



## Budgie says: 'Thanks, but it's not farewell'

**I**t's all one-way traffic at this University,' says Physics workshop legend John Budge (Budgie).

But before you start nodding in agreement, listen to the rest...

"People get medals heaped on them" (Budgie was awarded the Chancellor's Medal three years ago) "and what do they give back?"

"I thought it was time to give something back for the 52-plus terrific years I've had as a technician in Physics."

Budgie organised and personally funded a free lunchtime concert on the day before the Easter break, to acknowledge his working life and the friendships he has made at UWA.

Rain on the day meant a change of venue but Budgie was delighted with the event.

The University's longest-serving staff member is probably the least self-serving. While paying tribute to his friends and his years on campus, he still refuses to attend a ceremony to have

*Budgie and the Violetta Duo (Corrine Brokken on double bass and Lely Dai on violin) and piano accordionist Nick, with some of the audience.*

the Chancellor's Medal officially bestowed on him.

The Guild helped him organise the music and he said it was the best way to spend money that he could imagine.

## Neuroscience – creating a research base for common ills

**U**p to 50 per cent of admissions to hospitals are neuroscience-related.

These problems cost the government more than \$1 billion a year.

It was figures like these that in 1997 encouraged a group of senior UWA

academics to put together Australia's first undergraduate neuroscience degree. This year, their first final-year students are completing their degrees and the first neuroscience honours students have begun their projects.

*Continued on page 4*

### First neuroscience course triumphs over difficulties



**Flashback to 1997.**



**N**o, our beautiful garden campus is not being threatened by a deadly plant disease.

But in many educational and policy environments, critical questions are being asked about the future of campus-based universities. Traditional forms of learning are being challenged by new electronic modes of flexible delivery. The vision of the 'campus-less' university is being advanced by educational futurologists.

Critics of the campus range from those who argue that rising costs alone will drive us to a virtual campus environment on the world wide web, to those who see the campus as a relic of an old era in higher education, beloved only by those nostalgic for the good old days. A kind of theme park for the ageing academic!

Does any of this matter to us on our beautiful comfortable campus?

The tyranny of distance from other metropolitan centres will certainly not shield us from the impact of educational services made available by 'distance providers'. A range of educational products is already available through a variety of modes of delivery. And there is much talk of the imminent arrival of comprehensive 'e-universities' on the Internet . . . of consortia of global networks of institutions (including Australian members) contracting to provide degrees through media corporations, indeed even the 'virtual presence' of the great research universities — a Harvard or Oxford — through their electronic agencies. The Cyberspace University is imminent!

These external threats aside, there are now the challenges being posed by our society, which require a changing higher educational environment. Individuals in the community want to access university at different stages in life, engage in courses and classes at times which suit their life-circumstances, even want to mix the modes of delivery, by taking some courses on a campus and others in 'distance mode'.

In Western Australia, we have a special challenge in meeting the needs of potential students in remote locations who find it expensive to move to Perth. And, we have a potentially huge student clientele both interstate and in our wider Asia-Pacific region (some 2.5 billion people live in the same time zone as Perth!)



What future then for UWA? How should we think about the future?

I recently had the good fortune of being able to discuss such issues at the Open University in the UK — perhaps the pre-eminent 'virtual university' internationally. They now have over 200,000 students enrolled in a high-quality set of degree programs in Europe, USA and Asia. The Vice-Chancellor, Deans, course planners and designers, all provided me with a powerful picture of a complex, changing world of higher educational needs, in which the Open University has become a path-beating leader over the last 30 years. The Vice-Chancellor (Professor Sir John Daniel) for example, was interestingly emphatic that 'traditional forms' of education and learning will continue to be found on 'campuses': students of all ages still want and require the 'social dimensions' of learning. Yet, students also increasingly want flexibility of access, and they want to take advantage of electronic modes of knowledge dissemination. 'Mixed modes' — including access to local tutors, intensive residential workshops, summer schools — complete with a mixture of hard copy materials, video and audio tape, CDs, plus of course the delivery in web and television broadcasts, all make up the complex elements of the highly creative and quality educational work of the Open University.

There is much to learn from the work of an institution such as the Open University, which can assist our work most immediately at Albany but also help us build the capability to serve the state even more extensively; and beyond that, there are the almost unlimited possibilities of taking UWA to the world through new, flexible modes of delivery. A major educational report in the UK on 'borderless' education, has posed major challenges to UK (and EU) universities to begin creative planning for the future of higher education, which evolves from campus to e-university.

There is no such forward planning in Australia though individual universities are now offering a considerable range of programs 'on line'. All the more reason why we must plan for UWA's own role in the new era. We are already a campus without walls. To what extent should we become a campus without borders?

**Professor Deryck M. Schreuder**  
Vice-Chancellor and President  
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UWA Childcare

## Caring for campus kids

**I**t's 8.30am at the new UWA Childcare centre. As each pre-schooler arrives, he or she is heralded with shouts of glee. Almost every new arrival makes a grand entrance. It's as though they were going to a party rather than childcare.

It appears the children love the new centre as much as the parents and staff do.

Due to be opened officially some time this month, the new centre is a major renovation of existing buildings on Monash Avenue. The old centre in Arras Street is to make way for the new WA Centre for Oral Health.

The refurbishment and linking of two houses to create one state-of-the-art centre has delighted all who use it.

Up to 47 children (ten babies, 25 toddlers and 12 pre-

*Three-year-old Andrew Lawson happily farewells his Dad, Malcolm, who works in Microbiology.*



*Andrew Lawson, Charlie Roberts and Ting Liu (who likes to be known as Luke) enjoy their new playground.*

schoolers) of University staff and students are cared for. Any vacancies are offered to other people in the community but the centre is heavily supported by the University.

(Older children are catered for at UWA Childcare's Parkway premises, with UWA After School Care and UWA Vacation Care for primary school-aged children.)

Dr Jane den Hollander, Director of Student Services and overseer of the refurbishment, says the centre demonstrates the absolute commitment of the University to the family-friendly policy.

"With the benefit of the services of the best architect in Perth, the result has been the development of an incredibly modern and uplifting place for the children and staff of the centre," Dr den Hollander said.

Light, warmth, bright colours and space are the overriding features inside and the outdoor areas, play equipment and gardens are equally brilliant.

"The philosophy of UWA Childcare has not altered but the better designed and more efficient resource will allow that to happen in a more effective way," Dr den Hollander said.

UWA Childcare is a chemical-free site so all cleaning and sterilising is done using non-toxic agents. And the children's food is specifically balanced.

So it's not just fun but good for you!



Continued from page 1

## Neuroscience

Associate Professor Alan Harvey (Anatomy and Human Biology) and Professor Lyn Beazley (Zoology) said that neuroscience graduates' research could eventually significantly reduce neuroscience-related problems.

The graduates will work in areas ranging from research in Alzheimer's disease and stroke, to biomedical engineering, design of therapeutic drugs, retraining, and artificial intelligence.

"We see our honours year as a breeding ground for Australian medical research," Professor Beazley said.

The neuroscience group, co-ordinated by Associate Professor Matthew Martin-Iverson (Psychology, Psychiatry and Behavioural Science and Pharmacology) is delighted with the success of their program.

"The litmus test will come next year when we see what the graduates do when they have finished their degrees," Professor Harvey said.

"High numbers of students have been attracted to the course — so much so that we have continued to impose a quota to maintain the quality of the lab classes. The quality of the

students is really high and, so far, 50 per cent of the graduates are doing honours, so it all points to a great success," he said.

Two students, Helen Barbour and Ben Rae, are currently working on their honours projects and another two are due to start later this year.

Associate Professor Harvey and Associate Professor Don Robertson (Physiology) had been combining their talents and running two neuroscience units, one for medical students and one

***"I feel we are trailblazers, showing the way for the pending restructure of the University"***

for science students, for several years. In 1996, Professor Beazley began a unit in comparative neuroscience, within Zoology.

