

Success maintained in latest grants round

The University of Adelaide has topped the nation in funding per staff member in the latest round of Australian Research Council Large Grants.

The University was sixth in dollar terms but was the clear national leader for earnings per academic staff, attracting a total of \$2.28 million for 37 new grants for next year.

The University also attracted a prestigious Special Investigator Award, jointly awarded to Professor Robert Saint and Dr Helena Richardson in the Department of Genetics.

The total value of the Large Grants over the next three years to the University of Adelaide is \$6.5 million. The University was awarded 37 out of 58 Large Grants made to South Australia.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mary O'Kane, who is also the Chair of the ARC's Research Grants Committee, said she was pleased with the quality of grant applications nationally.

She was particularly pleased to note that the new arrangements in having partner chief investigators from overseas and agencies (such as CSIRO) had worked well.

She said that in South Australia there were several examples of chief investigators (the principle holder of the grant) having arrangements with researchers overseas and in other agencies.

"I am delighted with the University of Adelaide's performance, and I am also pleased with the performance of the other two universities in South Australia," she said.

"Research grants such as these are an important driver of knowledge-based industries in this State."

Professor Saint and Dr Richardson were given the Special Investigator Award, worth \$680,000 over three years, for their groundbreaking work on how genes function and control cell proliferation during animal develop-

ment. (A more detailed account of their work will be published in the next edition of the *Adelaidean*.)

Large Grant winners were across all Divisions and included such diverse topics as:

- Avoiding manganese stress in barley: Molecular genetics to probe manganese efficiency (Professor Robin Graham and Dr Susan Barker, Department of Plant Science)
- Tampering with the biological clock: The impact of perinatal drug administration (Dr David Kennaway, Obstetrics and Gynaecology)
- Australian forest policy: Conflicts, politics and illusive resolutions (Professor Doug McEachern, Department of Politics)
- Luminescence dating on a million year time scale (Emeritus Professor John Prescott and Dr Gillian Robertson (Physics and Mathematical Physics) and Professor D.J. Huntley (Simon Fraser University).

In other research news, the University was awarded just over \$2.5 million worth of grants and fellowships for 1997 from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), slightly up on last year.

University researchers were awarded 23 grants from the NHMRC for projects and equipment.

The University of Adelaide also won seven ARC Fellowships for 1997, worth nearly half a million dollars. The new Fellowships were awarded to researchers in the faculties of Science, Art, Mathematics and Computer Science, and Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences.

The University was awarded seven Australian Postgraduate Award (Industry) scholarships.

