GP computer alert system an Australian first

GPs CAN GREATLY improve patient care and prevention of illness through the use of computerised reminder systems, researchers are proving.

A unique computer program developed in Adelaide alerts doctors to patients' preventive care needs whenever they visit their GP.

The program—the first of its kind in Australia—includes reminders about procedures to prevent illness, such as immunisations and injury prevention advice, procedures to detect disease early, such as blood pressure screening and Pap smears, and procedures to minimise the damage caused by established diseases such as diabetes.

At the beginning of each consultation, the computer sitting on the GP's consulting room desk automatically searches the patient's case notes as far back as necessary to find the most recent performance of preventive measures appropriate for that patient—based on the patient's age, sex and recorded medical history—and then reminds the doctor of any which are due by displaying a message on the screen.

This computer-based reminder system is now the subject of a two-year research project headed by University of Adelaide clinical lecturer Dr Oliver Frank (Department of General Practice).

Dr Frank has been using the computer reminder system in his general practice at Hampstead Gardens for the past three years.

"There are certain preventive care procedures which GPs can use to try to keep people well, or to minimise their illness," Dr Frank said.

Continued on Page 3

African flies to the rescue

BONESEED, one of South Australia's worst environmental weeds, is under attack by a new biological control agent—lacy-winged seed flies.

About 200 of the flies were recently released at Morialta National Park by the Animal & Plant Control Commission, the Department of National Parks & Wildlife, and the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Weed Management Systems, of which the University of Adelaide is a partner.

Seed flies have been shown to be extremely effective for control of boneseed. This species of fly known to scientists as Mesoclanis magnipalpis, was collected in South Africa, where boneseed is a native plant.

Another species of seed fly was released for control of a closely related weed, bitou bush, in 1997. Since its release these tiny insects have increased more than a billion fold, dispersing at an amazing rate of up to 400km per month, and are now attacking bitou bush throughout coastal NSW.

At some sites up to 100% of buds are now infested with eggs and about 40% of the seed is being destroyed. Continued build-up of fly populations is expected to increase control of the weed.

Boneseed is ranked as one of the top four environmental weeds in South Australia and is found throughout the Adelaide Hills, including many of the National Parks and reserves, such as Morialta and Belair. Infestations of this woody weed eventually eliminate all native plants and the fauna which depend on them. Even gum trees are unable to regenerate.

One of the main problems with boneseed is that it produces large numbers of hard seeds which accumulate in the soil and remain viable for many years. However, larvae from the seed fly eat the weed's fruits and prevent the formation of this seed.

"Our longer term plan is to attack boneseed with a number of natural enemies, with the seed fly to slow seed production and other agents to damage it," said the director of the CRC for Weed Management Systems, Dr Rick Roush.

"The Boneseed Tip Moth, which destroys developing buds, has been released by the CRC at Belair and is doing some damage. Other biological control agents being studied include a rust fungus and a leaf roller moth. Both show great promise and are expected to have a devastating effect."

Dr Roush said the seed fly had been thoroughly tested by the CSIRO Division of Entomology and a scientific team at the Keith Turnbull Research Institute in Victoria to ensure that it would only attack boneseed.

"In order to meet Australian safety standards, the flies were reared under quarantine conditions in the laboratory before release. Strict procedures were followed to ensure that the flies are free of parasites and diseases," Dr Roush said.

Continued on Page 4
What's the game, Mr Wolf?

Universities are great game players and those associated with universities are too. In my last column I wrote about the way the recent history of universities could be interpreted in terms of fairytale. Another way of looking at it is in terms of the games people play in and around universities.

What is most amazing about universities is that their game playing is the extraordinarily low stakes for which they will invest incredible effort. A recent example is the great lengths to which universities have gone to achieve a relatively small change in their Research Quantum allocation.

Think of the way institutions now worry about their publications sections of the National Composite Index and about the inclusion or exclusion of a single paper. The return for the inclusion of such a paper might be as low as $10 or $20 but the effort of having it correctly recorded can be very high. (By the way, Research Branch, that was a great party to celebrate the end of the publications collection and audit.)

But there are plenty of other games. Some are centred on peer groups in the playground.

Think, for example, of Super Sandstone or Unistmis, both most effective games for their stir value. Commonwealth Departments of Education under various names have long known that universities will respond to almost any new game and bring a great deal of energy that resides in universities to bear on winning.

A great way to remove funds from universities is to declare a new game which, on the face of it, looks cut-back in a redistribution. Universities are so diverting by the game that the real situation is forgotten.

Far more sensible games for the universities to play are Out-Smart the Commonwealth and Financial Independence. For example, some sports are well worth playing and this University is a spectacular player of the Commonwealth Competitive Research Grants game. It uses its strength in the game so far to move into a position of even greater strength.

Sometimes we learn things about ourselves by playing certain games. By being active participants in the Quality Round we learnt a great deal about our own internal operations and enhanced our sense of self-worth with our high score in that game.

But there is a danger that we may be drawn into endless game playing and lose sight of our real goals as a result. It would be preferable to establish the playing-field and the rules ourselves and then get others to play. This is not always possible but we could be much more selective about which games we choose.

I must finish now. A letter has just arrived from the Commonwealth telling me about the new rules for the game called "Capital Development Pool". I wonder how much we can win from that!

MARY O'KANE

COMMENTARY

YEAR 2000 PROJECT: AN IMMOovable DEADLINE

By now most of us have probably heard the doom and gloom stories about the Millennium Bug or Year 2000 problem. This problem means that some computers, software and equipment will fail to correctly interpret the turn of the century. The cost of fixing the problem will be enormous. Gartner Group (an international IT research group) estimates the cost to Australia alone will be more than $5 billion.

