for any student seeking to accrue further experience and establish a broad network of important collaborations for future studies.

Indeed, Ms Jasper plans to find a post-doctoral position in Europe after she submits her thesis. With a major prize and several publications in progress, she should be feeling confident.

—Emily Collins

Thomas Playford water prizes

FOUR University of Adelaide students were among the eight student winners of the annual Sir Thomas Playford Awards announced late last year.

SA Water first sponsored the awards in 1996 to commemorate the Sir Thomas Playford Centenary Year, and winners are selected from all South Australian tertiary institutions, including TAFE.

Adelaide's winners were Bronwyn Davis and Sally Harvey from Economics, who shared the prize for their work in the third-year Economics subject Environmental and

Resource Economics.

The other winners were from Civil & Environmental Engineering—Peter Shephard for the subject Environmental Engineering IVB, which revolves around water and modelling its behaviour; and Rebecca Whyatt for Environmental Engineering and Design III, an environmental course which includes the study of hydrology and hydrological processes, water pollutants and their sources, and water and wastewater treatment processes.

New Philippines partner for CISME

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, Professor Mary O'Kane and the President of the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) in the Philippines, Dr Mario Camacho, have signed an affiliation agreement between the Centre for Intercultural Studies and Multicultural Education and UA&P's College of Arts and Sciences.

The Director of CISME, Professor JJ Smolicz, says UA&P is one of the top six universities among over 1000 tertiary institutions in the Philippines.

"While it is pre-eminent in the field of economics, business and management, as well as education, all UA&P students are required to undergo a year of general liberal education, with an emphasis on philosophy, literature and history," he said.

Professor Smolicz said CISME was planning a Philippines-Australia Symposium early in December 1998 to follow the Philippines-Australia Business Council meeting to be held in Adelaide at the end of November.

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Computer model to 'give fish a say'

SCIENTISTS at the University of Adelaide will develop a new computer model to help landowners and other groups assess the potential environmental damage caused to inland rivers by irrigation.

Called DRY/WET, the computer model is aimed at providing pastoralists, irrigators, water resource managers and conservationists with detailed information about how irrigation affects rivers.

The name DRY/WET reflects the flood/drought cycles of inland rivers. Over the last few years there has been a national debate over proposals to establish irrigation on two of these rivers—Cooper Creek and the Paroo.

"Water withdrawals from the Murray-Darling rivers have caused many

environmental problems," said Mr Jim Puckridge, Principal Scientific Investigator on the project and research officer with the University of Adelaide's Department of Zoology.

"If we are going to make wise decisions about using the waters of the arid zone, we must understand the likely ecological costs.

"Predicting the environmental effects is extremely difficult because these rivers are wildly variable, and there is very little data on them," he said.

The project, funded under the National Wetlands Research and Development Program, is being run by Jim Puckridge, Justin Costelloe and Associate Professor Keith Walker, members of the Cooperative Research Centre for Freshwater Ecology at the Department of Zoology.

Mr Puckridge said the project team would develop the DRY/WET computer model using a unique database gathered over five years in the Coongie Lakes region of the lower Cooper.

"This database links river flow with responses of fish and other animals. It will be used to try to predict what effects water withdrawals would have on these creatures of the river."

The DRY/WET model will be publicly released on CD-ROM and also as a book late in 1998.

In the meantime, the project team is inviting input from industry representatives, water resource managers, conservationists and pastoralists. For more information contact Mr Jim Puckridge on (08) 8303 5689.

Petroleum focus in industry seminar

OVERSEAS LINKS and industry support were two features of a recent short course held at the University of Adelaide's Department of Geology & Geophysics.

The course, conducted by Professor Detlev Leythaeuser, dealt with the accumulation, movement and redistribution of petroleum beneath the surface of the earth.

The movement of petroleum, known as 'migration', is one of the least understood processes in the field of petroleum exploration. Professor Leythaeuser, who is head of the Department of Geology at the University of Cologne, is one of the world's leading researchers into petroleum migration.