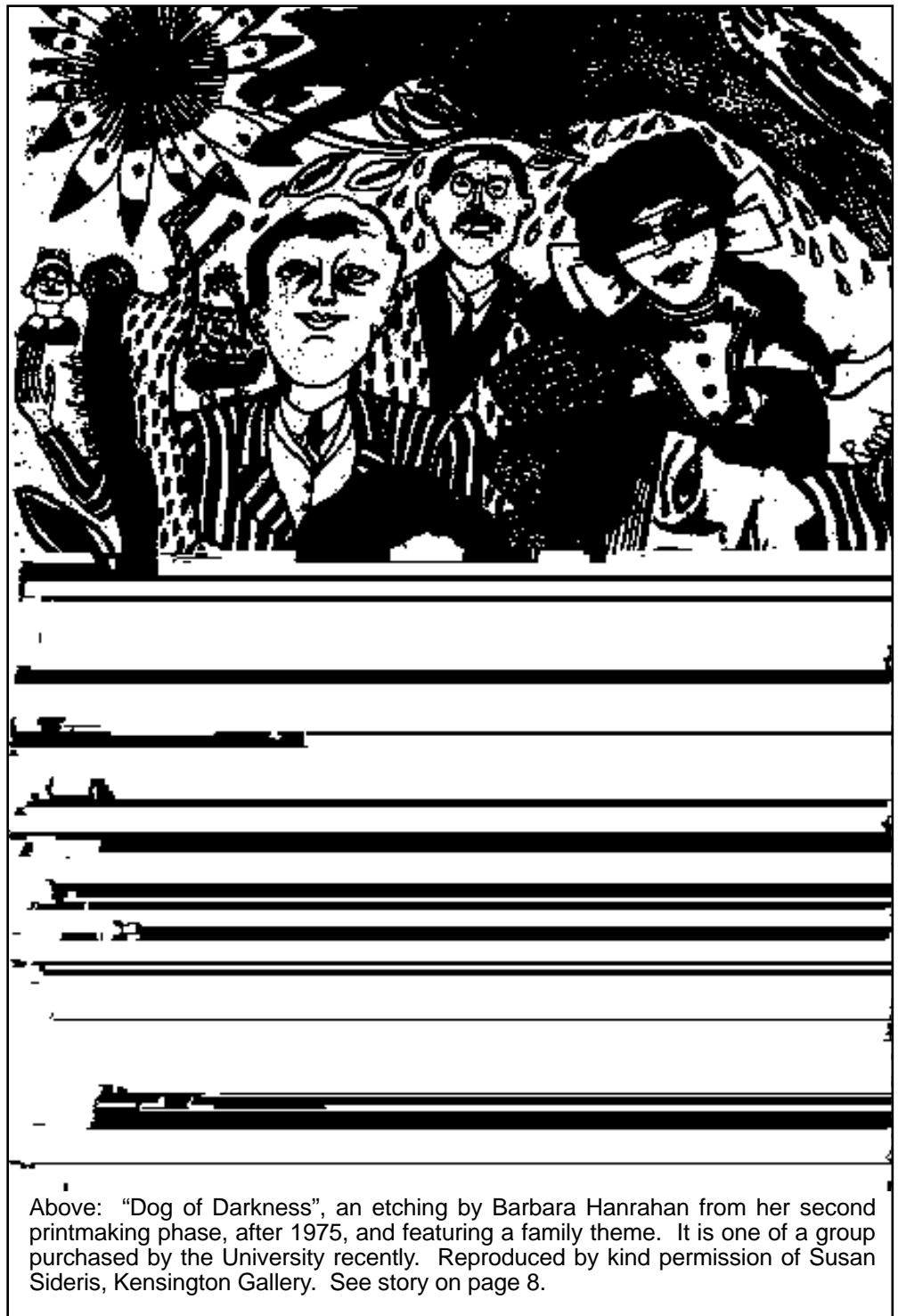
A full list of grant and fellowship recipients will be published in the 2 December issue of the *Adelaidean*.

—David Washington

'Theory of Everything': \$3.6m Adelaide centre to probe ultimate goal

Some of the world's best physicists will be attracted to the University of Adelaide after the University was last week awarded a Special Research Centre in the Subatomic Structure of Matter.

The Centre's Director and Elder Professor of Physics, Professor Tony Thomas, said a world-class research



Above: "Dog of Darkness", an etching by Barbara Hanrahan from her second printmaking phase, after 1975, and featuring a family theme. It is one of a group purchased by the University recently. Reproduced by kind permission of Susan Sideris, Kensington Gallery. See story on page 8.



New Division Heads appointed

The University of Adelaide has appointed two new Division Heads to lead its education and research into the next century.

Professor Judith Brine has been appointed head of PALACE (the

The News IN BRIEF

ARTS APPOINTMENTS

Dr Anita Donaldson, Dean of Performing Arts, has been appointed as a Trustee of the Adelaide Festival Centre Trust. This is a statutory appointment, and Dr Donaldson is the sole Trustee to come from the academic arena.

"I'm delighted to have been appointed to what is probably the 'blue ribbon' arts board in the state," Dr Donaldson said. "I'm looking forward to putting my skills and knowledge to work in the many areas of responsibility undertaken by the Trust — including the Festival Centre's carparks and restaurants! — and at the same time learning about all the ins and outs of this key organization."

Dr Donaldson has also been appointed to the Advisory Board of the QUT (Queensland University of Technology) Academy of the Arts as an external academic member.

MAKING NEW CONNECTIONS

The Premier, Mr Dean Brown, will open the thirteenth annual conference of the Australian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education (ASCILITE) in Adelaide on Monday 2 December.

Held at the University of South Australia's city campus, the three-day conference focuses on the use of information technology to make new connections, socially, internationally and professionally.

The four keynote speakers, who bring a wealth of experience in the field, are Dr Lynn Zelmer from Australia, Dr Carol MacKnight from the United States, Professor Stephen Brown from the UK, and Dr Frank Voon from Singapore.

The 1996 ASCILITE awards for exemplary use of electronic technologies in teaching and learning in tertiary education will be presented at the conference dinner.

