

ADELAIDEAN

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NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

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research quality

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reconciliation

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helping hand

Community projects a learning experience

A COMPULSORY fourth-year research assignment has turned into a whirlwind cultural and clinical learning experience for six University of Adelaide medical students.

The students conducted six-week



Egg-head bashing has been elevated to the status of a national sport in Australia and sometimes it is not difficult to understand the pleasure in it. But old ideas continue to resonate in current public debates, and if they are to be reframed and opened to more productive approaches, then we need new forums to think through old problems.

The Fulbright Symposium held in the Elder Hall at Adelaide University in April was one such opportunity. With the theme of “Tolerance, Cultural Diversity and Pluralism: Reconciliation and Human Rights” it brought together an unusual mix of people to examine the big issues of immigration and native title. Those two issues did not always sit easily together in the discussions, but in the end the lack of fit emerged as a productive tension.

In the case of native title debates, Adelaide was a particularly poignant location, given that the High Court had ruled only days before against the Ngarrindjeri challenge to the Federal Government’s Hindmarsh Island Bridge Act. To add to that, the shameful scenes in Canberra as the Government’s 10-point Wik plan was debated, and the haste with which it was conducted to fit in with the Easter break, left many of us feeling that the chance for reconciliation was slipping away—perhaps for another generation. That mood was heightened by Cherie Watkins, when she did more than welcome us to Kurna country, but asked how reconciliation was possible without fundamental respect for Aboriginal knowledge and law.

As for immigration, it is clear that there have been serious cracks in the edifice of official multiculturalism of late. The Oxley result has had a hand in this by showing that there is political mileage in racism—certainly in the short term. The broad bipartisan support for multiculturalism is clearly under question, and ethnic bodies appear unsure how to react in this new climate.

The academic speakers came from a range of disciplines—historians, anthropologists, lawyers, geographers and political scientists. It was a surprise to me that many of them had not met before and were looking forward to the chance for face-to-face discussions. The mix did something to break down the usual division of labour amongst academics, where the “indigenous crowd” and the “immigration crowd” rarely find themselves on the same platform. Two politicians spoke—the State Minister for Education, and the Federal Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs—though they opted for guarded, low-key papers. Churchmen, as well as Kurna and Ngarrindjerri Elders, and ATSIC members were a strong presence throughout the forum. The symposium ended with a general summary by Sir Ronald Wilson, whose tiny physical size only

seemed to highlight the moral stature that he carries in these debates.

Papers from Hilary Charlesworth and Henry Reynolds placed the current position of human rights in Australia in an international perspective. While there has been a great deal of discussion about possible challenges in the High Court to the Wik legislation, for example, there has so far been little consideration given to Australia’s obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, nor the Convention on Racial Discrimination. The possibility that individuals may be able to appeal to the United Nations (as has already been done in relation to gay rights in Tasmania) makes the international legal framework an important one to understand better.

Diane Bell and Rennard Strickland, visitors from the USA, considered the experience of Native Americans in using the legal system to secure native title. Marcia Langton provided an historical overview of the notion of race within western systems of thought, as well as a personal account of the extent to which race is a central idea in Australian construction of nation. It was stressed by many speakers that Australians are dangerously unaware of the degree to which racism underpins popular attitudes, customary expressions and common sense. The fact that conservatives do not believe that they are being racist when they demand race-specific expropriation of property rights indicates how intractable the problem is.

Interestingly, some of the speakers on immigration issues began from a quite different starting point. To them, if we left aside the situation of Aboriginal Australians, post-war Australia was a largely tolerant society where major race conflict had not occurred. Aboriginal members of the conference strongly challenged that view and argued that ethnic relations in Australia across the board is the product of a frontier mentality. The lack of fit between these two common versions of Australian race relations throws out a challenge to think together the issues of invasion and immigration. We need to explore the changing face of modern colonialism, and to embark on a project of “racing whites” and “ethnicising skips”.

In spite of the very real setbacks in reconciliation and tolerance at this time—in Diane Bell’s terms, “the air is turning sour”—there was general confidence in the long term prospects for justice and the recognition of our common humanity. As Ronald Wilson reminded us, we don’t have to wait for governments, we must do it as a people’s movement with a commitment to walk together to bring healing. Reconciliation, after all, is not an end (since what is considered reconciliation may change) but a continuing process which needs constant re-assessment and affirmation.



