

# uniken



## The Chancellor retires

UNSW

■ Searching for linguistic truths ■ Einstein's miraculous year ■ The road back from Kinchela

## Contents

- 4 Searching for linguistic truths
- 5 Einstein's miraculous year
- 6 Road safety for seniors
- 7 The road back from Kinchela
- 8 Cover: The Chancellor retires
- 10 Photovoltaic students light the way
- 11 Shifting sands on the NSW coast
- 12 Books
- 13 Art from Long Bay
- 14 Council & Academic Board
- 15 First person: Ray Low
- 16 Last word: Peter Saunders

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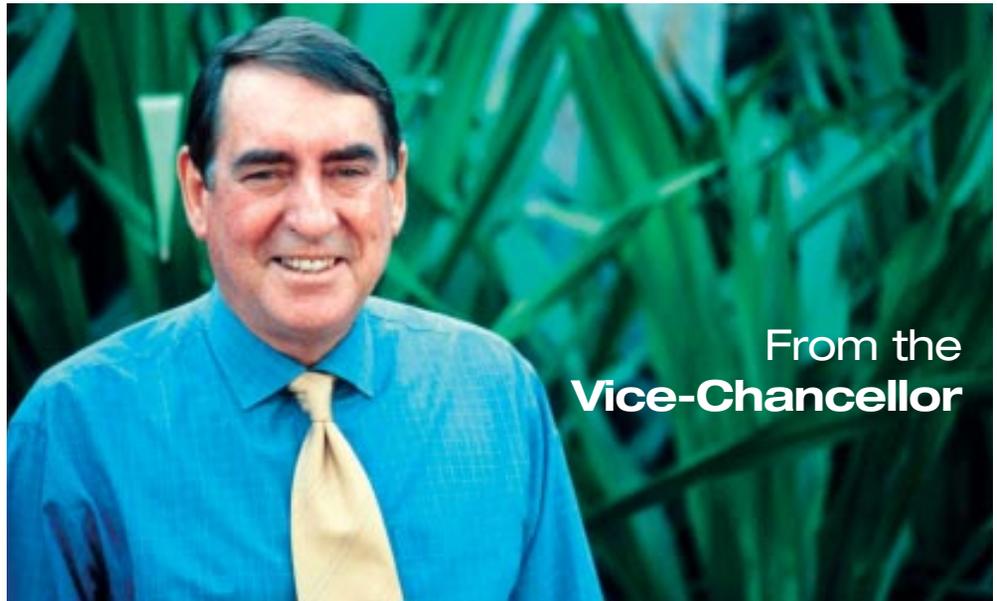
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**Group of Eight**



It is a little over 31 years since I joined UNSW and took up a lecturing position in the then-School of Chemical Technology in the Applied Science Building on lower campus. The current construction going on around that building has prompted me to reflect on the amazing transformation of the Kensington campus. There is no doubt it has played an integral role in the evolution of UNSW into one of Australia's great universities.

The early history of the campus, from its beginnings in 1949 as a 'temporary' site on High Street, was one of rapid expansion and makeshift construction. The 1960s saw the beginning of the first significant phase of building, but the campus continued to suffer from what some have called the 'infill' approach: if it's empty, fill it in. It was not until 1990 that the first Campus Development Strategy was adopted – the movement of car parks to the campus perimeter and University Walk are two legacies of that plan. Then came John Niland as Vice-Chancellor and stage two of the Strategy. The result has been a radical transformation of the campus, symbolised by the internationally acclaimed Scientia.

The campus continues to evolve. In the past 12 months we have seen major development underway on the University Mall, with a law building and a science centre both under construction, along with the refurbishment of the Heffron and Dalton buildings. A new state-of-the-art building has been completed on the site of the old Unisearch House at 223 Anzac Parade. It is now occupied by the Foundation Studies Program and the UNSW node of National ICT Australia (NICTA).

The most exciting challenge now is to map out the campus of the future. The University Council last month endorsed the Campus 2020 Master Plan, to guide the development of the Kensington campus over the next 15 years. The plan, which will go on exhibition around the University before being submitted to Randwick City Council, was developed after consultation with students, staff and the local community.

Key themes underpinning Campus 2020 are sustainability (social, economic and environmental) and the campus experience. It makes a number of recommendations relating to the design and location of future buildings, the creation of research and teaching clusters as well as learning and recreation hubs, landscaping, management of parking, working with the relevant authorities to improve public transport, and expanding child-care services.

Increasing the amount of student accommodation on campus is crucial. In earlier days the proportion of students living on campus was comparatively high. It is now less than five percent. The Master Plan recommends that the University increase student accommodation by 3000 beds over the next 15 years, to 4500 beds, partly through mixed-use development.

A campus that is open all hours is a more vital and secure campus, one that will enrich the student experience and create a greater sense of community. Housing on and near the campus is also a vital factor in attracting international and rural students and in reducing reliance on private vehicles and the demands on public transport.

Master Plans are also being developed for the COFA campus, in consultation with staff and students, Sydney City Council and the local community, and for the UNSW Asia campus in Singapore.

The greenfield site at Changi for UNSW Asia provides exciting opportunities for innovation. The first in a series of international design competitions has just concluded for the development of the Master Plan for the first stage of the campus, including an iconic library building. The second competition, for the design of a science/engineering building and an academic/administration building, will be launched in October.

I hope to be able to initiate several other building projects within the next 12 months. ♦

Mark Wainwright

## Art exhibition to support Indigenous residential scholarships

A substantial exhibition and sale of Indigenous art, including some works never before shown publicly, is being staged to support residential scholarships at Shalom College for Indigenous medical students. Fewer than 60 doctors in Australia are Indigenous, and about the same number are in training. The first recipient of the scholarship, Hayley Pigrum, is a first-year medical student and the first Aboriginal student to take up residency in Shalom.

The Shalom Gamarada Art Exhibition, at the College's Eric Caspary Learning Centre, will run from 25 to 28 July and is hoped to become an annual event to fund residential scholarships. It will feature works by George Tjungarrayi,

Gloria Petyarre, Barbara Weir, Ronnie Tjampitjinpa, Makinti, Emily Kngwarrye and Minnie Pwerle. More information at [www.shalomgamarada.com.au](http://www.shalomgamarada.com.au). ♦

Minnie Pwerle puts the finishing touches on 'Awelye' at a workshop held in Irlutja, north east of Alice Springs. 'Awelye' will be part of the exhibition of Aboriginal art held at Shalom College.



## Islam and liberal democracy

Staff are invited to join a studio audience for a televised debate as part of the international symposium on *Religion and Multicultural Citizenship* at UNSW this month. The panel discussion, compered by ABC Radio National presenter Rachael Kohn, is entitled *Multicultural Citizenship: Is Islam a 'Special Case'?* It will canvass issues such as whether Muslim identity can be 'privatised', gender differentiation, schooling and dress codes, inter-faith relations and alliances, and national identity, loyalty and transnational struggles.

The discussion will be from 2.15 pm to 4.00 pm in the Scientia's Ritchie Theatre on 13 July and will be filmed for broadcast on community station *Television Sydney* later this year. Register your interest in attending by contacting Geoffrey Brahm Levey on [g.levy@unsw.edu.au](mailto:g.levy@unsw.edu.au). Registration is essential for admission. Details on the symposium are at <http://politics-ir.arts.unsw.edu.au/staff/levfiles/religion&mc2.htm>. ♦

## Coffing up for rural medicine

Health Minister Tony Abbott attended the launch of the new UNSW campus in Coffs Harbour for rural medical students last month. The Coffs Harbour City Council provided the land on which the facility was built and the Commonwealth Government provided the funding. Twelve fourth-year and seven fifth-year undergraduate medical students are based in the Coffs Harbour area full-time with other fifth-year and sixth-year students rotating through. UNSW's School of Rural Health has six campuses across NSW with another planned for Port Macquarie. ♦



## Pegging back hepatitis C

UNSW researchers are running two new studies on hepatitis C, which could revolutionise treatment for the virus. One study may have the potential to achieve cure rates of almost 100 percent in those who have recently been infected with the virus. The US-funded Australian Trial in Acute Hepatitis C (ATAHC) study involves giving people the drug, called pegylated interferon, within six months of being diagnosed. The second study, which hopes to enrol more than 800 patients and will be the largest hepatitis C trial in Australia, is intended to determine whether a double dose of pegylated interferon will improve outcomes for people with hepatitis C genotype 1, a particularly difficult strain to treat. ♦

