

Adelaidean

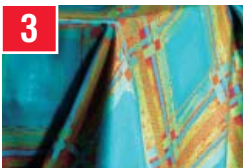
NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

April 2006

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100 reasons to cheer a proud history



It's plane sailing for our engineers

Dr Gerald Schneider and Dr Bassam Dally, senior lecturers from the School of Mechanical Engineering
Photo by Candy Gibson

■ Engineering

The University of Adelaide has joined forces with a local aviation company to develop a world first – a prototype for an amphibious seaplane with retractable floats.

The School of Mechanical Engineering is collaborating with Tigerfish Aviation to develop the retractable floats for seaplanes, allowing them to land on either water or a runway.

A \$300,000 State Government strategic grant has paved the way for the ambitious project, which has the potential to revolutionise the seaplane industry in Australia and around the world.

Initially intended for the general aviation sector, if the prototype is successful,

the concept could appear on larger, passenger aircraft.

Dr Bassam Dally, a senior lecturer at the School of Mechanical Engineering, has been instrumental in establishing the collaboration with Tigerfish Aviation directors Saxon Rudduck and Alan Smith. The idea has been developed and patented by Tigerfish Aviation but, due to the low level of funding, its design and implementation has been slow until now.

Dr Dally said that existing seaplanes could not retract their floats, resulting in a large air resistance or drag.

"This makes them very inefficient because they use more fuel and are therefore restricted with the distances they travel or the load they can carry," Dr Dally said. "Retro-fitting the retractable floats to existing aircraft is an attractive and financially viable option."

"The modifications are not expected to be huge and if companies are using the plane on a regular basis, they will recoup their investment very quickly," Dr Dally said.

The retractable float development will be applied to two aircraft – the 12-14 seat Cessna Caravan (which has both a seaplane and a land version) and the Dash 8, a larger passenger plane, which can seat 37-50 people.

Additional funding of \$60,000 has been pledged from the Sir Ross & Sir Keith Smith Fund, named after two pioneering South Australian aviators who in 1919 flew a Vickers Vimy biplane from London to Darwin in less than 28 days. The fund aims to advance the science and education of aeronautics in South Australia.

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Adelaidean

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From the Vice-Chancellor

Now that the dust has settled after the recent flurry of elections and electioneering, the political process, at least locally, will resume its relentless grind. With Labor's landslide victory now a fact of life, we need to address the ways in which the University continues its interaction with Government.

Governments have a great influence over what universities can do to benefit the wider community. We can only achieve our full potential for success if we have the support of Government.

We have certainly enjoyed a valuable partnership with the Rann Government that is delivering real outcomes of great value, economically and socially, to local, national and international communities. One example is the new Centre for Treatment of Anxiety and Depression that promises to bring significant benefits to mental health in both research and treatment.

The State Government also contributed to the funding of the new Adelaide Proteomics Centre that will help keep the University at the forefront of the fight against cancer. And even more recently, the Premier announced annual funding for a Research Unit in Climate Change to be headquartered here.

At a more local level, we've been pleased to work in partnership with both the State Government and the Adelaide City Council on the North Terrace Redevelopment Project. The upgrade to the frontage of our North Terrace Campus reflects our commitment to engage more with the local community and it's important to have Government support for this.

At Federal and State level, we've benefited from Government input to initiatives like the Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics, the International Centre of Excellence in Water Resource Management, and a new Wine Innovation Cluster.

These successful partnerships are producing significant positive impacts. However, there are many other ways in which Government, particularly at Federal level, is limiting our effectiveness.

Over-regulation by Government is making it more and more difficult to operate in an entrepreneurial and innovative manner. Endless red tape limits our ability to deliver the outcomes we would like. The pressures this micro-regulation has placed upon us are enormous. This year, 5% of our Federal public funding was at risk if we had not satisfied a raft of Government regulatory requirements, and next year this will rise to 7.5%, along with a further tightening of the rules.

Then there is the proposed Research Quality Framework. There certainly should be a robust mechanism for allocating research funding that ensures quality of outputs are maintained and that allows international comparisons and benchmarking. But it is crucial that the process put in place should be simple and reliable.

The last thing we need is a complex, expensive set of measures that may be neither sufficiently robust nor reliable. We, together with other universities, are making our case to new Federal Education Minister Julie Bishop, and will support her in seeking a good outcome. I would expect no less of a graduate of the University of Adelaide!

It is a time of great change and challenge but, I am happy to say, it's a challenge to which we are rising.

JAMES A. McWha
Vice-Chancellor

Adelaide in strong position as 'university of choice'

University meeting

The University of Adelaide is in a strong position to withstand the challenges posed by reforms to higher education, including the Federal Government's new industrial relations framework and quotas, according to Vice-Chancellor, Professor James McWha.

In his opening address to the University Community annual meeting last month, Professor McWha said the huge increase in governance requirements, regulations and reporting demands had placed staff under significant pressure.

"At the same time, our government funding has increased only by about 2.5% per annum," he said.

"Should we miss any government requirement we risk losing even that increase in our funding. This is a very real challenge."

Professor McWha said the University also had to accept that public perception of its standing as a tertiary education provider would increasingly rely on rankings.

But he said the Learning and Teaching Performance Fund, part of the Federal Government's *Our Universities: Backing Australia's Future* initiative, was a consequence of an "ill-conceived and shoddily implemented process".

"The rankings were based on a Course Experience Questionnaire and Graduate Destination Survey. These self-administered devices with low return rates were misused by the Government in a process criticised by almost every statistician who has examined it, including the Government's own independent review," he said.

"Nevertheless, the University has embarked on a range of initiatives to further improve the quality of teaching

and learning as well as the overarching student experience."

The University also had to factor in the emergence of new types of universities, such as Carnegie Mellon, which has opened a campus in Adelaide.

"This opens up opportunities for us to compete with them on one level and co-operate on another," he said. "The main objective should be to ensure that the South Australian community gains an advantage."

Professor McWha said the University of Adelaide remained the "university of choice" for South Australians, with student numbers on the rise and demand for government-subsidised places increasing.

This year, 7914 students listed the University of Adelaide as their first preference, compared to 7013 in 2005.

And more than 7000 people took part in the University's external programs in 2005, answering criticism that the institution fails to engage with the wider community.

Professor McWha praised the Adelaide University Union, describing it as "one of the most forward thinking in Australia" in its efforts in working together with the University to plan for the introduction of Voluntary Student Unionism.

"They have worked to ensure the best possible outcome for students in this difficult time of transition," he said.

