Vol 5 No 14

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

**AUGUST 12, 1996** 

## Teamwork the key to Open Day success

The first University of Adelaide Open Day for 18 years attracted more than 10,000 visitors who braved rain and wind to pour into the North Terrace campus on Sunday 4 August.

Families and prospective students enjoyed a behindthe-scenes glimpse of University life, including research, teaching and learning facilities, and course and career options.

The Science Trail, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences tent on the Maths Lawns, University museums, Engineering testing facilities and laboratories, and the broad mix of Humanities and Social Sciences activities on the first floor of the Napier Building attracted crowds throughout the day.

Entertainment was equal-

ly popular, including the five hour Elder Hall program presented by Performing Arts, bands from the Centre for Aboriginal Studies in Music (CASM), and a Theatre Guild rehearsal of *The Comedy of Errors*.

Considerable interest was shown in communications technology, including the popular Huxley computer suite, Architecture's use of the Internet in teaching, the World Wide Web, and the use of computers in teaching everything from languages to medicine.

Some came just to enjoy a wander through "their" University; others to see the University's historical, cultural and artistic heritage.

The Bonython Hall Course and Careers Expo, where every faculty and University student services were represented, experienced two busy days — on Open Day (Sunday, 4 August) and the traditional Information Day (Monday, 5 August), when school groups poured through.

Acting Vice-Chancellor Mary O'Kane said the public's enthusiasm for Open Day had demonstrated the importance of strong external links for the University.

"The challenge already being discussed is how to build on this achievement and its benefits for the future," she said.

#### Setting the record straight

In a recent article you published a generous article [Adelaidean, 1 July, p.7] updating readers on the successful overseas concert activities of Jane Peters. In it Jane was described as an Elder Conservatorium graduate "who began her studies with Adelaide teacher Lyndall Hendrickson".

There are those in this city who are grudging in their recognition of the immense contribution Lyndall has made to violin pedagogy in Australia. It is therefore important to ensure impressions are accurate, and to correct errors, especially when, as here, they occur without malice.

Jane graduated from the School of Music of the SA College of Advanced Education some seven years before its merger with the Elder Conservatorium. And Jane not only began her studies with Lyndall but continued with her through the BMus course of the SACAE, up to and beyond her success at the Tchaikovsky Competition in 1986, more than 15 years in all. Studying contemporaneously with Jane at the SACAÉ were Rafaella Acella, Paul Wright and a little later, Imogen Lidgett. All of these successful musicians owe a great debt to Lyndall from study with her in critical formative years. It is perhaps not widely known that the same can also be said of Adele Anthony.

Lyndall Hendrickson's contribution to music education and, more recently, special education through her spectacular work in the field of autism, should be openly celebrated by the society which is fortunate to have her counted as one of its number. A correct record of her activities is an important part of that process.

**Brian Chatterton**Co\*Opera
Macclesfield

#### University governance

The article on Council's reaction to the new university governance Bill currently before State Parliament provided an interesting insight into its collective thought processes (Adelaidean 29/07/96). Any university council with a proper concept of its role and functions which, with a membership of 35 and no time cap on tenure, does not understand that it is already too big to carry them out effectively would seem to have provided the Minister with enough good reasons not to take too much notice of it. A smaller number with better defined duties may also help a greater proportion to see themselves not as representatives of interest groups but as fiduciaries acting in the interest of the whole. Even with the least number proposed, Council would still be considerably larger than seen by Hoare as appropriate to a properly functioning board.

**Harry E Green**Member of the University Senate

#### Scales of wisdom

When I became involved with selection to university about twenty years ago I held similar views to those of the Hon. W. A. N. Wells (Adelaidean 29/7/96, p.2): that scaling was a sinister scientific plot, designed to clobber Arts students. At that time there was some truth in it; but now I am a good deal older and a little bit wiser, and my increase in wisdom has been exceeded by that of the administrators of the scaling system.