## Singapore by degrees

The first round of undergraduate courses to be offered at UNSW Asia has been approved. Six bachelor degree programs will be offered when UNSW Asia commences in Singapore in 2007: Science, Engineering, Commerce, International Studies, Design and Media. Within these programs, 20 majors may be completed through a single degree or one of nine combined degree programs. Additional programs being considered include a Bachelor of Medical Sciences and a Bachelor of Health Administration program. Postgraduate programs will be announced later this year. A key feature of UNSW Asia is the portability of courses between Singapore and Sydney. ♦

## First Australian for Marie Curie award

The first Australian to win a prestigious Marie Curie Incoming International Fellowship, UNSW scientist Dr John Foster, will spend a year at the renowned Institute for Soft Matter Research at the Jülich Research Centre in Germany. Awarded by the European Union, the fellowship is valued at 215,000 Euro (A\$359,000). Dr Foster, head of UNSW's Biopolymers Research Group, will investigate novel microporous films that could serve as precisely tailored templates for protein and cell arrays or unique biomaterials for wound healing and tissue regeneration. ♦

## Fulbright sparks

Applications are now open for 2006 Fulbright Awards. Valued at up to \$40,000, these awards are open to Australian citizens to undertake research or study in the United States. The award must be started between 1 July 2006 and 30 June 2007. Applications are invited in the following categories: postgraduate, professional, postdoctoral and senior scholar awards. More information at [www.fulbright.com.au](http://www.fulbright.com.au). ♦

## Global leaders of the future

UNSW students have won four of the eight Australian fellowships offered this year under the Goldman Sachs Global Leaders Program. They join a group of 100 students from around the world to be awarded the fellowships, which recognise academic performance and community contribution. They are Victoria Tan (commerce/law); Liam Wyatt (international studies/sociology); Gaurav Sharma (commerce/law) and Nicole Kuepper (photovoltaics/solar energy). Tan and Sharma will attend a forum at the Global Leadership Institute in New York in July. ♦

## For the record

The shorter working hours and higher pay on offer in the sex industry was the best means for acquiring the finances needed to live yet also allowing enough time to study.

**Dr Sarah Lantz, University of Melbourne's Centre for Adolescent Health, on her research on how female students support themselves – The Australian**

Heard the one about the business economist who forecast ten of the past two recessions? Then be very wary of the 'Dr Dooms' over the next few months.

**Dr David Clark, School of Economics – Personal Investor**

If the same mortality were occurring in non-Indigenous communities, you would have so many people dying that each person would be losing someone close to them every week.

**Dr Lisa Jackson Pulver, Muru Marri Indigenous Health Unit, School of Public Health and Community Medicine, on Indigenous rates of death – Sun Herald**

The most effective mental health intervention is not psychiatrists. It's to provide a safe environment and that means security about the future.

**Zachary Steel, School of Psychiatry, on immigration detention policies – Sydney Morning Herald**

This announcement has reversed the decision of ministers six years ago that recognised that interest rate subsidies were flawed.

**Dr Linda Botterill, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, UNSW@ADFA, on last month's drought package for farmers – The Australian Financial Review**

The fertility specialists of Australia are saddened and somewhat appalled by this extremely unusual event, just as I was appalled by the tsunami.

**Professor Michael Chapman, School of Women's and Children's Health, on the Brisbane woman expecting a second set of quads after fertility treatment – Australian Associated Press**

They are doing things like comparing the Indonesian president to a monkey and talking about Indonesia being a hell, suggesting the troops should be sent in to get Schapelle out of there.

**Associate Professor David Reeve, Head of the Indonesian Department, on reactions by the tabloid press and talkback hosts to the Corby case – Canberra Times**

The workforce pressures on general practice and other health professionals are making people realise we need to find new ways of doing things.

**Professor Nick Zwar, School of Public Health and Community Medicine – Australian Doctor**

About the only consensus to be found among those grappling with the need for reform of Australia's healthcare system is that the status quo is intolerable.

**Emeritus Professor John Dwyer, Faculty of Medicine – The Australian**

## Searching for linguistic truth By Louisa Wright

Communication between people in the same language holds many pitfalls; between people of different linguistic backgrounds even more. Consider the problem when three languages are being simultaneously interpreted – and the subject matter has no translatable equivalent in at least one of those languages.

Dr Ludmila Stern, co-ordinator of UNSW's Russian Studies in the School of Modern Language Studies and the driving force behind the new Masters of Arts in Interpreting and Translating Studies, has spent five years examining how the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) has overcome these linguistic and related cultural obstacles to achieve convictions.

The research is also shaped by her experience in analysing, for the Federal Government, the reasons why the earlier Australian War Crimes prosecutions were so conspicuously unsuccessful. Dr Stern worked with the Special Investigations Unit

This process, in which interpreters also act as cultural advisers, educates all the participants before the case begins.

Another substantial hurdle to interpreting in these circumstances is that, due to different legal systems, many terms in use in one legal culture have no meaning and no translation into another culture. Imagine asking a Bosnian witness about allegations, cross-examination or the balance of probability, all of which have no legal and therefore no linguistic match. This problem of equivalence of legal terms that are crucial in courtroom communications is the next area of Dr Stern's research, along with the issue of omissions and distortions arising from the challenge of simultaneous interpretation.

The successful approach of the ICTY has informed Dr Stern's work as a consultant with the establishment of interpreting services for the International Criminal Court (ICC), which is expected to hear cases stemming from conflicts in Rwanda and other African flashpoints.

A substantial hurdle to interpreting is that, due to different legal systems, many terms in use in one legal culture have no meaning and no translation into another culture

for the Australian War Crimes prosecutions from 1988 until it was closed, in the face of expensive and unsuccessful prosecutions, in 1993.

By that stage she was teaching part-time at UNSW and investigating why those cases had fallen apart. Her conclusions were, broadly, that the interpreting was of poor quality and too literally done by untrained interpreters; that essential briefing and background information was not given to the interpreters; that the strikingly different cultural backgrounds of the dozens of mostly Ukrainian witnesses was not understood; and the counsels for both sides were ignorant about how to communicate through this cultural divide.

The contrast could not have been greater with the ICTY experience, where interpreters are trained and extensively briefed, and work together as a team with investigators, counsel for both sides and judges to formulate an extensive understanding of the cultural context from which the witnesses come.

This presents even more challenging circumstances than those in the ICTY, because witnesses in the early ICC cases are expected to come from a wide range of language groups and may require interpreting and translation of legal discussion in as many as seven languages.

English is Moscow-born Dr Stern's third language, after Russian and French. She also speaks 'basic' German and some Polish/Ukrainian, courtesy of Polish grandparents. She has been chair of the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters' Russian Panel for five years. Her undergraduate course, Introduction to Professional Interpreting, provides the foundations of professional interpreting and is a precursor to the Masters of Arts in Interpreting and Translating Studies, which began this year. Related Graduate Diploma and Certificate courses are due to start in 2006. ♦

# Einstein's miraculous year

By Dan Gaffney

**A**lbert Einstein is the poster boy for the World Year of

Physics. WYP2005 is a year-long celebration of the physical sciences and also marks the centenary of the 'miraculous year' when Einstein turned classical physics upside down.

In 1905, the man later hailed by *Time Magazine* as the person of the twentieth century was a 26-year-old public servant in the Swiss patent office. As a technical assistant examiner third class, he was busily assessing patent applications that needed an understanding of physics.

In his spare time he published a doctoral thesis and five papers in Europe's top physics journal, *Annalen der Physik*, which advanced thinking about the nature of light, space, time, atomic matter and radiation.

In March 1905, Einstein made a major contribution to quantum mechanics. Until then, most physicists assumed light was a wave with continuous values of energy. Instead, Einstein said, light was radiated or absorbed in discrete packets (quanta), now known as photons, and thus explained the photoelectric effect. For this work he won the 1921 Nobel Prize in physics.