Professor McWha and the Chancellor, Mr John Von Doussa, concluded the meeting after answering questions posed by members of the University community.

Story by Candy Gibson

Commonwealth university heads meet at Adelaide

Conferences

The University of Adelaide will host approximately 300 Vice-Chancellors from universities across the world at the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) Conference of Executive Heads on campus from April 9-12.

Under the title 'University Futures' the Conference will focus on some of the biggest issues facing universities worldwide, many of them with transnational and global implications.

Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha said: "This is a tremendous opportunity for the University of Adelaide to make its mark internationally before a global audience."

"Across the Commonwealth, governments are placing ever-increasing responsibilities on universities that are, in turn, facing more and more demands from their multiple stakeholders.

"Universities are being asked to take on roles in regeneration, economic and sustainable development, while at the same time maintaining quality and ensuring national competitiveness against tightening funding regimes. The debate surrounding these issues promises to be an exciting one."

The conference will be launched with an Opening Ceremony on Sunday 9 April, followed by three days of addresses and discussion under daily themes including the responsibilities of higher education; new roles, rules and forms; and dilemmas of international education. Discussion within these themes will focus on

the role of universities in regional economic development, social disadvantage, HIV/AIDS, national science strategies, demands from business and community, gender issues and sustainable development.

Among the speakers are: New Zealand Minister of Research, Science and Technology, Steve Maharey; former South Australian Premier and Regional Vice-President of World Vision International, Dr Lynn Arnold; South African Minister for Education, Naledi Pandor; and the former Director General of the World Trade Organisation, Mike Moore.

The University of Adelaide was selected to host the 2006 conference after submitting a bid three years ago at the last conference in Belfast. The conference will also include the annual general meeting of the Association.

A place for student art



Donna Bailey *The Ideal*
c type photograph 100 x 85cm



Jill Kinnear *Diaspora tartan*
digital textile print on
silk sating crepe 130 x 300cm



Jacqueline Cavallaro *Self portrait*
oil on ply

Student Art

Tertiary student artists from across Australia will show their work in a special exhibition – A Place in the World – to mark the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) Conference of Executive Heads.

Thirty-one artworks have been selected by a panel of judges from 64 entries as part of the University of Adelaide-initiated visual art prize.

They will be shown in Bonython Hall from 30 March to 13 April 2006 and the winners will be

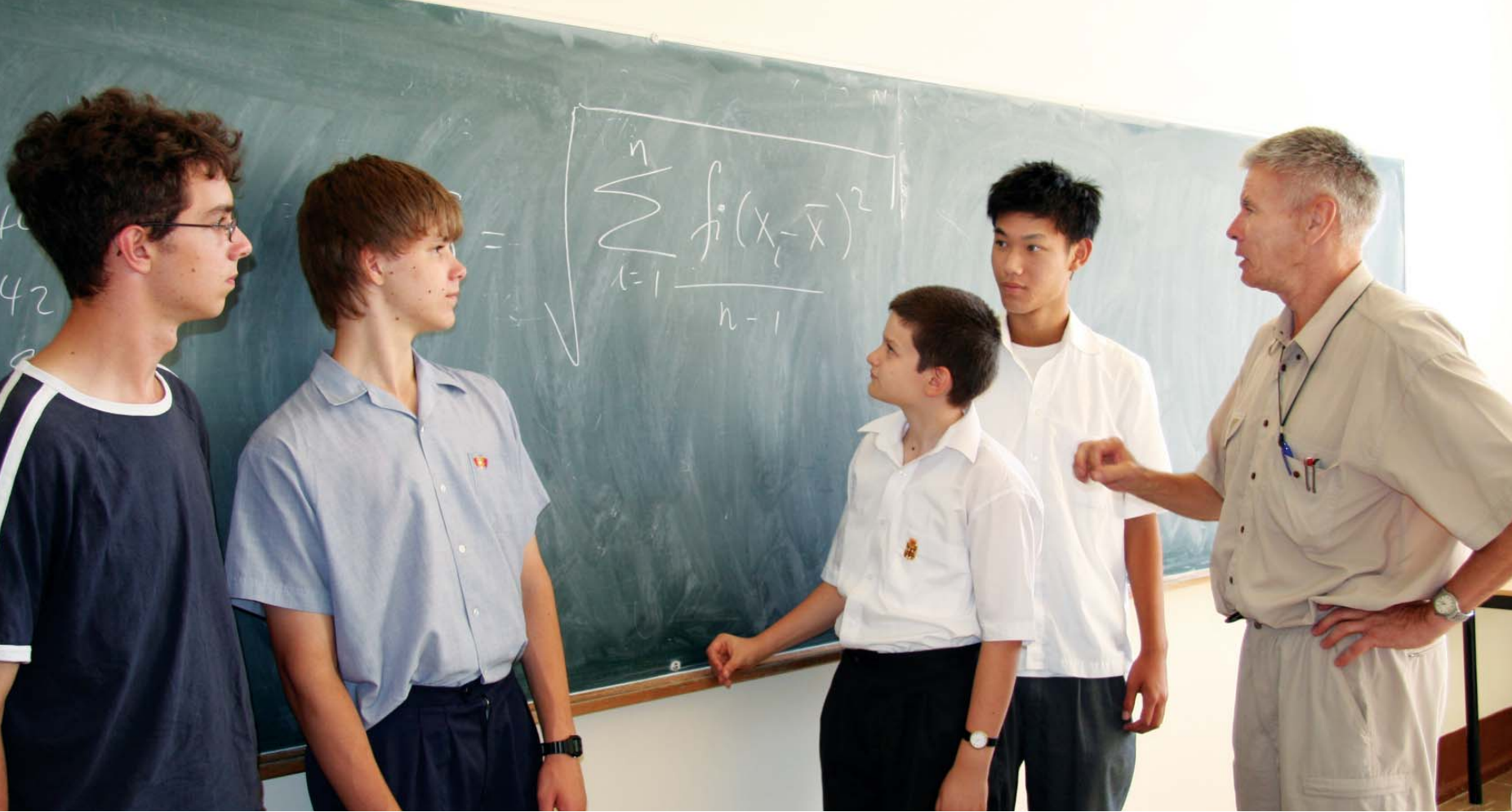
announced at lunchtime on the first day of the conference, Monday April 10, by Professor John Coetzee, Honorary Visiting Research Fellow in the Discipline of English and 2003 Nobel Prize winner for literature.

The entrants were asked to create a work of art that reflected the personal or cultural complexities of life in Australia or New Zealand. The artworks range from paintings, photography to digital media and textiles.