Organisations such as the University, where there is extensive use of computer equipment and also research and plant equipment with embedded micro-processors, are particularly at risk.

But the problem is not only an information technology one. It will also affect suppliers of products and services to the University.

To deal with the problem, the University has contracted the services of KPMG who have been involved in a number of Year 2000 projects. In addition a Year 2000 Co-ordinator has been appointed, and a Steering Committee comprising representatives from each division has been formed to oversee the project.

The first phase of the project has involved information gathering (a stock take of equipment, computers and software) and is almost complete. While some of this was carried out centrally by Property Services and Information Technology Services, much was done locally. Staff have probably noticed teams of people filling out assessment forms recording information about computers and equipment in their areas.

Information collected is currently being entered into a Year 2000 database. This will be used to perform an assessment of compliance, and develop a rectification plan.

As the University begins to identify the compliance of items, it will be important to share experience with the many other organisations involved in this process.

For example, the Division of Health Sciences is currently working with the SA Health Commission and the teaching hospitals to check biomedical equipment. Most other universities are also involved in checking items for compliance, so there is much information that can be shared.

In addition to this process, work has been continuing for some time to ensure that the University's Management Information Systems are compliant.

For example, work on the Student Information System commenced over a year ago, and it is now compliant. In addition the General Ledger was upgraded last year to make it compliant.

While the University is checking existing equipment and systems, it is vital to ensure that new items purchased are Year 2000 compliant.

As a result Finance Department have added new clauses to the University's purchase order books and the Grant Manager system. These clauses are also available on the Year 2000 web site for departments still using old order books.

With less than 75 weeks to go, the Year 2000 has an immoveble deadline!

INFORMATION:

Further information and updates on the Year 2000 Project at the University can be found at the Year 2000 web site: http://www.adelaide.edu.au/tdy2k/ or by contacting Michael Physick, Year 2000 Co-ordinator on ext. 33191.

For example, the Division of Health Sciences is currently working with the SA Health Commission and the teaching hospitals to check biomedical equipment. Most other universities are also involved in checking items for compliance, so there is much information that can be shared.

In addition to this process, work has been continuing for some time to ensure that the University’s Management Information Systems are compliant.

For example, work on the Student Information System commenced over a year ago, and it is now compliant. In addition the General Ledger was upgraded last year to make it compliant.

While the University is checking existing equipment and systems, it is vital to ensure that new items purchased are Year 2000 compliant.

As a result Finance Department have added new clauses to the University’s purchase order books and the Grant Manager system. These clauses are also available on the Year 2000 web site for departments still using old order books.

With less than 75 weeks to go, the Year 2000 has an immoveble deadline!

INFORMATION:

Further information and updates on the Year 2000 Project at the University can be found at the Year 2000 web site: http://www.adelaide.edu.au/tdy2k/ or by contacting Michael Physick, Year 2000 Co-ordinator on ext. 33191.
Astronomy stars at local conference

The Centre of Gravity of professional astronomers and astrophysicists was definitely in Adelaide last month.

Over four days the Astronomical Society of Australia held its annual meeting at the University of Adelaide (the first ASA meeting in Adelaide in over 30 years) under the presidency of Dr Roger Clay from the Department of Physics & Mathematical Physics. ASA98 got off to a good start thanks to the official opening by the Adelaide graduate and Democrat Senator, Natasha Stott Despoja. Senator Stott Despoja provided the 130 local, interstate and overseas delegates with an interesting critique of the government's level of support of university education and science.

The highlight of the meeting was the Harley Wood public lecture given by Dr Brian Boyle, the new director of the Anglo Australian Observatory, entitled 'Gamma Ray Bursts, Black Holes and the Death of the Dinosaurs'. His large and varied audience was treated to an exciting detective story, along the lines of 'The Gamma Files'. He also discussed last year's exciting 'super-supernova' (involving the collapse of giant stars into black holes) which may give us an explanation for the riddle of the death of the dinosaurs 63 million years ago.

Many current issues in astronomy and astrophysics were dealt with at the successful meeting, including advances in instrumentation, Australian access to the exciting Gemini project in which two 8-metre optical telescopes will be located in favourable sites in Hawaii and Chile, a proposed one-square degree all-sky radio telescope, radio astronomy into the new century, and astronomy in education.

— John Patterson

Week-long celebration of Human Rights

How Many Showers a week does a prisoner have a right to take? How would one know how to answer that question?

'Human Rights', for the most part, are rights declared in international treaties, and the rights of prisoners are declared in the UN Rules for Treatment of Prisoners adopted in 1955 by the First UN Congress on Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. Its Article 13 states: 'Every prisoner [shall be] enabled and required to have a bath or shower ... as frequently as necessary for general hygiene according to season ... but at least once a week in a temperate climate.'

The Australian Institute of International Affairs (SA Branch), in conjunction with the University of South Australia, has organised a week-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (which was not a treaty but a resolution of the General Assembly in 1948). Its drafting received no small help from the Australian delegation at the time.

Four lectures will be held in Engineering South, Room 212, at 1:00pm from Monday to Thursday. A lecture entitled 'Human Rights on the Norwood Parade' refers to rights in our everyday lives. A lecture on 'Human Rights and the Internet' will discuss the subversive effect of communications technologies on current human rights. A lecture on 'The Australian Prisoner's Bill of Rights' will be given by Dr Brian Boyle, the new director of the Anglo Australian Observatory, entitled 'Gamma Ray Bursts, Black Holes and the Death of the Dinosaurs'. A final lecture on 'Torture, War Crimes and Genocide' will be given by Dr Mark Ziff. All lectures are open to the public.