Two months later Einstein explained Brownian motion, the random movement of minute particles immersed in fluid in terms of molecular motion. In June, he published his special theory of relativity. This resolved a long-standing inconsistency between Maxwell's laws of electromagnetism and the relativity of Galileo and Newton. The imperturbable space and time of classical physics were replaced: time intervals, distance and even the time order of events were dependent on the frame of reference of the observer.

In July, the University of Zurich approved Einstein's doctoral thesis,

which described a method for inferring the size of molecules from the speed with which sugar dissolves in water. Published the following month, it would become one of Einstein's most often cited papers.

In September that year he published his most celebrated equation,  $E = mc^2$ , which explained that energy ( $E$ ) and mass ( $m$ ) are interchangeable – two forms of the same thing.

What's more, since the speed of light squared ( $c^2$ ) is so large, the energy equivalent bound up in the mass of material things is truly colossal. This explains both the attraction of nuclear power and the destructive capacity of nuclear weapons.

A decade later Einstein replaced Newton's law of gravity with his general theory of relativity. While Newton treated gravity as a force, Einstein saw it as a consequence of the distortion of the geometry of space-time in the vicinity of large masses.

Four years later, Arthur Eddington observed the deflection of starlight by the sun, during an eclipse. The measurements were close to Einstein's predictions, and not those of classical gravity. When the result was published in *The Times* of November 7, 1919, Einstein's long-lasting fame was assured. ♦

One hundred years ago this month, the most famous scientist of the modern age completed his famous paper on the Special Theory of Relativity. To commemorate this world-changing event, webmaster George Hatsidimitris of the School of Physics developed an interactive website with Professor Joe Wolfe, dubbed *Einstein Light*. Go to [www.phys.unsw.edu.au/einsteinlight/](http://www.phys.unsw.edu.au/einsteinlight/).

## UNSW's 2005 Federation Fellows

**S**cientia Professor Tom Davis and Associate Professor Matthew England have been named Federation Fellows, two of fifteen fellowships awarded to researchers in Australia. A further nine fellowships have been awarded to expatriate Australians and foreign nationals who will bring their research talent and experience to Australia. These include leading UK neuropsychologist Professor John Hodges who will come to UNSW's School of Psychology.

The Commonwealth Government's Federation Fellowships are the most prestigious, and the richest, publicly funded research fellowships to be offered in Australia. They are designed to attract world-class research talent to Australia, and provide opportunities for leading Australian researchers to continue to work in this country. The award is valued at \$235,000 a year for five years.

Scientia Professor Tom Davis, from the School of Chemical Engineering and Industrial Chemistry in the Faculty of Engineering, will lead research

into tailor-made synthetic macromolecules that can be used to store and convey information. The project will see the creation of a unique research team within Australia possessing world-class strength in hybrid macromolecular design and construction. Professor Davis is director of UNSW's Centre for Advanced Macromolecular Design.

Associate Professor Matthew England, from the School of Mathematics in the Faculty of Science, will seek to develop improved models for predicting and managing climatic events such as the severe drought currently afflicting much of Australia. The aim of the project is to better understand extratropical variability and its unique role in climate extremes and the predictability of Australian climate change. Professor England works at UNSW's Centre for Environmental Modelling and Prediction.

The Federation Fellowships were inaugurated in 2001. Previous UNSW recipients are Professors Robert Clark, Martin Green, Jeffery Shaw, Michelle Simmons and Mark Bradford. ♦

## Road safety for seniors

By Susi Hamilton

Older people with cognitive decline may have an increased risk of being killed in pedestrian accidents, according to research from a PhD student in the School of Medical Sciences.

“I decided to look at this because it was apparent that people in this age group are over-represented in pedestrian fatalities,” said PhD student Cath Gorrie, who worked under the supervision of Professor Phil Waite. “Six to ten percent of people who are 65 or older have dementia and this will increase with the ageing population. Research into mobility and road safety issues for this age group is increasingly important.”

Researchers looked at the brains of 52 people more than 65 years of age at the time they were killed in pedestrian accidents. They also interviewed their families about their medical and lifestyle factors. The results were compared with the same number of brains of people of a similar age who died of other causes.

“We were looking at pathology in the brain, which has a positive correlation to mild cognitive impairment and cognitive decline in

Alzheimer’s disease,” Ms Gorrie said.

Forty-three percent of pedestrians who were killed had high scores for this type of pathology, compared with 23 percent of the control group.

“Some of the early changes in cognitive impairment relate to visual and spatial attention, reaction time and speed of processing information,” Ms Gorrie said. “These skills are essential for the safe negotiation of traffic.” She hopes the

### Six to ten percent of people who are 65 or older have dementia and that will increase with the ageing population

research will raise awareness about the increased risk of pedestrian accidents for this group in the community.

She also examined the brains of 27 drivers who were over 65 years of age and who were killed in car accidents. The results were compared to a control group of older licensed drivers who died from other causes. The results were in stark contrast to those for the pedestrians.

“The findings were the same for drivers and controls,” Ms Gorrie said. “Only a small proportion of this entire sample of older drivers had high levels of neuritic pathology and none had a history of dementia.

“This could indicate that many older people with cognitive impairment have either stopped driving voluntarily, or they are among the group of drivers who do not pass licence renewal tests, which are compulsory in NSW from the age of 80 (medical) and 85 (on-road).”

However, mild levels of the pathology were increased for the drivers. “There seems to be certain driving situations where those with mild levels of neuritic pathology were over-represented. These included intersections, poor weather conditions, when other people were in the car and in multi-vehicle accidents.”

The research was funded by the Motor Accidents Authority (NSW). ♦



## Dressing for the end of the world

As part of the elective course Contaminated Site Investigations and Remediation at UNSW@ADFA, fourth-year civil engineering students kit up in level C personal protective equipment: half- or full-face respirator, double gloves, protective suits and boots (the inner gloves and boots are taped to the suit). This is standard equipment for sampling of contaminated sites, and complements the students’ military training in chemical, biological and radiation protection. It’s warm in those suits – just as well it’s winter in Canberra. ♦

## The road back from Kinchela

By Susi Hamilton

Cecil Bowden is a softly spoken man with wild grey hair and a heartbreaking story. He was one of more than 400 young Aboriginal boys who were taken to live at the Kinchela Boys' Home at Kempsey between 1924 until its closure in the 1970s. It was one of many government-run institutions in the state and the only one specifically for Aboriginal boys.

As the chair of the Kinchela Boys' Home Aboriginal Corporation (KBHAC), Uncle Cec is actively involved in the Kinchela Project, which is now underway at the Muru Marri Indigenous Health Unit within the School of Public Health and Community Medicine.

He seems comfortable in the university environment but it is a world away from the cycle of violence, jail and poverty that ensnared him in his younger years.

"I ended up doing 35 years in jail. Nearly all the boys to come out of Kinchela went straight to jail," he said. "That's no accident. When we were in the home, a lot of the activities were about violence. We were made to bash each other."

Uncle Cec speaks openly about the fear and sexual abuse at the boys' home, but stories aren't enough. Uncle Cec wants action, so he is heading out on a road trip around NSW with Anton Clifford, a research fellow from the Muru Marri Indigenous Health Unit, to speak to former Kinchela boys as part of the project.

With them will go one of the most easily recognised faces in Aboriginal politics: Ray Minniecon. The Redfern pastor and National Sorry Day committee co-chairperson has taken on a new role – as an



Kinchela Project participants Cecil Bowden, Ray Minniecon, Lisa Jackson Pulver, Ilse Blignault and Anton Clifford

**Nearly all the boys to come out of Kinchela went straight to jail. That's no accident. When we were in the home, a lot of the activities were about violence**

officer on the Kinchela Project. "This project is unique because it is Aboriginal men taking control of their own lives for the first time. Until now, no-one specifically identified Aboriginal males as a group which needed support," Ray said.

"This will help alleviate some of the suffering and give these men hope that their issues will be heard," added Ray, who is not himself a former Kinchela boy. "Many of them will die with a lot more peace, knowing that something is going to be done for their families."

The University has employed Ray part-time for six months to help form a ten-year strategic plan for KBHAC.

