

ADELAIDEAN

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NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

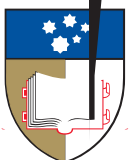
SEPTEMBER 20, 1999

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Adelaide professor



I was born Margaret Tidemann on 24 April 1942 in Adelaide, went to school at Walford Church of England Girls' Grammar School (still called Walford House when I first went there at the age of 4) from the ages of 4 to 16, and attended the University of Adelaide from 1959-62, where I enrolled in Arts and took a First Class Honours degree in English, graduating at the end of 1962 at the age of nearly 21. I was an Adelaide girl in every respect and my horizons at that time were wide in imagination and reading, but narrow in practice. I had once been outside South Australia—and then only to Melbourne on a brief visit with my parents and five younger siblings, which I remember vividly because I had to travel some of the way in a caravan and got terribly sick—and I'd never been overseas. Such an experience—or the lack of it—was, I think, common to young Australians of my generation, to whom the outside world was known largely from newspapers (and *The Advertiser* and *The News* were not the most cosmopolitan of daily fare), pop songs and American films. But there were also such things as the ABC (I used to love the Argonauts) and the occasional concert and visiting drama company.

When I was at school intelligent girls usually had to hide their brains under some cover or other. There were few bonus points to be gained among one's peers for cleverness or intellectual interests. It is true that I found one or two fellow students at school who had similar interests to mine, but for the most part I got my intellectual stimulation from my teachers (who were very good to me) and from books. Years later, one of my younger sisters, who went to the same school, told me she sometimes used to look up the names of previous borrowers of books in the school library, to find that mine was the last name listed—sometimes the only name. It was an excellent library, and I read voraciously and eclectically, both

there and in the South Australian State Library, where I loved reading at the cool, dark desks in secluded recesses during the hot summer months.

My father wanted me to become a scientist and tried to steer me in that direction, becoming rather resistant when, in the last two years of school, I decided to study Humanities subjects (called Arts in those days of course). It was a near thing, though, and I have sometimes regretted not going into the hard sciences, where Genetics was the thing that turned me on. Probably because I resisted this path, my family required me to contribute something towards my financial keep at university, even though I had both a Commonwealth Scholarship and a State Bursary, and urged me into the Teachers' College and the system of bonded scholarships that I came to hate. I had no interest in being a secondary school teacher; I studied the required subjects alongside my Arts subjects (and actually found some of them rather interesting), but, when the moment of escape came in 1963, I took it, even though it meant paying back my bond while I was a postgraduate student at Oxford.

What, then, did the University of Adelaide mean to me? It meant so many things that I can only give a very brief account of them here. First, it meant the exhilaration of intellectual challenge and breadth of intellectual opportunity. Then I

started to meet other students (often older than I was) who had similar interests; we talked politics, philosophy, literature; we debated, acted in plays and generally had a marvellous time. I wrote poetry too in those days. And there were members of staff in all the Departments I studied in—and several others besides, because Adelaide University was quite small at that time—who accepted me as their equal and introduced me to the world of international scholarship and research. It is hard not to romanticise the past, but I still think of those early Adelaide days as the formative period of my own academic career when these generous scholars accepted me, and other serious students, as their equals and inducted us into academic life. I cannot speak too highly of the privilege of this experience and regret that, in the pressure of the contemporary university, it is simply not possible to replicate it.

In the late 50s and the early 60s money had started to flow again into the Australian university system as a consequence of the Murray Report and the Menzies Government's implementation of it. Although I did not fully understand the politics of the situation, I could see the benefits on the ground. I chose to do Honours in English (though a number of other subjects tempted me) and I entered a vibrant, expanding Department full of keen, mostly new staff. Some of the

older members, like the marvellously eccentric Bryn Davies, were still there, but most of the appointments, under the wise and humane guidance of Colin Horne, and later John Colmer, were fairly new and mostly young. It was a marvellous time and the Department was full of life: one of the best things about it was that it was not doctrinaire, it did not espouse a particular critical line (and this was a time when the Leavisite plague was afflicting many English Departments), nor did it separate the study of English Language and Medieval Literature from English Literature since 1500. Australian Literature was also fully integrated into our curriculum well before this happened in other Australian English Departments, thanks to the influence of Brian Elliott and Geoff Dutton.