This coincided with the joint appointments, in the Departments of Psychology and Psychiatry and Behavioural Science, of Associate Professor Martin-Iverson and Associate Professor Pat Michie.

They became the trigger for bringing it all together, and the group,

including Associate Professor Barry Madsen (Pharmacology), achieved the difficult task of creating a course that spanned five departments across three faculties.

"I feel we are trailblazers, showing the way for the pending restructure of the University," Professor Beazley said. "If you don't evolve, you are at risk."

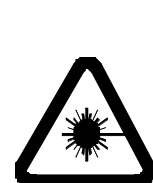
She and Associate Professor Harvey see the development of this and other joint programs in the Faculty of Science as a forerunner for the reorganisation of science at UWA.

"We certainly have the academic drive; what's important is to expand the resource base," they said.

They see their neuroscience program and similar programs making science at UWA relevant to the twenty-first century.

In previous years, some of the top-ranking life science students tended to transfer to medicine. It is expected that more students will continue on in scientific research by choosing programs such as this new neuroscience degree.

Honours student Helen Barbour had the last word. "I'm not interested in practising medicine. I'm interested in a research career and this program is just perfect," she said.



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Safety and Health Office

phone 9380 3938, fax 9380 1179

<http://www.admin.uwa.edu.au/sho>

## Legislative Requirements for Laser Pointers

Laser pointers, whilst a useful training tool, can present a hazard capable of causing harm to eyes. They have recently become relatively common and have unfortunately been misused on humans. A recent incident in Western Australia resulted in permanent eye damage to a 12 year-old boy.

As from 1 June 2000 it will be an offence under the WA Radiation Safety Act to manufacture, sell, possess or use a laser pointer with a classification exceeding Class 1 or Class 2 as defined in Australian/New Zealand Standard 2211:1997.

Laser pointers are effective tools when used properly. The following considerations should be observed when using laser pointers:

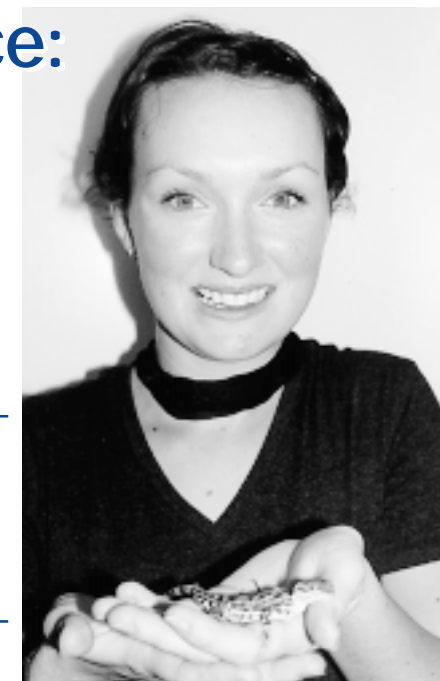
- Use only laser pointers with AS/NZS 2211 classification Class 1 or Class 2.
- Class 2 lasers are labelled 'Caution: Laser Radiation. Do not stare into the beam. Class 2 Laser Product'.
- Never look directly into the laser beam.
- Never point a laser beam at a person.
- Do not aim the laser at reflective surfaces.
- Do not allow children to use laser pointers unless under the supervision of an adult.

**For further information contact the Safety and Health Office on 9380 3938 or 9380 7932.**



## Neuroscience: the first honours students

***"We see our honours year as a breeding ground for Australian medical research..."***



**H**onours student Ben Rae is looking at attempting to regrow cells in the spinal column, as a way to explore methods of achieving nerve regeneration after spinal injury.

He explains his proposal: "Spinal cord injury can cause massive loss of function. Unfortunately the spinal cord does not generally spontaneously regenerate. Every year there are 200 new cases of spinal cord injury in Australia and the costs associated with spinal cord damage are more than \$1 billion.

"In an attempt to induce spinal cord regeneration, scientists have investigated the possible use of Schwann cells. They occur primarily in the peripheral nervous system (PNS) which spontaneously regenerates after injury.

"Peripheral nerve transplants and injections of Schwann cells have been used to stimulate regeneration in the central nervous system (CNS).

"But it is difficult to induce neurons to leave this helpful environment to innervate the target tissue. This problem led to the dual use of Schwann cells and another type of cell known as olfactory ensheathing glia (OEG). It was found that transplants of pure OEG enabled regenerating axons to exit the Schwann cell grafts and enter the spinal cord.

"For my honours project, I want to isolate and culture ensheathing glia and Schwann cells, inject them into separate intact spinal cords. We will then trace the ensheathing glia and Schwann cells in order to investigate their survival and the extent to which they migrate in the host spinal cords."

If there is time, he hopes to conduct studies on injured spinal cords as well as intact ones.

Mr Rae's supervisors are Associate Professor Alan Harvey and his former PhD student, Dr Giles Plant.

"A lot of techniques used in this sort of research have been brought back to Australia by Giles Plant, after his three years at the Miami Project," Dr Harvey said.

**H**elen Barbour's honours project is the first study of its kind on an Australian lizard.

She plans to study the physiological and behavioural properties of ultraviolet light sensitivity on a unique Western Australian lizard.

It is work that follows on from research by a Zoology PhD student, Natasha LeBas, who was studying the mate choice behaviours of the ornate dragon lizard.

She found that these animals have a patch on the throat/chest region that reflects light in the ultraviolet range of wavelengths.

It appears that the lizards have developed a way of signalling to one another, that does not attract undue attention from predatory birds. The patch of ultraviolet reflectance is situated on the underside of the body, but appears uniformly white to the human eye.

It is not known what type of information this ultraviolet signal conveys but it has been assumed that the lizard is capable of the perception of the ultraviolet light.

Now we need to check that the eye can detect ultraviolet light and find out how the visual system analyses this information," Ms Barbour said.

"A number of methods are available for detecting the presence of photoreceptors maximally sensitive to specific wavelengths, for example that of ultraviolet light," she said.

"I propose to employ a number of techniques to investigate the visual capabilities of the dragon lizard, including histology, histochemistry, microspectrophotometry and behavioural tests.

"This research will allow better conservation strategies to be in place to ensure that this unique species continues to thrive in WA."

Ms Barbour, whose joint supervisors during her honours study are Dr Julia Shand, Professor Lyn Beazley and Associate Professor Dale Roberts, won the Brain Foundation of WA Neuroscience Prize last year.

 Raine Foundation

# New techniques answer old questions



**R**aine Visiting Professor Paul Fletcher (pictured) is interested in brain function.

Until ten years ago, the only way he could study this was by creating a lesion in an animal's brain or looking at the brain of a human which was damaged by, for instance, a stroke.

"Otherwise, you could only learn about the structure of the brain, not the function," he said.

But over the past decade, new techniques have been developed which allow scientists to look at healthy human brains and work out what parts are performing which functions.

***"The new techniques have reawakened a lot of interest in neuroscience..."***

Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) uses changes in the magnetic properties of the brain to track small changes which signal different functions.

Professor Fletcher, a Wellcome Advanced Fellow at the University of Cambridge, specialises in functional neuroimaging and has just spent three weeks at UWA's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Science, helping fellow research scientists to get the most out of their fMRI scanner.

"It takes a lot of expertise from physicists and radiographers to reset a scanner, depending on what you are looking for in a brain," Professor Fletcher said.

"It's difficult work but it is very well set up at QEII and you have excellent Departments of Psychiatry and Behavioural Science and Psychology to back it up.

There's nothing magical about fMRI. It's useless without good solid psychological questioning."

Professor Fletcher said he was very taken with psychiatry in the late 1980s when there was a lot of argument about social and psychological vs biological brain function.