"We're not telling the stories of what happened to these men," said Dr Lisa Jackson Pulver, who is overseeing the Kinchela Project as the Chief Investigator for the Muru Marri Indigenous Health Unit. "We are creating the plan of what should happen next. Perhaps the men might say they need an oral history project, to learn computer skills, or that the next generations need better literacy skills. We will then set up a priority process on that."

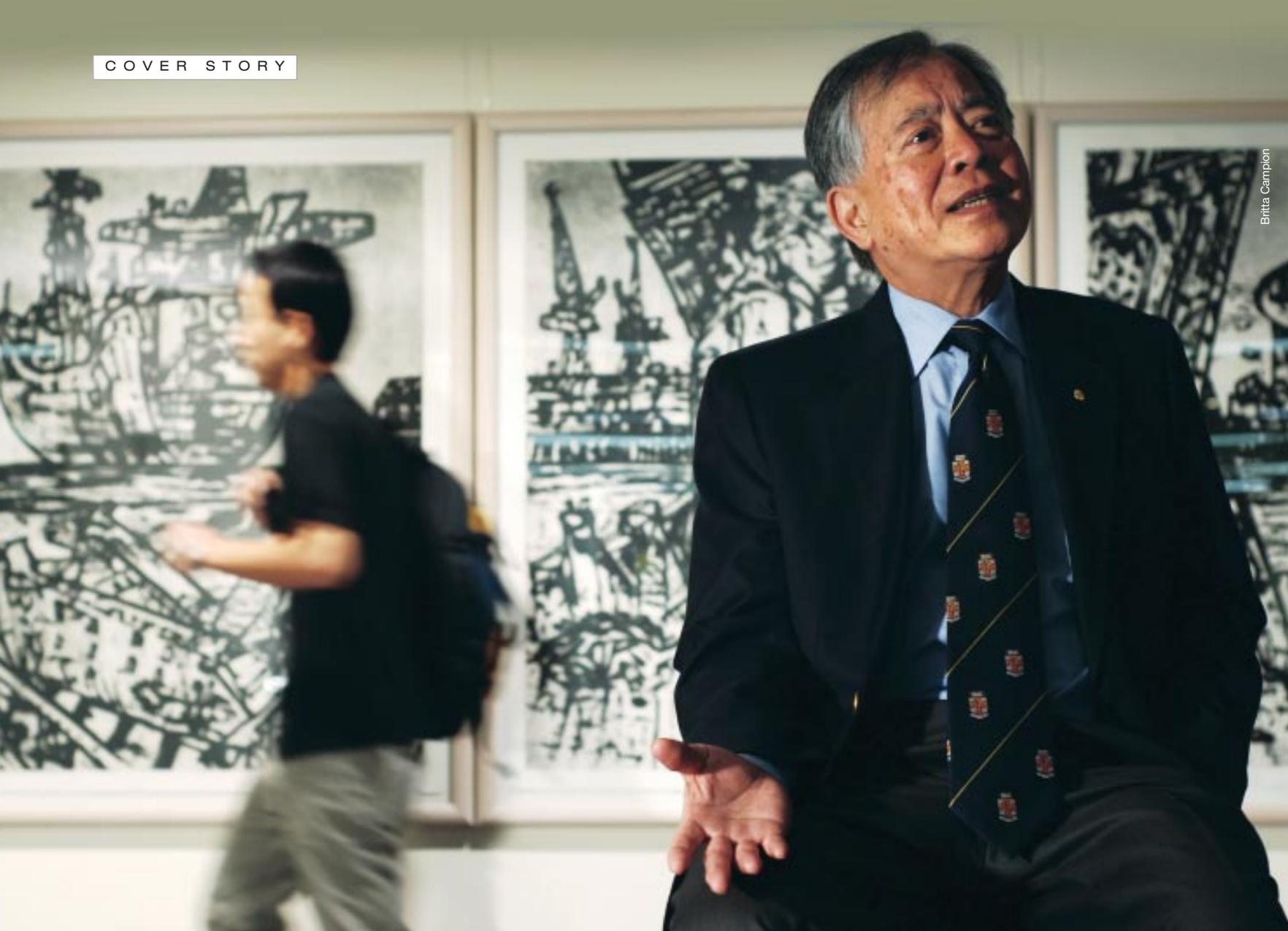
The KBHAC chose UNSW's Muru Marri Indigenous Health Centre Unit to carry out the work, which is being funded by World Vision Australia and

the NSW Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH).

"This work fits within the brief of what we do in the School of Public Health and Community Medicine because it is all about health outcomes," Dr Jackson Pulver said. "Even controlling for poverty, an Aboriginal child in parts of Sydney still has worse health outcomes than a similarly poor non-Indigenous child." Dr Jackson Pulver says the average life expectancy for Aboriginal men in one area of Western NSW is now 33 years, down from 37 years in 2001.

"I hypothesise that these poor health outcomes are a result of the intergenerational grief that Aboriginal people carry with them through removals, policies and denials of history and truth," Dr Jackson Pulver said. "That's because health is not just about the physical function of the body. It is about emotional and spiritual connections too. If your spirit is broken, your wellbeing is damaged and your health is damaged."

"One day we will be able to prove that link scientifically. The strategic plan for the KBHAC is part of that process and hopefully it will bring about some policy changes as well." ♦



Britta Campion

## The many passions of John Yu

John Yu feels strongly about many things: art; refugees; children; education; Australia's reputation abroad and the University of New South Wales. The softly spoken Chancellor, who steps down this month after more than five years in the black and gold robes, covered a wide range of subjects with *Uniken* editor **Louisa Wright**.

Neatly blending two of his passions, John Yu chose to be photographed in front of the emphatic black and white prints by Jan Senbergs in the foyer of the UNSW library. "Art is very important," he said. "When students stop reading and look up, they should see something inspiring. It's part of teaching them how to cope with life." And the choice of Senbergs? "I like strong art, gutsy graphics and prints." While a still-teenage medical student at the University of Sydney, Dr Yu found he could just afford prints from an old antique market on Parramatta Road, and his life-long interest in art began. He added ceramics and textiles in time and is now an acknowledged expert on the decorative arts of South East Asia, about which he has written and lectured.

Born in China, John Yu arrived in Australia aged three. He is regularly mentioned as a noted Chinese-Australian, a high-profile multicultural success story, tangible proof that ethnic background is no barrier to achievement. It is a role he acknowledges has been useful in presenting a public face to the world, in presiding at overseas graduations or meeting and greeting Singaporean dignitaries during the UNSW Asia negotiations.

His Chancellorship has coincided with some turbulent times at UNSW, starting in the final difficult stages of enterprise bargaining negotiations. "I felt there was a need for a Chancellor to take a pastoral role, to listen to people. In some situations, the fact that you are heard makes a difference." He was also determined to demonstrate that he cared for students and that universities had real responsibilities other than just teaching them facts.

The paediatrician in Dr Yu is quietly appalled at the treatment of children deemed illegal immigrants. "I believe that healthcare and education and the way one cares for disadvantaged people are the best measure of the humanity of any society. When Australians stop caring about each other, then we are in real trouble. That's one of the reasons why the way we have treated refugees has brutalised the community.

"Provided the circumstances justify the action that people [refugees] take, then I believe we can be much more humane in the way we judge and treat them. I see no reason why anybody, especially children, should be treated the way the Australian Government has treated those detainees."

In his extensive travels, Dr Yu is often asked about Australian attitudes to humanitarian

issues. "They ask about what sort of society we are if we behave like this. All I can say is that, while being supportive of the need for security, increasing numbers of Australians disagree with the way the government has treated these people."

Major issues during his Chancellorship included the introduction of fees (which he opposes for local students), the appointment of two Vice-Chancellors, the start of a new building program for Kensington and the genesis of UNSW Asia. This last Dr Yu describes as the single most important decision Council has made in his time as Chancellor. "It will be a way of demonstrating the Australian contribution to the region through the University," he said.

He pointed to the potential mix of students at UNSW Asia, which is capped at 30 percent Singaporean students, and likely to include large numbers of Chinese and Indian students with a representation of North Americans and Europeans. If a proposal that every student spend one semester at Kensington is approved, with an equal number of Sydney-based students also spending a semester in Singapore, he predicts the outcome over time will be a remarkable upswing in regional understanding. "If you have had the experience of people and culture, it is much easier to be tolerant of difference. And the best way of achieving that is educational and cultural activities." Over the period of his Chancellorship he has watched with pleasure the increasing numbers of international students on campus.