As now operated, the system makes no prior assumptions on what subjects are 'hard' or 'easy'. Its purpose is simple, even if its

mathematics are complex; choice of subjects should not be made to get the highest score. On the average, students who do subjects A and B should get about the same scaled mark in both (that is, those who score higher in A than B should be balanced by an equal number who score higher in B than A). This is especially important if A is a key subject for university entry involving long sequential preparation (say, French or Mathematics 2), and B is a subject originally designed especially for students who are not aiming at university (some such subjects will shortly form part of the main entry score for Flinders University and the University of South Australia, though not for most Adelaide degree courses). One may add that the markers of A often tend to mark low while the markers of B may be influenced by new subject enthusiasm and egalitarian aspirations. Unless the scaling system intervenes, there is a massive disincentive to do A, where the competition is fierce and markers eagle-eyed. The moderation procedures of the Senior Secondary Assessment Board are designed to ensure consistency of marking between schools within a given subject; they will not tell us (for example) that a student who gets a raw mark of 12/20 in A would get about 18/20 in B.

As a final note, it is not true that all Science subjects are 'scaled up' or Arts subjects 'scaled down'; Geology is an exception in the Science group, French, German and Latin in the Arts group.

I am afraid this is a very brief account of a complex process, and would welcome enquirers who want more details.

**David Hester**Classics
Acting Chairman, University
Entry Committee



## Police bike patrol lends helping hand to security on campus

The Police Bicycle Patrol will soon become a familiar sight at the University's North Terrace Campus.

The Bicycle Patrol has been encouraged to come onto campus grounds to act as a friendly uniformed presence, complementing the University's 22 security officers.

Formed last year, the Police Bicycle Patrol has been an enormous success throughout the city of Adelaide in terms of crime prevention and response to emergency situations.

Although police have traditionally stayed off campus unless specifically called in by University staff, the Bicycle Patrol has now been urged to include the North Terrace Campus in its usual rounds of the city.

Security Services manager Mr Bob Leaver said he welcomed the Bicycle Patrol to the University.

"We have a close association with the South Australian Police, and having the Bicycle Patrol on campus from time to time is an extension of that cooperation," Mr Leaver said.

"It should reinforce the message to staff, students and visitors to the University that we're doing everything possible to ensure this is a safe and friendly environment for work and study."

Mr Leaver said he viewed the University as a "city within a city", which brought with it the kinds of problems associated with any city.

He said one of the biggest problems was theft, both of private and University property. Last year \$162,000 worth of property was stolen from the campus. But steps were being taken to prevent that recurring, he said.

"Security has aggressively encouraged reporting of crime so that a better overall picture of the problem can be built up," Mr Leaver said.

Security officer Robert Nestler and police officers Amanda Bridge and Mick Pedler speak with a student at the North Terrace Campus. Photo: David Ellis

"We've put in place security awareness training for staff, which this year has been extremely successful in reducing theft, and we have computer-controlled access systems in some areas of the University.

"Now, with the help of the Police Bicycle Patrol, our security officers will be better able to prevent and solve further problems in and around the University grounds," he said.

Adelaide's Police Community Liaison Officer, Senior Constable Paul Friend, said the Bicycle Patrol's presence on campus was a proactive move.

"The Bicycle Patrol will be in close contact with the University's Security Office and will drop by regularly to keep an eye on the campus," he said.

"Simply by being there and by keeping in contact with University staff and students, the Bicycle Patrol will be able to act as a deterrent to crime, while at the same time being on hand if an emergency arises.

"We believe the presence of these uniformed officers will be beneficial to both the University and to our efforts of policing the community of Adelaide," Constable Friend said.

Mr Leaver said all staff and students should make the Police Bicycle Patrol feel welcome on campus.

He also urged University departments that have not yet taken advantage of the free security awareness training to do so.

—David Ellis



## Subject tackles Aboriginal environmental issues

Students who take a closer look at the Aboriginal perspective on environmental issues will have an edge when it comes to getting a job in land management, according to a new lecturer at the University of Adelaide's Department of Environmental Science and Management.

Dr Jocelyn Davies, who was appointed to the department in May, is heading a subject at Roseworthy Campus called "Indigenous Australians and Environmental Management".

The subject, one of the very few of its kind among Australian universities, will be offered to students in 1997 as part of the new Bachelor of Environmental Management degree.

