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uniken



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Solar so good

Solar cells could transform living standards for the estimated two billion people worldwide without electricity, according to Professor Martin Green, Australian Federation Fellow and UNSW Scientia Professor, winner of the Energy Innovation Prize at last month's 2004 World Technology Summit. "The era of widespread uptake of photovoltaics that can raise quality of life and living standards in poorer rural areas is drawing closer," Green said.

Put that ball down

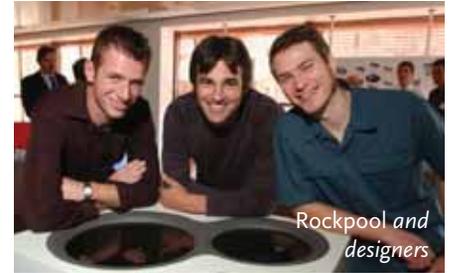
Primary school-aged children are being discouraged from playing sport because their parents fear injury. UNSW's Injury Risk Management Research Centre (IRMRC) interviewed thousands of parents and carers across NSW and found that more than one in three parents of boys and one in six parents of girls prevented their children from playing sport. The most commonly discouraged sports were football codes. Parents' fears are supported by childhood sports injury data.

Disappearing dingoes

Dr Alan Wilton of the School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences has been awarded the 2004 Unsung Hero of Science Award by Australian Science Communicators. His pioneering genetic research indicates that the pool of genetically pure dingoes is shrinking and that within 50 years, the breed is likely to disappear as it is crossbred with domestic dogs and hybrid dingoes.

Asking the questions

The third *Question: Research@UNSW* is now available. Topics include the history of selling sex, survival in the surf, the early detection of osteoarthritis, turning fly-ash into bricks and concrete, improving the internet, attacking cancer cells from a new direction and making functional nanomaterials so small a few grams can cover a hundred square metres. The publication is available around campus and from the office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research).



Rockpool and designers

Dishes are done

Brainchild of industrial design students, a waterless dishwasher called *Rockpool* is Australia's entry in this month's Electrolux Design Laboratory competition in New York. Douglas Nash, Oystien Lie and Ross Nicholls from the Faculty of the Built Environment have devised a washing system that uses pressurised carbon dioxide. This process creates a supercritical fluid that acts as a powerful solvent, cutting through the grease on plates and cutlery.

Showing form

UNSW will stage one of its largest and most avant-garde graduand exhibitions, *perform*, at the Sydney Town Hall to mark the Year of the Built Environment. "In taking our exhibition to the heart of Sydney we hope to raise awareness of the value of our built environment," FBE Dean, Professor Peter Murphy, said. *perform* will be on 30 November and 1 December, and admission is free.

Dangerous cocktails

A survey conducted by UNSW's National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre has shown that some ecstasy users take pharmaceutical drugs, most commonly Viagra and benzodiazepines, to increase the effect of ecstasy or to combat its negative effects. Antidepressant medications were also commonly used. Some of these combinations are potentially lethal and could result in 'serotonin syndrome'.

Flying high

The Department of Aviation began in 1995 with eleven students – six in Operations Management and five in Flying. The Bachelor of Aviation now has more than 300 graduates, and a Masters of Science and Technology (Aviation) program in distance learning mode. Information about the Department of Aviation's 10-year reunion and celebration, to be held on 26 November, from Lili Turner at lili@maths.unsw.edu.au. ■

Enhancing the postgrad experience



Professor Wainwright

The University is to establish the position of Dean of Postgraduate Research in 2005 to champion the postgraduate research agenda.

This position, and the establishment of a Graduate Research School,

are responses to a major review of research last year. The focus of the review was UNSW's research performance in comparison with other Group of Eight universities. One of the key recommendations was a proposal to establish a Graduate Research School, with the intention of increasing the number of higher degree research students, improving the completion rates of doctoral students and improving the overall research student experience.

The role of the Dean, who will report to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), will be to ensure that postgraduate research

is at the forefront of the UNSW research agenda and to guide the development of research training policy. The Dean will also work with Schools and Faculties to ensure performance and quality in research training. The Dean will be a member of the Vice-Chancellor's Advisory Committee.