Dr Yu is quick to praise Vice-Chancellor Professor Mark Wainwright for his role in getting UNSW Asia off the ground. "People don't realise that the original inspiration for UNSW Asia came from Mark when he was Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)," he said. "He and John Ingleson and Jennie Lang, such assets to this University, brought it to fruition. All I did was show the face of the new Australia. That was perhaps useful, to demonstrate that Australia gives people opportunities in no way diminished by their racial or cultural differences – and I was delighted to do so.

"The medium term [for UNSW] is very bright. But in the short term, the community needs to trust and support the Vice-Chancellor. Mark has been a wonderful Vice-Chancellor and is a bloody nice guy. He cares about this place – he's so loyal. But there is a lot he has yet to achieve and there are major battles for him to fight on our behalf – issues of finances in particular.

"Everything that needs to be done requires money, from good facilities for postgraduate students to subsidised accommodation for

## The portrait



*Dr John Yu AC 2004* by Ah Xian (b.1960). Glazed ceramic. Collection: National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Commissioned with funds provided by Marilyn Darling 2004.

The bust of Dr Yu was commissioned by the National Portrait Gallery, the first such commission for Beijing-born artist Ah Xian, who conceived a life-size celadon bust of Dr Yu with colourful miniature children climbing on him. In Chinese lore, many children indicate great prosperity and happiness, and the concept for the bust was informed by the Chinese tradition of children, Tong Zi clambering over the Laughing Buddha. "I believe that this design will confirm Chinese traditions as part of John's and my cultural background, the characteristic way I make my works, and John's joy and passion of collecting ceramic vessels, especially celadon," Ah Xian said. "It will also confirm John's close relationship with children through his career."

The finished work gleams under a celadon glaze. The figure appears asleep or in deep meditation, oblivious of the crowd of children scrambling over him. The bust is only the second portrait in the collection with eyes closed; the other is the death mask of bushranger Ned Kelly. ♦

isolated and some overseas students. People must be realistic in their requests and demands in the short-term budget allocation."

And at the end of his Chancellorship? "Even after my last day as Chancellor, I won't be leaving the University behind. I would be happy to stay involved as a continuing supporter of UNSW and to help in any way I can." ♦

## All about Yu

Chief Executive of the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children, now the New Children's Hospital, 1978–1997

Deputy Chancellor of the University of Western Sydney 1997–1999

Chancellor of UNSW from January 2000

Inaugural Chair of the Specialist Advisory Committee of the NSW Commission for Children and Young People

Member of Australia-China Council of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade since 1996; Chair since 2000

Patron of the Association of Children's Hospitals of Australia, the Australian Association for the Welfare of Child Health, Childsafe and the Seasons of Growth Program of the Sisters of St Joseph

Deputy President of the Board of Trustees of the Art Gallery of New South Wales

Chairman of VisAsia, an organisation promoting an appreciation of Asian visual arts and culture

Member of the Order of Australia 1989; Companion of the Order 2001

Australian of the Year 1996

## Photovoltaic students light the way

By Sarah Wilson

Imagine this: a modern city office building that produces zero greenhouse gas emissions. Imagine further that this building has no connection to the mains water supply or sewerage system and produces its own electricity, powered by solar panels on the roof. Picture this office with rainwater tanks supplying drinking water, an onsite waste recycling system that turns human waste into water and food for the office plants, and a co-generation and heat recovery system that keeps the office temperate. Sound interesting? This is the vision of fourth-year photovoltaic engineering student, Hannah Morton, who plans to design a real-life version of a sustainable commercial office for her final year thesis.

"A third of a person's life is spent in the workplace and 27 percent of the commercial sector's greenhouse gases come from office buildings," Hannah said. "What my project hopes to demonstrate is that it is possible to create a financially viable, ecologically sustainable passive-design office building."

Hannah will be looking for a suitable office building site, probably in either the council



**Above: Shelley Bambrook with the Fowler's Gap solar panel installation**  
**Far left: Solar panel installation on a house in Sri Lanka**  
**Left: Modern office building**



districts of North Sydney or Botany. "These councils are now demanding office energy ratings," Hannah said.

Features to be included in the office design include waterless urinals, source separating toilets, the use of as much natural light as possible through light wells and a central atrium, natural ventilation and car parks with ample bicycle parking and spaces for car-pooled cars.

Hannah's fellow student in the course, Shelley Bambrook, has embarked upon a thesis project to test and maintain an existing photovoltaic pumping system and to design and install a new water pumping system suitable for the purposes of stock watering at UNSW's Fowlers Gap Research Station, 110 km north of Broken Hill in the state's far west.

As part of the project, Shelley travelled out

to Fowlers Gap Station earlier this year to assess the water requirements of the homestead complex. The 38,888 ha station, which runs 3000 sheep, operates as an arid zone research base for UNSW staff and students.

Shelley began by testing the existing 20-year-old solar panel array that is a key component of the system that supplies the homestead complex with water. The equipment pumps water to a holding dam that is then gravity-fed to the homestead. Shelley made repairs to the array that increased output by more than a third. This increase provided the homestead with sufficient water and it was decided replacement of the array was not required.

David Croft, director of the station, had been quoted \$9000 to repair the existing

array, an expense avoided when it was subsequently fixed as part of Shelley's work.

The next stage of Shelley's thesis will involve designing a water pumping system suitable for the purpose of stock watering at the station. One of the problems she will need to overcome is the high silt content in the water supply.

Another fourth-year photovoltaic engineering student, Lauren Tan, has looked further afield for inspiration for her final-year thesis project. Lauren will focus on gauging the performance of solar home systems in rural areas of Sri Lanka over a two-year period between March 2005 and March 2007.

"By 2003, more than 25,000 solar home systems had been installed in Sri Lanka," Lauren said. "With only 68 percent of Sri Lankans having access to grid electricity, there is potential for more photovoltaic systems to be installed."

Lauren is analysing data collected from a wide range of systems in Sri Lanka. There will be a total of 100 systems analysed, half will be new systems and the other half older systems, located in five different regions. ♦

## Shifting sands a worry for beach dwellers

By Mary O'Malley

Dr Ian Turner from the Water Research Laboratory in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering is leading beach research that will help predict the effect of climate changes on beaches over the next 100 years. And preliminary results show worrying trends – particularly for homeowners and local councils.

Narrabeen, one of Sydney's northern suburban beaches, is the test site for a three-year study that has direct implications for the entire NSW coastline.

Using a four-wheel quad bike mounted with GPS equipment, Dr Turner is able to zip up and down the beach, taking satellite snapshots every second to record the volume of the sand. During a single spring low tide, he can capture information that would have taken days using conventional means.

He and PhD student Mitchell Harley are using this data to compare with survey results



Mitchell Harley on the quad bike on Narrabeen Beach

This work has implications for how beaches can be managed in the future

gathered by University of Sydney colleague Professor Andy Short, who has been surveying Narrabeen Beach with traditional technology for the past 30 years. It is the longest data set of any beach in the world.

Dr Ian Turner is working with Professor Short and Dr Rosh Ranasinghe of the NSW Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources to validate this information and to assess how the survey can be extended into the future with high-precision technology.

"We believe climate change has had an impact on beaches in eastern Australian and, over the last 30 years, this unique data has probably recorded this change."

Their initial discoveries have shown that the shifting sands are for the first time revealing worrying signs of the impact of global warming. Changing storm activity over the past 30 years, linked to the greenhouse effect, has sent Sydney's beaches into a four- to seven-year cycle of rotation. As the northern end of the beach widens, the

southern end contracts and vice versa.

"It's a cause of concern for homeowners," Dr Turner said. "There is potential for exposure to storm damage and erosion. This work has implications for how beaches can be managed in the future."

The study is a collaborative project funded by the Australian Research Council, involving UNSW, the University of Sydney, the NSW Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources, Warringah Council and Delft Hydraulics in the Netherlands. ♦

## New portal for Environmental Network

A new Environmental Network (EN) that includes an internet portal for group discussion and secure file sharing has been launched to coincide with last month's World Environment Day.