It was my great good fortune that, at the beginning of my second year, just as I was entering the Honours stream, the Department chose to restore its coverage of Old and Middle English (relinquished in the lean years before 1958) by appointing a member of staff to teach in this area. Ralph Elliott arrived at the beginning of 1960 and I began to lap up what he had to offer: Old English, Middle English, Germanic Philology. In the following year another medievalist, Peter Meredith, now a Professor of English Medieval Drama at the University of Leeds, was appointed to the Department. Although Ralph Elliott, who was an inspiring teacher, was not an Old Norse-Icelandic specialist, he had had a sound philological training, and he decided to offer an off-the-curriculum Old Norse course in the lunch hours. It comprised him, a new Tutor, John Anderson (who later went to Manchester) and me. This is what set



ECONOMISTS at the University of Adelaide are helping their Mongolian colleagues to meet the challenges of the country's new free-market economy.

Currently the world's biggest recipient of foreign aid (per capita), Mongolia has a transition economy which is adjusting to free market conditions after years of Soviet communism.

Last month, University of Adelaide economist Glyn Wittwer travelled to the capital, Ulaan Bataar, to address an economic seminar.

Participants included two members of the Mongolian parliament.

The visit was arranged by the Mongolian Development Research Centre which has had a close working relationship with the University for several years through the Dean of Economics, Professor Richard Pomfret.

Mr Wittwer, a Research Associate at the University's Centre for International Economics Studies, presented a paper on Modelling Mongolia's economy using a computable general equilibrium framework.

"The paper basically compared elements of the Australian economy with elements of the Mongolian economy, particularly the tyranny of distance," Mr Wittwer said.

"Australia was linked to the outside world in 1872 by the telegraph line.

"In recent years, the Internet has linked Mongolia to the outside world.

"The Internet is very important for the growth of the country's emerging industries such as tourism, for example."

Mr Wittwer said one of the analytical difficulties Mongolia faced was that, under

the Soviet system, the country's trained economists had never had to consider consumers when drawing up economic plans.

He said the biggest barriers to trade at present were not institutional but infrastructural.

"In a country the size of Queensland, there is only one rail line, running north to south, and most of the roads are cratered and unsealed.

"But Mongolia does have a high degree of social cohesion.

"It appears to be a peaceful society that tolerates minority groups.

"Unlike many other regions, the transition after the collapse of the Soviet Union was remarkably peaceful

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Biography reveals new slant on legendary Adelaide professor

NEARLY 60 years after his death, Professor Archibald Watson remains a legendary figure at the University of Adelaide.

The brilliant, eccentric surgeon and anatomist, who headed the School of Anatomy for 35 years (1885-1920), was renowned as an adventurer, a womaniser and flouter of convention.

Stories of his exploits are legion.

He once stole the head from a corpse at Adelaide Hospital morgue and replaced it with a cracked pot.

For recreation, he liked to ride his motorbike around the University's anatomy room.

