

## Doctorate heralds new Nursing era

Senior nurses from around Australia and overseas are being drawn to the University of Adelaide to undertake its new professional doctorate — the Doctor of Nursing.

The DNurs, being offered this year by the Department of Clinical Nursing, is the first of its kind for South Australia and one of only three nationwide. It is also the University of Adelaide's first-ever professional doctorate.

A professional doctorate is equivalent to a PhD but is designed to have a larger coursework component and a strong emphasis on workplace-related research. This makes it ideal for professionals, such as senior nurses, who wish to expand their level of knowledge and training and apply that to the workplace.

"There are many nurses in senior positions who want to become more involved in decision taking, policy making and leadership in the healthcare area," said course coordinator Dr Sally Borbasi.

"They may not want to do a formal PhD, which gears you up for a career in academia and doesn't really develop the skills needed in the workplace.

"Traditionally when you do a PhD you're very knowledgeable about the one particular area that you've researched. But the professional doctorate is designed to provide nurses with a wider base of knowledge and skills, which can then be used in their place of work," she said.

Dr Borbasi said there was a rising need in the healthcare industry for senior nurses to undertake a professional doctorate.

"There's a feeling that, especially in areas such as nursing, which is undergoing rapid change, students who undertake the traditional PhD are not adequately prepared to adapt to a very complex workplace. They don't have the necessary leadership and creative problem-solving skills that are deemed appropriate.

"The world has changed, and there is now a need for people who are educated at this level with this focus on the realities of practice," she said. "Additionally, this course will assist in further strengthening the relationship between professional practice and higher education."

Dr Borbasi, herself a former PhD student, said it was important to provide nurses with a choice of either a PhD or a pro-



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## *The News* **IN BRIEF**

### ENGINEERING AWARDS

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mary O'Kane, and the Head of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, Professor John Agnew, have been made Honorary Fellows of the Institution of Engineers, Australia.

The award recognises conspicuous service to engineering and is the highest membership grade the Institution bestows.

Professor Agnew has also recently been invited to be a member of the Advisory Committee of the UNESCO-supported International Centre for Engineering Education.

### TEACHING BODY APPOINTMENT

Associate Professor Caryl Cresswell from Mechanical Engineering has been appointed to the Federal Government's new Committee for University Teaching and Staff Development (CUTSD).

Dr Cresswell was previously a member of the Committee for the Advancement of University Teaching, which has been replaced by the new body.

The purpose of CUTSD is to improve teaching and administration in universities, and advise the Government on policy, grant allocations and best practice.

### TEACHING GRANTS

## SIDS, drugs and the biological clock

University of Adelaide researchers are exploring the effects of drugs commonly used by pregnant women on the development of the biological clock.

A malfunctioning biological clock may be a factor in Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), because of the clock's key role in regulating sleep, temperature and hormonal rhythms.

Current theories about the causes of SIDS include disturbances to the baby's sleep organisation and temperature control — factors under the control of the biological clock.

Dr David Kennaway, in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, has won an Australian Research Council Large Grant to study the functional effects of three drugs administered during pregnancy on the biological clocks of animals.

Two of the drugs — nicotine and caffeine — are used by many pregnant and breast-feeding women but both have been implicated in adverse changes in the developing foetus. The third drug to be studied by Dr Kennaway is cocaine, which is a major problem in pregnancy in the United States.

Dr Kennaway's major research interest is Circadian Rhythms — those biological rhythms which recur on a roughly 24-hour basis. The rhythms include sleeping patterns, hormonal release and temperature cycles.

"The timing of your sleep isn't just dependent on whether you're tired or not: there is a drive from your brain which tells you when to sleep," Dr Kennaway said.

