

# Adelaidean

NEWS FROM ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY

11 SEPTEMBER, 2000

## Extreme sports a risky business for tourists

THEY are the newest breed of "athlete", and they are about as far removed from an Olympic athlete as you can possibly get.

### I N S I D E



**Space future in safe hands**

page 5



**Ratbag makes its mark**

page 7



**ASO concert a tribute to Cary**

page 8



**Associate Professor Rob Woodbury**  
School of Architecture, Landscape Architecture  
& Urban Design

The torch relay has been to Adelaide and gone onto Sydney. I am happy to have seen it and to have been part of the very real community spirit around this wonderful and worthwhile event. It seemed to me to be celebrating three things. First, it heralded the upcoming Olympic Games. It was a preamble to what is perhaps really "The Greatest Show on Earth". Second, it was a national celebration of Australia. Among the torch runners were some of South Australia's most famous and accomplished people. Showcased by the relay were some of the State's most potent icons, both old and new: the India Pacific railway, the Glenelg tram and the Annesley solar car, to mention a few. Third, it was a celebration of community. The torch runners were known to many of the spectators and the feeling of goodwill was thick in the air. That there were Adelaide-designed insides to that elegant torch reminded me of the great community in which I work. I wouldn't have missed it for anything. My children were delighted.

But it missed the point. Completely.

It was an outward celebration of an inward event that lies beyond its grasp, an event that is cleverly scheduled but once every four years. For most Olympic athletes, that timing means once in a lifetime, for a sporting career is short. The Olympics are a peak experience, the

culmination of years of honing knowledge, conditioning, technique and especially resolve. The experience of success in elite competition is one of intense focus—mind and body are entirely dedicated to one goal. Every aspiring Olympian must surmount enormous obstacles to gain his or her place on the team. The process of getting there is akin to a forge—it takes innate talent and transforms it into tough ability. You are a different person for having gone through it.

This story too misses an important point.

Behind most Olympians stand mentors. Coaches, friends, elders and family share in and are a crucial part of the Olympic experience. Young people may be at their athletic peak. They are seldom at the peak of their wisdom. They need support from those with more knowledge and wisdom. They need mentors. The lucky ones get such support. Luckier are the mentors fortunate enough to give it and to return trust with trustworthiness. Such partnerships and the people in them go through the Olympics and emerge on the other side with a greater potential than before. The Olympics put a sharp edge on character, friendship and community and this is, ultimately, more important than any national medal count.

Something is still awry.

In the process, Olympians themselves become mentors. It is not a function of age, but of relative experience handled wisely. At the same time a coach is politely suggesting (for the 27th time) that an athlete needs to stay focused

throughout an event, a 12-year-old is rapt in the awesome performance that such focus can produce. That 12-year-old takes in more than athleticism: she sees character and models on it. Olympians carry responsibility beyond themselves and they gain from this apparent burden. Reputation and trust—the external things that endure after the close of an athletic career—are built much more on bearing than accomplishment.

It comes full circle. Olympic achievement forms a lasting web of community where all involved contribute and benefit. The Olympians themselves are the most visible manifestation of this web, but are only a part of it.

Kerouac wrote that comparisons are odious. Comparing one peak experience to another is fraught with difficulty and risk. But that won't stop me. There is another, less rare, though by no means common, experience that more than echoes Olympia. This is the realm of academic excellence. Like the Olympics, the pursuit of knowledge takes preparation, joyful effort and intense resolve. A new discovery transforms not only knowledge, but the discoverer as well.

Fortunate scholars work in living communities throughout an e6[he and thffice oa[mBereFortunatul ef

# Kuching a tough act to follow

THE second Australian Universities International Alumni Convention in Kuching, Sarawak last month (24-27 August) was an outstanding success, with more than 1000 delegates from some 20 countries attending. (The inaugural convention took place in Adelaide two years ago.)

Held under the joint patronage of Sarawak's Chief Minister, YAB Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Haji Abdul Taib bin Mahmud (an Adelaide University graduate), and Australia's Governor-General, Sir William Deane (who was represented by the Governor of South Australia, Sir Eric Neal), the convention drew widespread praise from delegates.

Under its broad theme of "Globalisation and a new World Order", the program offered a diverse and stimulating choice of 28 papers by Malaysian, Australian and international speakers.