"The major aim of establishing a Graduate Research School is to improve the experience for UNSW postgraduate research students," Vice-Chancellor Professor Mark Wainwright said. "There is no doubt that the lack of a focal point for information and services has affected that experience and affected our performance in relation to research and training."

The Graduate Research School, to be located in the Rupert Myers building, will consolidate and streamline the disparate research student support systems now in place. It will incorporate the research student functions currently under the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), and the Office of Research Training, presently in the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) portfolio. ■

Keeping in touch

UNSW is the first Australian university to offer a comprehensive email address for its graduates. This will allow alumni to have a free, lifelong address that identifies them with the University.

"This is something that the Alumni Board has been asking for," Council member and President of the UNSW Alumni Association, Dr Jessica Milner Davis, said. "We are thrilled that UNSW is supporting this."

UNSW Alumni Life Email will provide 40 megabyte storage, protected by the University's filtering service, and give access to University and alumni news such as a quarterly e-newsletter and other services. "UNSW alumni are scattered widely across the world," Dr Milner Davis said.

"This will allow for much closer contact between them and their alma mater. Universities are supposed to be a community of scholars plus students

who graduate into this. The original concept was that the University would call a convocation, or a physical assembly of all these people. That has not been possible since medieval times, but now the internet is allowing us to do it in a different way."

The UNSW Alumni Life Email is the first in a suite of further online services to be offered to alumni. More information on the UNSW Alumni Life Email is available at the alumni website www.unsw.edu.au/alumni/adv/alumnisupporters.html. ■



For the record

[Mark] Latham in 2004 went backwards (unexpectedly) and is now nearly as dismal a failure as John Hewson became in 1993.

Associate Professor Malcolm Mackerras, UNSW@ADFA – The Australian

The mould has been broken... [It is] the beginning of the professionalisation of the role of the political spouse in Australia.

Associate Professor Elaine Thompson, School of Politics and International Relations (after Janine Lacy launched the ALP campaign) – Australian Financial Review

Personal responsibility is important in public conduct. It is better to fail nobly than to win with dishonour... I think it is clear what it means for judging the political life of John Howard.

Dr Helen Pringle, School of Politics and International Relations – Wentworth Courier Central

Notions of [judicial] independence are not well understood by politicians.

Professor David Brown, Law – Australian Financial Review

The real problem [about why people report feeling rushed] is not long hours in the office. It's the difficulty of reconciling [paid] work and family responsibilities when there is not a spouse at home full-time.

Associate Professor Michael Bittman, Social Policy Research Centre – Sun Herald

Households now undertake more of the state's function in maintaining growth, financed by their rising consumption and household debt.

Nick Turnbull, School of Social Science and Policy – The Age

He had a reputation as being an extreme radical in philosophical terms, a controversial figure and people were very surprised by this extraordinarily gracious, humble, mild-mannered man.

Professor Paul Patton, School of Philosophy, on the death of French philosopher Jacques Derrida – The Australian

Most people can lead their lives perfectly well on intuition without needing experts to back them up, telling them what to do.

Dr Susan Hardy, School of History and Philosophy of Science, on the self-help industry – Sydney Morning Herald



Britta Campion

By Susi Hamilton

Without a trace?

Contrary to previous wisdom, some people are able to clear the hepatitis C virus from their bodies without any biological traces. UNSW research, published in two papers in the *Journal of Infectious Diseases*, has shown that some individuals with high-risk behaviour appear to develop protective immunity against the virus and may become resistant to persistent infection.

“This is a surprise finding,” said Professor Andrew Lloyd of the School of Medical Sciences. “We were looking at how common the transmission of hepatitis C virus is among prisoners. Previously, people looked for antibodies as a marker of new infection, but we looked for genetic material of the virus itself.”