See announcements in this edition of the Adelaidean (Bulletin Board, Coming Events) for particulars.

Dr Frank and his co-investigator, Dr John Litt from the Department of Evidence-Based Medicine & General Practice, Flinders University, were this year awarded a $48,000 grant at the MBF Health and Well-being Awards for further explore the benefits and costs of computer reminder systems in general practice.

At this stage, Dr Frank said there were no plans to market the software. 'We're trying to demonstrate the concept that having a computer-based reminder system for GPs actually results in better care at minimal cost to the patient and adds to the health system, in exchange for which it comes with long-term savings overall,' he said.

'We're hoping that the success of this project will prompt companies currently developing software for general practice to build these types of reminder functions into their software, which could be used by GPs throughout Australia and even overseas.'

— David Ellis

GP alert system an Australian first

From Page 1:

"But for each patient there can be up to 15 different things that should be done at different times. It's virtually impossible for doctors to keep checking on what needs to be done for any given patient, or even to remember to ask the patient once they come in for a visit. That's where the computer helps."

There are many advantages for both patients and GPs. The patients receive a better level of care, while patients and GPs. The patients benefit because they receive a better level of care, while the patients benefit because they can't be expected to ask every time and energy for human preventive care, and allows more time and energy for human interaction with the patient, which is vital for good quality care.

Another major advantage for GPs is that it greatly reduces the need to send out recall letters to patients, which can be a costly and often unsuccessful exercise.

Dr Frank said the computer system was already proving a success, with a rate of immunisation against tetanus, for example, jumping from an average of 50% among his patients to more than 80%.

"Tetanus injections are scheduled to be given to adults every 10 years, but not everybody can remember when they last had one and the GP can't be expected to ask every time the patient visits," Dr Frank said.

"The computer system reminds the doctor to provide appropriate preventive care thoroughly, reliably and efficiently."

"The computer system remedies the doctor's tedious task of searching case notes for information needed to be able to deliver all of the appropriate preventive care, and allows more time and energy for human medical practice software which was formerly available commercially. Dr Frank and his co-investigator, Dr John Litt from the Department of Evidence-Based Medicine & General Practice, Flinders University, were this year awarded a $48,000 grant at the MBF Health and Well-being Awards for further explore the benefits and costs of computer reminder systems in general practice.

At this stage, Dr Frank said there were no plans to market the software. 'We're trying to demonstrate the concept that having a computer-based reminder system for GPs actually results in better care at minimal cost to the patient and adds to the health system, in exchange for which it comes with long-term savings overall,' he said.

'We're hoping that the success of this project will prompt companies currently developing software for general practice to build these types of reminder functions into their software, which could be used by GPs throughout Australia and even overseas.'

— David Ellis

Engineering Maths Award

At the recent EMAC-96 international conference in the university of Adelaide Assoc. Professor J aganathan Mazumdar was awarded the distinguished EMG- National Award in recognition of his research in Engineering Mathematics, and his contribution to fostering and promoting Engineering Mathematics in Australia.

The EMG-International Award went to Professor Horst Lechner and his student Leonardo da Vinci Medal winner who invented the first computer in Austria.

Musica Viva

Musica Viva Australia will present a special lunchtime concert at the Hilton International on Sunday 13 September at 12 noon, featuring The Wasedom Songs by Wagner and a selection of humoresque songs sung by Alison Farr, with Anne Adamek on piano.

Tickets are $50 per person; this includes the concert, fine food and Norman's Wines. Tables of 8 and 10. Ring Musica Viva on 82 666 144.

Travelling Award

PhD candidate Valeria Torok from the Department of Chemistry has won one of four Farrer Memorial Travelling Scholarships awarded recently. The Scholarships support overseas travel by postgraduate students enrolled for a PhD in any aspect of field crop research. Ms Torok is working in the field of Plant Virology. The primary aim of her work is to develop a sensitive test for the pea seedborne mosaic virus.

She will attend the 7th International Congress on Plant Pathology in Edinburgh this month, and also visit the Scottish Agricultural Science Agency, the Scottish Crop Research Institute, and the Department of Virus Research at the John Innes Centre in Norwich, England.

Human Sacrifice: Myth or Reality?

Why is Greek myth so obsessed with human sacrifice? Did this kind of offering actually take place?

Dr Sarah Morris, the 1998 AAA (Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens) Visiting Lecturer, will present a public lecture on the topic hosted by the AAA and the Friends of the Classical Museum of Archaeology on Tuesday 22 August at 6.30pm in Lecture Room LG29, Napier Building.

Dr Morris analyses the recent research and discoveries among the archaeological, literary and artistic evidence for the practice of human sacrifice in the Semitic and Greek worlds.

She will explore the relationship of tradition to reality, and connections between Semitic practices and Greek beliefs.

Admission free — all welcome.

Geology Public Lecture

The Department of Geology and Geophysics, School of Earth Sciences and Insitute of Petroleum Geology and Geophysics are presenting a Public Lecture by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists 1997-1998 Distinguished Lecturer Dr Ronald A Nelson on Monday 3 August at 7.15pm in the Mason Lecture Theatre.

Dr Nelson will discuss integrated structural geology techniques and how they constrain exploration risk.
Flies to the rescue

From Page 1

“Boneseed is such a difficult weed,” said Mr John Chaote of the Department of Natural Parks & Wildlife.