The quality of the offerings was established in the thoughtful opening plenary address by the Chief Minister, which was described by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mary O'Kane, as "a brave speech, which set the tone for the rest of the conference".

The Chief Minister's call for a new world order based on a greater sense of distributive justice found a consistent echo in many other papers at the convention, as they explored the positives and the negatives of globalisation under subP



## Globalisation and the new world order, the new university order

What does globalisation mean for universities? Over the past few weeks I've had an opportunity to explore this question both in practical and theoretical terms.

On the practical side, our University hosted a most productive meeting of the four partners in one of our global consortia—Adelaide University, the University of Canterbury (New Zealand), Waseda University (Japan) and Universiti Putra Malaysia. The meeting focused on how we could best deliver new multi-university Masters degree courses in areas of high demand. Different languages, different cultures, and different communication systems are among the big challenges of practical globalisation in higher education.

Another practical step towards globalisation was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between our University and the new Singapore Management University (SMU) last month. SMU already has close links with the Wharton School of Management at the University of Pennsylvania, so the new agreement extends the international links of all three institutions. As it develops, the relationship between Adelaide University and SMU will involve student and staff exchanges and joint research projects.

So much for the practical side of globalisation. On the theoretical side, many Adelaide University representatives attended the convention on Globalisation and the New World Order in Kuching last month. When I encouraged people to go to this event—the second Australian Universities' International Alumni Convention—many were sceptical, despite the great success of the previous Alumni Convention in Adelaide two years ago. They argued that it was a generalist conference unlikely to lead to particular insights.

In his address at the Memorial Service for Sir Mark Oliphant in Boynton Hall last month, Barry Jones warned that the public intellectual in Australia was an endangered species. I agree. Similarly, the generalist conference dealing with issues of major public importance is also an endangered species (the sad demise of the ANZAS conference is a case in point).

I'm delighted to report that the large contingent from Adelaide University was impressed by the whole Convention experience in Kuching—the organisation, the hospitality and the opportunities to participate in stimulating debate. The conference theme of globalisation was explored thoroughly in speeches that emphasised the role of smart partnerships and networking in meeting the challenges of the 21st century. The event enabled people from many countries to express forthright opinions, in a public-spirited way, about the future of universities in the new world order. Again and again, speakers underlined the importance of government and communities continuing to support education. Many pointed to the Colombo Plan as an example of the enormous social and economic benefits that result from government backing for universities.

It was wonderful, also, to catch up with people who had been educated at Adelaide University and who have gone on to make their mark in a wide variety of fields. Among them were the former president of Singapore, the Honourable Ong Teng Cheong, and our host, the Chief Minister of Sarawak. Hearing these and other alumni speak with such affection about their alma mater was quite inspiring. It was another reminder of the immense reservoir of goodwill that exists for our University and of the importance of fostering closer links with graduates.

Well done to all concerned. The conference advertised as "the Great Aussie Do in the Land of the Hornbills" wasn't half bad.

MARY O'KANE

# Indigenous housing offers architectural insights

WHY has Aboriginal housing in remote areas attracted such little interest from architects?

Is it a case of out of sight, out of mind? Or does it reflect a reluctance to tackle a so-called "problem area"?

Adelaide University lecturer Liz Grant is unsure of the answer. But at the School of Architecture, Landscape Architecture & Urban Design she is working to ensure that the next generation of architects is more knowledgeable on the subject.

Ms Grant coordinates a pilot program that introduces second and third-year architecture students to studies in remote Aboriginal housing across Aboriginal Australia. It is the first program of its kind at an Australian university.

Students use ethno-architecture in Aboriginal Australia to discover the diversity in Aboriginal cultures. Guest lecturers speak on topics such as the concept of Aboriginality, the impact of government policy on Aboriginal people and the origins and characteristics of homelands. Among the lecturers has been Associate Professor Paul Memmott from Queensland University's Aboriginal Environments Research Centre.

During the forthcoming semester break, the 10 participating students will go to Umoona (Cooper Pedy) to live and work in an Aboriginal

community and undertake research.

"It's important for students to get out to remote areas and experience the life of the communities," said Ms Grant. "The whole thrust of the course is that we need to design for the way people live. You can't separate housing from health and social issues.

"The students will be participating in a Community Development Employment Program. They'll work on landscape projects, arts and crafts, construction and maintenance. This will help them to improve some practical skills and, at the same time, learn more about Aboriginal communities. The idea is that this will feed back into the course."