The ASCILITE website can be accessed at: <http://www.netspot.unisa.edu.au/ascilite96/>

CHEMECA 96 AWARDS

University of Adelaide Chemical Engineering staff featured among the winners of nine awards presented at this year's recent Chemeca 96 annual conference for chemical engineers in Sydney.

The Shedden Uhde Medal and Prize for the country's leading young (under 40) chemical engineer went to senior lecturer Dr Anton Middelberg for his achievement in applying and developing chemical engineering principles to the practical aspects of biological production and for his substantial professional contributions.

Dr Middelberg also shared in the John Brodie Medal (IE Aust), which is awarded to the author or authors of a published paper on a chemical engineering-related topic with an immediate application to the science, art and practice of the discipline.

Dr Middelberg shared the award with senior lecturer and Head of Chemical Engineering, Dr Brian O'Neill, and lecturer and PhD candidate Christopher Colby.

Their paper described the scale-up of a bioprocessing plant to produce wheat growth factor extract, a product containing biologically active molecules normally wasted in cheese whey but with potential applications in wound repair and cancer therapy.

Laptops to be routine for Mech Eng students

Computers are no longer an optional extra for today's university students; in many disciplines, such as engineering, they are an essential part of the infrastructure of learning. Departments now routinely provide expensive computer suites for their students, and a majority of students purchase computers for home use. But how do you ensure that the software on home computers is compatible with packages used on campus? And what about equity in the case of students who simply can't afford a home computer?

The University of Adelaide's Department of Mechanical Engineering has taken a lateral approach to these questions with a pilot scheme which it hopes will eventually provide each student in the Department with his or her own laptop computer — to use on campus, in the field, and at home.

The scheme (approved by Senior Management last month) involves the Department organising a bulk purchase of laptop computers, and acting as guarantor for a student rent-to-own arrangement. Students will be able to obtain a laptop by two means — direct purchase (at a significant saving because of the bulk order), or through the rent-to-own scheme.

The Department has also negotiated an arrangement whereby one laptop will be donated by the vendor for

every ten units sold through the scheme. These computers will then form a loan pool — rather like a reserve book collection in a library — which will be made available to those students who cannot afford the direct purchase or the rent/purchase options.

Toshiba, which has already been involved in similar schemes in some South Australian secondary schools, has been chosen to provide the laptops through Lodin Pty Ltd, its educational seller in SA, who will also arrange training for students.

The base unit is a Pentium-based IBM-Compatible with 16 Mb of RAM, 800 Mb of hard disk, a passive colour monitor, a PCMCIA Ethernet card, and a suite of common software.

The upfront cost of this package will be approximately \$3000, and each unit comes with an insurance package and extended warranty cover. Upgrades such as additional RAM, an active colour display and accessories will be possible.

Under the rent to own scheme, the Department will enter into a fixed-term rental arrangement with an external funding company, Equico, and then on-rent the computers to the students. Equico will administer the scheme and collect student payments — expected to be around \$100 monthly (including insurance and warranty) based on a 36 month loan period. At the end of the rental period, the lap-

tops will be offered to the students for a nominal fee.

Students can enter the scheme in the second semester of their first year, after they have had time to be sure Mechanical Engineering is their career. The Department expects 50 to be the upper limit entering the rental/purchase scheme each year, and has been given permission to underwrite the scheme for the cohort entering second year in 1997. To maximise the initial bulk order — now being set up for the start of 1997 teaching — all engineering staff and students can participate in the direct purchase arrangement. However, the departmental financing option is available only to Mechanical Engineering students.

Mechanical Engineering's Dr Scott Snyder said that with 75% of the Department's students purchasing or having access to a home computer by the time they finished their degree, there was considerable inequity in the system in respect of the one in four who could not.

"With this scheme, we can offer better value for money to those making an up-front purchase, better financing for those who can afford the rental option, while the donated computers ensure we can help those who absolutely can't afford either," he said.

With students having their own laptops, there would be less pressure on

the Faculty's existing computer suites, and this would also benefit students without their own computer, Dr Snyder said.

"Basically, we're trying to improve the quality of education for all students by optimising the existing practice of home purchase by the majority."