“Currently, Park Rangers and Friends Groups try to control this weed, often by hand pulling. If we can get this fly established along with other organisms, it will be a great way to control boneseed and benefit our natural environment. Even just the reduction in seed production will make the efforts of Rangers and Friends go so much further,” he said.

The release of lace-winged seed flies is also expected to benefit landholders and councils throughout the Adelaide Hills region.

PARASITES cause incalculable suffering in human and animal populations across the globe, particularly in developing countries where individuals commonly host whole “communities” of these pathogens.

Understanding the way different parasite species interact may hold the key to more effective diagnosis, prognosis and treatment, according to Dr Ross Andrews, Australian Research Council Senior Research Fellow at the University of Adelaide's Department of Microbiology and Immunology, and visiting researcher Dr Trevor Petney from Heidelberg University’s Department of Parasitology.

The two scientists, both University of Adelaide graduates, have maintained a close association for more than 20 years. They recently co-authored a refereed review article on multi-parasite communities in animals and humans and are working on another.

“In tropical medicine, we know that most people in developing countries have more than one parasite in them at any one time,” Dr Petney says.

“And we know that parasites form a community within the host or human and that they interact within the body. So that if you have two parasites it may well mean more than having one different parasite twice because their interaction can cause further problems.

“In some parts of South-East Asia a lot of people have clinical infections such as malaria, as well as being infected by worms.

“The immune system is fighting the malaria the entire time and while the worms are rarely a problem alone, the two interacting may impact on the pathology of each other creating other problems.”

AIDS is a classic example. Almost no one dies from HIV. Sufferers die from diseases it is suppressed by HIV. It is only because of the first parasite that the second parasite can attack with such ferocity.

Dr Andrews and Dr Petney suspect this kind of interaction also happens in more subtle ways with other parasites.

“In developed countries, if you have chicken pox, or cold sores or warts, you then carry those viruses in your body all your life,” Dr Petney says.

“But we have absolutely no idea what this means in terms of the viruses interacting with each other and other infections. It may mean nothing, but we don’t know.”

Dr Andrews says the pair is planning a research program—based at the University of Adelaide—to determine the significance of multi-parasite infections. Research in the area has been minimal and the two are enthusiastic about the significance of the work for human health and animal husbandry.

They are also planning to produce a book and interactive CD-ROM documenting all the ticks of the world for the first time.

“Ticks—blood-sucking, disease-carrying parasites—transmit more diseases to domestic animals than any other organism and are the second most significant vector of disease to humans after mosquitoes.”

In the last 30 years, the World Health Organisation has recognised over 30 new and emerging human diseases — several of which are known to be transmitted by ticks alone.

Potentially fatal Lyme disease is an example. Only recently recognised to be carried and transmitted by ticks, it affects an estimated 60,000 Germans each year and is common in Europe, Asia and North America. While it has not yet been isolated in Australia, Dr Petney says there may already be cases.

“Gone are the days when this country was geographically isolated,” Dr Andrews says.

“We are part of the world as an interactive community and while we haven’t seen a lot of these diseases in Australia, we certainly do have the vectors or transmitters to a large number of them.”

“Increased international travel and imported food stuffs have opened up a time bomb for us in Australia.

“We simply have to be smart and proactive and set up resources and diagnostic knowledge to advise government institutions, medical personnel and farmers of potential problems.”

The pair has discussed their CD-ROM project with CSIRO publishers and world experts, including the curator of the United States national tick collection, who has agreed to help.

Vets and GPs around the world would use the CD-ROM to quickly identify ticks and the diseases they carry as well as to access information on latest treatments.

— Rebekah Washington

CD-ROM to fight ‘ticking’ time bomb

Dr Ross Andrews (seated) and Dr Trevor Petney — ambitious plan to document all the ticks of the world. Photo: David Ellis
A GROUP of landscape architecture students recently presented the community of Loxton with a public meeting to discuss five unique landscape design ideas for the future of their town.

The project, led by Senior Lecturer in Landscape Architecture, Dr David Jones, involved consultation with members of the Loxton community and in-class design ideas for the future of the town. Sustainability theory and design ideas were used as the teaching philosophy, and the project built upon a similar successful community-based project run in Strathalbyn last year.

"The project was part of studio class requirements for the students in a real project-based learning setting replicating their professional and functional activities," Dr Jones said.

"It involved the students in physical and social site analysis and information collection, a survey of town resident attitudes to the environment and the quality of their town, the thorough way they worked closely with the community and "looked at the town with fresh eyes," reported The Loxton News.

The presentation and the proposals were also reviewed on television Riverland SA and on Country ABC Radio.

The project received a very positive response from the town, and the students were commended for their efforts.

Mr Avery praised the students' designs for the River Murray foreshore wetlands and the River Murray Boopurnong wetlands, and the Council is interested in pursuing ideas for an innovative strategy for the future of the town centre.

"Part of this funding may be used to develop and implement one of the students' designs for the River Murray Boopurnong wetlands, and the Council is interested in pursuing ideas for an innovative strategy for the future of the town centre," said Mr Avery.

Denis Hann, Editor of The Loxton News, praised the "wealth of ideas that have been suggested to enhance the appearance of Loxton's town centre." He said the students' ideas were "creative, well thought out, and will make a difference to Loxton's town centre."

The Loxton News also praised the "thoughtful and well-considered" ideas presented by the students, and the "cayseful consideration."
Brainwaves collaboration extends 5UV’s reach

UNIVERSITY RADIO 5UV continues to receive recognition for its involvement in highly successful professional education projects.