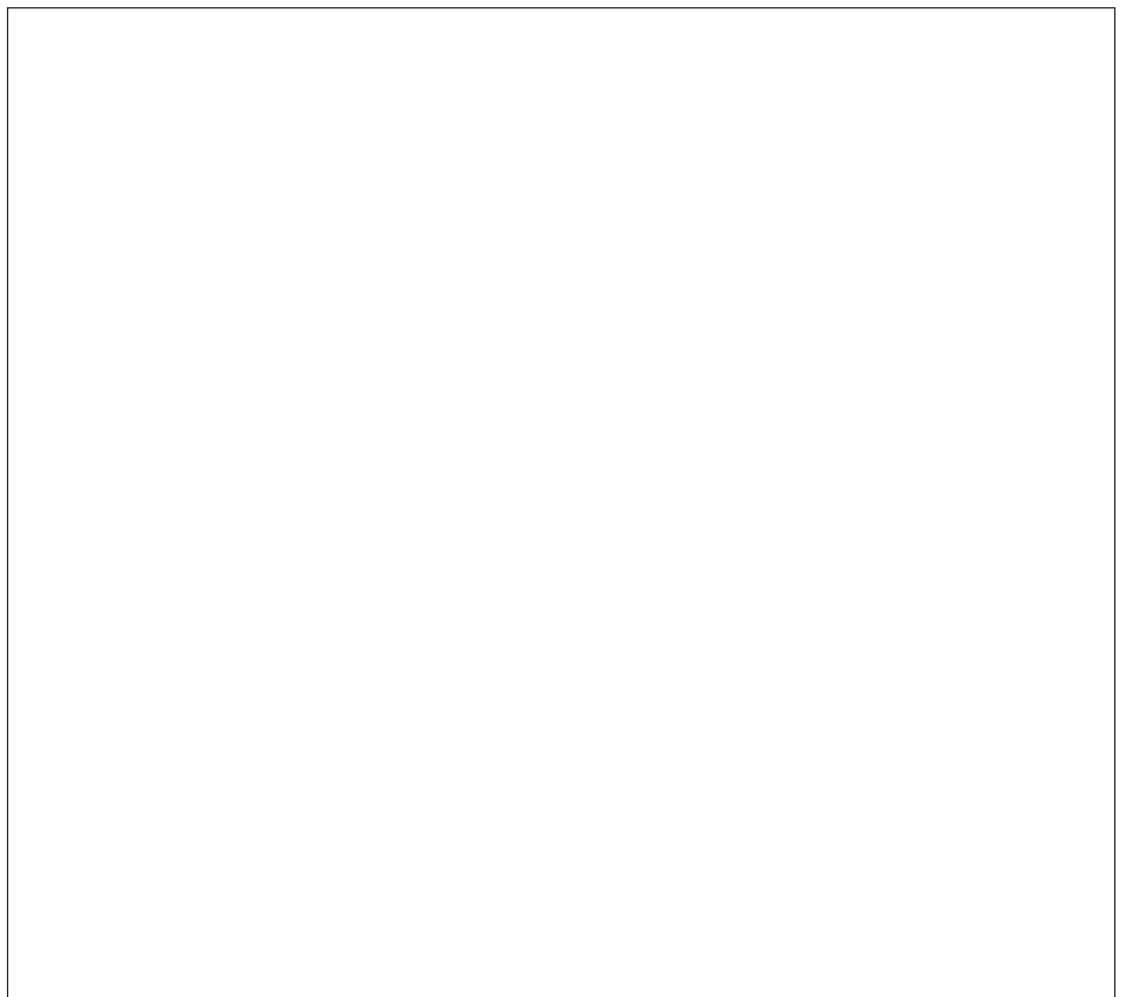
When he retired from academic life he spoke just five words to assembled well-wishers: "You are all bloody hypocrites".

Watson is remembered as rogueish, inspirational, cantankerous and unorthodox.

But a new biography coinciding with the 150th anniversary of his birth argues that Watson's "loveable eccentricity" was in fact a carefully cultivated pose to divert attention from a shameful episode in his youth.

The book, by Melbourne-based author Jennifer Carter, reveals new details of Watson's life.

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THE QUAINLY NAMED 'Old House', located in picturesque surroundings at Piccadilly in the Adelaide Hills, was the ven

ACCOMMODATION

ADELAIDE: Renovated 1866 4 double br house, fully furn, avail 1 Dec for short or long term. Property can be used as 3 br (\$250) and 1 br (\$120), sep accomm, electricity & phone extra. Ample parking. Ph 8223 3487 or fax 8232 0627.

GOODWOOD: Newly renovated 1 br studio apartment with sep kitchen/ dining rm and loft. Part of converted factory/warehouse. Fully furn, close to transport and shops. \$180 pw + \$10 pw utilities. Ph 8271 1812.

GRANGE: 1 br flat in divided old house. Close to beach, transport, no pets, suit student. Ph Alex 8356 9774 or email: <alyxmac@senet.com.au>.

HOUSE SITTERS: Married couple, reliable, non-smokers will care for pets, maintain house and garden. Available end Nov - end Jan 2000. References available. Ph 8298 1130.

KENSINGTON PARK: Tudor house suit visiting academic family. 3 br with robes, sep lounge, sep dining, 2 bathrooms, modernised

ADELAIDEAN

kitchen. Avail now. \$260 pw. Ph 8332 2503.

ST GEORGES: Fully renovated, 3 br courtyard home, b-in robes, 2 bathrooms, heating/cooling, security, double garage. \$350 pw. Ph 0411 188 850.