He has recently completed a six-month stay at the University of Adelaide as a Faculty of Science Distinguished Visiting Scholar, working closely with Associate Professor David McKirdy and his Organic Geochemistry in Basin Analysis Group.

Attending the course were dozens of industry representatives, including some from Australia's biggest oil exploration companies—SANTOS, BHP Petroleum and Boral Energy.

Other participants included geologists from the Department of Primary Industry and Resources, staff and students from the University's National Centre for Petroleum Geology & Geophysics (NCPGG) and



Professor Detlev Leythaeuser in the Tate Museum. Photo: David Ellis

Geology & Geophysics Department, as well as an Adelaide-based consultant.

Professor Leythaeuser said that by better understanding petroleum migration, oil companies could improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their operations.

He also said collaborative research ties would be established between the universities of Adelaide and Cologne, as well as a possible student exchange, following his work here in Adelaide.

—David Ellis

Brainwaves showcase for best

RADIO 5UV has been funded to plan and present four live one-hour radio programs as part of the 1998 Teacher Professional Development Program.

On Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm throughout March, *Brainwaves* will focus on some of the world class teaching and learning in South Australian schools.

5UV's Tony Ryan has been working with four teacher associations to develop the programs since October. Four other 5UV producers are contributing through a recorded report of about 16 minutes.

As well as featuring innovative teaching and learning, the project provides an opportunity to explore the potential for educational broadcasting by linking radio to the Internet.

The pilot project is a cooperative effort initiated by the SA Chapter of the Australian College of Education and the Council of Education Associations of SA, with funding from Satisfac Direct Credit Union.

With at least another 50 teacher associations in South Australia, it's hoped the project will enable Radio 5UV to establish a weekly showcase for South Australian education.

4 March: Modern Languages and the World of Work

11 March: So what is an eco-school?

18 March: Listening and speaking in Mathematics

25 March: Visual Arts and the Internet.

New home for AFUW

THE AUSTRALIAN Federation of University Women Inc has a new home in the Mitchell Building at the University of Adelaide.

The accommodation, on the first floor of the Mitchell Building (Room 132), was made available to AFUW by the Vice-Chancellor for the coming Triennium, while the AFUW Federal Council is in Adelaide.

AFUW President, Dr Daphne Elliott, said the AFUW was very grateful for a University address, which was a recognition "not only of the standing of AFUW Inc, but of the value that the University of Adelaide places on the promotion of the University and contributions to the University's intellectual life and student and staff interests by AFUW-SA".

Australian Alumni Convention is set to draw graduates to Adelaide

AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY graduates make enormous contributions to the global society in which they live and work—but too often those contributions are unsung. That will change in the first week of October this year when Australian alumni from around the world come to Adelaide for the Australian Universities International Alumni Convention—the first meeting of its kind showcasing graduates of all Australian universities and exploring their thoughts for the future.

South Australia's three universities are the joint hosts for this unique gathering, which takes place in the Convention Centre from 1-4 October.

The principal sponsor for the event is the Adelaide Bank.

The Governor-General, Sir William Deane, and the Chief Minister of Sarawak, Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Haji (Dr) Abdul Taib Mahmud, are the joint Patrons-in-Chief of the Convention, which is expected to attract up to 1000 Australian alumni from all over the world. Convention Chairman is distinguished Adelaide barrister Mr Michael Abbott QC.

Under the theme, "The Getting of Wisdom", the Convention aims to bring alumni of all Australian universities together to share their ideas, knowledge and wisdom over a wide range of issues, beginning with the most fundamental of all—how we move from acquiring information to converting that information into knowledge and wisdom, and how that

wisdom can be applied across disciplines to the questions shaping our future.

Among these is the issue of the emergence of a global culture. The Convention will explore the implications of this and the role that Australian universities and their graduates can play in shaping the new era as we enter the first decades of the next millennium.