Professor Garry Smith, director of the Institute of Environment Studies, leads the team that developed the network on behalf of the University community over the past four months. "EN is not just an internet site," Professor Smith said. "It will offer forums, workshops, book clubs and conferences in the same way as environmental networks at places like Harvard and Cambridge.

"However, ours will have a strong internet component as the basis for the development of other activities."

The site, open to academics and general staff, is based on software developed by EdTech and adapted for the needs of sustainability and environmental work.

"Sustainability and environmental work requires teams of specialists and this portal offers that by having a group function in the site," Professor Smith said. "Specialists can form their own group or topic which can include people they feel would be important contributors."

Network members have the choice of public or private discussions. Files and links can be uploaded to share generally or with a select group of people only.

"We have tried to design a site that academics will feel comfortable with and one

which is able to protect their work while in progress," he said. "It's the ideal tool for collaboration, research, grant applications and for ultimately linking with other universities and the public, non-government organisations, law firms and other interested organisations."

Members can locate and determine what information or sources are best for their discipline or area of interest, share recently developed papers with peers, and find out about and collaborate with others who may be working in their area. "This initiative offers real progress in how to solve problems," Professor Smith said.

Requests for accounts can be made at [www.en.unsw.edu.au](http://www.en.unsw.edu.au). General enquires can be emailed to [en@unsw.edu.au](mailto:en@unsw.edu.au). ♦

## Making Australian History

By Alex Clark

Whether it's Captain Phillip and the First Fleet's landing at Port Jackson or the unreasonable literacy testing used to enforce the White Australia Policy, well-known events in Australian history are often unknown to international historians and overseas students alike. In response, a group of Australian historians, including two members of the School of History, have collaborated to produce *Australia's History – Themes and Debates*.

Launched to coincide with the upcoming 20th International Congress of Historical Sciences, the book, co-edited by UNSW's Professor Martyn Lyons, gives an up-to-date account of issues and debates in Australian history for an international audience.

"This meant starting right from the beginning," Professor Lyons said. "So we included a map, a timeline of essential dates and milestones in Australian history, and explained all those events we take for granted such as Federation and the First Fleet.

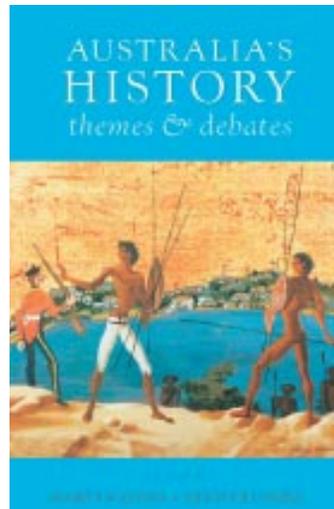
"In covering a very broad range of topics, we were fortunate in having a group of leading researchers who each offer a synthesis of existing work and their own original research that challenges prevailing myths about Australian history."

The thematic and roughly chronological look at this history begins with an account by Dr Anna Haebich of Griffith University of the earliest relationships between Indigenous people and whites with reference to the so-called history wars.

"We also made sure there was a geographical balance instead of focusing on Sydney and Melbourne as often happens," Professor Lyons said. "This meant we've included a chapter on the history of Australia's far north, examining relationships between Indigenous people, Indonesians and the various groups that live and work in the north seas."

Other chapters examine settler society, West Australian history, Australia-Asia relations, immigration, citizenship, nationalism and urban history. Professor Bruce Scates from the University's School of History has co-written a chapter on the experience of Australians during war.

Martyn Lyons is Associate Dean for Research in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. *Australia's History – Themes and Debates*, edited by Martyn Lyons and Penny Russell, is published by UNSW Press and available from the UNSW Bookshop. ♦



## In the poverty trenches

By Louisa Wright

Although we are advised, Biblically, that the poor will always be with us, Peter Saunders argues that a society free from poverty is in fact within our reach – and Australian can afford to eliminate financial poverty. That we don't do so is a matter of choice, not affordability. In fact, he suggests in his new book, *The Poverty Wars*, that financial poverty could be eliminated by 2020 using funds generated by economic growth – without making anyone worse off.

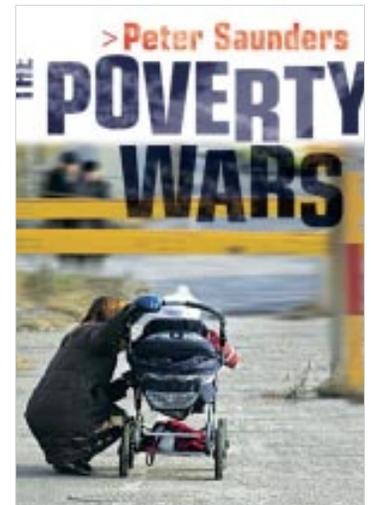
Professor Saunders is a social policy researcher and has been the director of the Social Policy Research Centre at UNSW since 1987. He is well placed to argue for a national re-examination on poverty after decades of researching income distribution, social security, welfare reform, and participation and the welfare state. His submission to the recent Senate Poverty Inquiry was quoted at length in the report, and he is currently an ARC Australian Professorial Fellow working on developing new indicators and policy benchmarks for poverty and inequality.

The poverty wars, which give his latest book its title, refers to a constant battleground between researchers duelling with poverty statistics and the credibility of those who have produced them. The target of this conflict, Professor Saunders argues, are the poverty researchers and those who advocate on behalf of the poor.

"It is a war," he said, "about ideas and philosophy that has implications for the role of research in informing public policy and for the role of government in addressing poverty. It is a war that must be won."

The report from the Senate Poverty Inquiry concluded that between two and three-and-a-half million Australians had incomes below the poverty line. But Professor Saunders argues that exaggerated claims about the overall extent and nature of poverty have become commonplace in a field where deep political divisions have seen ideology and assertion replace analysis and reflection, and where abuse has replaced reasoned argument: a place he dubs the 'poverty war trenches'.

Legitimate questions remain to be asked about evidence showing that poverty in Australia continues to rise, or at least has not fallen, and how more than a decade of strong economic growth and rising living standards have failed to make substantial inroads into poverty. In his book, Professor Saunders says that to examine these issues, it is necessary to move beyond debates on the meaning and measurement of poverty to better understand the causes and experience of poverty. ♦



## UNSW hosts history Olympics

*Australia's History – Themes and Debates* will be distributed to delegates attending the 20th International Congress of Historical Sciences being hosted by UNSW from 3 to 9 July. The largest international history congress ever held in the southern hemisphere will be opened by NSW Premier Bob Carr.

Free public events include a lecture by New Zealand historian Professor Anne Salmond on 4 July and a keynote address by Professor Peter Read of ANU on 6 July, both at UNSW; and a closing address by author Thomas Keneally at the Sydney Town Hall on 9 July. For the full program see [www.cishsydney2005.org](http://www.cishsydney2005.org).

## A quarter century of social change

The rapid social changes and policy challenges of the past quarter century, and projections for the future, will be the focus of the 2005 Australian Social Policy Conference this month. The conference, themed *Looking Back, Looking Forward*, is hosted by UNSW's Social Policy Research Centre and will mark its 25th anniversary. For the full program see [www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/ASPC2005](http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/ASPC2005).

## More than a **remote possibility**

By Alex Clark

“People assume that gifted kids are middle-class and living in cities. They don’t think of them as being Indigenous or Torres Strait Islander, from disadvantaged backgrounds or living in regional areas,” said Professor Miraca Gross, director of the Gifted Education Research, Resource and Information Centre (GERRIC). “Gifted students often feel isolated in city classrooms but for those living in remote areas this feeling is greatly compounded.”

GERRIC has been awarded more than half a million dollars by the Australian Government to deliver 50 workshops for parents of gifted children in regional and remote areas of Australia.

The workshops will contain information on how parents can identify high ability in children; strategies for preventing under-achievement in gifted students; the impact of having a gifted child on family dynamics; the various forms of acceleration and ability grouping for gifted students; and parent advocacy. While primarily aimed at parents, the workshops will be designed to benefit local school teachers and teacher educators also invited to attend.