Dr Davies said her subject aimed to provide students with vital information and boost their confidence to prepare them for negotiations with Aboriginal people over environmental

The subject takes into consideration the Mabo High Court ruling in 1992 (which recognised indigenous Australians' claim to land that has special significance to them) and covers many important issues, such as land degradation, protection of Aboriginal heritage sites, native title claims, and mining interests.

"These are the kinds of concerns our students will be confronting in the



Dr Jocelyn Davies. Photo: David Ellis

future," Dr Davies said.

"Whether they'll be working with soils boards, in land use mapping, or as park rangers, interaction with Aboriginal people — as land holders or native title claimants — will become an increasingly large part of their

"Due to the importance of indigenous environmental management skills, students that undertake this subject will have an edge on their rivals when tackling employment opportunities once their course is completed," she said.

Dr Davies, whose position has been

funded through the University's Aboriginal Programs budget, said she hoped to attract more Aboriginal students to Environmental Management through her course.

"We're offering South Australian students something they can't get anywhere else in the State, and the department is building strong links with Aboriginal communities who are very positive about having an association with Roseworthy and our students.

"I'm now working closely with the University's Aboriginal programs unit, Wilto Yerlo, to draw this area of study to the attention of Aboriginal students, because Aboriginal organisations that deal with land planning and natural resource management would prefer to employ Aboriginal people," she said.

"We see this new subject as a drawcard for Aboriginal students, and at the same time our non-Aboriginal students will also benefit enormously from it," she said.

Information about the Bachelor of Environmental Management is available from the Student Information Office: (08) 303 5208 or freecall 1800 061 459. For more information about "Indigenous Australians and Environmental Management" phone Dr Jocelyn Davies: (08) 303 7889.

> –Sylvia Porss —David Ellis

## Beef forum success 'no bull'

Over 200 people from as far away as Kimba and Leigh Creek attended the ninth JS Davies Beef Forum at the Waite Campus, Naracoorte and Jamestown last month to hear the five speakers and examine experimental cattle from Struan.

"We had a good attendance at all three venues, and the speakers were very well received," said organiser Dr Wayne Pitchford, from the Animal Genetics Research Group at the Waite Campus.

The concept of an annual forum was developed in 1987 so that producers, industry personnel and scientists could interact to spawn ideas, disseminate knowledge, and ultimately develop a more efficient and profitable beef industry.

Dr Scott Newman, Manager of the Northern Quantitative Genetics Program for the Meat **Quality Cooperative Research** Centre and Principal Research

Dr Newman spoke on contemporary issues in breed utilisation, particularly focusing on the importance of choosing bulls. He stressed the need to look at performance details and Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) across breeds as well as covering the use of composite synthetic breeds developed from other breeds.

The second keynote speaker was Armidale-based beef consultant Mr Don Nicol, Project Coordinator of the Angus-

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Scientist with CSIRO's Division of Tropical Animal Production, was one of two keynote speakers at this year's forum.

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A highly sophisticated hydraulic model that can simulate the movement of waves in coastal environments is being used as a key planning and research tool for the new Wirrina Cove marina development south of Adelaide.

The \$22.5 million marina is to be built by MBfI Resorts as part of the redevelopment of the Wirrina Cove resort.

MBfI and the SA Tourism Commission have sponsored a research project at the University of Adelaide that investigates the penetration of waves into the proposed marina area.

This research makes use of the Model Wave Basin — a 120 square metre model controlled and monitored by state-of-theart computer systems. It is used in research and consultancy by

#### **GUEST COMMENTARY CONTINUED**

#### **International Students: Values and Attitudes**

The results are set out in the following table, in order of importance.

#### SIX SOCIAL VALUES

#### Asians

- 1. Having an orderly society
- 2. Societal harmony
- 3. The accountability of public officials
- 4. Being open to new ideas
- 5. Freedom of expression
- 6. Respect for authority

#### **Americans**

- 1. Freedom of expression
- 2. Personal freedom
- 3. The rights of the individual
- 4. Open debate
- 5. Thinking for oneself
- 6. The accountability of public officials

The test material was administered to a sample of Australian matriculation students, with the following results:

#### **Australians**

- 1. Freedom of expression
- 2. Personal freedom
- 3. The rights of the individual 4. Decision by majority
- 5. Rights of society
- 6. Resolve conflicting views through open debate