Further information is available from the Convention Secretariat at PO Box 232, Kensington Park, South Australia 5068, telephone 61 8 8364 1005, fax 61 8 8332 8810, email <enquiries@staffords.on.net> or the Convention web site <www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/convention/index.html>.

Former Rhodes Scholar dies in Oxford

FORMER SOUTH AUSTRALIAN Rhodes Scholar Roger Gilbert Opie died in Oxford, England on 22 January after a long illness.

He was born in Adelaide on 23 February 1927, and attended Prince Alfred College from 1949 to 1944 and the University of Adelaide from 1945 to 1951. He was awarded a BA degree, with first class honours in Economics, in 1949, and an MA in 1951. He was elected as the 1951 South Australian Rhodes Scholar, and studied at Christ Church College, Oxford, winning several notable distinctions. He was a Medley Junior and Senior Scholar and was awarded the Boulter Exhibition. He graduated from Oxford in 1953 with a first class honours degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics. In 1954 he was appointed an Assistant Lecturer and

later a Lecturer in the renowned London School of Economics. From 1961 until his retirement in 1992 he was a Fellow and Lecturer in Economics at New College, Oxford.

Roger Opie was a distinguished academic but not just an "ivory tower" Oxford don. His contribution to public service was wide and varied. He was well-known from his regular TV appearances on the BBC program, "The Money Show". He was closely associated with the British Labour Party and served as an Economic Adviser to HM Treasury, and to the Chairman of the National Board on Prices and Incomes. He was a consultant to the West Pakistan Planning Commission in Karachi in 1966 and a member of the International Labour Organization Mission to Ethiopia in 1982. His

work was recognised in 1976 by the award of the CBE.

In Adelaide, at school and at the University, Roger Opie excelled in athletics, hockey, and debating. He led the Adelaide University's debating team to victory in the Philippines Cup intersarsity competition in Canberra in 1947. Although he later became part of the Oxford Establishment, he retained his love for Australia—and a slight Aussie accent. His house, with the South Australian emblem prominent in its front window, was always open to his Australian mates, and his many Adelaide friends will not forget his bubbling boyish humour. He was a devoted family man and is survived by his wife, two sons, a daughter and five grandchildren.

—Emeritus Professor Ren Potts

Connolly Medal to leading science communicator

PROSPECTOR, metallurgist and former RMIT senior lecturer Mr Des Stroud has been awarded the 1997 Sir Willis Connolly Memorial Medal by the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AIMM) and the Barbarians (named after mining patron St Barbara). Previous medal winners include Sir Arvi Parbo, Sir Frank Espie and Professor Geoffrey Blainey.

"The Sir Willis Connolly Memorial Medal recognises the outstanding contributions made by Australians to the community in communicating the benefits of science, engineering and technology," said Mrs JM Webber, Chief Executive Officer of AIMM.

Mr Stroud, who graduated B. Appl. Sc in the University of Adelaide in 1965, hails from a family of pioneers, prospectors and educators of minerals in Australia. Besides visiting many of Australia's mineral and outback locations, he has initiated and led expeditions to the remote deserts in Central Australia in search of the fabled Lasseter's Lost Reef. His expeditions in 1987, 1988 and 1990 led to an approved bi-centennial activity and production of a national television documentary, "Search for the Lost Reef".

Mr Stroud taught within RMIT's Faculty of Metallurgical Engineering for 31 years (retiring in 1997), introducing a range of special course innovations and conducting major research projects over those years.

Women science graduates survey

JANE CAREY, a PhD student from the University of Melbourne, is conducting a national survey of women science graduates 1930 - 1960, and is appealing for help from readers of the *Adelaidean*.

The project is concerned with the experiences of women who graduated from, or were on the staff of, the science faculties of Australian universities. While women made up a considerable proportion of science graduates during the thirty years from 1930 - 1960, they remain largely absent from most histories of Australian science. Jane Carey is hoping to document the

nature and extent of women's contribution to science in this period and to outline the opportunities open to them in the field. The study will encompass all areas in which women science graduates were employed, as well as their experiences outside the work force.