The winner of the first prize will receive \$5000 from the ACU and the winner of second prize will receive \$3000 from the University of Adelaide.

There also will be a \$500 'People's Choice' prize. Staff and students are encouraged to see the exhibition and lodge their vote.

The competition judges were Art Gallery of South Australia Director Christopher Menz; artist and Head of School, Adelaide Central School of Art Associate Professor Rod Taylor; artist and lecturer at University of Wollongong Jacky Redgate; Association of Commonwealth Universities Secretary General Dr John Rowett; with University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha and Art and Heritage Collections Manager Mirna Heruc.



Headstart stretches talented students

■ Maths

The University of Adelaide has welcomed the latest crop of prodigies to its Headstart scholarship program, which accelerates entry into tertiary study.

The four participants, aged from 14 to 16, are all taking Maths 1, including a special incubator tutorial series. They are: Philipp Algeuer (Prince Alfred College), Phillip Nguyen (Glenunga International High School), Anton Ametov (St Ignatius College) and Glenn Sneddon (The Heights School).

All four received scores of 20 for at least one of their Year 12 Maths subjects and 19 was the lowest score presented.

Launched in 2001, the Headstart program meets the needs of gifted and exceptionally motivated secondary school students who require a challenge beyond Year 12.

NSW import Philipp Algeuer, 14, is one of the youngest students to attend the University of Adelaide, blitzing the equivalent of Specialist Maths and Maths Studies at Hunter Valley Grammar in 2005. Philipp's family moved to Adelaide this year specifically to fast track his education via Prince Alfred College and the University of Adelaide.

Prince Alfred College was one of the few schools in Australia to allow Philipp to study part-time at university, despite his obvious ability. He has been studying accelerated Maths since Year 1.

The Co-ordinator of First Year Maths at the University of Adelaide, David Parrott, said he was very pleased with the calibre of this year's students.

"They represent a remarkable range of schools and we're privileged to have them on board."

University Maths tutor Vern Treilibs said the Headstart program recognised that gifted students needed lateral extension. "We don't put them under pressure but it's important their talents are nurtured."

"Unfortunately, many secondary schools have a problem with the concept of pupils missing classes. Schools see themselves as also providing a socialisation role and many of them are reluctant to accelerate kids."

Headstart students (from left) Glenn Sneddon, Anton Ametov, Philipp Algeuer, Phillip Nguyen with tutor Vern Treilibs

Photo by Candy Gibson

The Headstart scholarship pays for the students' university tuition fees for up to 12 units (the equivalent of a semester's full time workload).

Headstart students attend classes and sit examinations on the same basis as other students. Grades are recorded and may be used for status if the student is later admitted to an academic program. This enables students to fast-track their program or take a wider range of courses than usual. However, the main benefit of the scheme is the extra challenge and stimulation provided by university study.

Story by Candy Gibson

It's plane sailing for our engineers

story continued from page 1

Another academic from the School of Mechanical Engineering, Dr Gerald Schneider, a Sir Ross & Sir Keith Smith Fund lecturer in aerospace engineering, will also be involved in the project. Dr Schneider said the prototype had applications for rescue missions, supply ships and emergency landings.

"It will give pilots another option to land in the sea rather than on rough terrain if an emergency arises," Dr Schneider said.

"This project has both commercial and academic significance," Dr Dally said. "It will help publicise our work in the field of aeronautical engineering and opens up new opportunities for research. In addition it has

huge potential for the development of the commercial aviation industry in Australia."

The proof of concept on scaled planes as well as existing models is aimed at attracting further State and Federal support as well as substantial investment in the order of \$3 million over the next four years.

Story by Candy Gibson



Native insects take the fight to chardonnay-chewing pests

■ Pest Science

South Australia could be the first State to eliminate the use of pesticides in vineyards, thanks to the work being done by a University of Adelaide researcher.

Cate Paull, a PhD student from the Waite campus, has recently completed a 4-year project in the Coonawarra on reducing the use of pesticides in wine grape production.

It is one of the first projects of its kind in the Australian wine industry and paves the way for viticulturists to use insects, instead of pesticides, in a beneficial way to help fight insect pests.

Ms Paull's research identified many native insect predators and parasitoids, which could be used to help control the light brown apple moth (LBAM) – a major pest of grape vines.

"Beneficial insects have the potential to contribute to providing a free pest control service," Ms Paull said. "However, before grape growers can exploit this service we need to understand not only the

biology of the insects involved, but how vineyard management practices influence beneficial insects."

Ms Paull identified several species of parasitic wasps and mites as effective biological control agents of the offending moths.

"The really neat twist to these findings is that normally in biological control we would be looking at an exotic pest. This just happens to be a native moth that would much rather chew on chardonnay than eucalypts."

The project is a joint collaboration between the University of Adelaide, the Australian Research Council and the Coonawarra Grape Growers Association.

"Coonawarra is world renowned for its premium wines and they have a very forward thinking bunch of growers down there," Ms Paull said.

"This project has become a priority for them because they want to find a sustainable way to control pests and they also want to capitalise on a clean, green image for Australia by reducing the use of pesticides in vineyards."

PhD student Cate Paull in the University's vineyards. Cate has spent the past four years on a project to eliminate the use of pesticides in Australian vineyard

Photo Candy Gibson

Worldwide, there is a growing demand for "organic" wines, but Ms Paull says it will take a decade to reap the benefits of the cost savings achieved through biological control.

"The foundations have now been laid for reducing pesticides in vineyards in Australia and growers are enthusiastic that in the future, instead of spending hours on a tractor spraying pesticides, native insects will do the job."

Ms Paull completed an undergraduate degree in Natural Resources at Roseworthy campus and her Honours focused on insect biological control. She then worked with the CSIRO to help find a cure for an exotic pest, the red-legged earth mite.

Her PhD was supervised by Professor Andy Austin and Dr Nancy Schellhorn from the School of Earth & Environmental Sciences.

Story by Candy Gibson



Strategic partnership keeps Student Radio on air

Radio Adelaide

An imaginative new partnership between Radio Adelaide and the student organisations of the three universities will ensure student radio broadcasters remain on the airwaves this year.

In the wake of the Voluntary Student Union (VSU) legislation last December, there was concern that funding restrictions would spell the end of 32 years of Student Radio on Radio Adelaide.

But the Adelaide University Union (AUU) and student associations from Flinders University and UniSA have brokered a deal with Radio Adelaide to safeguard Student Radio.

The student organisations are collectively given 15 hours of air time each week on the award-winning 101.5fm station, which is renowned for its strong focus on current affairs, arts and culture.