This sample closely follows the American results in Hitchcock's study. The fundamental differences which he found in social values are confirmed in personal values:

#### **FIVE PERSONAL VALUES**

#### **Asians**

- 1. Hard work
- 2. Respect for learning and education
- 3. Honesty
- 4. Self-reliance
- 5. Self-discipline

#### **Americans**

- 1. Self-reliance
- 2. Personal achievement
- 3. Hard work
- 4. Achieving success in life
- 5. Helping others

However, the Australian results are quite different from both of the above:

#### **Australians**

- 1. Honesty and Personal achievement (equal)
- 3. Hard work
- 4. Self-discipline and Achieving success in life (equal)

It is tempting to see in these latter results, which I found in my sample of matriculation students, an engaging series of values which bring together West and East, with values 1, 3 and 5 from the Asian and 2 and 4 from the American list a satisfying amalgamation of strengths which bodes well for our future as Australians and for our place poised geographically in Asia but not culturally part of it.

The sixth most important core value to Asians — fulfilling obligations to others — was stressed by 39% of Asians but only 25% of Australians and 19% of Americans; while 'achieving success in life' was stressed by 59% of Americans and only 30% of Asians. The relative emphasis on 'personal achievement' was similar.

Significant for education is the fact that a massive 69% of Asians emphasised respect for learning, while only 15% of Americans and Australians did so.

It is tempting to speculate whether historical reliance on what might be called 'frontier virtues', shared by many Australians, permits enough breadth and depth, which learning and personal discipline could supply, for coming to terms with the basics, still less the complications of the contemporary world.

To return to Dr Mahathir's address, there are many values, Western and Asian, that he does not defend. He cites excessive materialism and excessive anti-materialism; extremist spiritualism, usually manifested in extremely unspiritual ways; the ethics of fatalism; arrogance; excessive deference to authority; inequality; the repression of women and the weak; and the economic, political, intellectual and social disempowerment of millions.

It is greed, as much as ignorance and poverty, which drives people to disregard not only the well-being of others but "God's living creatures ... [and] the physical environment which man holds only in



#### **Elder Hostels visit to Adelaide**

St Mark's College, North Adelaide, will once again be "home base" for a group of North American visitors travelling with the Elder Hostels scheme later this month.

Organisers would like to hear from readers willing to invite one or two of the Elder Hostels visitors into their homes for a meal on the evening of Wednesday 28 August. The visitors are retired graduates from a range of backgrounds. Home visits have been a highlight of the Elder Hostels trips in past years, enjoyed by visitors and hosts alike

If you would like to be a Home Visit Host, please call Adrienne Eccles at the Alumni Office on 303 3196 before Wednesday 21 August.

#### **Distinguished Alumni Awards**

Nominations are now invited for the 1996 Distinguished Alumni Awards.

Any member of the alumni body of the University of Adelaide may nominate alumni for Distinguished Alumni Awards

Further details from the Executive Secretary of the Alumni Association, Mr Geoff Sauer, on telephone (08) or 61 8 303 4277, fax (08) or 61 8 303 5808 or by email: gsauer@registry.adelaide. edu.au

Nominations close 31 August 1996.

#### **Early Graduates Afternoon Tea**

A special invitation is extended to alumni who graduated more than 50 years ago. Families and friends welcome. Saturday 31 August in the Equinox Bistro at 3.00pm. Bookings with the Alumni Office on 303 4275. \$7.50 per person.

#### 1946 Golden Jubilee Commemoration

The 1946 Golden Jubilee Commemoration will be held on Thursday 24 October at 6.00pm in the Bonython Hall

The occasional address will be given by Dr Jim Bonnin (MBBS 46 MD 55). A reunion dinner follows in the Union afterwards. Details from Adrienne Eccles on 303 3196.

## Research help sought

I am a joint honours student in History and Women's Studies.

For my thesis I am looking at the women who were involved with teaching or research at the University of Adelaide, from its beginning until the 1950s. Initially I am trying to compile a list of who they were and when they worked at the University.

I would be interested to hear from or receive written comments from anyone who can assist me with research on these women.

My address is c/o Dr Margaret Allen, Women's Studies, University of Adelaide.