Web site provides up-to-date info

STAFF of the University of Adelaide can now access a wide range of personnel-related information at the click of a button.

A new intranet website has been set up by the Personnel Services Branch (linked to the main Adelaide Uni home page). It provides the latest news, policies, guidelines and a list of services available to staff, and includes a search function.

"Staff can now access information that used to be stored in a variety of locations, in the one spot," said the architect of the website, manager of personnel policy development Ms Kathie Hurst.

"By navigating through the links provided they can find information

more readily than when it was contained in several different manuals plus various sections of the Administrative Handbook.

"In fact, the Handbook hasn't been updated since 1992," she said. "Consequently, we are advising staff that the Handbook should no longer be used as the authoritative source of these policies; they should instead be obtained from the website."

An important inclusion on the site is an "Orientation Guide" for new staff. The guide provides details about the history of the university, its current structure and operation, and services and facilities for staff. By navigating through the site, new staff can customise their own induction to the

university, depending on what they are interested in knowing.

All fliers and bulletins issued by the Branch are also published on the web.

"Staff can be sure that the information they view on the website is up-to-date, which is particularly important in the case of policy information. And each page on the site provides contact details of a Personnel Services Branch staff member who can provide further information if needed," Ms Hurst said.

The site can be found at <<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/HR/>>.

—David Ellis



US Ambassador visits History

The US Ambassador visited the Department of History on 27-28 May as the Inaugural Visiting Lecturer in International Studies.

Her Excellency Genta Hawkins Holmes DFM lectured to the students in the International Studies II subject and gave a seminar to staff and postgraduates in International Studies.

She was also a guest at dinner with the staff at Jolley's Boathouse and is pictured above with (centre) Dr David Mosler of the History Department and (right) Dr Jane Lomax-Smith, the Lord Mayor of Adelaide, who joined the group for dinner.

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Perpetrators of family violence against women were male in all but one case, and husbands were the most common offenders. The most common injuries were fractures, cuts and abrasions, haematomas (bruising), penetrating injuries and inflammation.

Mr Teague believes one possible solution to the problem might be the cultural appropriation of main-stream support services. For example, there is a strong cultural prohibition in this particular Aboriginal culture against women leaving their husbands (which is often the solution to repeated incidence of family violence in the wider community).

NEWS IN BRIEF

BRAHMS FOR ASQ

The next concert by the University of Adelaide-based Australian String Quartet will see acclaimed young Melbourne pianist Benjamin Martin joining the ASQ in a performance of one of the masterpieces of romantic chamber music, the Quintet for Piano and Strings by Brahms.

The concert will take place in Elder Hall on Saturday, 27 June at 8pm.

Also featured in the concert will be an early string quartet by Beethoven, the Quartet in D major, Opus 18 no 3, as well as Tchaikovsky's rarely-heard String Quartet No 3.

Bookings at BASS (131 246). Tickets will also be available at the door.

HUMANITIES CENTER FELLOW

Professor Wilfrid Prest from the Department of History has been appointed as a Fellow of the US-based National Humanities Centre for 1998-99.

The National Humanities Center is located in the Research Triangle Park of North Carolina and is a privately incorporated independent institute for advanced study in the humanities.

The Fellows were chosen from more than 500 applicants in the fields of history, English and American literature, philosophy, anthropology, classics and ancient history, comparative literature, French, musicology, political science, religion and Spanish.

PRESENTING THE RING

Wagner's Ring Cycle will be the subject of the Charles Rothauser Memorial Lecture presented by the Wagner Society in the Bragg Lecture Theatre on Friday, 19 June at 8pm.

Professor Michael Ewans from the Faculty of Drama and Music at the University of Newcastle will deliver the lecture, which commemorates Wagner devotee and great supporter of the Wagner Society, Charles Rothauser, who died just over a year ago.

Professor Ewans is a famous critic in the areas of ancient Greece, notably the Athens of Aeschylus and Sophocles, and nineteenth and twentieth century music drama.