“We know that home and school are the two most important areas of learning for children. This

initiative shows the government has realised the importance of targeting those gifted students who may be most at risk for under-achievement,” Professor Gross said. “The workshops will improve parents’ understanding of gifted education issues and how they can both help their children at home and support their schools.”

“These workshops for parents, which have been held at UNSW for years, have not been accessible for families living in far regional and remote locations. This project will give

Gifted students often feel isolated in city classrooms but for those living in remote areas this feeling is greatly compounded

parents in these areas the tools to meet their children’s needs and be informed advocates,” Michele Juratowitch, workshop project manager, said. “The workshops will take place in locations as diverse as far north Queensland, the south of Tasmania, Central Australia and the far west of Australia.”

“This grant recognises the University’s leadership in this field of education,” said

Professor Adrian Lee, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education and Quality Improvement). “GERRIC’s initiatives have had a remarkable influence on the education of gifted and talented students throughout Australia and these workshops will build on that excellent work.”

The workshops will be conducted by a team of experts including Professor Gross (UNSW); Professor Karen Rogers (UNSW); Stan Bailey (Honorary Fellow UNE); Dr Peter Merrottsy (UNE); Bronwyn MacLeod and Michele Juratowitch.

They will take place between September 2005 and September 2006 in regional and remote areas of Australia. They build on GERRIC’s previous work with the government in developing professional training materials for teachers Australia wide. These materials are available through the website of the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) at [www.dest.gov.au](http://www.dest.gov.au). ♦

## **Convictions:** art from Long Bay

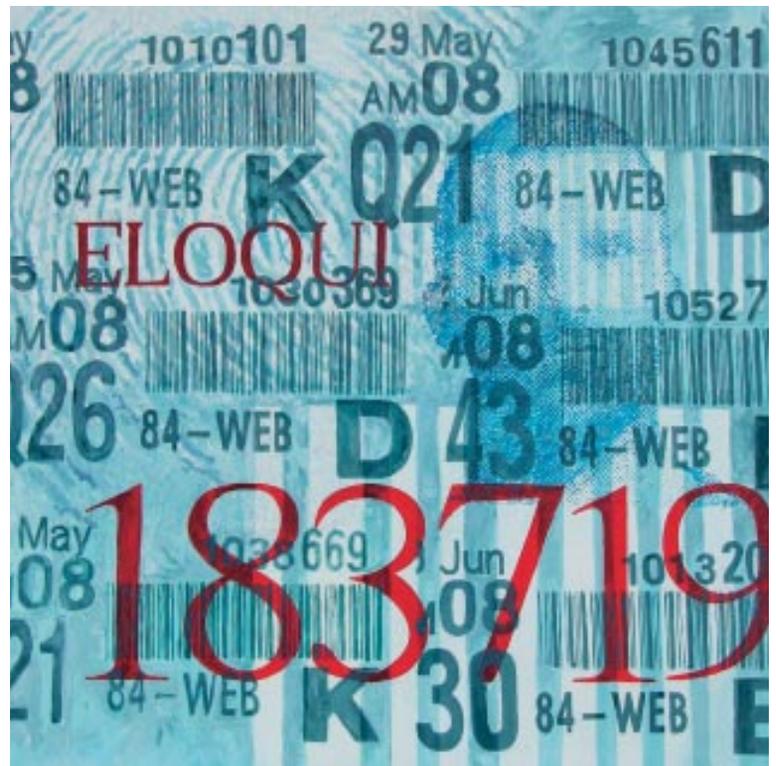
The seventy works in the new exhibition at the Ivan Dougherty Gallery at the College of Fine Arts are by thirty-five artists, all present or former inmates of Long Bay jail.

Many of the exhibits in *Convictions: art from Long Bay 1986–2005* were produced in the jail’s Art Unit, a full-time art program in a maximum-security area of the complex. Works also came from art classes in other areas of the Long Bay complex including the hospital.

The range of artworks shows that art by prison inmates is rarely the portrait of despair that might be expected. Many of the pieces translate the repetitive daily aspects of prison life into images of colour, exuberance and visual paradox. There are scenes of prison spaces and social contact as well as dream-like representations of freedom and release. The exhibition includes a number of sculptural pieces including a model of a Long Bay cell block and an intricate box of symbolic objects representing the artist’s life.

*Convictions* is curated by Sue Paull, the Visual Arts Co-ordinator at the Metropolitan Special Programs Centre at Long Bay where she has been active in the art program since 1986. She is the founder of both the Art Unit and the Boom Gate Gallery, a weekend exhibition space inside the main entrance to the prison complex, where inmates can display and sell their work.

*Convictions* runs until the end of July. ♦



Geoff Websdale's *Innovations of Identification* 2003 (acrylic on canvas)

Left: Javier Lara-Gomez *10 Wing* 1997 (mixed media 48 x 50 x 98 cm)

**By Dr John Yu AC  
Chancellor**

### Council met on 20 June 2005

#### Campus 2020 Master Plan

Council endorsed a draft Campus 2020 Master Plan for submission to Randwick City Council, noting that a four-week internal exhibition will take place first. This will give the whole University community the opportunity to view and comment on the document. The Campus 2020 team developed the Master Plan on the basis of the Strategic Brief approved by Council in February, and taking account of feedback from consultation workshops. The Master Plan deals with sustainability, 'sense of place', 'legibility', knowledge clusters and hubs, landscape, buildings, housing, retail and services, transport and parking, and implementation.

#### Revision of the University by-law

The University's by-law needs to be

amended to meet the requirements of the Commonwealth Government's National Governance Protocols. Council considered and approved a draft amended by-law prepared by a special Chancellor's Working Party for submission to the State Minister for Education (change to the by-law requires the approval of the State Government).

#### Portfolio for submission to Australian Universities Quality Agency

As I reported in June *Uniken*, Council considered the performance portfolio that had been prepared, through a process of extensive consultation, for submission to the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA). Council endorsed the portfolio for submission on 11 July in preparation for the audit by AUQA in October.

#### Approval of new policies

Council approved a new Risk Management Policy and a revised Environment Policy. Links to the policies can be found at the Council policy web page on the Secretariat

Services website ([www.secretariat.unsw.edu.au/council/policy.htm](http://www.secretariat.unsw.edu.au/council/policy.htm)).

#### Student equity and access

When Council set student contributions for 2006 and onwards at its June 2004 meeting, it noted the need to improve access for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Council approved a detailed proposal to develop and implement an integrated strategy to increase access to UNSW by students from low socioeconomic status backgrounds.

#### Council minutes

Council minutes and other information can be accessed by all members of the University via the Secretariat Services website ([www.secretariat.unsw.edu.au](http://www.secretariat.unsw.edu.au)).

For further information on matters relating to Council or its Committees, please contact Victoria Eyles, [v.eyles@unsw.edu.au](mailto:v.eyles@unsw.edu.au), 9385 3068 or Helen Parks, [h.parks@unsw.edu.au](mailto:h.parks@unsw.edu.au), 9385 3072.

**The Chancellor is the chair of Council.**

### 7 June 2005

The Academic Board considered the promulgation and implementation of University policy as our major issue discussion. The Board acknowledged that further development in areas such as the impact on students, compliance, building awareness, proliferation, policy management and review, implementation procedures, consistency, and duplication and overlap, was needed, and that the Policy Management Framework project commissioned by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) would address many of the issues discussed.

As part of the University by-law review, the provisions on the composition of the Academic Board had been amended with the current wording "the 2 Deputy Vice-Chancellors" changed to read "two Deputy Vice-Chancellors nominated by the Vice-Chancellor in consultation with the President of the Academic Board". Any other appointments would continue to be through the 'such other persons' provision and we will be considering our membership with regard to UNSW Asia in due course.

The Board recommended that Council approve: the appointment of Professor Margaret Harding, newly appointed Dean

of Graduate Research, and Dr Kevin Dunn, to the membership of the Board under the 'such other persons' provision; the introduction of the Master of, Graduate Diploma in, and Graduate Certificate in Reproductive Medicine; the Master of Property and Development; the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science Bachelor of Digital Media, and the Bachelor of Science in Health and Exercise Science; the discontinuation of the Master of Engineering Science in Surveying and Spatial Information Systems (External mode); Master of Engineering Science in Land Administration; Graduate Diploma in Land Administration; Master of Real Estate, and the Bachelor of Health and Sports Science to take effect when there are no enrolled students in the program; and the renaming of the Bachelor of Engineering Master of Engineering Science to the Bachelor of Engineering Master of Information Technology. It also recommended that Council note the 2005 Report on Medical Student Selection.