"I saw them as being inextricably linked and so my fascination began," he said.

The early Magnetic Imaging scanners were quite scary for patients: having to stay in a dark, noisy tunnel, developing claustrophobia in the time it took to capture images.

But the new fMRI scanners are much quicker, needing only four seconds to take an image.

"The new techniques have reawakened a lot of interest in neuroscience," Professor Fletcher said. "It is one of the last



real battlefields of philosophy: the physical vs the mental. The questions we are asking are many centuries old, even though, now, they are much more specific.

"These machines won't tell us all the answers, but they give us lots of vital information about the systems in the brain that give rise to consciousness.

***"It is one of the last real battlefields of philosophy: the physical vs the mental. The questions we are asking are many centuries old..."***

"For example, we can look at the difference between personal, emotional memories and general emotional memories and dissect out these differences. Clearly you can't do that with animals.

"As a clinical tool, functional imaging is yet to have an impact. But if the technique fulfils its potential I can see it eventually being part of the diagnosis and treatment of patients.

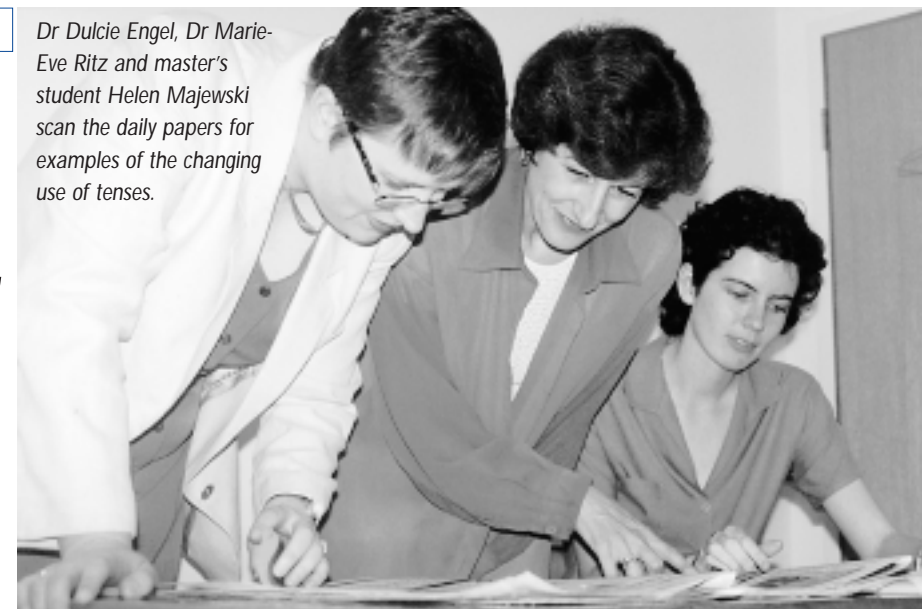
"But first, we are still learning what's normal, before we can go on to figure out what's abnormal."

Professor Fletcher's goal is to understand how the frontal lobes, which control the other areas of the brain, work and what goes wrong there when mental illness occurs.

 Linguistics

# What has been happening to the English language?

Dr Dulcie Engel, Dr Marie-Eve Ritz and master's student Helen Majewski scan the daily papers for examples of the changing use of tenses.



**T**o language pedants, it's sloppy speech. To linguists, it's an interesting, evolving change.

You have probably noticed it and been irritated by it, especially if you listen to commercial radio. It's the changing nature and use of the present perfect tense in the English language.

For example: "Police confirm that at 16.30 hours yesterday the body of ... *has been located*" (92.9FM radio news report, March 17, 2000); and "A man *has been injured* when the tanker he was driving crashed into..." (96FM radio news report, August 24, 1999).

Australians are tending to use the present perfect or the "I have done" tense instead of the simple past tense "I did".

Australian English is already described as a separate dialect from other varieties of English, but so far the main differences noted have been in vocabulary and pronunciation.

Dr Marie-Eve Ritz, linguist and lecturer at the Graduate School of Education, says this is the first time a grammatical change has been observed.

"When I came to Australia from France a few years ago, I was confused about what I was hearing," Dr Ritz said. "At first, I noticed it in colloquial speech, then I began hearing it in news reports, reading it in newspapers and magazines and I have even found it in a David Ireland novel."

Dr Ritz met English colleague Dr Dulcie Engel of the University of Wales, Swansea, at a linguistics conference at Oxford 18 months ago and they discovered a common interest in what was happening to the English language.

Dr Engel has just spent two weeks working with Dr Ritz at the GSE, with the assistance of a small ARC grant, on a project examining the grammatical changes. They will present a joint paper on their findings at an international linguistics conference in France, later this month.

"To a British English speaker, it sounds wrong. This is not happening so much in Britain. But nothing's wrong to a linguist. It's merely interesting. We try to be scientific, not judgmental," Dr Engel said.

"It's fascinating to see something in the process of happening," Dr Ritz said.

They said that English speakers in the United States used a simple form of the past tense, even when we would expect the present perfect. For example, just before a meal, a mother would tend to say to her child "Did you wash your hands?" instead of "Have you washed your hands?"

Dr Engel said there was evidence from many languages that the perfect was an unstable grammatical category.

"It has happened in French, and, to a lesser extent, Dutch and German," she said.

Dr Engel and Dr Ritz's research assistant, Helen Majewski, who is now doing a master's degree in linguistics in the Department of Linguistics, has been collecting examples of the changing use of the tense.

"Radio Triple J has been the best!" she said.

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

**The Dean's Lecture Series**

## **"Forensic Science and DNA – The UK Experience"**

*A lecture by Detective Superintendent*  
ROBIN NAPPER

A fascinating look at the forensic world behind the scenes at the National Crime Facility in the UK. Robin Napper has spent the past 18 months seconded to the NSW Police, where he has been setting up a crime facility similar to the one he established in Britain. He believes that scientifically-based investigation, particularly the power of DNA, is revolutionising the way police work and that the recent introduction of CrimTrac, if fully implemented, will make Australia a world leader in crime intelligence and produce a dramatic improvement in case clean-up rates.

**Wednesday 24 May 2000 6pm**  
**Social Sciences Lecture Theatre**

**All WELCOME**

**ADMISSION FREE**



## Monday 15 May

### CHEMISTRY SEMINAR

"Telomerase", Dr Shankar Bala, University of Cambridge. 1pm, Room 1.81, Anatomy and Human Biology Building.

### SCIENCE FILM SHOW

"Electric skies". This program incorporates stunning images to illustrate the mystery and physical properties of lightning. 1.05pm, Geography Lecture Theatre 1.

### HISTORY SEMINAR

"Idle hands and idle lands: gender, geography and boys' employment in Western Australia, 1910 to 1937", Kellie Abbott. 4.30pm, Postgraduate Lounge, Hackett Hall. All welcome.

### INSTITUTE FOR CHILD HEALTH RESEARCH

#### ALESSANDRI ORATION

"Remembering Louisa and rediscovering community", Dr Ruth Shean, CEO Disability Services Commission. 6pm, Atrium, Institute for Child Health Research. Refreshments served at 5.15pm.

## Tuesday 16 May

### AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS SEMINAR

"Economics of obligations", Associate Professor David Godden, University of Sydney. 11am, CLIMA Seminar Room.

### LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY FLOORTALK

"Stephen Scourfield on *Glossy*". Stephen Scourfield, from the *West Australian*, will speak from his experience of working in the media on the theme of *Glossy* and public personality. 1pm, LWAG.

### GUILD COURSE-RELATED FILMS

*Pulp Fiction*, directed by Quentin Tarantino and starring Samuel L. Jackson and Uma Thurman. The stories of two mob hit men, a boxer and a pair of diner bandits intertwine in four tales of violence and redemption. Related to English 213/313. 2pm, Guild Cinema, Cameron Hall (above Tavern).