At the recent launch of its Brainwaves cassettes, Radio 5UV and a dedicated group of educators were commended by the South Australian Minister for Education, Training & Employment, Mr Malcolm Buckby.

Brainwaves was a series of live-to-air professional development programs for teachers that went to air on 5UV in March this year and have now been released on cassette.

The series focused on four key areas of the South Australian curriculum: modern languages, environmental education, listening and speaking in mathematics, and visual arts education.

A major aim of the Brainwaves project was to explore the use of the internet in extending the reach of 5UV’s professional educational programming to interstate and overseas audiences.

Brainwaves is an unusual and exciting project, using the older technology of radio with the new technology of the internet.

“"The project opens up many new options for future professional development opportunities using this technology.”

He noted that South Australia had always had a strong collaborative culture and highly productive working relationships between schools, TAFE and the universities. Brainwaves was a good example of that, he said.

Brainwaves was initiated by the SA Chapter of the Australian College of Education and produced by 5UV’s Tony Ryan. Vicki Butler from the Department of Education, Training & Employment was the educational advisor for the series.

Other members of the team included Helen Sanderson from the Australian Institute of Education and Dr David Sewn from the University of South Australia. The programs were produced in cooperation with the relevant teacher associations, with funding from Satisfic Direct Credit Union and the Council of Education Associations of SA.

On behalf of Radio 5UV, Tony Ryan thanked the 60 more educators who had freely given many hours of their time to the planning and production work of the programs. Many South Australian students were also involved in the project.

For more information about Brainwaves contact 5UV on 8303 5000.

— David Ellis

Language survival project has real-world impact

LINGUISTICS researchers at the University of Adelaide are taking a leading role in helping to preserve a 150-year-old language on Norfolk Island.

The university’s Professor of Linguistics, Peter Mühlhäusler, is working with the Norfolk Island community to prevent the Pitcairn-Norfolk language from dying out.

Linguistics (part of the Centre for European Studies and General Linguistics at the University of Adelaide) is well known for its work in helping to revive the Kaurna Aboriginal language. Professor Mühlhäusler has himself established a world wide reputation for research into “endangered” languages.

The Pitcairn-Norfolk language was brought to Norfolk Island by the descendants of the HMS Bounty who resisted there in 1808. Of the less than 2000 people currently living on the island, about 500 still speak the original language.

“When I first began work on the Pitcairn-Norfolk I expected to find a very vigorous language,” Professor Mühlhäusler said.

“"But on arrival one of the concerns most often expressed by my contacts on the island was that the language was in serious danger of dying out.

"I began to consult with a wide range of islanders on this issue and for my second visit, earlier this year, we set up a number of formal meetings with the principal stakeholders (educators, politicians, community members) to discuss language maintenance matters."

In preparation for his visit, the students of this semester’s Language Maintenance & Planning course at Adelaide University focused on Norfolk Island.

The students compiled a list of issues and materials which proved invaluable in Professor Mühlhäuser’s discussions with the local community.

“The students are thrilled by the idea of contributing to a project which directly impacts on the real world, and this has meant motivating them to work hard,” Professor Mühlhäuser said.

As a result of his meetings with the Pitcairn-Norfolk community, Professor Mühlhäuser was asked to prepare a draft language plan for the Norfolk Island language.

This plan fleshes out the issues dealing with the status and the future development of the language, such as where and how it should be taught and used, and the spelling of words, writing and grammar.

“The language plan will serve as the basis for community discussions, legislation and eventual implementation."

“A recent report by the South Pacific Commission recommended that Adelaide linguistics take a leading role in language maintenance on Norfolk Island,” Professor Mühlhäuser said.

“The expertise we have built up here with the Kaurna language will come in very handy for this task, and I believe that with the help of politicians, educators and community members we can help strengthen the Pitcairn-Norfolk language.”

— David Ellis

Conference: Geography not alone

THE INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIAN Geographers conference in Perth held a special forum on 1 July to discuss a national trend of Geography department mergers.

The date was auspicious as it also marked the official formation of the University of Adelaide’s new Department of Geographical and Environmental Studies.

The merger between Geography and Environmental Studies at Adelaide is preceded by similar mergers at Melbourne, Tasmania and Toowoomba.

At Monash and Newcastle the mergers have been with Environmental Science, whereas at Wollongong and Sydney, Geography is now part of Geosciences and is aligned with Geology.

Other alliances around the country include Oceanography (ADFA), Planning (Queensland), Population and Environmental Management (Flinders), and recently Spatial Information Systems (Tasmania).

The new Head of Geographical and Environmental Studies at Adelaide, Associate Professor Nick Harvey, said that although many of the mergers were administrative, it was obvious that Geography was a very strong discipline which was attractive in terms of complementary and joint teaching programs in other areas.

“At Adelaide, there is already teaching cooperation between Geography, Geology and Soil Science at the undergraduate level,” he said.

“And, through the leadership of Professor Graeme Hugo, there is a graduate Geography-Population program (jointly with Flinders University), and an ARC Key Centre for Social (Tasmania).”

“Geography should thrive in the new department, with renewed attention on Physical Geography and revitalisation of co-operative teaching arrangements with other departments, such as Geology and Geophysics and Soil Science,” Associate Professor Harvey said.

“At the same time, the Department will be able to capitalise on its research strength in Geographic Information Systems in the Social Sciences, where it is already contributing to core subjects in Asian Studies, International Studies, and Australian Studies.”
Astronaut at alumni convention

AUSTRALIAN ASTRONAUT Dr Andrew Thomas will be a key note speaker at the first Australian Universities International Alumni Convention in Adelaide in October.