Women science graduates who would like to take part in this survey are invited to contact Jane Carey directly. Tel 03 9482 7114, email j.carey1@pgrad.unimelb.edu.au, or write to 66 McKean Street, North Fitzroy VIC 3068.

Alumni Association member benefits

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION is pleased to announce to members that they are now eligible for a special 12% discount at Unibooks.

This discount is available for purchases in the general books section. Members must show their Alumni Association membership cards.

Members are also reminded that they are eligible for 10% discount for course fees when enrolling with the Office of Continuing Education.

To find out more about these and other membership benefits, please contact the Alumni Office on 8303 5800 or email <aeccles@registry.adelaide.edu.au>.

Membership of the Alumni Association costs \$50 per year. Discounts are available for interstate, overseas and retired members, new graduates, joint memberships, and student membership. Join the Association and help to support your university.

ALUMNI NEWS

FLOREY EXHIBITION OPENS

The Florey Medical Chapter and the History Trust of South Australia have joined forces once again to mount an exhibition celebrating the life and achievements of Adelaide medical graduate Howard Florey in this the centenary year of his birth.

Howard Florey, later Lord Florey, was born in Adelaide and graduated MBBS in 1921. He then travelled to England as a Rhodes Scholar. Florey is remembered for developing penicillin as an antibiotic drug, for which he and his colleagues won the Nobel Prize in 1945.

The Florey Centennial Exhibition was opened on 25 February, and in the course of the year will be seen around Australia.

JOHN BRAY LAW CHAPTER

The John Bray Law Chapter welcomed members to its AGM on Monday 16 February at the Law School.

Retired Chief Justice Mr Len King AC QC was re-elected President.

Members heard an informal address by Professor Rob Fowler, the Dean of Law, about new developments in the delivery of professional training and education at the University of Adelaide Law School which have led to a restructuring of the undergraduate degree and will streamline graduates' attainment of professional practice qualifications.

Law graduates, current staff and students wishing to join the John Bray Law Chapter should contact the Alumni Office.

1998 PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

The Alumni Association launched its activities for 1998 at the President's Reception, held on Tuesday 17 February in the Union Gallery.

In welcoming the Alumni Association to the Union Gallery, President of the Union Board Ms Rosslyn Cox spoke of the relationship between the student body and the University, the Union, and the Alumni Association.

"The University is like the parent, the Union a sibling, and the Alumni Association a friend," she said.

Winners of the 1998 AUGU/RC Heddle Award and the Inaugural Mutual Community Postgraduate Travel Grants were introduced and presented with certificates.

The Chair, Dr Harry Medlin, and the Vice-Chancellor Professor Mary O'Kane (in her capacity as Vice-President of the Alumni Association) both affirmed the commitment of alumni to support the University and its students.

CAMPUS TOURS PROJECT

The Alumni Association is coordinating a program to offer guided tours of the North Terrace Campus to the public.

"The University wants the community of South Australia and visitors to Adelaide to get to know our University and to feel welcome here," said Alumni Activities Coordinator Adrienne Eccles.

"The Alumni Association felt that this is a practical way we can support our University and do something pleasurable for visitors. We have a team of volunteer tour guides being trained at the moment, and we expect to be 'open for business' by early April."

Further information will be available soon.

PERFORMING ARTS

ON CAMPUS

Lunch hour concerts return to Elder Hall

ON 20 MARCH, the first Friday after the Adelaide Festival, the Elder Conservatorium will launch its new season of lunch hour concerts in Elder Hall. Held every Friday until 26 June, the program features a lively mix of music styles performed by staff, senior students and visiting artists.

The series opens with a program of French chamber music performed by four outstanding musicians—Tessa Miller (soprano), Louise Dellit (flute), Semyon Kobets (violin) and Lucinda Collins (piano). They will be followed on 27 March by the internationally acclaimed Australian String Quartet playing quartets by Mozart and Arvo Pärt.