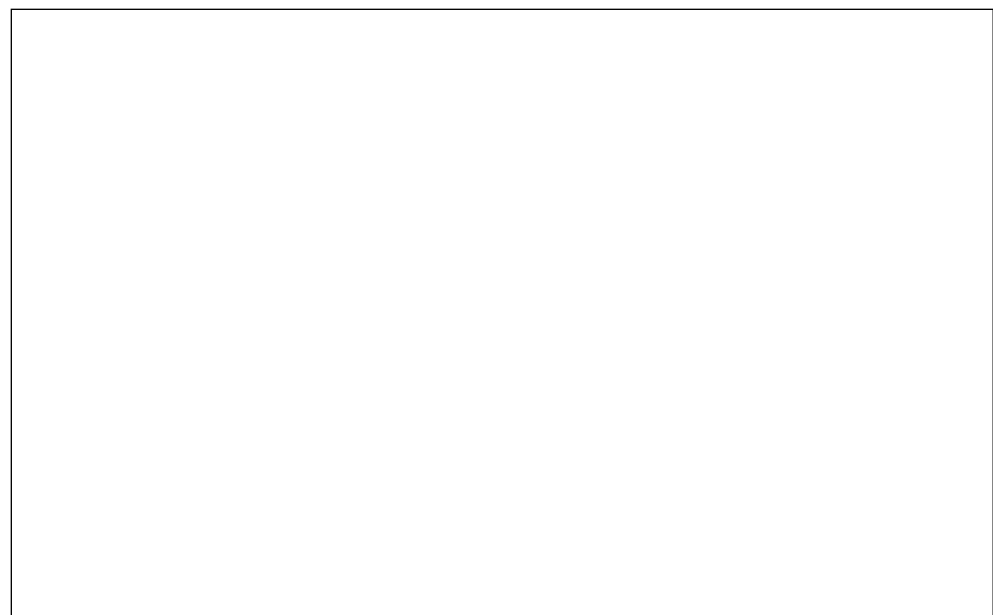
In a previous study, Dr Kennaway found that premature babies had a

delayed development of biological rhythms, which usually develop at nine to 12 weeks of age.

Two University of Adelaide scientists have stunned the science world with the discovery that some plants, like animals, can warm and regulate their body's temperature — at least for a while.

The two researchers found that sacred lotus plants growing in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens warmed their blooms during flowering, then kept them at a steady temperature for several days.

Zoology Associate Professor Roger Seymour and his postdoctoral assistant Paul Schultze-Motel made the front cover of one of the world's most prestigious science journals, *Nature*,



## Oil industry scholars 'strike it rich'

Ten students from as far afield as the Ukraine have been awarded almost \$40,000 in industry-funded scholarships, enabling them to study Honours at the National Centre for Petroleum Geology and Geophysics (NCPGG) at the University of Adelaide.

The National Centre is involved in exciting new developments in oil and gas exploration in South Australia and has an international reputation for educational excellence in petroleum geology and geophysics.

Students at the Centre come from around the world, including Canada, the United States, China, Germany, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Malaysia, Malta, Pakistan, and the United Kingdom.

Established in 1985 as a Key Centre for petroleum research, the NCPGG is a joint venture between the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia and is based at the University of Adelaide's Thebarton Campus.

Since 1991 the Centre has been a partner in the Australian Petroleum Cooperative Research Centre, working closely with industry and other research interests for the scientific and economic benefit of the nation.

"Working with the petroleum exploration industry on research tasks throughout Australia, the NCPGG is an important regional and national asset," said the Centre's Acting Director, Professor Cedric Griffiths, "attracting interstate and international students and developing the expertise to secure the future supply of vital national and global resources.

"We're pleased to report that our graduates have a 96% employment success rate thanks to the strong links we've developed with industry partners, including Woodside, BHP, Santos, Boral, Shell, Esso, and other oil companies."

On Monday, 3 February, the NCPGG welcomed its 10 new Honours scholarship winners with a special reception at the Thebarton Campus.

The scholarships include:

- two Geoscience Scholarships of \$7000 each, funded by Woodside Offshore Petroleum and Esso Australia
- seven Industrial Scholarships of \$3000 each, funded by industry partners
- three University of Adelaide Outreach Scholarships of \$2000 each, funded by the University of Adelaide for graduates transferring to the University.

Some students were awarded more than one scholarship, giving them extra help in earning qualifications of high international regard.

The students' study will involve field trips to the Flinders Ranges to see drilling rigs in action, industrial experience placements, and petroleum industry-related research projects sponsored by both industry and government partners.

—Ian Roberts  
—David Ellis

## 'Slice-of-life' wins accolades at young filmmakers' awards

A 20-minute documentary produced by a University of Adelaide PhD student has been awarded two major prizes at the South Australian Young Filmmakers' Awards.