His book, *Wagner & Aeschylus: the Ring and the Oresteia*, is a standard work in the field.

NEW ANZAAS OFFICE OPENS

The Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science (ANZAAS) has opened a new national office in Adelaide, based at the University of Adelaide.

The Secretary of ANZAAS is Mr Robert Perrin, an industrial chemist with high level management experience at a number of science-based industries.

He says he is planning to run a modest office for federal coordination of the new style of ANZAAS, which will be based on strong regional activities of national significance.

Mr Perrin can be contacted at the University of Adelaide on 8303 4965 (phone/fax), email <perrin@camtech.net.au>.

Study Abroad proves a 'fantastic experience'

STUDY ABROAD isn't a holiday—it's an experience which broadens students' horizons and enhances teaching and learning in Adelaide.

That's the message from the University of Adelaide's Study Abroad Advisers, who want to increase the awareness of academic staff about the study abroad opportunities for University of Adelaide students.

The University of Adelaide has exchange agreements with about 35 universities throughout Europe, Asia and North America. Students from Adelaide who choose to study for one year or one semester at an overseas university will have their work credited to their Adelaide University degree, while at the same time experiencing a different way of life and being able to travel abroad.

"Not only are the students studying and learning at a high quality university, they also benefit from a different perspective on life," said Dr Jane Olsson, Study Abroad Adviser (Europe and Asia)

"For students studying a language, the experience of living in Germany, France or Japan, for example, is invaluable," said Acting Study Abroad Adviser (North America) Ms Paula Ritchie.

"Experiences such as this really help students in terms of personal development. The majority of students who go away come back much more focused on what they're doing and why they're doing it, which in turn affects their academic performance."

"For other students the experience holds its own unique benefits, and lecturers and tutors can see the difference it makes when those students return to Adelaide."

Kirsty Munro is an Adelaide University student who knows the advantages of studying abroad. She spent a year in Japan where she studied Japanese language, culture and society as part of her Arts degree.

"Living in Japan, it was like the theory was over. You weren't dealing with some concept in the classroom anymore—you were actually there in the country. It was real. You had to go out and speak the language and immerse yourself in the culture. It was a fantastic experience," said Ms Munro, who has now gone on to study Honours.

Katherine Bitzer and Paul Hodacs are two students who are currently taking the plunge and studying overseas—right here in Adelaide. Ms Bitzer (from Canada) is studying for an Environmental Sciences degree, while Mr Hodacs (from Sweden) is a Commerce student. They both recommend the experience of studying overseas.

"I was aware of the opportunity to go overseas and study during my third year, and I really wanted to do it," Ms Bitzer said.

"The experience of going to uni in another country and another culture, meeting new people—it's a way to see a part of the world that you normally might not get the chance to see."

"This is my second time studying in



Reaping the benefits of study abroad (from left): Katherine Bitzer, Paul Hodacs and Kirsty Munro.

Photo: David Ellis

Australia, and I enjoy it very much," said Mr Hodacs. "It helps you to get a perspective on life back home. And once you've started seeing new places, you'll want to keep going."

Dr Olsson said the involvement of academic staff in the promotion of exchange programs was invaluable.

"We've found that the best and most effective way of informing students about these programs is through their

lecturers and tutors. Academic staff, who often already have links with overseas universities, will see the results of introducing their students to these opportunities," she said.

An information package will be sent to all faculties shortly, or if academic staff would like to find out more information they can call the Study Abroad Office on ext. 34379.

—David Ellis

Andy's return to Earth

ASTRONAUT Andy Thomas will soon be home after spending 100 days aboard the Russian space station Mir.

Dr Thomas, a graduate of the University of Adelaide's Faculty of Engineering, is the first Australian to become a NASA astronaut. He began his four-month stint aboard Mir last January as part of the Shuttle-Mir Research Program.

While in orbit around the Earth, Dr Thomas was able to keep in contact with his parents here in Adelaide via videoconferencing technology at the university's Waite Campus.

The state-of-the-art technology enabled Andy to speak with his parents, Mr Adrian Thomas and Mrs

Elizabeth Thomas, virtually "face to face"—despite being separated by thousands of kilometres. The last in the series of videoconferences was held on Wednesday, 3 June to coincide with Mrs Thomas's birthday.