Announcing Dr Thomas' visit, convention chairman, Michael Abbott QC, said Dr Thomas would bring a truly unique perspective to the gathering.

"The Alumni Convention will address the important issues of our time and examine the world-wide contribution of graduates of Australian universities now and into the new millennium.

"Andrew Thomas is one of a very select group whose contribution actually extends beyond our planet," Mr Abbott said.

"For this reason we are very honoured that he has accepted our invitation to speak at the convention. "As Australia's only astronaut and one of our nation's most accomplished engineers, Andrew has made a significant contribution in the areas of aeronautics and space sciences. "He will bring to the convention a view of the world experienced by very few people. And he will combine this with world-leading knowledge in the space sciences and the role of the ongoing, international space exploration effort."

Since graduating from the University of Adelaide in the 1970s, Dr Thomas has gained over 20 years experience with leading US aerospace organisations including Lockheed, Jet Propulsion Laboratory and NASA.

Dr Thomas has twice travelled into space aboard NASA space shuttle missions. The most recent, in January 1998, also involved an extended four month stay aboard the Russian Space Station Mir.

Dr Thomas joins other leading speakers at the convention including Alexander Downer MP, Robert Charpentier de Crepligny, Fr Frank Brennan, Lowitja O'Donoghue, Richard Neville and Professor Grant Sutherland.

The Australian Universities International Alumni Convention will be held in Adelaide from 1-4 October, 1998.

ALUMNI NEWS

IS THE BOOK DEAD?

University Librarian Ray Choate poses the question, "Is the book dead?" in an illustrated talk to be given on Wednesday 5 August at 7.30pm in the Charles Hawker Conference Centre, Waite Campus.

Mr Choate will examine changes in the usage and management of libraries in today's changing information age. As the horizons of our information world expand, will the traditional methods of transmitting and preserving knowledge give way to a new paradigm?

Bookings and enquiries: 8303 4275.

THE MATHS OF ECONOMICS EXAMINED

The Science and Mathematical Sciences Chapter will host a public lecture on Tuesday 4 August at 7.30pm, entitled "Why the misery and suffering from modern economics?"

Retired physicist Mr Dean Dowling will give a personal view and analysis of the mathematical basis for modern economic thinking.

Mr Dowling believes that much modern economic theory is based on faulty mathematical reasoning, and in his lecture he will seek to demonstrate the fallibility of the mathematical basis for free market economics.

The lecture will be held in the Rennie Lecture Theatre in the Johnson Laboratories Building. The lecture is free. Alumni may purchase a $4.00 permit to enable them to park on campus from vending machines at the University gates.

OUR HIDDEN STATE

University of Adelaide staff and alumni are among the many contributors to Our Hidden State.

Recently published by ANZAS with the support of the University of Adelaide Foundation and the Hickinbotham Group, Our Hidden State provides a scientific tour of the State under the guidance of its thirty contributors. Copies are available at the Alumni Office for $15.95.

CAMPUS TOURS: SHARE YOUR UNIVERSITY WITH A FRIEND

Are you expecting visitors from interstate or overseas? Do you have friends looking for an interesting morning's exploration? Are you a member of an organisation looking for something different for its social program?

The Alumni Association offers walking tours of the North Terrace Campus on Monday mornings at 10.30am. The tours last one and a half hours, and the cost is $3 per person. Proceeds go to the Alumni Association's Scholarship Fund. Groups are welcome: please telephone 8303 4275.

The tour includes some strenuous sections, with stairs to be negotiated. Participants are urged to wear comfortable shoes.

AFUW MEETING

The next meeting of the AFUW (SA) Inc will be held on 25 August 1998 at 7.30pm at the Charles Hawker Conference Centre, Waite Campus.

Speakers will be past winners of bursaries from the AFUW (SA) Inc Trust Fund.

Order of Australia for Malaysian alumni

DATO' LEE YEE CHEONG has been made an Honorary Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia.

Dato' Lee graduated BE (Hon) Electrical in 1961. Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer presented the award on 22 July last at a special ceremony held in Kuala Lumpur.

The award recognises Dato' Lee's significant contribution to the development of bilateral relations between Australia and Malaysia.

Minister Downer said that the award was a measure of the importance that Australia placed on the contribution that Dato' Lee had made to the development of relations between the two countries.

The award also highlighted the valuable role that the Malaysia Australia Foundation, of which Dato' Lee is Executive Committee Chairman, plays in building and strengthening student and cultural links between the two nations.

The Alumni Association recognised Dato' Lee in 1996 with a Distinguished Alumni Award.

Distinguished Alumni Awards

Nominations are now invited for the 1998 Distinguished Alumni Awards.

These Awards recognise alumni who have given outstanding service to the University of Adelaide and/or the Alumni Association; have given outstanding service to the community; or as alumni have made an outstanding contribution in their chosen fields.

The Awards are open to any person who satisfies the criteria for Ordinary Membership of the Alumni Association but excluding current office bearers of the Association.

Any member of the alumni body of the University may nominate alumni for Distinguished Alumni Awards and nominations must include:

- a 300/500 word letter of nomination
- a curriculum vitae for the nominee and may include such other letters of recommendation and/or supportive material as is felt necessary.

Further information about the awards is available from the Director, Alumni Relations (Geoff Sauer), telephone 8303 4277, or email: gsauer@registry.adelaide.edu.au.