### MUSIC MASTERCLASS

"Visiting pianist, Stephen McIntyre presents a masterclass exploring advanced repertoire for the piano. Public admission is \$10 and \$15 available at the door. WAIM students free. 3 to 5pm, Eileen Joyce Studio.

### SOIL SCIENCE AND PLANT NUTRITION SEMINAR

"Importance of micronutrients for plantation eucalypts", Associate Professor Bernie Dell, Murdoch University. 4pm, Agriculture Lecture Theatre.

### LATIN AND GREEK READING GROUPS

Latin and Greek Reading Groups are meeting weekly on Tuesdays, at 5.30pm for Greek and 6.30pm for Latin in the Department of Classics and Ancient History Seminar Room (2.43). Organised by the Classical Association, the groups are open to anyone who has studied these languages. The cost is \$5 per hour (\$2.50 for unemployed/retired). Please contact Dr Sherylee Bassett on 9286 2806 for further information.

## Wednesday 17 May

### CHEMISTRY SEMINAR

"Fullerenes", Barry Peel, La Trobe University. 12 noon, White Lecture Theatre.

### PATHOLOGY SEMINAR

"Mind the gap. How to bridge major tissue defects in the adult CNS." Associate Professor Alan Harvey, Anatomy and Human Biology. 1pm, Pathology Conference Room, G14, Ground Floor, M Block, QEIIIMC.

### MUSIC MASTERCLASS

"Acclaimed cellist Cameron Retchford presents a masterclass exploring advanced repertoire for the cello. Public admission is \$10 and \$15 available at the door. WAIM students free. 5.30pm, Callaway Music Auditorium.

### FRIENDS OF THE UWA LIBRARY LECTURE

"William Dampier in New Holland", Alex George (botanist and author). 8pm, Library Training Room, Reid Library (preceded at 7.30pm by the Annual General Meeting).

### CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION LECTURE

"The journey of St Paul to Antioch in Pisidia", Dr Mehmet Taslialin, Curator of the Yalvaç Archaeological Museum, Isparta, Turkey. 8pm, Austin Lecture Hall. Free and open to the public.

## Thursday 18 May

### FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERT

"Visiting Artists Helena Rathbone (violin) and Cameron Retchford (cello) in recital. Works include *Debussy Sonata for Violin and Piano* and *Bach Suite for Cello*. 1.10pm, Octagon Theatre.

### ZOOLOGY SEMINAR

"Multiple paternity and mating system function in the West Australian frog *Crinia georgiana*", Dr Dale Roberts, Zoology. 4pm, Jennifer Arnold Lecture Theatre.

### STATISTICS SEMINAR

"Statistical analysis of air quality time series with long-range dependence and intermittency", Dr Jiti Gao, Mathematics and Statistics. 2.15pm, Blakers Lecture Theatre.

## Friday 19 May

### MICROBIOLOGY SEMINAR

"Cloning the flavivirus resistance gene in the mouse model", Dr Nadia Urosevic, Microbiology. 9am, Seminar Room 1.1, First Floor, L Block, QEIIIMC.

### AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS SEMINAR

"Australian agricultural economics in the last quarter of the twentieth century", Associate Professor David Godden, University of Sydney. 11am, Agriculture Lecture Theatre.

### ANTHROPOLOGY SEMINAR

"Haunting traces of difference: applications of Derrida to Kiwi identity", Dr Farida Tilbury, formerly Victoria University. 12 noon, Anthropology Conference Room (First Floor, Social Sciences Building). Enquiries to Sandy Toussaint on ext. 3884 or [toussaint@cyllene.uwa.edu.au](mailto:toussaint@cyllene.uwa.edu.au).

### ASIAN STUDIES SEMINAR

"Expectation or exploitation?: child labour in the Japanese coal mining industry", Sachiko Sone. 1 to 2pm, Room G.25, Social Sciences Building. All enquiries to Patrick Jory on ext. 2002 or by email at [pjory@cyllene.uwa.edu.au](mailto:pjory@cyllene.uwa.edu.au).

### BIOCHEMISTRY SEMINAR

"Fuel utilisation during sustained intermittent, intense exercise in humans", Mike Christmass. 1pm, Simmonds Lecture Theatre.

### ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE WORKSHOP

"Industry and market commonalities in order flow and trades", Dr Hock Ng, Accounting and Finance. 2pm, Research Centre, Room 1.93 (First Floor, Economics Commerce).

### CIVIL AND RESOURCE ENGINEERING LECTURE

"Some practical points in piling works", Dr Chun Whan Cho, Korea. 3.45pm, Room E151, Civil Engineering Building.

# Campus Diary

UWA News is published fortnightly. Information for the publication dated 29 May should be forwarded to Joanna Thompson, Publications Unit, ext 3029, fax 1162, email: [uwanews@publishing.uwa.edu.au](mailto:uwanews@publishing.uwa.edu.au)

### NO LATER THAN 5 P.M. ON 17 MAY

Media enquiries to Public Affairs on 9380 2889.

Unless a restricted audience or charge is specified, all the events/exhibitions listed here are free and open to all and may attract media interest.

### ANIMAL SCIENCE LECTURE

"A comparison of the ruminal microbial population structure in cattle browsing tagasaste (*Chamaecytisus proliferus*) in autumn and spring using 16S rRNA probes", Matt Thyer. "The design of highly specified diets for improved pink snapper growth and defined waste release", Sid Saxby. 4pm, Agriculture Lecture Room, Faculty of Agriculture (New Building, Ground Floor, North Wing).

### THE PHILOSOPHY SOCIETY

"An ontological theory of truth", Stewart Saunders and Stewart Candlish. 4.15pm, Arts Seminar Room 1.33.

## Saturday 20 May

### KEYED UP!

Solo Piano Recital Series presents an amazing multi-piano event. Lead by Stephen McIntyre, a team of Perth's best pianists will perform works arranged for four hands, eight hands, six pianos and, in a grand finale, ten pianos at once. Not to be missed! Tickets are \$22.50 and \$17.50 and are available on 9386 4767.

## Monday 22 May

### PERTH MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE GROUP MEETING

"The digital Middle Ages and the early modern web" Dr Toby Burrows, Scholars' Centre, Reid Library, and Penelope Jones. 1pm, Reid Library Training Room. All welcome.

### SCIENCE FILM SHOW

"Dying for a meal". This program introduces us to different forms of bacteria which cause food poisoning, and explains the conditions in which they become a threat to our health. Also showing is "Go vegetarian", a program which introduces an exciting and healthy way of eating while also exploring some of the issues and myths about vegetarianism. 1.05pm, Geography Lecture Theatre 1.

### HISTORY SEMINAR

"A history of abortion law reform in Western Australia since the 1970s", Jasmina Brankovich. 4.30pm, Postgraduate Lounge, Hackett Hall. All welcome.

## Tuesday 23 May

### THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (WA) INC.

"Changes to the medical curriculum", Associate Professor Judith Stratton, Public Health. 10am, M. E. Wood Room, St Catherine's College. Cost: \$2 per head for tea/coffee.

### LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY FLOORTALK

"Hilary Fraser on Henry Holiday and the Victorian context". In the context of the exhibition *There was war in Heaven*, Professor Hilary Fraser will explore the theme of Victorian art and literature. 1pm, LWAG.

### GUILD COURSE-RELATED FILMS

*Sunset Boulevard*, directed by Billy Wilder and starring William Holden and Gloria Swanson. About a "has been" actress of the silent era and a "never was" script writer. Related to English 217/317: Reading Film. 2pm, Guild Cinema, Cameron Hall (above Tavern).

### SOIL SCIENCE AND PLANT NUTRITION SEMINAR

"A soil scientist in Australian women's hockey? The similarities between soil and sport research", Yoshi Sawada, Soil Science and Plant Nutrition. 4pm, Agriculture Lecture Theatre.