Andy Thomas received a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Adelaide in 1978. In 1996 he became the first Australian-born astronaut to take part in a space shuttle mission.

A NASA spokeswoman said Dr Thomas was due to transfer from Mir to the shuttle Discovery early this month, ending his historic mission aboard the Russian space station.

Advertisement

New textile exhibition

THE NATIONAL Textile Museum at Urrbrae House is displaying a Chinese robe and rare rank badge as part of the exhibition *A Universal Thread*, on display until 5 July.

The exhibition features textiles drawn from public and private collections in South Australia and has been designed to illustrate the types of textiles that the Museum will be acquiring to form a collection for study and exhibition at Urrbrae House.

"A Universal Thread is an exploration of the extraordinarily far-reaching influences of ancient cultures through the development of textiles," said Museum Administrator Lee Welch.

"Items in the exhibition range from the luxury handwork of master

craftsmen to a modern tea towel, from handworked lace to a cap of human hair.

The Chinese robe, sets of embroidered sleeve bands and rank badge were donated by a local resident.

"They belonged to her grandfather, who spent some years living in China," Lee Welch said. "A number of pieces in this exhibition have been brought to Australia as special family treasures. Some owners now wish to share these pieces with others through exhibition and study, and they also want to ensure that the pieces are preserved for future generations to learn from and enjoy."

The National Textile Museum is open from Wednesday to Sunday, from 11.00am to 4.00pm.

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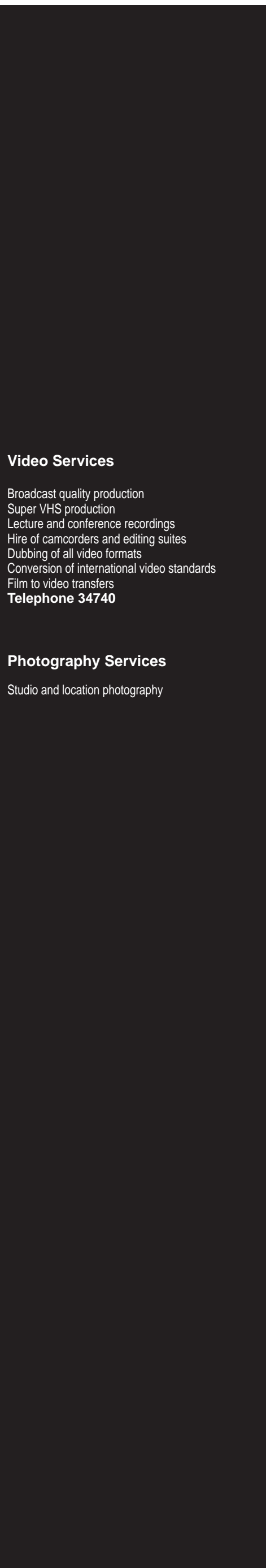
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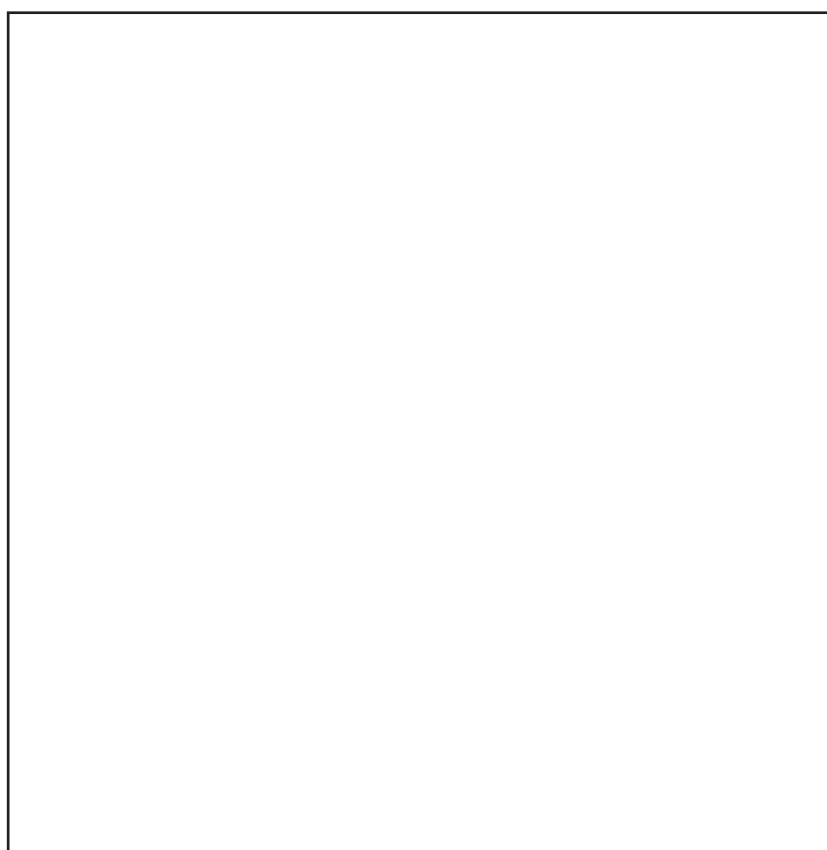