With their suite of common software, the laptops can be used in a variety of situations without needing to plug into the University network. However, the Department will also spend around \$30,000 to provide appropriate campus infrastructure for network access — fitting a large room on the third floor of the Engineering building with bench space and chairs, Ethernet connections and power for 50 laptops, printing facilities, a desktop computer with scanner and CD-ROM drive.

It will also install lockers where students can store their laptops when not in use, and a video surveillance system.

Dr Snyder expects Mechanical Engineering's initiative — which is a pilot for the Faculty of Engineering and a first for a major University — to

Challenging study of Affirmative Action

A new book on the often vexed issue of affirmative action will be launched at the University of Adelaide this week.

The Politics of Affirmative Action: 'Women', Equality and Category Politics is by Associate Professor Carol Bacchi from the Politics Department. It has been described as a "goldmine of insights" and a "major contribution to an

A new scholarship to honour the centenary of the birth of Sir Thomas Playford could lead to the King George Whiting, South Australia's most popular fish, once again becoming common in our gulf waters — and the University of Adelaide's Zoology Department will be playing a key part.

The Department will be the

home of the inaugural recipient of the Playford Memorial Trust Scholarship in Aquaculture. Departmental staff, along with the SARDI Aquatic Sciences Centre at West Beach, will co-supervise a PhD research project to understand the production of King George Whiting fingerlings (baby fish) in properly managed marine larval fish ponds.

The research will focus on finding ways of feeding whiting from birth to the fingerling stage when they are mature enough to find their own food in the wild, or be fed by fish farmers.

The longer term aim is to allow aquaculture and stock enhancement of King George Whiting.

A successful program to restock South Australian waters with King George Whiting will have flow-on benefits for other scale fish — both for aquaculture and for fishing in the wild — as well as positive effects on a whole range of tourism, recreation, hospitality and commercial activities.

The major sponsor of the new aquaculture scholarship is the Australian Hotels Association. Representatives of the AHA and other major donors were thanked for their support by the Premier, Mr Dean Brown, and the Trustees at a reception in the State Administration Centre on Thursday 7 November.

The Playford Memorial Trust is an independent body which was established in 1983 to promote research into primary, secondary and tertiary industries in South Australia. It is chaired by the Hon. Jennifer Cashmore.

—John Edge

Thai academics in 'shadow' visit

Making the Freiburg Connection

The photographs, objects and documents collected by Australian explorer and scientist Sir Douglas Mawson are to have a new home at the University of Adelaide.

On Sunday, 24 November, the Coach House at the University's Waite Campus will be officially opened as the home of the Mawson Collection.

This is an important step for the joint project between the University and the South Australian Museum to house, care for and exhibit the prized collection, which was donated to the University by the Mawson family.

The Coach House was built by Peter Waite in the early 1880s and is the oldest building in the Urrbrae House Historic Precinct. Heritage architects Woodhead Firth Lee have renovated and refitted the Coach House for its new purpose.

An archive, research room and storage and display areas will be housed within the building, as well as an innovative gallery which includes an audio visual presentation featuring images of the Antarctic by Mawson's photographer, Frank Hurley.

The gallery was designed by talented young designer Sandra Rodda, made possible by a grant from the Australian Antarctic Foundation.

The Coach House will be officially opened by the Deputy Premier and Treasurer of South Australia, Mr Stephen Baker, on Sunday, 24 November at 10.30am.

—David Ellis

Short-term exchange programs can bring many long-term benefits — something Judith Wilson, the acting head of German Studies, knows from personal experience.

In 1974 and 1975 she studied at the University of Freiburg, in the south of Germany, on a German Academic Exchange Scholarship, and the Freiburg connection has remained ever since.

This year her department was instrumental in bringing about a university-wide exchange agreement, which the University of Adelaide has signed with Freiburg.

Two of Adelaide's German Studies students have already taken advantage of that agreement, with second-year student Ms Jane Williams being awarded a scholarship by the Department of German Studies, and third-year student Ms Patricia Brooks one of two scholarships on offer from Freiburg University (the second scholarship will be available for study in Freiburg in the first semester of 1997).

Ms Brooks, who left Adelaide last month to spend one semester at Freiburg, said the exchange program was a major opportunity.

"A friend of mine went on an exchange to Japan, which motivated me to do something similar," she said.

"The only way to really learn the language is by going to the country where they speak it all the time, and I think this is the best way to do it — to study in Germany and count what I do towards my degree."