Amelia Kay

# Afternoon with Janis and Cello

Join the Cornell Chapter in the Hartley Concert Room on Sunday 18 August from 2.30 to 5.00pm, for "An Afternoon with Janis and his Cello".

Cellist Janis Laurs will talk about the changes in his musical life following his retirement from the Australian String Quartet and his return to more solo work.

With pianist Lucinda Collins he will play the Sonata in F for cello and piano op.6 by Richard Strauss, and may also give musical demonstrations arising from discussions. He has agreed to answer questions about his distinguished and varied musical career, as well as give insights into the life of a touring musician.

Drinks will be provided, and those attending should bring a small plate of finger food. There is no charge for admission, but notice of intention to attend should be given to the Alumni Office on 303 4275

—Elizabeth Silsbury Trustee: Performing Arts

Pictured right: Janis Laurs in the foyer of the Mitchell Building. Photographer: Colin Hentschke



## Kate wins Olympic Gold in rowing

Congratulations to 24-year-old Kate Slatter from the University of Adelaide's Boat Club, following her gold medal rowing performance at

Three Adelaide University Law graduates are among winners of 1996 Fulbright awards and scholarships which were announced recently.

They are Nicholas Shaw, who won a Fulbright Postgraduate Student Award, Darryl Cronin, awarded an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People Award, and Andrew Graham, the 1996 Coral Sea Scholarship winner.

Mr Shaw (BA Jur 1992, LLB Hons 1994) is presently an Associate in the office of the Chief Justice of South Australia. He will be studying Constitutional Law for his Master of Laws degree at Columbia University, New York.

Mr Cronin (LLB 1989), who is currently working as a Research Assistant with the North Australia Research Unit,

ANU, in Darwin, is currently visiting the United States to confirm which institution he will attend.

He plans to study Indigenous Self-Determination in the US, looking at self-government structures, the contracting of programs and services by Tribal Governments, the powers of Tribal Governments to control and manage tribal lands and resources, and the powers to govern effectively on behalf of Tribal members.

The Coral Sea Scholarship winner Andrew Graham (LLB 1991, BA 1992), from Techsearch Business Services at the University of South Australia, will spend his time in the United States investigating, assessing and developing for application in Australia, practices and strategies which facilitate the transfer of technology from universities to industry.

ADELAIDE: SE Corner - Person wanted to share Ige townhouse with one other. \$82.50 pw. Ph 223 3396.

ALDINGA BEACH: Cosy, relaxing, self catering, 2 br holiday unit on seafront. \$70 per night (min 2 nights), \$450 pw. Ph 211 7500.

**ASCOT PARK:** Granny flat, close to transport. \$70 pw. Ph 374 1658.

CAMBRIDGE: UK couple wish to swap 3 br house, garden, in attractive village 12km from city for house in Adelaide, preferably Blackwood/Eden Hills area, from approx Dec 96 - March 97 (or part). Non smokers. Children negotiable. Reciprocal use of car if desired. Ph 370 3764.

CRAFERS WEST: 2 br, self contained granny flat with sep access. Quiet, neat, country views, on .5 acre, fully furn or otherwise. 30 min drive to city, 10 mins to bus. \$120 pw. Ph Dana 208 1714 (8am-6pm) or 041 461 1263.

**GLENELG:** Non-smoker wanted to share beachfront apartment. Spac, 2 br, fully furn, close to trans. \$80 pw + exp. Ph 303 5431.

HENLEY BEACH SOUTH: 2 br unit in small group. Immac cond, fully carpeted, ceiling fans, newly painted,

Ige rooms, car park next to unit, first time let. Steps to beach, shops & bus. \$100 pw. Ph Claudia 373 1151.

HIGHBURY: 4 br absolute luxury home, avail fully furn. Offers entertaining and living rooms on a grand scale. Master br features w-in robe and ensuite bathroom. Luxury, all white kitchen. Formal lounge and dining rm. Dble garage, auto sprinkler system, security system. \$400 pw. Ph Heather Semmens 015 719 700.

HIGHGATE: Fully furn, 1 br flat avail for 10 weeks from 30 Aug - 10 Nov. Walking distance to Waite. \$65 pw (incl elec). Ph Li 303 7331.

HOUSESITTER: Mature,