## Wednesday 24 May

### CHEMISTRY SEMINAR

"The curriculum framework, post-compulsory review and their implications for tertiary institutions", Jenny Donovan, Curriculum Council, WA. 12 noon, White Lecture Theatre.

### GEOGRAPHY SEMINAR

"Antarctica, continent of biogeographical extremes", Dr Andrew Kennedy. 1pm, Lecture Theatre 2, Department of Geography.

## Thursday 25 May

### STATISTICS SEMINAR

"Spatial models for environmental assessment by combining information from multiple sources", Professor Mark Handcock, University of Washington. 2.15pm, Blakers Lecture Theatre.

### ZOOLOGY SEMINAR

"Food webs, energy sources and stable isotopes: the fish fauna of the Fly River, Papua New Guinea", Dr Andrew Storey, Zoology. 4pm, Jennifer Arnold Lecture Theatre.

## Friday 26 May

### MICROBIOLOGY SEMINAR

"Erythropoietin signalling and lineage switch genes", Professor Peter Klincken, Laboratory for Cancer Research. 9am, Room 1.1, First Floor, L Block, QEIIIMC.

### AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS SEMINAR

"Bidding models and competition in international grain trading: theory, and analytics of three case studies", Professor Bill Wilson, North Dakota State University. 11am, Agriculture Lecture Theatre.

### BIOCHEMISTRY SEMINAR

"Kinetics of the biotin carboxylation reaction of pyruvate carboxylase", Joy Branson. 1pm, Simmonds Lecture Theatre.

### CIVIL AND RESOURCE ENGINEERING LECTURE

"Modelling of jack-up structures subjected to random ocean waves", Dr Mark Cassidy. 3.45pm, Room E151, Civil Engineering Building.

### ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE WORKSHOP

"The influence of cultural factors on price clustering: evidence from Asia-Pacific stock markets", Professor Philip Brown, Accounting and Finance. 2pm, Research Centre, Room 1.93 (First Floor, Economics Commerce).



## ADVANCE NOTICE

## Monday 29 May

### BOTANY SEMINAR

"Nitrogen acquisition by native plants", Dr Matthew Turnbull, University of Canberra. 4pm, Seminar Room 2.14, Botany.

## Wednesday 31 May

### PHYSIOLOGY RESEARCH SEMINAR

"Sensory innervation of the bronchial mucosa in the pig", Jasmine Lamb. 1pm, Physiology Seminar Room.

## Saturday 3 June

### ONE-DAY CONFERENCE

#### CONSTRUCTING A COLONY: THE CONVICT LEGACY

This one-day conference, hosted by the Centre for Western Australian History (UWA) and the Fremantle Prison, marks the 150th anniversary of the arrival of convicts in Western Australia. Bringing together historians, genealogists, researchers and the interested public, the conference will explore the historical and contemporary impact of the convict system on Western Australian society, its cultural heritage, and environment. 9am to 5pm, Fremantle Prison. Early registration (before 19 May)—Full: \$45.00 Concession: \$25.00. (Prices include morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.) For more information and registration forms, please contact: Dr Helen Merrick, A/Director, Centre for WA History, Department of History. Phone: ext. 2143 or email: [hmerrick@arts.uwa.edu.au](mailto:hmerrick@arts.uwa.edu.au).

## Monday 19 June

### THE MOYAL LECTURE SERIES ON MATHEMATICS, PHYSICS AND STATISTICS (AT MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY)

Macquarie University is pleased to sponsor the first in a series of annual lectures in honour of the late Professor Joe Moyal, one of Australia's most remarkable scientists and former Professor of Mathematics at Macquarie University.

Each year, a person who has made a distinguished contribution to at least one of the three fields of Mathematics, Physics and Statistics will be invited to give the Moyal Lecture and will be presented with the Moyal Medal for their contribution to research. This year's lecture will be given by the Professor of Statistics at the Australian National University, Professor Joe Gani.

The lecture series aims to influence and interest graduates who research in areas across these disciplines as well as to provide a meeting ground for researchers in these disciplines from universities in the region.

The lecture will be held at 7.30pm in E6A Lecture Theatre, Macquarie University. It will be followed by a discussion session, supper and drinks.

Bookings are not essential but if you would like more information please contact Associate Professor John Corbett at Macquarie University on (02) 9850 8945.



## Human Resources



## Review by peers works well

**M**ost UWA staff who apply for a reclassification of their position are successful.

The Classification Review Committee, a group of eight staff members from a broad spectrum across the campus, say that there is almost a 90 per cent success rate for reclassification applications.

Last year, 41 applications for reclassification were received, of which 35 were successful.

The committee, whose membership changes annually (but not all members change each year) has been in operation for more than three years. As each decision is made by the committee and not by a single person it is a much more democratic method of assessing University staff's duties and responsibilities.

Committee members have experience in a wide range of different fields and on joining the committee are provided with extensive training in the area of classification and work-value assessment.

The committee meets on the first Thursday of each month but a sub-

committee can make assessments on new positions if these need to be urgently classified. Applications for reclassification are generally dealt with within two months, consistent with the University's Enterprise Bargaining Agreement.

The certification of the General Staff Agreement 1999 has seen a change in the appeal process. Any appeals against the committee's decision will now be referred to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, who will have access to all the material submitted by the applicant and/or department. If the appeal is dismissed, the applicant may refer the matter to the Australian Industrial Relations Commission.

Human Resources staff are always happy to assist other staff who are considering applying for reclassification. The Classifications section can be contacted on ext. 1239 or 2155. There is also information on the web at: [http://www.acs.uwa.edu.au/hrs/policy/part07/attachments/8\\_schedC.htm](http://www.acs.uwa.edu.au/hrs/policy/part07/attachments/8_schedC.htm)

The reclassification application form is at: <http://www.acs.uwa.edu.au/hrs/policy/download/att10-1.rtf>.

## Still keeping an eye on the time

**A** clock has been chosen as the most fitting memorial to Margaret Knight, who worked so loyally at University House for 23 years until her death last year.

University House Manager, Cathy Tang, said one of Margaret's greatest concerns was to ensure that members got back to work on time after lunch.

"It was Margaret who set all University House clocks five minutes fast!" Mrs Tang said. She said, apart from its appropriateness, a clock would be something that could fit in to the present University House or the new one.

About \$400 has already been donated by members. If you would like to contribute to the Margaret Knight Memorial Fund, donations can be made at the office.

The current Classification Review Committee: (standing) Professor John Cordery—Head of the Department of Organisational and Labour Studies and Vice-Chancellor's rep; Bob Farrelly—Director, Human Resources; Mary Macpherson—Industrial Officer; Ida Gambaro—Assistant Industrial Officer (Classifications).

Seated: Rob McCormack—University Statistician, CPSU rep; Shirley Oakley—Associate Librarian and General Staff rep; Steve Parkinson—Chief Technician, Anatomy and Human Biology and General Staff rep; Matthew King—Electrician, ALHMMWU rep.

## Syllabus Plus Project

## How's your timetable looking?

**T**imetabling changes this year should be making the most of the campus' venues and should be more convenient for staff and students.

How successful these changes to centralised timetabling are will be reviewed by a small working party, which the Teaching and Learning Committee has established.

The group will assist Syllabus Plus Project Manager, Dr Michael Partis, and consider input and feedback on any difficulties arising in the first semester, so that adjustments and modifications might be made for second semester.

The working party is: Professor Colin McLeod, convenor, and Head of the Academic Board; Tim Huggins, Guild President, representing the students; Judy Allen from the Law School; and Dr Armando Scolara from the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

Dr Partis and his team spent most of last year working on the new centralised timetabling, trying to keep changes to the minimum but benefits to the maximum.

## Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery

**Y**ou can find art in the most unexpected places — under a microscope, inside a computer or even in a maths equation.

The University's Gallery is offering the opportunity for departments and research centres to mount exhibitions of their art, under the Access Exhibition Program.

The Gallery facilitates up to three exhibitions a year in collaboration with departments. New Gallery manager, Kate Lewis, said the program promotes skills of learning through exhibitions and, in a broader sense, is part of the University's commitment to innovation in teaching and learning.

Under the program, the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery provides gallery space, security and gallery staff, exhibition advice and costs of installation — at no cost to the department.

The department or centre must select, supply and frame its works of art and supply photographs for publicity purposes.

The Gallery and the department work together on promotion of the exhibition and development of any public programs related to the subject material (lunchtime talks, school visits).

Kate Lewis is keen for University staff to take the opportunity of using the Gallery for its prime purpose.

"The Gallery has become an increasingly popular venue for holding special University functions such as prize givings, welcomes and launches. However, it's first and foremost a working gallery and so our primary objective is the exhibition program. We would very much like to encourage contact from departments and centres who feel they could contribute to this through the Access Exhibition Program," she said.

Written applications for mounting an exhibition in the 2001 academic year must be at the Gallery by Thursday June 1.

**PUT YOUR WORK ON THE WALLS**



LWAG's new manager, Kate Lewis, with the Gallery's conservator, Slobodan Binevski.

**M**s Lewis has taken over the management of the Gallery for a year while its Director, Dr Anna Gray, is in Canberra, editing the diaries of Australian artist Donald Friend.

"It's a great honour to be invited to spend a year at the National Gallery and undertake this important work," Dr Gray said before she left in March.

"It's an ambitious and exciting publishing project — compiling 44 volumes into four! During his long and notorious life, Donald Friend kept detailed diaries, lavishly illustrated with exquisite drawings.

"He wrote in the back of one of his first diaries: 'I am Donald Stuart Leslie Friend, and am 16 years of age, being blessed with a genius for art and a talent for writing.'"

"He is an acute observer, expressing a very strong sense of life lived to the full. His diaries form an impressive chronicle in words and pictures of the life and times of this remarkable artist, who was also a published writer — a rare combination of talents."

The project is funded by the Morris West Trust Fund and the University has given Dr Gray a year's leave without pay to take up this prestigious fellowship.

Kate Lewis, an experienced arts administrator, was previously Executive Officer to the Vice-Chancellor.

## Champion of country practice recognised

**P**rofessor Max Kamien has won the biennial Louis Arriotti Research Award which recognises innovative research in rural and remote health in Australia.

The Foundation Director of the West Australian Centre for Remote and Rural Medicine, Professor Kamien has made exceptional efforts to expose medical students to

country practice. His work in training doctors for rural areas has had a beneficial impact right across the state.

Professor Kamien is now the Head of the Department of General Practice.

The Louis Arriotti Award was made at the Australian Rural Remote Health Scientific conference and is sponsored by the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation.



# Cycling – be in it with or without a motor



Cyclists queued up to try out Jonathon Thwaites' electric bike at the recent Bike to Breakfast.

**T**he twin targets that drive UWA's Bike to Breakfast (a cleaner environment and healthier bodies) were joined this year by a third sibling: alternative technology.

Jonathon Thwaites, the University's Radiation and Safety Officer, turned up to the Bike to Breakfast on his Taiwanese electric bicycle, which was an instant hit.

Mr Thwaites is also the President of the Alternative

Technology Association, WA Branch, (ATA) and he and his fellow members imported half a dozen kits to transform ordinary bikes into electric bikes, about a year ago.

"After trials and research into other kits, we have decided to import for sale some kits from China, which will transform any old bike into an energy-efficient and easy-to-ride electric bike for around \$800," Mr Thwaites said.

As long as the electric motors are 250 watts or less, the electric bikes can be ridden anywhere a leg-powered bike can be ridden, and by the same people.

"We are bringing in the kits so we can offer a legitimate alternative to petrol engine-powered cars, not to make big profits," he said.

He rides in to University from Cottesloe (at a speed of about 20kph) and plugs the battery into a recharger in his office for a couple of hours, before riding home again. He has calculated the energy cost at around 10 cents. At home, he recharges his bike battery on his solar panels.

"You can pedal a bit when you're going uphill, to help the motor, but it only feels like riding on the flat. Most of the time, you just sit and steer and don't need to move your legs at all. You get some funny looks from other people, especially other cyclists you pass!" Mr Thwaites said.

He uses his electric bike on campus to save time walking between Zoology and QEII and everywhere in between.

If you would like to find out more about the electric bike conversion kits, call Jonathon Thwaites on ext. 7932 or

email him at [jthwaites@admin.uwa.edu.au](mailto:jthwaites@admin.uwa.edu.au).

Meanwhile, the University is again taking part in the Department of Environmental Protection's Cycling Project 100.

Last year, 22 staff volunteers gave up their cars for a year and rode to work at least two or three times each week. They, together with volunteers from other Perth businesses, rode more than 130,000 kilometres.

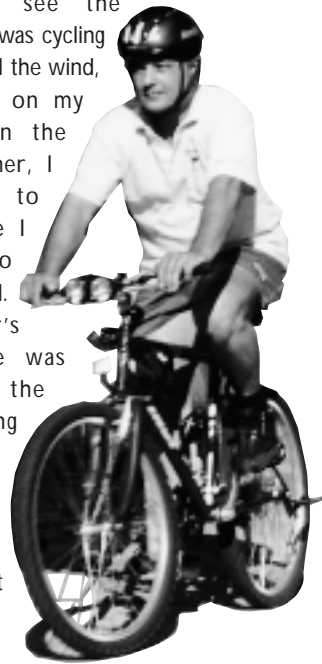
Gordon Walsh, UWA's Environmental Manager, who co-ordinates the project, said the equivalent of 28 tonnes of green house gas emissions had been saved.

Another team of 17 UWA staff has signed up for the project this year. There are still a couple of positions left, so if you live between five and 15 kilometres from campus and would be prepared to ride to and from work two or three times a week for a year, give Gordon Walsh a call on ext. 3534 or email him at [gwalsh@acs.uwa.edu.au](mailto:gwalsh@acs.uwa.edu.au).

Lee Carter, from the Department of Philosophy, said she thoroughly enjoyed her year of cycling last year and the benefits were great.

"I became fitter, felt fantastic ... I loved to see the environment I was cycling past and to feel the wind, sun and rain on my skin. Even in the wildest weather, I still wanted to cycle because I loved it so much," she said.

Ms Carter's beloved bike was stolen from the Arts Building recently, so she advises all cyclists to invest in the strongest possible lock.



## Graduates reward sporting students

**A hockey player and a rower, both in their third year of study, have won the annual UWA Graduates' Association Sports Bursaries.**

Michael Boyce was awarded the bursary for his achievements in hockey. A law and commerce student, he has represented the state several times in hockey and has been selected in the WAIS hockey program.

Ben Hopkins has represented WA and Australia in rowing. He was a member of the eight which won the King's Cup last year and the Oxford and Cambridge Cup in 1997. Ben, studying Human Movement, has been named State Champion at many regattas.

Presenting the bursaries, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson, said that UWA was blessed with some of the best, if not the best, sporting facilities of any Australian university.