WANTED: 2 visiting academics from Edinburgh require furn accomm from 20 Sept - end Nov. Prefer near city. Ph 8303 5475.

FOR SALE

CUBBY HOUSE: On stilts with slippery dip and sand pit. \$250. Ph 8373 1737 (after 6pm).

HONDA CITY: 5 speed sedan or van, air cond, new duco and tyres, all books, carefully maintained. UXD 785. \$3,000. Ph 8267 3515.

HOUSE: Coromandel Valley - solid brick home, 4 br &

studio, in-ground pool, lge Jeacellul setting near creek. Private sale. Ph 8270 3050.

MISC: Pine wooden desk, \$180. Simpson chest freezer, \$100. Exercise bike, \$50. 1930s mirrored sideboard, \$600. Stech 52" piano, black, \$2,500. Piano chair, Rosewood \$80. Sanyo microwave, \$50. Table, drop side, old, \$320. English 3/4 size violin, bow & case, \$300. Ph Ron 8303 5227 or 8344 8641 (ah).

TRANSCIVER: Codan 7727B mobile HF transceiver, RFDS Aust wide coverage,

aerial, cables, vehicle mount- 1611 or 0415 614 126.

MISCELLANEOUS

WORD PROCESSING: Formatting of WP on disk including IBM/PC and Mac MS Word amongst others. Laser printing; after hours service; city location. Ph 8212 6869 or 8415 7866.

WORD PROCESSING: Audiotyping, tape transcription by qualified secretary MS Word 97. Free pick-up & delivery to Uni. Email: <natres@pobox.com>.

Bulletin Board

SEPTEMBER 20, 1999

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

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Project Endeavour is moving positively towards its initial milestones of:

- defining the new business processes and information systems to support Human Resources, Finance, Student Administration; and
- implementing the Payroll, General Ledger, Accounts Payable and Purchasing modules of PeopleSoft and the Research Master system.

The Project Teams are now focused on establishing the appropriate mechanisms to support staff across the University after the implementation of the new systems. To this end, two

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Bank Account for Salary Payments

The University is in the process of implementing a new Human Resource/Payroll System which will become effective later this year.

Direct credit of net salaries into bank accounts has been available for over 10 years and is a more efficient and secure method of payment than issuing cheques. Salary deposits can be accessed prior to 9am on the pay day, whereby financial institutions require a three day clearance on cheques. Provided correct bank/building society/credit union account details are supplied to the Payroll Office the salary payments cannot be lost or deposited incorrectly.

In order to facilitate effective change over to the new system, the University has adopted a new policy that all employees will require an account with a Bank/Credit Union/Building Society for direct credits of salary.

Departmental Manager

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES MEDICAL SCHOOL

Call for Nominations

The Alice Davey Award

The Alice Davey Award has been established for the purpose of fostering the development of research in the field of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome in memory of Alice Grace Davey who died of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome in 1994.

- The Award consists of a medal and a monetary award, the annual value of which is subject to the availability of funds as determined by the Medical School, Faculty of Health Sciences.
- The successful recipient shall be the individual who has contributed the most meritorious recognised scholarly work relevant to SIDS research or who is deemed to have the potential to make a significant contribution to the field of SIDS research.
- Individuals who are, or who were at the time of undertaking the research, a student, staff member or title holder of the University of Adelaide, shall be eligible to apply.
- Nominations are called for annually by the Medical School, Faculty of Health Sciences and the closing date for the Award is 8 October.
- Nominees will be required to provide a brief statement outlining the significance of the research contribution, or potential contribution, to the advancement of knowledge in the field of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

Please forward Nominations and supporting documentation to: Mrs Stella Richards, Committee Secretary (Medicine), Medical School Office, University of Adelaide, Australia 5005 by 8 October 1999.

A copy of the rules is available on request.

Observer places available at UN conference

Observer places will be available at a major United Nations conference which will help set the future of world food trade and standards: 11 - 15 October, Sofitel Hotel, Melbourne.

The events would be relevant to those with an interest in international trade, law, aid and development as well as food technology, agricultural research and related UN issues.

Details: <<http://www.fao.org/events/default.htm>>. All observers/visits are required to pre-register for the conference: <codex.contact@affa.gov.au>.

C O U N C I L
NEWS