As well as the exchange programs offered to Adelaide students, this semester two visitors from Freiburg have been working in Adelaide's Department of German Studies.

Ms Michaela Krug, a PhD student at Freiburg, has been working there as a tutor.

Known as a "Praktikantin", Ms Krug is the first postgraduate student



German Studies student Patricia Brooks — taking advantage of closer ties with Freiburg University. Photo: David Ellis.

to come to Adelaide to participate in a new practical program for German students who are studying either German as a Foreign Language or Intercultural German Studies.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for German students to gain some teaching experience and see what German Studies involves in Australia," Ms Krug said.

"For the department it's an excellent way of promoting further exchange and ensuring the vitality of its link with Germany."

Freiburg's Professor Rolf Renner was also here for six weeks this semester as a Distinguished Visiting Scholar. He contributed to the recently formed Centre for European Studies' interdisciplinary program,

with a seminar on the theory, art and literature of post modernism.

Professor Renner said he was positive about the future of the exchange scheme.

"What I am hoping is that we can extend the exchange with Adelaide and establish some closer links in teaching and research.

"There has been some discussion in Germany about a State link between the universities of Baden-Württemberg and the three South Australian universities.

"This would increase the exchange options for students and create new possibilities for collaborative research," Professor Fenner said.

Although initiated by the Department of German Studies, the exchange with Freiburg was successfully negotiated due to widespread university support both in Adelaide and Freiburg.

Some of the Adelaide-Freiburg connections which already exist include such diverse areas as Linguistics and History, Music and Musicology, Agricultural Science and Biology.

There are currently three students from Freiburg in Adelaide as part of the exchange scheme — studying Politics, English and Biology.

Ms Wilson said she hoped the ties between Adelaide and Freiburg would continue to strengthen.

"I'd like to see other Faculties of this University encourage their students to study a foreign language.

"This would put them in a position to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by universities such as Freiburg.

"I really do believe that the long-term benefits of such exchange programs — to staff, students and the community — are too important to ignore," Judith Wilson said.

—David Ellis

'Theory of Everything': \$3.6m Adelaide centre to probe ultimate goal

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"It's a very exciting development for the University of Adelaide, with significant benefits for the State and the nation," she said.

As well as focusing the research efforts of Australian and international scientists working in subatomic physics, the centre will:

- provide an outstanding environment for postgraduate and postdoctoral training within international research teams;
- provide a flow of public information and education through public lectures and media appearances; and
- act as a source of inspiration to young peo-

Alumni **IN BRIEF**

ASQ Concert: special alumni offer

The last Australian String Quartet Subscription Concert for 1996 will be held in Elder Hall on 28 November at 8.00pm. The ASQ is offering Alumni Association members a discounted ticket price for this concert only: \$23.00 is a saving of \$5.00 off the regular price. The ticket price for concession card holders is \$18.00.

You can book at any BASS outlet. To take advantage of this offer your Alumni membership card must be presented when booking. There is a limit of two discounted tickets per membership card. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

The program will be:

Alfred Hill: String Quartet No 1
(Maori Quartet)

Alfred Schnittke: Piano Quintet with
guest Lucinda Collins

Ludwig van Beethoven: String
Quartet Op 59 No 1 (Razumovsky)

NB: This concert is NOT part of the Elder Hall Concert Series.

da Vinci Chapter night at the theatre

The Leonardo da Vinci Chapter has organised a group booking for members and friends to see *The Venetian Twins*, based on the play by Carlo Goldoni, at the Playhouse, 13 December at 8:00pm.

Tickets are available at \$28.00 (normally \$36.00) from the following members of the Committee: Bice 8269 6464; Maria 8269 4765; Francesca 8235 1105; Romano 8356 2756.

For the best seats, please book early and no later than Monday 9 December. Student and concession card holders should book directly with the theatre.

After the play, the Chapter has planned a visit to the newly opened Jimmy Watson Wine Bar, 192 Pirie Street, where Vincenzo Andreacchio and his ensemble will be performing.

Mutual Community

The special offer made by Mutual Community to alumni of the University earlier in the year has now been extended to members of the staff. A special mailing has been undertaken recently and if further information is required please contact Geoff Sauer at the Alumni Office.