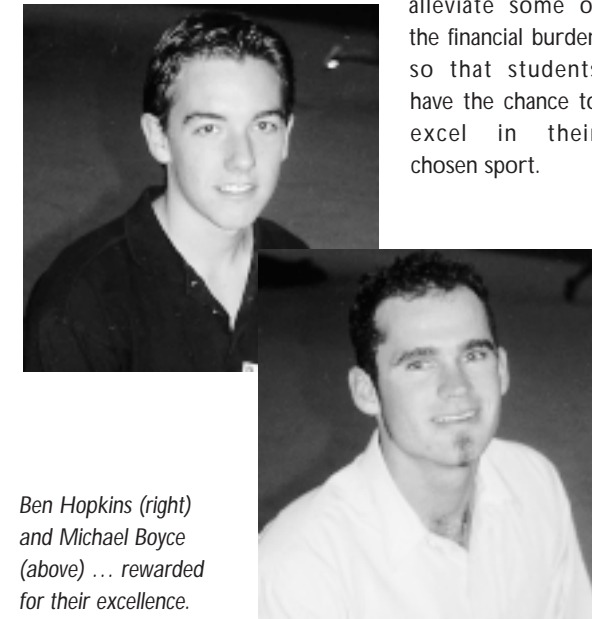
UWA received a five-star rating in the *Good Universities Guide* (2000) for areas which contribute to the overall student experience — which includes sporting facilities.

But, as Professor Robson said, the University administration can take only part of the credit for those facilities.

He acknowledged the work of the sports clubs and the UWA Sport and Recreation Association.

The hard-working and high-achieving sports players among the student population have to juggle their training commitments and study, as well as holding down jobs to fund both. The Graduates' Association Bursaries help

alleviate some of the financial burden so that students have the chance to excel in their chosen sport.



Ben Hopkins (right) and Michael Boyce (above) ... rewarded for their excellence.

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## Don't miss this bus!



**M**echanical engineers had an opportunity to inspect the world's most environment-friendly means of transport recently when the new NEBUS stopped outside their department.

The fuel-cell powered bus is a research project of Daimler-Benz and is not yet for sale but even the researchers and developers are reportedly amazed at the speed at which the fuel cell has advanced towards production standard.

It has emission-free operation and makes minimum noise (the tyre and the electric motor are the only noise sources) and its wheelhub drive allows a low floor design with stepless entrances.

Mechanical engineering lecturer Dr Kamy Cheng arranged for the bus to visit the department.



## CLASSIFIEDS

## WANTED TO RENT

HOUSE IN NEDLANDS/SUBIACO/CLAREMONT from 1 November 2000 until 1 May 2001, for an academic couple with no children (sabbatical visitor and wife). Preferably furnished. Please contact Ken Ilett on 9346 2987.

## TO LET

FOUR-BEDROOM HOUSE available from 19 June 2000 for rent until December or longer if preferred. Unfurnished, low maintenance, reticulated, dishwasher and a/c, in cul-de-sac close to Uni. \$500 p/w. Ideal for academic family on leave until Christmas or for longer period. Contact Livia Hool on ext. 3307 or at lhool@cyllene.uwa.edu.au.

BUSSELTON BEACH COTTAGE, just 200m from placid Geographe Bay. Close to the Broadwater Resort and only a short walk along the beach to cafes and restaurants etc. Sleeps 4+. Available school and public holidays. Contact lyndam@cyllene.uwa.edu.au.

## FOR HIRE

DAVID POWERBEAM V DIGITAL PROJECTOR for hire. Suitable for data and video projection. Easy to use, lightweight and portable. High resolution with wide compatibility. Cost: \$95 per day or part thereof. Please call Susie on ext. 3085 for bookings.

## FOR SALE

KB LASER HATCHBACK (1985), white, mechanically A1, reliable and in good condition. \$2,750. Contact Caroline at home on 9387 1471.

CAMRY (1998), white, \$37,000km, auto, PS, CL, under new warranty until mid 2001. Excellent condition. \$19,900 ono. Call Sharon on ext. 2562 or 9305 3736.



## UWA Employee Assistance Program

There are times when all of us have challenging issues to deal with. When personal or work related issues make life difficult, the University has an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to help staff manage these issues more effectively.

The EAP is a professional, confidential counselling and consultation service. The services of Davidson Trahaire are available FREE to you and your family for up to six sessions a year.

For appointments, please ring Davidson Trahaire on 9382 8100 or if urgent 9480 4847(24 hours). Their offices are located at Suite 11, 100 Hay St, Subiaco. Further information can be obtained at [www.admin.uwa.edu.au/sho](http://www.admin.uwa.edu.au/sho)



### UNIVERSITY PHYSIOTHERAPY AND SPORTS PODIATRY

## PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

**Sally Bigwood  
Gerard Hurst**

## PODIATRIST

**Clayton Byrne**

## UWA Recreation Centre

9380 2316

STUDENT RATES  
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## Thankyou

Final-year Agriculture students will be competing for a new \$1000 prize from BankWest.

The bank has sponsored the award for the student who achieves the highest marks in the final year of the Bachelor of Science in Agriculture this year.

## Redundant Equipment for Sale

| ITEM   | PRICE  | AGE    | COND. | CONTACT | DEPARTMENT    | EXT  |
|--|--------|--------|-------|---------|---------------|------|
| Canon 270T fax machine                                   | \$400  | 15     | 2     | Miho    | Asian Studies | 2080 |
| Netcomm cardmodem 56<br>Kflex for Mac                    | \$200  | as new | 1     | Miho    | Asian Studies | 2080 |
| Panasonic multifunction<br>plain paper fax machine       | \$300  | -      | 2     | Miho    | Asian Studies | 2080 |
| MacII SI, Mac 05 7.1,<br>5MB RAM, 38 Meg HD              | \$150  | -      | -     | Vicki   | Music         | 2052 |
| Quadra 605, Mac 05 7.5.5,<br>20MB RAM, 250 Meg HD        | \$200  | -      | -     | Vicki   | Music         | 2052 |
| LC 630, Mac 05 7.5.5,<br>36MB RAM, 350 Meg HD            | \$300  | -      | -     | Vicki   | Music         | 2052 |
| PB 150 CS Laptop, Mac 05<br>7.1.1, 4MB RAM, 128 Meg HD   | \$250  | -      | -     | Vicki   | Music         | 2052 |
| PB 1400 CS Laptop, Mac 05<br>7.6.1, 12MB RAM, 770 Meg HD | \$1600 | -      | -     | Vicki   | Music         | 2052 |

### Bids should be accepted by Monday 29 May with departments to have first option

Departments are reminded that all University equipment available for sale must be advertised in the UWA News. Receipts should be PeopleSoft account coded 490 (computing with barcode), 491 (non-computing with barcode) or 493 (items with no barcode). If equipment has an existing barcode please contact extension 3618/2547 for details.

CONDITION refers to the general condition of item (1 = as new; 2 = good; 3 = serviceable; 4 = unserviceable). AGE refers to the nearest year.

## Research Grants & Contracts

## AINSE RESEARCH TRAINING

Karl Heinz Wyrwoll, Geography: "10B dating of alluvial terrace successions in north-east Tibet"—\$6800 (2000).

AUSTRALIAN GREENHOUSE OFFICE/  
RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM

Dr Pauline Francis Grierson and A/Prof Mark Andrew Adams, Botany: "Review of unpublished biomass related information"—\$74,000 (2000).

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF  
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT  
ISLANDER STUDIES

Alistair Graham Paterson, Anthropology and N. Gill and M. K. Japanangka (external): "At home on the Murraraji"—\$31,645 (2000).

## AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL

Dr Dylan Jayatilaka and A/Prof G. S. Chandler, Chemistry and A/Prof M. D. Gould (external): "A new projection-based approach to chemical valence concepts"—\$46,000 (2000); \$43,595 (2001); \$43,940 (2002).

Simon John Drew, Mechanical and Materials Engineering: Fellowship "Coupled vibration and torsional damping of geared rotors".

Dr Andrew Harvey Millar, Plant Sciences Group: Fellowship "Mitochondrial metabolism in rice following anoxia and the implications for resistance to oxidative stress in crops following submergence".

Dr Leigh William Simmons, Zoology: Fellowship "Sperm competition and sexual selection".