*Striking Poses* is a slice-of-life documentary about 10 Adelaide girls, all from different socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds.

The girls, aged about 15 when filming began, were given a video camera to record their lives over the course of a year. At age 18, and with the help of a professional editor, they selected one minute each out of almost 40 hours of footage to sum up who they were. In the documentary, these one-minute segments about the girls' lives are then followed by their reflective comments about making the film.

*Striking Poses* was shown in December last year at the SA Young Filmmakers' Awards, where it received Best Documentary and Best Editing.

"I'm really happy with the way people have responded to it," said the documentary's producer, Anthropology PhD student Ms Gerry Bloustien.

The idea for the documentary came out of the research for her PhD thesis, which looks at image, representation and gender.

Ms Bloustien, also a lecturer in Communications at the University of South Australia, said *Striking Poses* had a unique quality not shared by many other slice-of-life documentaries.

"The difference about this one is that the girls were given complete control, which I think is very important. They could decide what they were going to film in the first place, and then they were given the choice of what they were going to edit out for public consumption," Ms Bloustien said.

The girls — Molly Kendall, Nat Giffney, Joeline Rankine, Mia Handshin, Tara Sanders, Nikki Calvert, Rebecca Perkin, Tracey Dixon, Rebecca Mango and Aija Fitzgerald — sometimes used the video camera as a confessional or a diary as well as recording their day-to-day lives.

The final footage reflects the com-



*Shine* director Scott Hicks (left) congratulates some of the "Striking Poses" team and producer Gerry Bloustien (centre front) holding the award for Best Documentary.

plexity of their lives, touching on issues ranging from family, friends, pets and clothes, to sex, drugs, school, music, unemployment and multiculturalism.

"I was amazed at some of the things they wanted to film," said Ms Bloustien, "things that I thought would be too private, that they wouldn't want to be seen. But they had the ultimate control over what was used and what was left out — it was entirely their decision.

"The editing allowed them to be creative and selective about who they were and how they wanted to see themselves portrayed. So what we get from that is a very interesting insight into how the girls see themselves, how they create themselves and their image, and the role that popular culture and mass media play in that process."

She said another important aspect of *Striking Poses* was the different backgrounds of each of the girls. One girl was from Papua New Guinea, another was Aboriginal, there were girls from middle-class backgrounds and others from very working-class backgrounds.

"It's quite interesting to see the

similarities and the differences in how they view their lives and the kinds of narratives they tell," Ms Bloustien said.

"People have told me that the film is quite moving, because obviously they've seen aspects of themselves in these young women, and I've also been told that it's too short — which means they felt teased by it, they wanted more. I think that's definitely a good sign."

Making the documentary was also a positive experience for the girls involved. Some of them were amazed at how much they had changed over the years, and all were happy to have had the chance to record that time in their lives. As one of the girls, Molly Kendall, said in the film: "It's important to know who you are and where you are in the world."

*Striking Poses* has now been selected for screening at several South Australian film festivals. The girls involved in the project have also been invited to make another film, with the assistance of television production house Network 8 Digital.

—David Ellis

## Science high achievers get added value

The University of Adelaide is giving some of South Australia's highest achieving students "extra value" in their Science courses as part of the new Science Scholars Scheme starting this year.

The 20 inaugural Science Scholars last year scored at least 19 out of 20 in three or more Science-related subjects in their Year-12 exams.

The Science Scholars Scheme is aimed at recognising and fostering the talents of these high achievers and pro-

# Waite planting a tribute to horticultural vision

A three hectare site on the University of Adelaide's Waite Campus has been named "The Laidlaw Planting" to commemorate the contribution made by Mr Don Laidlaw AO (LLB 1949) to horticulture in South Australia.

The Premier, Mr John Olsen, unveiled a plaque at a function on the Waite Campus hosted by the Playford Memorial Trust last December. The plaque is set in a one-tonne quartzite rock donated by Boral Resources (SA) Ltd.

Mr Laidlaw was the founding Chairman of the Trust from 1983 to 1995, and was instrumental in the establishment of the Playford Scholarship in Horticulture in 1987 following a successful public appeal.