Adelaide University Union has nine of these hours on Monday, Tuesday and Friday nights.

Under the new arrangement, the three student organisations will continue to pay an access fee, but will assign the right to "sponsorship time" in these slots back to Radio Adelaide. Depending on their success in generating sponsorship, Radio Adelaide will be able to repay some, or all, of the access fee.

Radio Adelaide station manager Deborah Welch said the agreement was "a very clever strategy" devised

by the station and the student leaders, but "will be dependent on our ability to attract sponsors".

"It is really important that we continue such a long-standing and unique association. Student Radio has been on the airwaves since 1974 and it has given thousands of students an opportunity to broadcast their talents – whether in comedy, drama or journalism," Ms Welch said.

"It is a place for experimentation and trying new things. If we lose this cultural forum, it will deny many people a place to start their careers."

Already on board are foundation sponsors Education Adelaide. "We were attracted to Student Radio as we are keen to support activities that add value to the experience of being a student, said Marketing Manager

Back row - President of the AUU, Josh Rayner, student broadcaster Daniel Winter; front row – Student Radio director Julia Kazmierczak (centre) is flanked by student broadcasters Marco Cher-Gibard and Kye Elliott-Moyle
Photo by Candy Gibson

Sonja Visic. "It is also highly targeted towards the people we want to reach, who are students—particularly international students".

The president of the Adelaide University Union, Josh Rayner, said the strategy was a great example of students using their initiative to get around the funding squeeze created by the VSU.

"Student Radio is alive and well due to the very solid relationship now shared between the AUU and the University of Adelaide," he said.

Story by Candy Gibson

Adelaide leads the way to prevent brain swelling

■ Pathology

The University of Adelaide's medical researchers are leading the world in developing drugs to prevent brain swelling.

Brain swelling – or cerebral oedema – happens when the brain is either injured or infected and its water content increases by up to 5%, often leading to death.

Apart from traumatic brain injury, swelling of the brain is associated with strokes and meningitis, and any condition that causes brain inflammation.

According to Professor Robert Vink, Head of Pathology at the University of Adelaide, the treatment of brain swelling has not changed in 40 years.

"The research we are conducting is centred on the role of neuropeptides (a group of chemical transmitters that communicate between brain cells and other cells) in causing swelling of the brain," Professor Vink said.

"We know that inflammation occurs in the brain but we need to understand what role the nervous system plays in this.

"There is currently no pharmacological treatment for brain swelling and this is the first attempt in the world to understand specifically how neuropeptides cause cerebral oedema after brain injury and whether we can develop a drug to prevent that."

The brain is normally made up of 78% water. When inflammation occurs, this can increase to 83%, leading to restricted blood flow and an increase in intra-cranial pressures, followed by herniations where the brain tissue shifts across to other areas within the skull.

"This is when oxygen levels can drop in critical areas of the brain, usually leading to death."



Clockwise from back left: James Donkin, Islam Hassan, Emma Thornton and Renee Turner
Photo courtesy of Neurological Research Foundation

Professor Vink is the Neurosurgical Research Foundation Chair of Neurosurgical Research. Four of his students from the University's Centre for Neurological Diseases will present short summaries of their higher degree work on neuropeptides at a lecture on April 11 at the Medical School.

Islam Hassan, a Medical Science Masters student, and PhD students Renee Turner, James Donkin and Emma Thornton will present their research findings on neuropeptides and their role in cerebral oedema and brain cell death.

"We have shown that a specific neuropeptide, known as substance P, is a major player in neurogenic inflammation," Professor Vink said.

"Islam will present data which shows that substance P is released after traumatic brain injury or stroke.

"Renee's work confirms that drugs can be administered to reduce, or even stop, brain swelling.

"James will show that by giving drugs up to 12 hours after traumatic brain injury, profound improvements in neurological outcome can result with a marked reduction in brain swelling.

"Emma is working on the theory that substance P is associated with the degeneration of brain cells, or neurones. Her studies show that in pre-clinical Parkinson's Disease, where sufferers exhibit no outward signs of the disease, substance P is actually increased. This suggests it is associated with the very early onset of Parkinson's," Professor Vink said.

Story by Candy Gibson



April 2006

101.5fm

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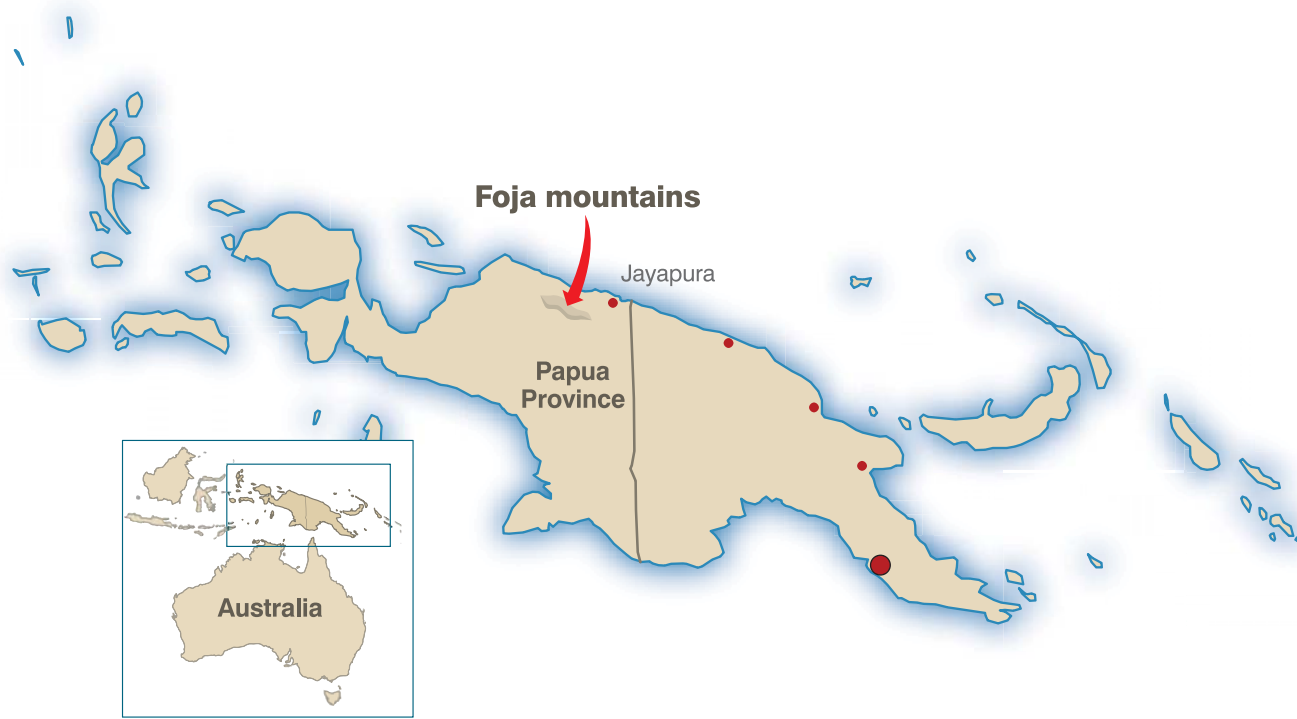
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Is this the last Lost World?