We approved: the appointment of Dr Jan Copeland, Professor Angele Cavaye and Dr Paul Hagan to fill casual vacancies on the Academic Board in staff electorates B, C and D; in relation to the evaluation of ELISE 2005 and 2006, that all commencing undergraduate and

postgraduate coursework students be required to formally acknowledge on enrolment (a) their responsibilities to be informed about, and comply with, the University's standards on good academic practice, information literacy, and avoiding plagiarism, and (b) the importance the University places on student participation in programs in information literacy (such as ELISE) and avoiding plagiarism, and related changes to the my UNSW Student Declaration and related web pages; the revised Master of, Graduate Diploma in and Graduate Certificate in Built Environment (Sustainable Development), and Master of Urban Development and Design.

The Academic Board endorsed the UNSW Policy on Environmental Management, and noted the report on Progress and Performance of FY Students Proceeding to University Study, and the annual report from the Presiding Member of the Committee on Education.

If there are issues you want me or Academic Board or its Committees to consider, or if you would like to attend a meeting, please let me know via [a.dooley@unsw.edu.au](mailto:a.dooley@unsw.edu.au) or 9385 2393.

**Tony Dooley  
President, Academic Board**



## Ray Low, health and fitness specialist, Unigym

I first got interested in exercising at 18. I was always a skinny kid, I was picked on. I got involved lifting weights with my uncle and a year later competed in the Singapore Junior National Bodybuilding Championship. I won! The next year I represented Singapore in the Asian Junior Bodybuilding Championships and came second last. But the experience I had representing my country was priceless.

When I came to Sydney to do my undergraduate degree at UNSW, I didn't feel big any more – Caucasians are much larger than Asians. Back home I was king! So that motivated me to train even harder. I used to work out here at the gym about five times a week and got to know a lot of staff here. While I was finishing my Graduate Diploma in Environmental Management, I started working here part-time. Now I co-ordinate and instruct an exercise program for UNSW staff, called Staff Express, and the weights room. I also instruct group fitness classes, namely circuit training and Boxercise.

### What do you like most about your job?

The freedom to express my creativity in doing something I really enjoy. Physical exercise is my passion and helping others attain an overall better physique is extremely rewarding.

### Pet hate?

Sitting behind a desk all day! That's why I work in a gym.

### What are you reading?

*The Success Secrets of the Rich and Happy*, by Bart Baggett – I'm trying to apply these proven secrets. It takes a fair bit of discipline

and restraint but I'm really looking forward to attaining financial freedom within the next decade. I absolutely love the thought of money working for me and not vice versa.

### Best advice you've ever received?

Do what you love doing. You only live once.

### Who inspires you?

Genghis Khan, an ancient Mongolian warrior, a man of true courage, determination and wisdom. Imagine calling one third of the world your home!

### You're running an exercise class and can invite three people (living or dead). Who are your clients?

Adolf Hitler, Saddam Hussein and Josef Stalin. It would be absolutely fantastic to observe how these dictators react to receiving orders in a reversal of roles... lots of push-ups. People hate push-ups.

### Favourite expression?

Only ten seconds to go – we're almost done!

### What would you have done in another life?

I would have been an artist. I love drawing and painting.

### What are you good at?

Mind games... it's a great skill to have, you get away with many things that others would not. And I can cook up a fantastic dish – it has no name, but it's a blend of Eastern and Western cuisine, a real protein bonanza. Guys love it because there aren't many veggies in it. Come to my classes and I'll give you the recipe.

### What can't you do?

I can't ever go on a blind date. I did once: it was

very bad, we hardly spoke – it was more like a mute date. I'm still single! But looking for a partner.

### What does exercise or sport mean to you?

Exercise allows you to express yourself and allows a temporary escape from the stress of the real world. I look at people who don't exercise and I think about how much they are missing out on an important part of life. Get away from the TV and sofa – get moving.

### What makes the perfect person in one of your classes? What makes the participant from hell?

The perfect person is one who doesn't follow instructions, because that makes me want to help them do it the right way. The participant from hell is the smart alec who thinks they know more than me. There's always one like that around the gym.

### The ideal...

... gym would have us exercising as close as possible to nature: trees, rocks, water, sand. There would be no barbells or dumbbells, but materials that are from natural resources. We would push up logs or branches, for example, and run on sand for resistance instead of a treadmill. ♦

Ray Low runs the Staff Express and Boxercise classes. Staff Express runs twice a week at lunchtimes for twelve-week cycles and Boxercise and circuit training are after-work programs. Further information from Ray on 9385 7390 or ray.low@unsw.edu.au.

## Social justice and the workers' friend

by Peter Saunders

One of the first acts of the newly elected Howard Government in 1996 was to banish the term 'social justice' from Australia's political language. The term had become a rallying call for some in the previous ALP Government, who used it to keep the issue of equality – a 'fair go', the defining feature of Australian capitalism – on the policy agenda and in the minds of those who set and are affected by it.

The term is designed to emphasise that collective outcomes matter (who gets what?) as much as individual performance (how much more for me?) and that fairness matters. Research has shown that economic inequality can lead to a number of 'hard-head' outcomes, including poor health, reduced life expectancy, increased crime and reduced economic growth. In the long run, inequality can threaten social stability, the bedrock on which our economic prosperity rests. Yet there is no place for

**The 'fair go' is fast becoming a distant memory, its social justice foundations dashed on the rocks of economic liberalism. Beware the workers' friend!**

such 'soft-hearted' concerns in the 'hard-headed' economic liberalism of the Howard Government, whose focus has been on ensuring that everyone gets more, not on how the extra income is shared out among the population.

Prime Minister Howard recently argued that the Liberal Party "has been a better friend of the Australian worker than the Labor Party could ever dream of being". He went on to cite research showing that since 1997–98, the after-tax income of families at the bottom had increased by a similar amount to those in the middle. The study also showed that the tax and welfare systems together produced a large redistribution of income from those at the top to those at the bottom. Anything else would be a cause of both mystery and deep despair, since this is precisely what they are intended to do!

But while the Prime Minister produced evidence showing that we *can* design systems that redistribute income, he failed to ask the more incisive question of how far we *should*, as a society, seek to change the distributional outcomes generated by market forces. Economic liberalism has produced wider disparities in market income, and we should be asking how much of the increased market-driven inequality should remain in the after-tax wallets (and purses) of those who have contributed

to growth, and how much should be used to narrow the economic gaps between rich and poor, young and old, men and women, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, and so on. At the very least, we should want to know what has been happening to poverty, but the 'p-word' has been another victim of the 'politically correct' vocabulary of the Howard Government.

Let's look at some facts. Between 1994–95 and 2002–03, the average after-tax incomes of the poorest ten percent of Australians increased by \$17, or by less than \$2 a year (after allowing for price rises) – not enough to buy even half a milkshake! This is an average, and many would have got less, with some experiencing a fall in their real income. In March, Family and Community Services Minister Senator Kay Patterson released new data showing that around 12 percent, or around 2.4 million Australians, fall below a commonly used poverty line (though the minister

was careful not to make explicit reference to the 'p-word'). Between 1986 and 2001, the purchasing power of wage incomes fell for low-paid men working full-time, particularly for married men and for those aged 50 and over. These workers have gone backwards economically, contrary to what we are told about everyone benefiting under Howard's policies.

Cuts to the minimum wage now seem likely under the industrial relation reforms announced in May. Why else would a government that has consistently opposed increases in the basic wage seek to change the current wage-fixing system? The reforms will bring to an end almost a century of wage protection for the low-paid, built on the premise that the living standards of employees matters as much as the profits of employers. Now, those at the bottom will fall further behind the rapidly rising incomes of those at the top – boosted by the huge tax cuts handed out to them in this year's budget. The 'fair go' is fast becoming a distant memory, its social justice foundations dashed on the rocks of economic liberalism. Beware the workers' friend! ♦

Professor Peter Saunders is an Australian Professorial Fellow and Director of the Social Policy Research Centre.