The Playford Trust endows the perpetual scholarship, which is under the supervision of the Chair of Horti-

cultural Science, Professor Margaret Sedgely, and has so far funded three researchers.

A major outcome of the research of the first scholar, Dr Alison Fuss, was the development of pruning strategies for optimal bloom production of banksias for cut flower production. The second scholar, Ms Mary Reiger, successfully identified banksia populations for the selection of new cultivars for cut flower production.

Ms Kate Delaporte is the current holder of the scholarship. She is investigating the breeding, propagation and vase life of eucalypts for cut flowers and buds.

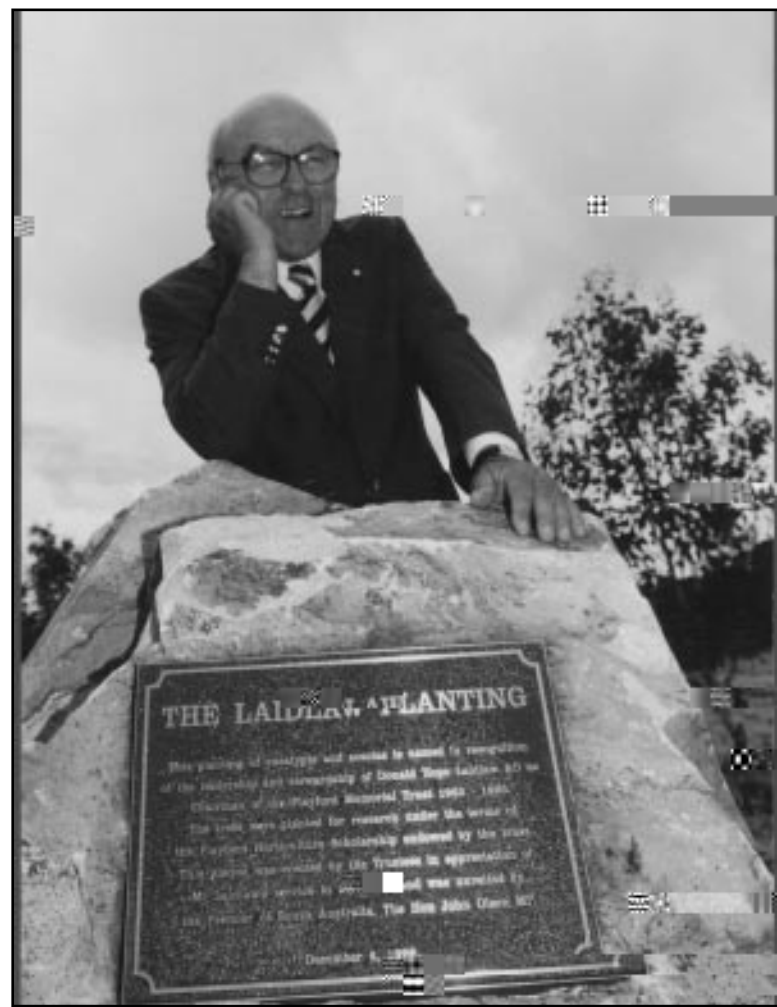
The Laidlaw Planting comprises eucalypts and acacias, and was established for current and future projects conducted by the Playford Horticulture scholars. It covers an area from Waite Road along the Cross Road bound-

ary of the campus almost to Fullarton Road.

The current Chairman of the Playford Memorial Trust, Jennifer Cashmore, said that while many of the trees were still small, the planting would be a "veritable forest" in a few years' time — "testimony to Mr Laidlaw's vision and stewardship as the prime mover in establishing the Horticulture Scholarship".

The University is expected to name the first new variety from the planting after Mr Laidlaw.

Last year the Trust also established a new scholarship in Aquaculture. The winner of this scholarship, to be announced shortly, will be supervised by Associate Professor Mike Geddes from the Zoology Department and will conduct research there and at the SARDI Aquatic Sciences Centre at West Beach.



Resting on his laurels — Mr Don Laidlaw with the plaque recognising his service to the Playford Memorial trust and to horticulture. Photo courtesy of Jenny Groom, Educational Technology Unit.