Student Paul Herzich said the pilot program

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**ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY**

**Upcoming Public Lectures at Adelaide University**

**FREE - All Welcome**

**Dr Colin Lucas**  
Vice-Chancellor - University of Oxford  
**"What are universities for?"**

Thursday, 14 September 2000, 7:00pm, Lecture Theatre 102, Napier Building

**Professor John Maynard Smith**  
Professor of Biology - University of Sussex  
**"The Major Transitions in Evolution"**

Tuesday, 17 October 2000, 7:00pm, Lecture Theatre 102, Napier Building

**ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA**



# Space future is in safe hands

AT the start of October, Kimberley Clayfield will be travelling into space. Metaphorically, at least.

Ms Clayfield, a postgraduate student at Adelaide University's Department of Mechanical Engineering, is the Program Director of SpaceFutures 2000, a conference which will run from October 4-7 in Canberra, bringing together youth from all over Australia to discuss the promotion of space for the future of Australia.

"Australia can have a future in the global space industry," said Ms Clayfield, "and the key things that the space industry needs for success are education and collaboration."

"SpaceFutures 2000 is about bringing together young people who are passionate about the development of a strong Australian space industry, and giving them a chance to meet, to exchange ideas, to have their enthusiasm noted by industry and government representatives, and make a positive

difference to space policy in this country."

The conference is being presented by the Australian Students' Space Association (ASSA), which was founded in Queensland in 1998. Its first achievements were a successful youth space forum and the launch of the national magazine *Aurora Australia*.

As the association expanded nationally, Melbourne became the site for a second forum in 1999, involving a live video conference with Andy Thomas. That year, five ASSA delegates also represented Australia at the United Nations Space Generations Forum.

The link with the United Nations continues. SpaceFutures 2000 will be held in conjunction with UN World Space Week, ensuring international interest in the forum's outcomes, one of which will be the launch of ASSA National, a body responsible for coordinating further activities in all States.

"In the past, the Australian space industry has suffered from fragmentation and a serious lack

of funding," said Ms Clayfield.

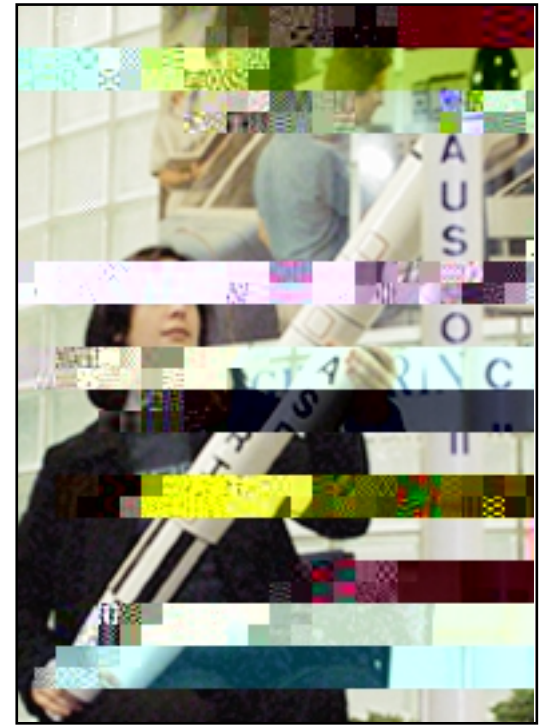
"Many young people with the skills and enthusiasm to make a positive contribution to the Australian industry have moved overseas to work in more established space programs.

"There is no better time for young Australians to come together to show their support for an Australian space industry."

The three days of the conference include addresses, technical sessions, round table discussions and public forums. Sponsorship is being sought, especially from government departments, corporations and educational institutions with an interest in the development of an Australian space industry.

For more information on SpaceFutures 2000, contact Kimberley Clayfield: (08) 8303 3157, <kcclayfi@mecheng.adelaide.edu.au>.