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KL GRADUATION 1998



ABOVE: MALAYSIA'S CLASS OF '98—more than 50 graduates celebrated their academic success with family and friends at the Hotel Istana, Kuala Lumpur. Also pictured are the three Silver Jubilee Alumni, the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, and Ms Joanna Teh. Also pictured are the three Jubilands.

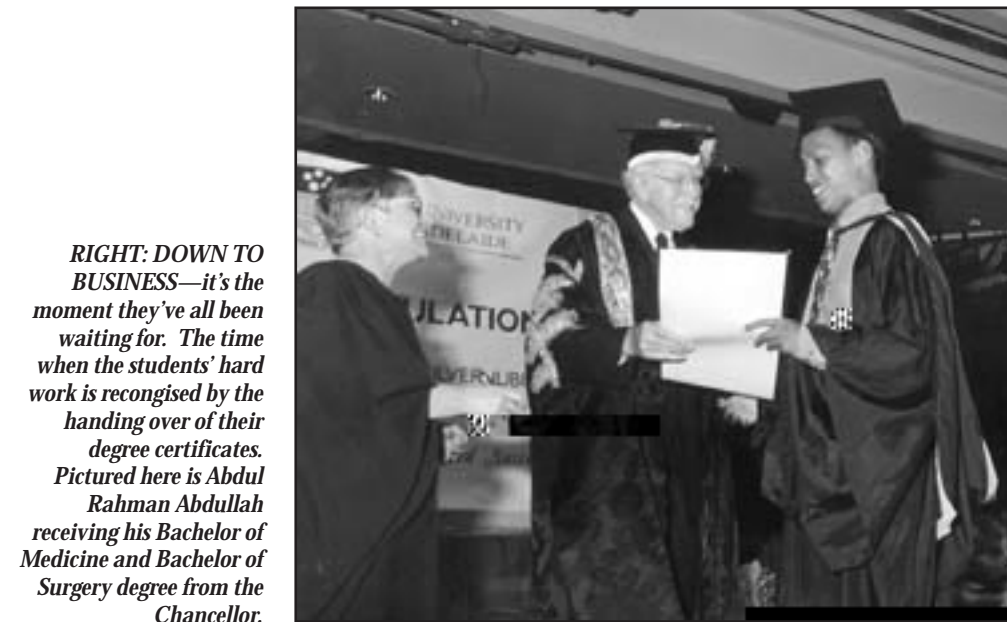
RIGHT: FIRST TIME—for the new Chancellor, Mr Bruce Webb, who presided over the graduation celebration. This was Mr Webb's first commemoration ceremony in KL since taking up the position of Chancellor of the University.



LEFT: DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI—Tan Sri (Datuk) Abdul Hamid Egoh was one of the 50 VIP guests at the celebration, pictured here with the Director of Alumni Relations, Mr Geoffrey Sauer. Tan Sri, who graduated from the University of Adelaide with a BA (Hons) in 1966, was the guest speaker at the Adelaide University Alumni (Malaysia) dinner following the ceremony.