All out magic in local opera showcase

ON 6 AUGUST this year, Grahame Dudley will finally get to conduct his opera The Snow Queen, as part of the celebrations for the Centenary of the Elder Conservatorium of Music.

The libretto was written by Nick Enright from a story by the Danish author Hans Christian Andersen, and won a commission from the State Opera of South Australia, and the Come Out Youth Arts Festival with funding from the Australia Council, in 1985.

It was the third collaboration between composer Grahame Dudley—a senior lecturer in the Elder Conservatorium—and Nick Enright, who has gone on to become one of Australia’s leading theatre writers (his works include The Venetian Twins, Black Rock and the screenplay for Lorenzo’s Oil).

After its première season in Adelaide, The Snow Queen was recorded by the ABC with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra.

Then the late opera conductor Brian Stacey heard recordings and full seasons followed with Victorian State Opera and Queensland Opera for Expo in Brisbane in 1988.

The Snow Queen was the only Australian music theatre work to enjoy four independent productions in its first three years.

It garnered high praise, being variously described as the finest one-act opera ever written, a masterpiece, a major contribution to Australian opera, and one of the finest works to grace the stage of the Brisbane Concert Hall.

Grahame Dudley admits to having initial reservations about the Hans Christian Andersen story—but they didn’t last long.

“Within about a matter of a month I was absolutely totally taken over by the story and swept away. It’s Andersen’s longest story and a fabulously rich story which throws up all kinds of challenges. It’s one of those eternal tales.”

In The Snow Queen, Gerda is the only child who realises that Kai hasn’t fallen through the ice but has been abducted by the Snow Queen.

Her quest is to find him and free him from his captor and the effects of a shard of mirror that had lodged in her eye. She journeys through various kingdoms, each representing a season, on her mission.

The production is a showcase for local talent. Cast from the Conservatorium Vocal School and the Pro Canto Chamber Choir, it has Cherie Boogart in the title role, with Heidi Hildebrandt as Gerda and Patrick Lim as Kai.

The Elder Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra will play, and the production has been designed by Kendall Deane and Petra Schulenberg, students of the Centre for the Performing Arts (CPA), Drama Department graduate Michael Hill directs.

The Snow Queen opens in Union Hall on 6 August with a matinee performance at 2pm; there are evening performances on 7 and 8 August at 8pm, with another matinee on 8 August at 2pm.

Tickets $15, $12 concession, $8 student at BASS (131246) or at the door.

— Ewart Shaw

30 years bring major changes

AFTER ALMOST 30 years, Mrs Maret Kneebone has bid farewell to the University of Adelaide.

Mrs Kneebone retired last month from her position as manager of Revenue with the university’s Finance Branch.

She began working at the University of Adelaide back in 1954 when she was just a teenager. After spending four years with Student Records she left the university to have a family, then returned in 1974 to work in the Bursar’s Office.

Then the late opera conductor Brian Stacey heard recordings and full seasons followed with Victorian State Opera and Queensland Opera for Expo in Brisbane in 1988.

She began working at the University of Adelaide back in 1954 when she was just a teenager. After spending four years with Student Records she left the university to have a family, then returned in 1974 to work in the Bursar’s Office.

Formerly supervisor of the Mitchell Building’s front office, she has also been involved in the advocacy of student loans for all three of South Australia universities.

Mrs Kneebone said she was taking an early retirement to do some travelling with her husband, who had retired some years ago.

She said she had seen many changes in the time she spent with the university.

“One of the biggest changes of course has been the change in the technology—the introduction of computers and the automation of student records.

“That’s been a major change within the university as it has been everywhere,” Mrs Kneebone said.

“These days there are also many more students, and the number and range of courses available to students has increased dramatically.

“I’ve really enjoyed working for the university, and I’m glad that I’ve always been able to serve this university and help students.

“I hope in my own small way I’ve helped some students achieve their goals,” she said.

— David Ellis

Maret Kneebone has seen many changes in 30 years at Adelaide. Photo: David Ellis

A D E L A D E A N  C L A S S I F I E D

ACCOMMODATION

FLEURIEU PENINSULA SECOND VALLEY: Comfortable holiday house, sleeps 5, 3 minutes walk away from shops, city, to share with furnished house, close to beaches or eastern suburbs. $57/week + bond. Rental from $70/night. Fleurieu Real Estate, 08 8577 3530.

RICHMOND: Fully furnished house, close to shops, 5 min. walk to share with female. Rent: $65 p/w. Ph Stephanie (ah) 8352 1953.

WANTED: Reliable mature couple seeking fully furnished accommodation with car space in Adelaide from August to mid December. Beaches or eastern suburbs preferred but other areas considered. Ph 02 9251 1995.

WAYVILLE: Furnished 4-bdr. house for rent, preferably long term from 25 August 1998, quiet street, swimming pool. Ph Dr Elliot on 08 6721 7419 (ah), $350 p/w.

WEST BEACH: Beachfront townhouse, great views, very quiet; fully furnished, long term, double story, 2 bedrooms and a separate study in bathroom, bonus 2nd toilet and shower, fully laundry facilities, aircon. Fully and beautifully furnished, totally self contained. Rent includes garden maintenance and cleaning. Ph Anne on 08 8377 0396 / 0419 380 503.