The format for the concerts will be the same as last year except for a small admission charge of

\$2. The concerts commence at 1.10pm and tickets will be available at the door from 12.30pm on the day of the concert. Each ticket includes a free program.

Other highlights of the series include an early music concert featuring baroque bassoon, recorder and harpsichord on 3 April, a program of music for traditional Japanese instruments on 24 April, a jazz concert with vocalist Connaître Miller on 1 May, a recital by the new cellist of the Australian String Quartet on 15 May, and the very popular Tea Rose Duo on 26 June.

• Detailed brochures are available from the Elder Conservatorium office, or can be obtained by phoning the Concert Office on 8303 5925.



L to R: The ASQ—Elinor Lea, Peter Tanfield, Keith Crellin and Niall Brown. Photo: Beverley Studios.

Top administrator for Helpmann Academy

The Helpmann Academy has appointed Mr Greg Andrews as its new Executive Director.

Greg Andrews joins the Academy from Queensland, where he was Executive Director of the Queensland Office of Arts and Cultural Development (OACD). Over his ten years with that department he was involved with extensive planning of programs and procedures including the preparation of the Queensland Government's Cultural Statement, which mapped directions for that government to the year 2001.

While at the OACD he was involved in the establishment of two new festivals in Brisbane and the introduction of a broad range of initiatives to encourage the development of Film Queensland and the Pacific Film and Television Commission.

Mr Andrews previously spent several years as the Administrator of the Australian National Gallery.

The Chair of the Helpmann Academy, Mrs Judith Roberts, said the Academy was delighted to have secured an administrator of Mr Andrews' calibre.

"We are confident that Mr Andrews will prove to be the person we need to take the Academy

to its next important stage, which is aimed at consolidating the development of the tertiary arts training sector in this State," Mrs Roberts said.

"These developments are crucial if we are to maintain South Australia's position as the country's most creative State and provide real employment opportunities for students in the visual and performing arts."

Steinway gift to Uni

The Michell family has donated their 1896 Steinway piano to the University of Adelaide. The piano has been on loan to Urrbrae House for some years and has been played regularly at the twilight concerts, which aim to encourage young South Australian performers. The piano will continue to be used at Urrbrae House so that an increasing number of regular concert audiences will be able to appreciate the sound of this antique instrument. The donors are the eight grandchildren of the late William and Beatrice Michell, and a plaque is being placed in Urrbrae House to commemorate their generous gift.

The halls are alive...

THE NORTH TERRACE campus of the University of Adelaide is abuzz with Festival and Fringe activity at the moment, with most of its performing arts venues in active use for concerts, theatre, dance, masterclasses and lectures.

The Scott Theatre, Hartley Concert Room, Elder Hall, Bishop Hall and the Madley Dance Space are all hosting offerings in the Festival's Masterclass & Workshop Series, which this year has been promoted to the general public as well as to potential participants.

Among the international artists presenting classes and lectures are Lin Hawi-Min (Cloud Gate Dance Theatre), composer and director Heiner Goebbels, conductor Lorraine Vaillancourt, the Brodsky Quartet, the Lincoln Center

Jazz Orchestra, accordion maker Peter Hyde, the Yuri Yukanov Ensemble, the Australian Art Orchestra, leading Belgian actress Viviane de Muynck and Britain's Fiona Shaw.

Elder Hall will also be the venue for 10 weekday lunch-hour concerts throughout the Festival, beginning on 2 March. Musicians from the Elder Conservatorium will be performing on 9, 11 and 13 March.

Elswhere, the Festival is presenting theatre events in the Little Theatre, while the Fringe has shows in Scott Theatre, Union Hall, Bonython Hall and in University property around Rundle Street East.

Masterclass and concert brochures are available from the Conservatorium or at the Festival Centre.

—John Edge

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