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL—  
SMALL GRANTS

Prof. Andrew Anderson Brennan, Philosophy: "Animals, science and ethics"—\$4088 (2000).

Prof. Kenneth William Clements and Dr Qiang Ye, Economics: "Curbing greenhouse gas emissions and the WA economy"—\$8872 (2000).

Dr John Hewlett Hogben, Psychology and Dr D. V. Bishop (external): "Low-level perceptual processing as a predictor of reading ability"—\$8872 (2000).

Dr Lawrence Joseph Abraham, Biochemistry: "Role of Ets transcription factors in tissue-specific expression"—\$8000 (2000)

Dr Boris Martinac, Pharmacology and Dr J. Dobson (external): "The effect of magnetic fields on the activity of bacterial mechanosensitive (MS) ion channels"—\$790 (2000).

## WANTED: AWARD WINNER

Departmental staff are reminded that the Teaching and Learning Committee is offering a \$20,000 award for Distinguished Departmental Teaching and Learning. The aim of the award is to promote and reward excellence in teaching and learning at the departmental level. The award is open to all teaching departments and is judged on the submission of a departmental teaching portfolio.

To be considered for this award a departmental teaching portfolio should be submitted by Friday, 28 July 2000.

Details and guidelines are on the web at: <http://www.acs.uwa.edu.au/reg/sec/ddtla/2000-ddtla.htm>

For further information contact Sue Smurthwaite, Executive Officer, Teaching and Learning Committee, ext. 2459, email: [ssmurthwaite@acs.uwa.edu.au](mailto:ssmurthwaite@acs.uwa.edu.au)

Dr Zheng Xiang Li, Geology and Geophysics: "820 million-years-old zircon grains from South China deposited in Australia"—\$963 (2000).

Dr Stefan Kleffmann, Geology and Geophysics: "A high-resolution seismic reflection experiment for direct imaging of iron-ore deposits"—\$10,525 (2000).

Dr John Joseph Kinder, European Languages and Studies: "A reference grammar of Italian in a sociolinguistic perspective"—\$4000 (2000).

Prof. R Street, Physics: "A study of exchange interactions in rare-earth rich permanent magnets alloys"—\$10,500 (2000).

A/Prof Jie Pan, Mechanical and Materials Engineering: "A study of some fundamental problems in ship board acoustics"—\$15,226 (2000).

Dr Lesley May Vidovich and Prof. Roger Clement Slee, Graduate School of Education: "Accountability in Australian and English higher education, in a global context"—\$8427 (2000).

A/Prof Thomas Anthony O'Donoghue, Graduate School of Education: "An historical analysis of the lives of teachers who taught in Western Australian Catholic Schools from 1929 to 1973"—\$8122 (2000).

Dr Alan Walmsley, Classics and Ancient History: "Archaeological investigations at Gharandal (Arindela) in Jordan: the regional survey"—\$12,257 (2000).

Dr Brenton Knott, Zoology: "Can the polychaete worm, *Ceratonereis acquestis* remove nitrogen from the Swan River Estuary, Western Australia?"—\$6833 (2000).

Dr M. L. Cambridge and A/Prof Diana Inez Walker, Botany: "Clonal growth strategies in the formation and maintenance of seagrass meadows in submarine landscapes"—\$9790 (2000).

Dr Michael Paul Burton, Agriculture: "Consumer attitudes to genetically modified organisms in food in the UK"—\$7871 (2000).

A/Prof Brendan James Waddell, Anatomy and Human Biology: "Does progesterone act as an endogenous anti-glucocorticoid to promote placental growth?"—\$6834 (2000).

Prof. Robyn Anne Owens and Dr Amitava Datta, Computer Science: "Fast transformations for image processing on parallel computers with optical buses"—\$12,000 (2000).

GENERAL PRACTICE EVALUATION  
PROJECT GRANTS

Dr Alison Marie Ward and Dr D. Field, General Practice: "Profile of non fee for service work performed by general practitioners in Western Australia"—\$26,016 (2000).

GRDC (GRAINS RESEARCH AND  
DEVELOPMENT CORP.)

Dr T. J. Ridsdill Smith, Legumes in Mediterranean Agriculture: "Developing resistance to pests in lupins with low alkaloid content"—\$49,817 (1999); \$51,829 (2000); \$53,772 (2001).

Dr Michael Gregory Francki, Botany: "Travel - to attend 6th International Congress of Plant Molecular Biology, Quebec, Canada"—5000 (2000).

## HEALTHWAY

Prof. John Phillips Newnham and Dr S. McDonald, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, J. A. Sharp, A. Bartu, Dr S. F. Evans (external): "A preventive intervention for illicit drug using mothers and their infants"—\$65,036 (2000,2001,2002).

Watch out for more  
Research Grants  
and Contracts  
in the next issue  
of UWA News.



Published by  
The University of Western Australia

Designed and produced by  
Publications Unit  
The University of Western Australia

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CLASSIFIEDS/REDUNDANT EQUIPMENT/  
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Printed by  
Uniprint  
The University of Western Australia

UWA news online  
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# Quo Vadis

A Personal View

**W**here indeed are we going at UWA? I have recently returned from a quick trip to a NASA conference in the USA and a visit to research colleagues in Virginia. At the risk of being dubbed an instant expert on United States academia, I would like to make a few comments.

The morale of the American academics at our conference seemed far better than that of Australian academics. Our academic siblings there were not complaining about their job prospects, nor fearful of possible redundancy, nor preoccupied with early retirement packages and their family's future. These concerns seem to be the norm at Australian conferences. Why the difference?

There seem to be some obvious differences. The Republicans are promising 15 per cent more university funding and the Democrats look like promising more. Sure, the American economy is booming, but more importantly, the Federal Government and State Legislatures seem to believe that America's high technology and general industrial well-being is firmly underpinned by high-quality fundamental science and other traditional areas in the universities. Despite the allegedly utilitarian features of US society, unlike Australia, they seem to have adopted a much broader and more mature view of what ultimately makes society tick.

Now, I know that many will say that the United States is a cut-throat, ultra-competitive, ultra-capitalistic, economic rationalist society. However, as far as universities go, is ours any better or is it maybe even worse? I think it might be worse. The career options and job security for young

academics are absolutely pathetic in Australia. I know that the tenure track process in the USA is quite stringent and demanding. But at least there is real tenure at the end of a path. And a real prospect of a well-remunerated career with good prospects of research grants for hard-working academics. Dare I say also, less dependence on the quirky idiosyncrasies of promotional structures which we seem to have inherited from the British system.

I honestly think that the comparative remuneration and lack of ultimate job security and opportunity provided by the present Australian university system create an even more stressful environment for academics than is found in the United States system. I wouldn't have said this 20 years ago.

What then is my message? Should we all seek green cards in the USA? It is hard to say "no" if one is asked this question by a young academic or PhD student and it is indeed a tragedy for the Australian university system that this should be the case. Unless the Federal Government injects very large sums of money into public tertiary education the answer to the above question will soon become emphatically yes. And furthermore, we might have to start saying something similar to even our potential undergraduate students.

Full marks to Vice-Chancellors and governing bodies who try to raise additional sources of supplementary funds from alumni, industry and overseas sources. However, in my opinion this is just tinkering at the edges. The further option of charging full fees for all Australian students is an obscenity and I hope that UWA is never reduced to that level.

Unless Federal funding is properly restored, we might as well inter the Australian university system with a decent burial. If that happens, the gravestone will surely have engraved on it the words: "courtesy of John Dawkins, David Kemp and the Labor and Liberal Governments".

Let's finish with a riddle. "How do you convert a good university into a bad university?" Answer: "Replace administrators by managers, indulge in micromanagement of every activity, and prevent the rank and file from expressing their opinions publicly." At least the presence of this column shows that all is not lost.

**Dr Terry Quickenden**  
Senior lecturer in Chemistry  
and Senate member



...the last word