A University of Adelaide researcher, as part of an international expedition, has discovered what could be the last 'Lost World' in a remote forest mountain region in the Indonesian province of Papua.

Evolutionary Biology



1. Kristofer Helgen with a Golden-mantled Tree Kangaroo (*Dendrolagus pulcherrimus*), formerly known only from a single mountain in neighbouring Papua New Guinea
2. *Rhododendron macgregoriae*
3. A new species of Smoky honeyeater, discovered on the expedition
4. Forest interior near Kwerba
5. An undescribed species (*Choerophryne* sp.) discovered on the expedition

Photos by Bruce Beehler and Stephen Richards, courtesy of Conservation International



An expedition to the uninhabited Foja range found exotic new species of frogs, mammals and birds, and a remarkable lack of fear in many animals they saw.

Kristofer Helgen, a PhD student in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, was one of five western scientists in an international expedition to explore the most secluded mountain range of this remote and inaccessible region of West Papua. Mr Helgen's PhD is in the field of evolutionary biology, supervised by Professor Tim Flannery, Director of the South Australian Museum.

The expedition was led by Conservation International (CI) with a team of US, Indonesian and Australian scientists.

"The scientific results of this expedition were stunning," said Mr Helgen. "It's not unusual in New Guinea to find new species, but to find them in such concentration is very rare."

"The first bird I saw when I stepped out of the helicopter was a honeyeater with an orange face, which turned out to be a new species. This is the first new bird discovered on the island of New Guinea since the Second World War.

"The other way this region was really striking is that the animals were relatively tame. They just didn't know what people were; they hadn't learned to be afraid. New Guinea has had human occupation for 50,000 years and there are very few areas that don't bear the stamp of subsistence hunting, even in these mountainous forest areas.

"Some of these animals are normally incredibly skittish and you just don't see them, whereas we would see them regularly. There were forest wallabies which would hop around the camp by day."

Mr Helgen said the 'Lost World' title had captured people's imagination but the significance of this

expedition result was that it could well be the last discovery of this kind.

"Rather than this being a 'Lost World', more truly it is a case of the world being lost everywhere else," he said. "Tens of thousands of years ago, so much of the world would have looked like this. This truly might be the last time this sort of discovery is made."

He hoped that the publicity received by the expedition would help protect the region in the future from the inevitable pressure facing countries like Indonesia to log their interiors.

"We all came to the conclusion that nothing ultimately is saved by leaving it be," he said. "We decided it was better to place it on a kind of pedestal and show everyone what it's like and hope that embeds it in people's minds that this is a place that needs to be saved."

Story by Robyn Mills



Tour Down Under's culinary 'spokes'

Gastronomy

For University of Adelaide Le Cordon Bleu Master of Gastronomy student, Allie Reynolds, this year's Jacobs Creek Tour Down Under gave her food for thought, literally.

Allie, a regular commentator on the local culinary scene, grabbed the opportunity to promote two of her favourite things—food and Adelaide.

For the first time in its eight year history, the international cycling event was honoured with its own cake—a tradition from the sport's elite event, the Tour de France.

Since 1891, the Paris-Brest, a wheel-shaped ring of choux pastry filled with flavoured cream, has been sold in French patisseries and cafés during the Tour de France.

Allie added her own gastronomic contribution to the Jacobs Creek Tour Down Under event this year with the creation of Spokes, a small, moist almond and orange cake topped with a thin slice of glazed orange resembling a bicycle wheel.

Made entirely from South Australian ingredients, the protein-rich (a batch of 12 has five egg whites) delicacies were a hit with both cyclists and

spectators along section two of the 676 kilometre route.

Several cafés in Stirling, as well as the Hilton Hotel, featured them on their menus during the five-day race, receiving outstanding feedback from customers.

Allie hopes the feedback will encourage cafés and residents throughout Adelaide and South Australia to include Spokes in their culinary offerings every January.

"The Tour Down Under is a recognised international event now and the café scene is an important part of pre-cycle race culture in South Australia," she said.

"Next year we hope organisers of the event get behind the Spokes cakes and promote them as it goes around the country.

"I hope to have cafés and bakeries making them right around the State, as well as on the tour route. This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase our home-grown produce and a world class event."

Story by Candy Gibson

The recipe for Spokes is available on the ABC Adelaide website at www.abc.net.au/adelaide.

Experts gather for immunisation symposium

Medicine

A symposium to discuss the current status of vaccine preventable diseases in South Australia will be held at the University of Adelaide on April 21, attracting a wide range of local experts on immunisation.

Participants will share the latest information on challenges in vaccine development, practical experience in immunisation programs and identify opportunities for researchers, policy makers and practitioners to work together.

The event is being organised by the Preventative Healthcare Research Cluster (www.adelaide.edu.au/phrc), which aims to improve population health and well-being by fostering a multi-disciplinary approach to research.

Speakers will include:

- Professor Robert Booy, Co-director of the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance;
- Dr Rod Givney, Director of the Communicable Diseases Control Branch of the SA Department of Health;
- Professor Chris Burrell and Professor James Paton from the School of Molecular & Biomedical Science;
- Dr Allison Jilbert, Leader of the Hepatitis Virus Research Group;
- Dr Michael Gold, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Paediatrics;
- Dr Rick Stapleton from Royal Adelaide Hospital;
- Dr Andrew Lawrence from the SA Children, Youth and Women's Health Service;
- Ms Sarah Dugdale of the SA Immunisation Coordination Unit;
- Dr Celia Cooper from the SA Children, Youth and Women's Health Service;
- Associate Professor Annette Braunack-Mayer from the Department of Public Health.

The symposium will be held on Friday, April 21 at the Stirling Lecture Theatre, Medical School South, from 3pm to 8pm.