## Australia Day Honours

Eighteen alumni of the University were recognised in the Australia Day Honours List.

Appointed Officers in the General Division of the Order of Australia [AO] were **Dr Eric French** [BSc 1942 MSc 1948] for service to scientific research, particularly in veterinary microbiology and virology; the **Hon Roger Goldsworthy** [BSc 1950] for service to politics, the South Australian Parliament and the community; and the **Hon George Walters** [LLB 1936] for service to the law as a Judge of the Supreme Court of South Australia, to legal education and the community.

Members in the General Division of the Order of Australia [AM] were **Mr James Giles** [BA 1961 DipEd 1962] for service to the community as an advocate for multiculturalism in education and the arts, particularly through the Multicultural Education Coordinating Committee; **Associate Professor Rodney Jory** [BSc 1959] for service to Science Education, particularly as Executive Director of the National Youth Science Forums and through the International Science Olympiads; and **Dr Vicki Pearson** [MBBS 1973] for service to the community in alcohol and drug rehabilitation, developing programs to prevent drug related deaths and reduce HIV/AIDS.

Awarded the Medal in the General Division of the Order of Australia [OAM] were **Mrs Nina Arnott** [BA 1971] and **Mr Peter Arnott** [BE 1968] for their service to youth through Wirraway Christian Youth Centre; **Mr Ralph Arthur** [BE 1947] for service to the community through the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust and Meals on Wheels; **Mrs Mary Handley** [BMus 1952] for service to music, particularly opera in South Australia; **Dr Digby Harris** [MBBS 1952] for service to the community as an executive committee member of the Nhill and District Intellectually Handicapped Persons Welfare Association, the Coinda Day Care Centre, the Avalon Old Folks Home and the Nhill Hospital Board of Management; **Dr Charles Mattner** [MBBS 1960] for service to community medicine as a general practitioner in the Woodside and Onkaparinga districts for over 30 years; and **Mr Don Nicolson** [RDA] for service to conservation and the environment as an advocate and practitioner of landcare programs and a contributor to arid land ecology.

Also awarded the OAM were **Miss Judith Stokes** [BA 1947] for service to the Aboriginal community on Groote Eylandt as a missionary and linguist; **Dr John Thompson** [MBBS 1938] for service to Medicine and hospital administration through Port Augusta Hospital for over 35 years; and **Dr Gwen Woodroffe** [BSc 1940 MSc 1944] for service to women through the Australian Federation of University Women (ACT) and UNICEF (ACT).

The Australian Police Medal [APM] was awarded to Inspector **Bronwyn Killmier** [BA 1977] and Senior Sergeant **Richard Laslett** [RDA].

## 1997 Alumni Activities Program

The Alumni Association will launch its 1997 program at the President's Reception, on Friday 21 February, at 5.00pm, in the Gallery, Union House. The Chancellor Mr Bill Scammell, will announce the program in his capacity as President of the Alumni Association. The Chair, Dr Harry Medlin, will speak about the Association's achievements in the last twelve months and its plans for the future.

The Alumni Activities Program aims to acquaint alumni with the work done by the University and its graduates both 'at home' and in the wider community. All graduates and friends of the University are invited to take part, whether members of the Alumni Association or not. Put these dates on your calendar now!

\* 11 March 7:30am - Breakfast with the Vice-Chancellor

\* 3 April, 6:00pm - Guided tour of the old Treasury Building in Victoria Square, conducted by Mr Michael Taliangis (SA Dept of Environment & Natural Resources)

\* 4 May, 11:00am - Visit to Science Museum at Waite Campus, with a guided tour conducted by the Curator of Urrbrae House. (Bring a picnic basket for lunch in the Urrbrae House gardens afterwards!)

\* 4 June, 7:30pm - Illustrated talk by Professor Hugh Possingham (Dept of Environmental Science and Management): "Why can't we see

the biodiversity for the Koalas?"