Please note that no names and addresses have been provided to Mutual Community for this mailing nor will

ADELAIDE CITY: SE Cnr - Furn apartment in quiet garden setting. Suit single person, walk to Uni. \$95 pw (incl elec & phone). Avail now. Ph 8223 2707.

BLAIR ATHOL: One br, upstairs flat. Close to transport & shops. Cat ok. \$65 pw + 4 wks bond. Contact Susie or Kyla on 8269 2252 or 015 797 269.

BUNGALOW STYLE HOUSE: 2-3 br, opt fully furn/equipped, 5 mins walk to Mitcham station, suit visiting academic & family, avail Feb-Jul. Approx \$230 pw. Ph 8201 3221, 8201 3522 or email: christine.steele@flinders.edu.au.

CLARENCE PARK: 2 br unit. Close to transport & shops. Newly carpeted, freshly painted, unfurn, ground level. Off street car parking avail. \$90 pw + bond. Ph Chris 8277 9939.

EVANDALE/ST PETERS: Share unit. Close to transport & shops. Prefer female, (consider either). Non smoker. Unfurn small rm on main road (Payneham Rd). Unit set back off road. Quiet. \$50 pw + bond (neg) + 2 wks rent. Ph Martha 8363 1698.

GLEN OSMOND: 3 br, fully furn house. Close to good schools, walking distance to Waite campus. 2 bus routes to city & near circle line route. No pets. Assistance given with gardening. Avail Feb '97. \$200 pw + bond. Ph (08) 8379 4869.

GOODWOOD: Share house, 2rms avail, fully furn. Reliable responsible student, prefer female, well conversed in english, non smoker. \$60 pw + elect, bond. Ph Kay Miller 8271 8666.

GRANNY FLAT: Fully furn, garden outlook. Near bus route. Avail early Dec. Ph Mary Ann 8302 6354 or John 8379 2715.

HAZELWOOD PARK: Fully furn 2 br house on bus

route. Lge garden. Avail after Christmas. Ph Mary Ann 8302 6354 or John 8379 2715.

HENLEY BEACH: Beachfront unit for rent. Lge living area with wonderful views. 2 br, 2nd br small. Flexible lease from 3 mths to 12 mths, rent varies accordingly. Ph Sandy 8212 7226 (w) or 8352 3450 (h).

HIGHGATE: Student wanted to share unit, own bedroom/study room, share other facilities. 5 mins to bus stop, route passes Adel Uni (North Terrace), 15 mins to Waite campus. Ph 8210 0435.

KENSINGTON PARK: 1 br fully furn & equipped flat, avail for short term lease. Neg rates. Ph Ward 8431 1120.

MALVERN: 3-4 br fully furn residence. Avail 16 Dec 96 - 13 Jan 97. \$300 pw. Ph (08) 8271 2195.

MALVERN: Unley area. Large Federation stone house, fully furn & equipped, avail from mid December. Quiet, comfortable, secure. On bus route to North Terrace & Waite Campus. Ph 8333 2510.

NORWOOD: 3 br house, fully furn, equipped with crockery, cutlery, etc. Between The Parade & Kensington Rd. Close to shops, schools. 2 bus routes to North Tce. Avail mid Jan to mid Jul 97. Contact (after Fri 15 Nov) K Baines, Mechanical Eng. Ph 8303 5946 (B); 8364 2114 (H); email kbaines@aelmg.adelaide.edu.au.

PARKSIDE: 2 br flat to share. Close to transport & shops. One room 9x14 ft. Washing mach, fridge & some other gear provided. On ground floor. Pets are cool. \$50/55 pw. Bond neg. Ph Grant 8373 5481.

PROSPECT: Share house, with 2 males. Close to transport and shops. Fully furnished house. Halal restau-

rant very close by. 5 minutes bus trip to the city. \$60 pw. Ph Tahir 8344 4292 (ah) or 8342 1222 (wk).

SOMERTON PARK: 4 br house, b-i-r, r/c air cond, s/pool, c/port, garage, close to beach. Suit family. Long or short term. Avail 1 Dec. \$300 pw (furn) + \$800 bond. Ph 8377 1064 or 8376 1563.

THEBARTON: Huge 1 br apartment, only \$80 pw. Partially furn living rm & br, spacious kitchen with stove & fridge; bathroom with shower & tub. 10-15 min bus or bike ride to Uni along river. Avail 28 Nov. Call 8303 3712 or 8346 4089.