ABOVE: SMILES ALL ROUND—graduates with Bachelor of Dental Surgery degrees line up for photographs after the ceremony. This is a time for friends and family members to share their excitement and congratulations with the new graduates.



RIGHT: DOWN TO BUSINESS—it's the moment they've all been waiting for. The time when the students' hard work is recognised by the handing over of their degree certificates. Pictured here is Abdul Rahman Abdullah receiving his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degree from the Chancellor.



ABOVE: POINT AND SHOOT—friends and family crowd in to take photos of their loved ones on stage.



ABOVE: FOOD FOR THOUGHT—the celebration concludes with a reception and High Tea, helping the graduates and their families to savour the taste of academic success.

BELOW: DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI—Mr Sim See Kee, (BTech, 1965), and Mr Michael Abbott QC (LLB, 1965), both graduates of the university and strong supporters of Alumni relations in Malaysia and Australia respectively.



ABOVE: CONGRATULATIONS—from the Chancellor to Norhayati Bt Luddin, who received her Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree.

Photography by William Abraham, Charlie's Photography, Klang and David Ellis.

ACCOMMODATION

CITY: SE inner city, 2 br, spa & courtyard. Avail 6 weeks from 16 June. \$120 pw. Ph 8232 1842.

CITY: SE cnr, renovated & air cond, Heritage cottage, 2 br, furn, 2 bthrm, living rm with open fire, kitchen/family rm. Avail end Sept for 8-9 mths. Ph Prof Wilfrid Prest 8303 5605.

MARDEN: Share accomm in 2 br home, fully furn, quiet location, close to city, transport & shops, carport. Avail now. \$100 pw + exp. Ph Steve 0412 224 857.

NORTH ADELAIDE: 1 br fully furn flat with pool. \$120 pw incl elec. Ph 8267 1081.

NORTH ADELAIDE: Lge 4 roomed, fully furn flat with pool, garden. \$380 pw incl gas & elec. Ph 8267 1081.

PROSPECT: Modern 2 storey townhouse, 3 br, b-in robes, main with wir, 2 wcs, secure lock-up parking, avail 30 June. Length/rent neg. Ph 8265 3485.

RICHMOND: Fully furn house, very close to shops &

city. Ideal for study. Share with couple. \$65 pw. Ph 8352 1953 (ah).

SHARE ACCOMM: Person to share, with 2 others, lge 4 br house with garden. Fireplaces, polished floorboards, 2 bthrms, close to city. Suit vegetarian. Short or long term. \$80 pw. Ph Erica 8269 3285 (after 5pm).

TENNYSON: Absolute beachfront, fully furn, 3 br house, avail for 6-8 mths. Ph 8269 2892.

WANTED: Visiting American academic and family require furn, 2 br apartment/house from July 98 - Jan 99 (period flexible). Prefer close to city. References. Ph 8303 4489 or email: <tdoyle@arts.adelaide.edu.au>.

FOR SALE

CAMIRAS (2): 84, auto, towbar, very clean, reliable, good tyres, no rust, good cond. UXR 099. \$2,450 ono. 88, auto, very low km, reliable, new tyres, very good cond throughout, UZY 867. \$3,950 ono. Ph Bu-Jun 8303 7426 or 8272 9082 (ah).

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Macs; warranty; free tuition. From \$75. Ph 8322 8827.

FORD LASER: 5-door KA, 1.3, 1982, manual, 90,000km. VMH 528. \$2,250 ono. Ph 8379 6614.

HEATER: Electric oil heater, exc cond, as new. \$80 ono. Ph 8239 0436.

HOUSE: Kidman Park - Good investment opportunity, 2 br, close to shops, transport, beach & city, lge block. \$105,000+. Ph Nathan 8353 7616.

MISC: Mirossoft Publisher Windows 3.11, \$50 ono. Monitor flexible stand, \$50. Apple Classics (2), \$50 ono. Curtain, pinch pleat, 7 ft drop, beige, offers. Bar fridge, \$100. Plus chairs, and laminted tables. Ph Leonie 8303 4777.