\* 8 July, 7:00pm - Visit to Adelaide's Courts precinct, coordinated by the Courts Authority

\* 20 August, 7:00pm - "Introducing Japanese Music", with Dr Kimi Coaldrake (Dept of Music Studies)

\* 25 September, 7:30pm - Illustrated talk by Dr Carol Bacchi (Dept of Politics) - "The Politics of Affirmative Action"

\* 14 October, 6:00pm - Visit to Ngapartji Cooperative Multimedia Centre, with a guided tour and introduction to the internet

\* 2 November, 2:00pm - Visit to Roseworthy Campus, conducted by Rural Services Unit

### Annual Alumni Association events

\* President's Reception, 21 February, 5:00pm.

\* Annual General Meeting, 19 June, 8:00pm

\* Early Graduates' Afternoon Tea, 30 August, 3:00 - 4:30pm

\* Golden Jubilee Commemoration, 23 October: ceremony at 6:00pm, followed by dinner.

More information about these activities and events, and bookings may be obtained from the Alumni Office: please telephone 8303 4275 or visit 44 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide. Other specialised activities will be offered by the Association's Chapters and will be announced in future editions of the *Adelaidean*.

"How did life begin?" is one of the fundamental questions that has been asked ever since humans developed enquiring minds.

On Wednesday 19 March, Professor Ian Falconer will deliver a public lecture on "The Origin of Life on Earth and Other Places" at 7:00pm in the Florey Lecture Theatre (level 1, Medical School North building).

Professor Falconer — who is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Biology — has done extensive research on cyanobacteria, which were the

predominant life form on the early Earth some three billion years ago.

"Evidence shows that the Earth began as a hot, lifeless sphere," he said. "Biochemistry has identified the key chemical constituents of life,



**AVAILABLE:** Unit to let - walking distance to Waite Campus, 1 br, b-in robe, quiet tree-lined street, small garden, fully furn, tel, carport. \$85 pw + bond and refs required. Ph 8271 3386.

**BRIGHTON:** Opportunities exist for enthusiastic students from a variety of depts to live in a small highly creative environment. The offer is for accomm at a competitive price, with copier, fax, tv, phone, washing and parking facs. Applicants will have at least 1/2 yr uni experience and enjoy graphic design and architecture. An occupant is sought for 1-2 yrs depending on the academic development of the applicant. Confidential applications to David Moore, Moore Design, 39 Lewis St, Brighton SA 5048. Ph 8296 3601, fax 8358 2230.

**BRIGHTON:** Design business has space - period HIA listed house. 2 rooms avail. Use of courtyard, boardroom, fax, copier, phone, library, kitchen, parking, etc. \$317 per month. Ph Moore Design 8296 3601.

**DULWICH:** Wanted, non smoker to share lge, 6 rm house with owner. Close to bus route and all facs. \$100 pw + exp. Ph Peter Taylor 8303 5086 or 8364 4390.

**EASTERN SUBURBS:** Furn, family-size house, superb city views, pool, 2-car lock-up garage. Avail early March to 1 Jan 98, would suit visiting academic. Ph Victor 8281 6103.

**FORESTVILLE:** Fully furn br in furn house to share with 2 others plus small friendly dogs. Prefer non smoker, mature age, postgrad or visiting lecturer. Avail now. Ph 081 127 359 or 8297 2942 (ah)

**GILBERTON:** 2 br townhouse with carport, close to transport. Avail early March for 6 or 12 mths. \$140 pw (garden maintenance provided). Ph 8223 2366.

**GRANGE:** Esplanade - Professional woman in 40s seeks to share seafront

maisonette with female, non-smoker who enjoys the beach. \$85 pw + exp. Ph 8356 4058.

**HAZELWOOD PARK:** 2 br, fully furn house, on bus route to city. Includes linen, lge garden, sleepout, near Burnside and Linden Pk schools. \$225 pw. Ph Mary Ann 8379 2715.

**HAZELWOOD PARK:** Self contained, studio type, granny flat plus study. Fully furn incl linen. Garden outlook, near bus route. \$105 pw (includes elec). Ph Mary Ann 8379 2715.

**HOUSE SITTING:** Mature, prof seeks house sitting. Ph Jill 8431 4092 (h) or 8332 4836 / ext 5786 (b).

**HYDE PARK:** 2 br townhouse, attractive, renovated, great location, off-street parking for 2 cars, courtyard garden. Avail 20 Feb. \$140 pw. Ph 8271 2127 or 8405 3448.

**KANGAROO ISLAND:**