—Rob Morrison



*THE Olympic Torch Relay is now on the home stretch to Sydney for the 2000 Olympic Games.*

*While engineering researchers at Adelaide University have paid close attention to the relay, another group—students devoted to science communication—has also been watching the relay with enthusiasm.*

*Marijke de Weerd is studying for a Graduate Diploma in Science Communication at the ANU and is a scholar with the Shell Questacon Science Circus. Her study requires her to undertake a range of activities which explain science to a wider audience, while the Science Circus has given her the chance to travel with the torch relay.*

*Attached to Adelaide University's Media, Marketing & Publications Unit for a week, Ms de Weerd described her recent torch experience:*

As the torchbearer runs into the celebration site, the gathered crowd cheers,

## Advertisement

**Looking forward to summer?**  
**Enjoy a West Coast experience of surf, sun, study and scholarship at**  
**The University of Western Australia**

UWA is offering **Scholarships** with a stipend, accommodation, return economy air ticket and provision for **books**. Applicants must be students in the penultimate or final year of undergraduate study at a university in a state other than Western Australia. Contact Dr Sato Juniper (08) 9380 2423; email: [sjuniper@admin.uwa.edu.au](mailto:sjuniper@admin.uwa.edu.au) or at [www.scholarships.uwa.edu.au](http://www.scholarships.uwa.edu.au)

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



*AS students at Adelaide University, Richard Harrison and Greg Siegele could only dream that one of their favourite pastimes would one day become a major business.*

*Today that dream is a reality—their computer game company, Ratbag, employs 35 people, has earned an international reputation and secured a*

**GLEN OSMOND:** 3 brs, unfurn. house (some built-ins), close to transport & good schools. Walking distance to Waite, no pets, lawns mown. Available now. \$220pw + bond. Ph 8379-4869.

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**WANTED:** US academic

family seeks 3-4 br, furn & equipped home for one year beginning in Jan 2001. Prefer near Waite Campus. Email: <ullman@udel.edu>.

**WANTED:** Visiting scientist seeks fully furn, 1br apartment near city, from mid/late September until late November. Email: <tom.gonda@imvs.sa.gov.au>.

**CAMPERVAN:** Nissan Urvan, fully equipped exc cond. only 78,000km. RAA

valuation \$16,200. VBL 172. Ph Mary 8222 5443 or Henk 8431 5202.

**COMPUTER:** Pentium 200MMX, Intel, 15" digital SVGA, 4.3GB HDD, 32MB RAM, CD,sound, speakers, perfect condition, \$640 neg, Ph 83384152.

**DINNER SERVICE:** Bone China, Royal Albert, as new, 50 pieces, all white with rose relief. \$699. Ph 8265 4028

Ph 8265 4028  
& 2x1 seat, \$900 neg. Ph  
Evan 8303 6738 (wG0.0125(Wt)-.0093 Tc0.0227 Tw(Ph 8338 4152.)Tj 71ne

Ph 8338 4152.

**FISHING DINGHY:**

Kingfisher 12 foot, fibre glass, complete with new oars and on trailer with 6 hp Johnson outboard motor, crab nets. All in very good cond. \$1500 ono. Ph Helene 8357 4798.

**KITCHEN TABLE:** Baltic pine, 115 cm X 75 cm, \$40 ono. Ph Jennifer 8303 36 lfr1402 Tw(R)



**10.00am Politics Postgraduate/  
Staff Seminar:** Brazilian (Post)Colonialism: Race & Nation in the History of Brazil by Benito Cao; Reproduction and Reproductive Technologies: Giving Bodies Weight by Bronwyn Donaghey. Room 420, Napier Building.

**1.10pm Student Workshop:** Learn Deep Relaxation by Mark O'Donoghue. Counselling Centre, Ground Floor, Horace Lamb Building.

**2.00pm English Staff/Postgraduate Seminar:** Hindmarsh Island (Kumarangk): Challenging Australian Mythologies by Steve Hemming

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## University Teaching Development Grants 2000

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The aim of the University Teaching Development Grants is to promote the enhancement of learning and teaching at Adelaide University.

The aim of the University Teaching Development Grants is to promote good learning and teaching practices; to encourage and foster innovation in higher education teaching; and to provide staff development opportunities.

The Selection Committee, consisting of representatives of the University Learning and Teaching Committee, considered the applications to be of good quality and selected a total nine applications for the 2000 round of the Adelaide University Teaching Development Grants. Information in relation to the successful applications can be found at <[http://www.adelaide.edu.au/DVC/quality/teaching\\_development\\_2000\\_winners.html](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/DVC/quality/teaching_development_2000_winners.html)>.