FOR SALE

COMPUTERS: Easy to use, Macs warranty fulfilled. From $75. Ph 8322 8827

ELECTRICAL: Colour TV $165; fax machine $200; cordless phone $250. Ph 8371 4392

TENDER: JVC video player Pal/Secam NTSC, TeleRay Data Entry System, Cleveland, IBM compatible computer & Quine Laserprinter, Imperial Typewriter, Laserwriter II Printer, 3 Macplus Computers, Rank Arena Television, 6 wooden chairs, 3 Brother Portable Typewriters, Thermo-fax transparency maker, Gestetner 4270 AMI Duplicator, Plockmatic 10 collator, Ideal Collator B. Inspection ph Chirris or Tina on 35610 and 35699. All tenders in a sealed envelope please, should be sent to Tina Esca, Politics Department by Friday 14 August 1998.

TENDER: Ford Falcon sedan automatic, 1996, white, 28000kms. petrol, aircon, ABS, immobiliser, cruise control, drivers airbag, floor mat, H/L protection, tinted windows, tow pack 1200 kg, VUO 634. Inspection: Thursday, 6 August, 10 am to 12 noon, ph Shirley Bailey on 8303 5660. Tenders in a sealed envelope marked “Tender No: W284” to the Purchasing Manager, Waite Campus by Tuesday, 10 August 1998.

TENDER: Mitsubishi Triton Tray Top Diesel, manual, 1995, 45000 km, mudflaps, tow pack 2300 kg, bull bar, ABS, aircon, cap on 35610 and 35699. All tenders in a sealed envelope marked “Tender No: W286” to the Purchasing Manager, Waite Campus by Wednesday, 12 August 1998.

TENDER: Toyota Landcruiser 75 series, 4WD tray top, diesel, manual, white, 1995, 45000 km, mudflaps, tow pack 2300 kg, bull bar, ABS, aircon, VUB 438. Inspection: Tuesday, 4 August, 2 pm to 4 pm. Ph Lorraine Schmidt on 8303 7680. Tenders in a sealed envelope marked “Tender No: W288” to the Purchasing Manager, Waite Campus by Mon, 10 August 1998.

WANTED

DUMPY LEVEL: Serviceable second-hand Dumpy Level, tripod and staff. Ph Gites on 08 8557 4173.
**Bulletin Board**

**AUGUST 3, 1998**

**The University of Adelaide**

**PAGE 1**

---

**Student Services Reference Panel Open Forums**

There will be a series of open forums on student services from 12pm to 3pm in the Union Cinema. Information on these forums are on the web at <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/student/forum.html>.

All staff and students are invited to attend these meetings and to contribute to the discussion. Each forum will be facilitated, and there will be a framework of issues to be discussed. The full panel will attend each forum.

Because there has been a decision to outsource the Health Service, this will be the first forum and we wish people to participate in the consultation process for the Request for Tender. We encourage you to attend this forum.

3 August: Health and Well-being

Security, medical services, proactive health campaigns, sport, recreation, drug user support, arts and crafts, pastoral care, religious support, support for specific groups such as Indigenous students and international students, and occupational health and safety. Union Cinema (to 2pm).


**COMING EVENTS**

August 3rd – August 14th

**TUESDAY 11 AUGUST**

1.10pm Human Rights Week: Child Labor, by Dr Peter Mayer (Politics). Room 112, Engineering South.

1.00pm ACUE Seminar: The Learning and Teaching Plan by Professor Doug MacEachern (Deputy Vice Chancellor). Room 527, Engineering South.

7.45pm Field Geology Club of SA Lecture: Geology of East Antarctica by Dr Geoff Fraser. Mawson Lecture Theatre.

1.15pm Anthropology Seminar: Investigating children, by Dr Claire Wilson (UniSA). Room 327, Hughes Building.

**WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST**

12 noon UNIMA/IMVS Seminar: Genetic Basis of Epilepsy, by Dr John Muir (WHO). Vero Theatre.

12noon HCCR/IMVS Seminar: Genetic Basis of Epilepsy, by Dr John Muir (WHO). Vero Theatre.

1.45pm Physiology Seminar: Interviewing children, by Dr Claire Wilson (UniSA), Room 327, Hughes Building.

1.00pm Human Rights Week: Child Labor, by Dr Peter Mayer (Politics). Room 112, Engineering South.

1.00pm ACUE Seminar: The Learning and Teaching Plan by Professor Doug MacEachern (Deputy Vice Chancellor). Room 527, Engineering South.

**THURSDAY 13 AUGUST**

1.00pm Psychology Seminar: Autism and Asperger Syndrome: Is a differential diagnosis possible? by Dr Robert Young (Flinders). Hughes Building, Room 527.

1.00pm Human Rights Week: Human Rights and the Internet, by Dr Peter Mayer (Politics). Room 112, Engineering South.

2.30pm Human Rights Week: Human Rights and the Internet, by Dr Peter Mayer (Politics). Room 112, Engineering South.

6pm Centre for European Studies and General Linguistics Lecture: Le Temps, a public lecture in French, by Professor M Chab Series, Professor of French and Writer. Member of the French Academy, Professor at Stanford University and University of NY (Buffalo). Council Room, Hughes Bldg.

7.45pm Field Geology Club of SA Lecture: Geology of East Antarctica by Dr Geoffrey Fraser. Mawson Lecture Theatre.

**FRIDAY 14 AUGUST**


12.45pm Dentistry Seminar: Dental Erosion: Current Concepts, by Dr Mark McAllister, Lecturer. Lect H 1, 6th Flr, Dental Hospital, Frane Rd.

1.10pm Elder Conservatorium of Music Lecture: A Live Performance, by Chopin and Franck. Admission $2.

1.55pm Physiology research series: Astro-physics, by Assoc Prof John Paterson, Dr Roger Clay, Dr Ray Protheroe. Kerr Grant Lecture Theatre.