MOVING SALE: Lg desk, exc cond, \$120 ono. Double ensemble with bedhead, 4 drawers, \$100 ono. Dresser table with lge mirror, drawers, \$40 ono. Wardrobe, \$50 ono. Colour TV, 22 inch, \$150 ono. Colour TV, 21

inch, teletext, 4 yrd old, remote, \$550 ono. Video, digital & auto program, 4 yrs old, \$300 ono. Bike with helmet, 5 spd, new tubes & tyre, \$30 ono. Ph Bu-Jun 8303 7426 or 8272 9082 (ah).

MOVING SALE: Queen size bed, wardrobe, stereo cabinet, gas stove, bikes, twintub washing machine, coffee tables, bbq, compost bin, other misc items. Ph Ben 8338 1339 or email: <sbarker@waite.adelaide.edu.au>.

PEUGEOT: 1973 504 sedan, auto, reg until 1 July 98, genuine 94,600km, 2 owners, rad/cass, rear window louvre, Michelin radial X tyres, beige-brown colour, some rust, exc mechanically, reliable. VCV 833. \$1,990 ono. Ph Madeleine 8332 0223.

TANDEM CYCLE: 18 gears, top cond, 8 mths old. \$700. Ph 8333 0998.

TELEVISION: Colour, push button, exc cond. \$165 ono. Ph 8371 4191.

TENDER

FORD FAIRLANE: Ghia, sedan, 1996, silver, 34,000 km, unleaded, auto, air, ABS, immobiliser, cruise control, dual airbags, fabric protection, tinted windows. VUV 052. Inspection Wed 10 June, 9am-11am, ph Shirley 8303 5901. Tenders in a sealed envelope marked Tender No W276 to the Purchasing Manager, Waite Campus by Tues 16 June 98.

FORD FALCON: Station wagon, 1996, white, 21,500 km, unleaded, auto, air, ABS, immobiliser, tinted windows, tow pack. VWN 115. Inspection Wed 10 June, 9am-11am, ph Marie Gutsche, 8303 4001. Tenders in a sealed envelope marked Tender No W275 to the Purchasing Manager, Waite Campus by Tues 16 June 98.

MISCELLANEOUS

CHILD CARE/BABY SITTER: Trained, Scottish Higher National Certificate in Childcare, requires work over next 12 mths. 5 yrs experience in UK, refs avail. Ph Sharon Gillespie 8293 8066 or 8297 1384.

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RAFFLE: Autographed Redbacks cricket bat, Crows Football, Thunderbirds Netball, Adelaide Rams Polo Shirt, Giants Baseball, 36ers Basketball, and many more prizes. \$1 ea avail from the Sports Association Office, Grnd Flr, Lady Symon Bldg. Drawn 19 June, UniBar.

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WORD PROCESSING: \$3.50 per page @ 250 words per page. 1500 words = \$21. Thesis formatting of WP on disk, laser printing, after hours service, city centre location. For guide to other services and costs ph Anne 8212 6869 or 8415 7866.

WORD PROCESSING: Fast and accurate, 15 yrs experience as temp. Good rates, free pick-up and delivery. Ph Trisha 8232 4841.

Bulletin Board

12noon Lyell McEwin Health Service: An Update on Geriatric Medicine by Dr Rob Culver (General Medicine). Conference Room 1, Community Health Bldg, Lyell McEwin.

1.10pm Academic Board Open Forum: Hidden Gems: Learning Technology at the University of Adelaide. Lecture Theatre 102, Napier Building.

1.10pm Anatomical Sciences Seminar: Teeth and faces of twins by Prof GC Townsend (Faculty of Dentistry). Room S127, Medical School, South Wing.

3.15pm Anthropology Seminar: Oral History, Hindmarsh Island and Native Title by Steve Hemming. Room 405, 4th Floor, Schulz Building.

8.00pm Theatre Guild: Molière's Tartuffe, directed by Jim Vilé. Little Theatre. \$18/\$12. Tickets 8303 5999 or at the door.

10.10am Electrical & Electronic Engineering Seminar: Coordinated Tuning of Power System Stabilizers and FACTS Device Stabilizers to Enhance the Damping Performance of Power Systems by David Vowles. Lectur