The successful applicants presented proposals which will effect practical advances in learning and teaching by, among other things, developing tools for interactive learning, role-play simulations, student participation in large tutorials, mapping transferable skills and the development of student portfolios at the University. The University Teaching Development Grants vary in size according to the scale and nature of the projects funded.

Further information in relation to the University Teaching Development Grants can be obtained from Marie Reitano, Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor [t.ju8736](s.)-228(R M)10.7(e)-2.omer

## Student Evaluation of Teaching

The Advisory Centre for University Education provides a service to all University teaching staff who wish to evaluate their teaching. This service is known as Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET). Staff wishing to use SET for the first time should call the Evaluation Service Office, ext 33496/33023, for a copy of the package.

The SET package contains a User Manual, appropriate evaluation request forms, and some information concerning applications for promotion and tenure. The service is free of charge and is available to all teaching staff of the University.

Due to high demand for SET questionnaires, and to the fact that the Evaluation Service is currently staffed by one full-time person only, please send your evaluation request forms to the ACUE at **least four weeks prior to the planned date of your evaluation.**

It is ACUE policy that all requests are placed in a queue determined strictly by date of receipt. Requests which do not allow sufficient lead time may not be processed. We recognise that occasionally there will be circumstances where a staff



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF ADELAIDE  
LIBRARY

### Barr Smith Library tours

Join a free 30 minute guided tour on the first Thursday of every month.

Ideal for students, staff or alumni unfamiliar with the layout, collections, resources and services of the Barr Smith Library.

RSVP to Jennifer Osborn (Reference Services). Max of 12 per group. Tel: 8303 3706 Email: <jennifer.osborn@adelaide.edu.au>.

### Plant Nematology Research Award

The Grains Research and Development Corporation through the Department of Applied and Molecular Ecology is offering a PhD scholarship for research in plant nematode ecology.

The scholarship is available as either a full (APA Industry rate of \$22,030 pa) or supplementary (\$10,000 in addition to an APA or AUS) scholarship for up to 3 years.

For further information please contact Dr Ian Riley on 8303 7259 or email: <ian.riley@adelaide.edu.au>.

**Closing date: 31 October 2000.**

## Research Branch: Special Notices

### ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY SMALL RESEARCH GRANTS SCHEME 2001

Following the discontinuation of the ARC Small Grants Scheme, applications are invited for funding under the Adelaide University Small Research Grants Scheme for 2001. The Application Form, the scheme guidelines and other information are available on the Research Branch web site at: <<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/RB/electronic.html>> or by clicking on "What's New" on the Research Branch home page. Prospective applicants should note that the closing date for applications is Monday 18 September.

### AUSTRALIAN-GERMAN JOINT RESEARCH CO-OPERATION SCHEME

The Australian-German Joint Research Co-operation Scheme is a two year pilot scheme which is jointly funded and managed by Adelaide University, Australian National University, the Commonwealth Government Department of Industry, Science and Resources, and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). The scheme aims to foster international scholarly and scientific cooperation through funding of researchers who participate in co-operative research projects between Australia and the Federal Republic of Germany. We envisage that up to 100 staff exchanges will be funded during the course of the pilot scheme.

Please note: The first call for applications has been postponed until late September/early October 2000. The Research Branch will forward

further information to Departments once the details have been finalised. In the interim, for information contact Lynette Kelly on 35175.

### ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY AND CSIRO HEALTH SCIENCES & NUTRITION COLLABORATIVE GRANTS PROGRAM 2001

Adelaide University and CSIRO Health Sciences & Nutrition are offering grants to encourage collaborative research projects between members of the two organisations and, where appropriate, industry or international collaboration. Projects with the potential to forge links with international research institutes in food, nutrition and health are strongly encouraged, as are those with the potential to lead to more significant research programs, which would have the capacity to attract funding and support from sources external to the University and CSIRO. An amount of up to \$20,000 for one year will be awarded to successful applicants.

Applications are to be submitted on the official Application Form available on the Research Branch web site at: <<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/RB/electronic.html>>. Further information and instructions for applicants are available at the same address. Enquiries to: Daina Shaw or Simon Brennan in the Research Branch ph: 8303 5051 or email: <daina.shaw@adelaide.edu.au> or <simon.brennan@adelaide.edu.au>. Closing Date: Friday 29 September 2000.

## Missed the deadline?

For all the latest news see the online bulletin boards at <<http://online.adelaide.edu.au>> available to staff and students of the University.

<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/RB>