Interested parties should contact

Anne Hayes,
Project Coordinator,
Preventative Healthcare Research Cluster,

Phone 8303 4914

email anne.hayes@adelaide.edu.au



Great contribution to food safety

■ Biochemical Engineering

Cheaper food with greater safety and improved nutritional quality: it sounds like every food shopper's dream and it's just what a team of University of Adelaide researchers are helping bring about.

Their research uses mathematical modelling to produce quantitative risk assessments, rather than the traditional subjective risk assessment, for food safety in a range of industries from egg production through to aquaculture and brewing.

Dr Connor Thomas, Associate Dean (IT) in the School of Molecular and Biomedical Science, and Dr Ken Davey, Senior Lecturer in the School of Chemical Engineering, first combined their expertise in the early 1990s to launch biochemical engineering studies.

Since then they've brought in other University of Adelaide expertise (Biometrics SA) to establish the Food Research Group and formed a collaborative alliance with the South Australian Research

and Development Institute (SARDI) Food Safety Research Program.

"Our research interests were in food and allied food microbiology," says Dr Thomas.

"We started a new field of microbiological process modelling by integrating basic chemical engineering principles with microbiology."

Dr Davey adds: "We use mathematical modelling of biological processes to make predictions about food quality, for example bacterial growth, and then this is used to optimise the design process for the production of safe food, for example using sterilisation, pasteurisation or UV disinfection.

"The great success of the SARDI collaboration has come about through bringing together our predictive capabilities and SARDI's industry links."

Their work has not gone unnoticed. Just last month they joined a prestigious gathering at Government House in recognition of the

(From left) Dr Ken Davey, Honours student and SARDI Research Officer Tom Madigan and Dr Connor Thomas.
Photo by Chris Wong

collaboration's recent SA Great Science and Technology Award. This followed on from last year's Premier Award for Excellence in Research for Public Good.

- Also honoured in the recent SA Great Awards was the University of Adelaide's cereal breeding team led by Dr Tony Rathjen, Mr Gil Hollamby, Dr David Sparrow and Professor Andy Barr. They were highly recommended in the Science and Technology category for their contribution in collectively breeding, developing and commercialising varieties of wheat and barley that occupy over 90% of the South Australian area sown, over 70% of Victoria, 50% of southern New South Wales and 10% of Western Australia.

Story by Robyn Mills

University is Employer of Choice for Women

Good Practice

The University of Adelaide has been named an official Employer of Choice for Women by the Federal Government's Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency (EOWA).

The EOWA citation recognises employers that are supportive of women through policies and practices that have a positive outcome for women and for the organisation as a whole.

The University's Gender, Equity and Diversity Committee Convenor, Professor Michael Innes, said: "We are delighted to receive this recognition for the way we actively support our women staff members through family-friendly flexible employment policies and practices; for our inclusive and equitable workplace culture; and for the various strategies – some already in place and some still being developed further – to attract, retain and develop our women employees."

Among the good practice and initiatives recognised by EOWA is the Women's Professional Development Network (WPDN) and its mentoring program for general staff women.

The mentoring program was first piloted in 1996/97 – a pioneering

scheme developed by a steering group within the University specifically for this University. The 2006 program starts on 6 April.

WPDN convenor Lee Jones said the key to the program's ongoing success was getting the right match of mentor and 'mentoree'.

"If we find the right match, we find staff taking part usually achieve what they set out to achieve, whether it be promotion to a new job, development within their current job or dealing with difficult issues."

Other University of Adelaide good practice and initiatives include: the Academic Women's Forum; a promotions policy that ensures staff who are employed part-time or who have had career breaks are not disadvantaged; a Gender, Equity and Diversity Committee which reports directly to the Vice-Chancellor.

Professor Innes said: "We don't want to rest on our laurels and indeed realise we need to encourage more women into senior academic posts. This year we will be working closely with each Faculty to further develop strategies to continue this process."

Wine survey yields surprise results



Food and Wine

Roberta Veale
Photo by Candy Gibson

Living in South Australia - the premier wine State - does not guarantee superior knowledge of what makes "a good drop," a pilot study has found.

In a survey of 238 people by University of Adelaide Honours student Roberta Veale, 98% of respondents scored 50% or less in a 14-question multiple choice test to determine general knowledge about wine.

Half of the respondents believed that to let wine breathe meant simply to remove the cork in the bottle (as opposed to pouring it into a wine decanter), 45% of people did not know the influence of tannin on wine and most were unsure about matching wines correctly with food.

Almost half of those surveyed could not identify a wine that would improve with age and 42% did not know that chardonnay grapes were used to make champagne.

"Given the general nature of the questions that were asked, and the amount of familiarity that many South Australians have with wine, the low scores are very surprising," Ms Veale says.

The same group answered a multiple choice questionnaire about cheese, with 24% of respondents believing that quality camembert could sometimes "smell like old socks" (not true, say the experts). In both multiple choice tests, the "don't know" option was the most frequent answer.

The preliminary results of the wine and cheese study show that country of origin is the most influential factor in assessing quality – even overriding personal tastes.

Respondents believed that France produced the highest quality chardonnay, the United States an average product and Chile a poor quality wine. For camembert, France was again cited as the most likely to produce high quality, Canada average quality and Argentina poor quality, respectively.

"The findings show that most people have strong assumptions of a country – often incorrect ones – and that, coupled with price, they consider the two to be an accurate predictor of quality. They are often wide of the mark," Ms Veale says.

"Wine is a product that many people are intimidated by – particularly if it is expensive. If they don't like it they may believe that they lack an appreciation of the wine rather than conclude that it is not very good – and often it isn't!"

The next stage of the wine and cheese study will involve taste tests to determine if consumers are more responsive to the influence of price over taste.

Roberta Veale graduated with first class honours from the University of Adelaide, School of Commerce, in 2004. She was supervised in the pilot study by Professor Pascale Quester.

Story by Candy Gibson

New University Branded Products



The University of Adelaide is pleased to announce that a number of exciting new products have been added to the range of University merchandise. Products include the silhouette University Lion from Bonython Hall on a University Blue and Gold striped tie. It also includes a new water bottle and business card holder. Full range is available at:

Development & Alumni Office
Level 1, 230 North Terrace
University of Adelaide, SA 5005
Phone +61 8 8303 5800

Essence of Australia
Shop 39 Adelaide Arcade
Adelaide SA 5000
Phone +61 8 8223 3467

Better birth – experience matters

■ Childbirth

Family influences and upbringing play as much of a role in a couple's decision to have children as either career or financial pressures, according to a University of Adelaide researcher.

Laren Newman has recently completed her PhD thesis on how men and women's experiences of childbirth and child rearing affect Australia's birth rate.

Ms Newman, a BA (Geography) Honours graduate, said parents' experiences of child rearing could influence whether their own children chose to have a family.

Thirty-nine families were interviewed across Adelaide, including 38 mothers and 24 fathers.

The study also revealed that people who came from large families themselves were more likely to have at least two children.

"If parents demonstrate they can combine parenting and work without too much conflict, that message seems to be passed on to their children," Ms Newman said. "Conversely, if parents relay a negative attitude about the difficulties of raising children, their offspring can also be turned off parenting."

Ms Newman said the people in her study who had experienced divorce and domestic violence as children were more likely to intend to remain childless.

Painful birth experiences also have a major impact on a couple's desire to have more children, with 25% of respondents claiming this as a contributory factor in restricting their family size.

This may have a major bearing on South Australia's fertility rate, considering it has one of the highest caesarean rates in the world – 30% – double that of the World Health Organisation's recommended level.

"A British study in 2004 found that around half of the women who had caesarean or assisted delivery felt they could not face giving birth again," Ms Newman said. "This doesn't augur well for South Australia. Translating the figures from that study means 13% of women here will never have another baby because of that birth experience."

Ms Newman's research also revealed inconsistencies in a couple's expectations when it comes to juggling parenting and household responsibilities.

"Where both partners have worked before having children and shared household chores, after childbirth these women expect men to also share parenting duties. This isn't happening and it creates a lot of conflict.

"In more traditional relationships, however, there is less conflict if each partner's role is established from the start."

In conjunction with her PhD research, Ms Newman has also written her first book, *Better Birth: The Definitive Guide to Childbirth*, released by New Holland Australia last month.

The book, co-authored by Heather Hancock, is an information guide for pregnant women and a resource for midwives and other health professionals.



Laren Newman
Photo by Candy Gibson

It explains the midwifery and obstetric views of birth, how the choice of care provider and birthplace can influence a woman's experience, and how women can make choices which match their preferences.

"This book will help to counter the horror stories about giving birth because it relates some really positive experiences of childbirth. A lot of it is about the impacts of the maternity system, not a failure of the woman's body."

The book includes a section of 12 birth stories, six by Adelaide women.

Better Birth: The Definitive Guide to Childbirth, is available at most bookshops throughout Australia, including all Dymocks and Big W stores.

Story by Candy Gibson

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Offshore Graduation numbers double

More than 300 University of Adelaide students are expected to graduate in Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong later this month – double the number in 2005.

Singapore will host two graduation ceremonies on April 22, a ceremony will be held in Kuala Lumpur on April 23 and another in Hong Kong on April 30.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide, Professor James McWha, and the Chancellor, John von Doussa, will both attend the international graduation ceremonies.

New Roseworthy scholarship

Scholarships

A new scholarship will be available for undergraduate students at the Roseworthy Campus of the University of Adelaide from 2007.

This is the Trevor Dillon Agronomic Roseworthy Study Scholarship which recognises the immense contribution that Kadina-based agronomist Trevor Dillon has made to SA agriculture over five decades.

Details of the scholarship were announced by Dr Bruce Eastick at a dinner at Roseworthy in late February attended by Mr Dillon and 150 leaders in agriculture. Dr Eastick is chairman of Co-patrons of the Roseworthy Old Collegians Student and Campus Fund.

Roseworthy Old Collegians Association president, Mark Seeliger said the scholarship would assist Roseworthy students to study agronomy-based subjects from 2007.

"It will provide full residential accommodation on the Campus and meet other expenses for



students not otherwise able to undertake this study," he said.

"More than \$23,000 has already been raised for the scholarship fund and it is hoped to fund students on an on-going basis.

"Donations are tax deductible and forms are available from Joan Playford at the University of Adelaide, phone 8303 3692, fax 8303 5808."

Giving Prospectus

Giving to the University of Adelaide is a personal experience, as a new Giving Prospectus shows. Focusing on the personal connection that inspires people to give, the Prospectus shares the stories of people involved with the University who have been affected by generosity.

Donors can give to the University of Adelaide in a range of ways depending on capacity, inclination or personal area of interest. This is the first time that the University has provided a comprehensive guide of giving opportunities for people who are considering support, financial or otherwise.

All donations, regardless of size, are an investment in the intellectual and creative atmosphere that helps to produce extraordinary graduates. It is through a strong network of support that the University of Adelaide can continue to offer outstanding programs, develop a thriving culture of research, and provide unique resources.

To obtain a copy of the Giving Prospectus, please contact the Development and Alumni office or visit website at www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/giving to download a PDF version.

Development & Alumni Events

The Adelaide University Alumni Association Singapore (AUAAS)

Event: Annual Alumni Dinner

The Annual Alumni Dinner is an opportune time for alumni, their family and friends, special guests and officials of the University of Adelaide to gather for an evening of fellowship, fun and festivities. A time to renew ties with friends and colleagues and to build new and lasting networks. The highlight of this year's alumni dinner is the planned launch of the historic Adelaide University Alumni Association Singapore Commemorative Book.

Venue: Grand Ballroom, Hilton Hotel

Date: 7 pm, Friday 21 April, 2006

Cost: \$70 per person for a sumptuous eight course Chinese dinner and soft drinks. Lucky draw prizes for all who participate

Attire: Lounge Suit for Men

To register for the Alumni Dinner, please RSVP us at (65) 67382910 or email us at (vincentereyes@naaec.com.sg)

West Malaysia Chapter

Event: Reunion Dinner 2006

Date: Sunday 23 April, 2006

Time: 7:00 pm

Venue: Royal Selangor Club (Jalan Raja, Kuala Lumpur near Dataran Merdeka)

Price: RM70

Attire: Formal

Join us in rekindling old friendships and forging new ones at the West Malaysia Chapter's Reunion Dinner. We are expecting over 200 alumni and friends of the University.

Meet the Vice-Chancellor and other officials from the University of Adelaide and be informed of the strategic development shaping the future of your alma mater in maintaining its position as one of Australia's leading universities in research and educational excellence.

For further information and/or to confirm your attendance,

email: westmalaysia.alumni@gmail.com

or call: Tony +60 16 617 2983

Robert +60 19 233 0277

Mui Yen +60 12 291 3739.

You can help with the Reunion Dinner by:

- volunteering at the reception
- sponsoring door gifts / draw prizes
- advertising in the souvenir programme

Commerce Chapter

Event: Commerce Alumni Dinner Program

Venue: TBA

Date: April/May

Time: TBA

Cost: TBA

Bookings: commerce.alumni@adelaide.edu.au

Chapter: Friends of the University of Adelaide Library

Event: "Adelaide: nature of a city. Ecology of a dynamic city 1836-2036."

An author/scholar evening with Associate Professor Christopher Daniels (School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Adelaide)

Venue: Ira Raymond Room, Barr Smith Library

Date: Thursday 27 April, 2006

Time: 6 for 6.30pm

Cost: Gold Coin donation

Bookings: Essential. RSVP to Karen Hickman (phone 8303 4064 or email karen.hickman@adelaide.edu.au)

Chapter: Friends of the University of Adelaide Library

Event: Author/Scholar Evening. Author Murray Bail, winner of the 1999 Miles Franklin Award, in conversation with Nicholas Jose, Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Adelaide.

Venue: Ira Raymond Room, Barr Smith Library

Date: Thursday 18 May, 2006

Time: 6 for 6.30pm

Cost: Gold Coin donation

Bookings: Essential. RSVP to Karen Hickman (phone 8303 4064 or email karen.hickman@adelaide.edu.au)



Bethany Williamson

Architecture students' sweet life

Architecture

Students Lydia Paton and Bethany Williamson from the School of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design have made the final cut in Fleming's Student Design Competition, making up half the Australian quota of finalists at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show.

With a theme of "La Dolce Vita" (the sweet life) and a prize trip for two to London for the Chelsea Flower Show plus \$6000 spending money for the ultimate winner, both finalists were inspired by the sensual world for their landscape design entry that will be realised and displayed in early April in Melbourne.

The Fleming's Student Design Competition has become highly

regarded during the seven years of its existence, and represents a great opportunity for students to display their talent to the general public.

Both finalists will be flown to Melbourne to see their design and assist with the final touches before the show opens to the public.

Lydia, a fifth year Architecture/Landscaping double degree student, based her entry on the fact that most people go to garden shows to get inspiration for their own gardens. One of the entry conditions is that students must choose from a selected range of plants, which were mostly non-flowering, so Lydia worked painted pots into her design to create year-round colour in the garden.

She also has a strong environmental bent and so used two different but truly dolce vita-style mulches in the garden to save on water.

"I used cocoa bean husk mulch, a by-product of the chocolate industry that gives off a wonderful, rich, warm, chocolatey fragrance," she said. "The other mulch is grape marc, a lovely, dark compost that is a by-product of the wine industry."

Lydia is about to start a new landscaping business focusing on using local, indigenous plants with low water requirements. She currently works closely with her parents in the Coorong and on Kangaroo Island, and studying birds and observing their environment at Roxby Downs.

Bethany, who has just completed her first year of Architecture, opted to create a pleasure garden with a Japanese theme and an outdoor bathtub.

"I was brainstorming for inspiration and thinking about the sweetest pleasures in life and the bathtub

popped into my mind and just wouldn't go away," she said.

"I studied Japanese at school and I really love Japanese design. Everything I do has a Japanese twist, and so the design emerged."

Bethany has studied interior design previously, took some time out to work and returned to tertiary studies in 2005.

"I have only done one year of Architecture, but I am definitely leaning towards Landscape Architecture, so making it to the finals of this competition has been a great encouragement for me to pursue that direction."

Bethany and Lydia's work will be on display at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show from April 5-9.

Story by Lisa Reid



100 reasons to cheer a proud history

■ Sport

The Adelaide University Football Club, aka the "Blacks," always loves a party but this month its members have 100 good reasons to celebrate.

Founded in March 1906, the club is celebrating its centenary this year. It has enjoyed a long and proud history, punctuated only by war, and distinguished by a world renowned mascot in the form of Bob Neil.

Its website modestly lists it as "the world's greatest football club," a claim backed by a history of achievements.

It is the only club to have been represented in A1 in every year the South Australian Amateur Football League (SAAFL) has operated.

In the 1960s it was the largest football club in Australia, and with eight teams and 300 registered players now in the competition, the strength of the Adelaide University Football Club is the envy of many.

The year 1911 is an important date in the club's history as it marked the formation of an active club,

in contrast to a club which had existed in name only for the previous three seasons. It also marked the formation of the SAAFL, with which the name University has been synonymous ever since.

The Amateur League went into recess in 1915 for the duration of World War I, as many clubs had difficulty fielding sides, but the years 1920-29 were some of the club's most successful, with five premierships in the space of a decade.

The 1930s will be remembered for the University's great rivalry with Underdale, which produced some remarkable finals.

Again, World War II forced the Amateur League into recess between 1942-1945.

Post-war, the Blacks performed well, although premierships eluded them.

The 1950s saw the Blacks return to a powerful position in Amateur League, playing in six grand finals and winning four flags.

Without doubt, the 1960s were the Blacks' "golden years". Coach Alan Greer took the A1 side into six grand finals, winning four premierships.

Players of this era were considered by many to be the finest in the club's history and included the likes of AR Clarkson, DC Hill, WR Jackson, ME Jones and AE Byers.

The connection with Bob Neil goes back to the 1970s when he joined the Blacks as a player, later becoming a lower grade coach and committee member.

His name first achieved legend status during the 1986 grand final when a chant of "Bob Neil, Bob Neil" was used to spur the Blacks on to victory. Soon his name began appearing all over Adelaide – in graffiti, on banners and over the loudspeakers at Adelaide Oval.

When a Bob Neil banner was spotted at an Aussie Rules match at The Oval, London, he had ceased being a cult figure and had transformed into a phenomenon. His name even appeared on the Berlin Wall just before it was demolished in 1990.

A brilliant mathematician, these days Bob Neil works for the Defence Department at Salisbury, but his legacy is imbedded in the Blacks' website, named after him: www.bobneil.com.

1906 Adelaide University Football Club
Photo courtesy of AUFC

Club president Peter Maddern credits Dr Fred Bloch, a senior lecturer at the School of Commerce, with turning Bob Neil into a cult figure for the best part of 15 years.

"Fred has been a key person in giving the club its cultural identity. He also helped change the club's image from a 'private boys' school image to a far more egalitarian club," Mr Maddern said.

Increasing financial pressures, due to the Voluntary Student Union and additional running costs, mean the club now relies heavily on sponsorship and the support of past and present players.

To this end, the Adelaide University Club is hoping for a big turnout for its gala dinner at the Adelaide Convention Centre on Saturday, June 10.

Story by Candy Gibson

Tickets can be ordered through the club's centenary website at www.blackscentenary.com.au or through Archer Events on 08-8235-9122.