The researchers identified 160 prisoners in New South Wales who were free of hepatitis C infection and tracked them on a monthly basis while in jail, taking blood and interviewing them about events likely to put them at risk for transmission of hepatitis C, such as injecting drug use or tattooing. Four prisoners became infected with hepatitis C but all went on to clear the virus without showing symptoms or developing antibodies against the virus.

“These individuals reported regular drug use and other risk factors for hepatitis C infection over many years,” Professor Lloyd said. “It is possible that they had been infected in the past, perhaps on several occasions, and that may be why they were able to clear the virus without developing antibodies.”

The researchers found further indication of previous infection by testing stored blood samples from the same prisoners. The results showed weak antibody bands directed against the virus.

“We don’t know why this immunity against hepatitis C happens,” Professor Lloyd said. “One reason is that there could be a genetic factor that sets some people apart. Or it might be something about the way they first met the virus – whether it was a low dose or a high dose.”

The researchers found a similar pattern of immunity in another high-risk group. They tracked 93 injecting drug users who were unusual in that they were not infected with hepatitis C. The majority of this group had similar results to those of the prisoners.

“Now we plan to try to identify individuals with these responses and follow them over time,” he said. “This research may be significant in guiding the development of a vaccine against hepatitis C, which can cause liver cancer and liver failure.” The researchers ultimately hope to reproduce a similar pattern of protective immunity with a synthetic vaccine. ■



By Susi Hamilton

Far-sighted moves

The Outreach Eye Team, headed by Professor Minas Coroneo, has secured a quarter of a million dollar grant from the NSW Government to improve its eye service to remote areas.

“For 30 years we have been going to areas with no ophthalmologists. We effectively service half the state,” said Professor Coroneo, head of the Department of Ophthalmology in the Faculty of Medicine.

“People often don’t access eye care early and that means the cases you see can be pretty bad, such as blindness from macular degeneration or glaucoma. There are also a lot of eye complications from diabetes, which is a particular problem among the Aboriginal population.”

Six ophthalmologists, two trainee registrars and a nurse co-ordinator make up the Outback Eye Team which travels with the Royal Flying Doctor Service to communities including Bourke, Brewarrina, Walgett, Broken Hill, Griffith and Lightning Ridge. Other health professionals, such as optometrists or diabetes specialists, also treat patients at the same time. In addition, the Outback Eye Team provides services to the urban community of Redfern.

The \$250,000 one-off payment will go towards reducing waiting lists for eye surgery. It will pay for five days of eye surgery at Bourke and Walgett and \$70,000 will go towards equipment. ■

Ageing in the wrong place

By Alex Clark

Current aged-care policies and practices do not adequately address the needs of older refugees, according to research by Professor Richard Hugman, Linda Bartolomei and Dr Eileen Pittaway of the School of Social Work. The team conducted a series of focus groups across five ethnic communities and found that older refugees have a sense of 'ageing in the wrong place' as they cope with post-traumatic stress and a changing family support system. "The refugee experience is carried through life and profoundly shapes the experience

of ageing," Hugman said. He found that the common complaint that the younger generations do not have sympathy, affects older refugees more profoundly because there is nobody else in the community who can understand their horrendous life experiences. "When children or grandchildren don't want to hear stories, or challenge their stories, it undermines their sense of self," he said. Older refugees are often grouped with elderly migrants but Hugman's research, published recently in the *Australasian Journal on Ageing*, shows that the sense of 'ageing in the wrong

place' is unique to those who have found asylum in Australia.

"There is acknowledgement of how much Australia has provided but they would still rather not be here. As they age, they begin to review their experiences and many find they still see Australia as a place of refuge," Hugman said. "It was never going to be home in the way that it might be for someone who chooses to be here."

It is this process of review that has also seen many older refugees, coping very well since the 1970s, suddenly exhibit symptoms of post-traumatic stress.

"Memories may contain many traumatic aspects that have not otherwise been dealt with during the course of their lives." ■

A passionate appointment

By Denise Knight

After nearly a decade heading the Public Interest Advocacy Centre in Sydney, Andrea Durbach is the 'new kid on the block'. The international human rights advocate was recently appointed associate professor in the law school – a challenge she has embraced with her trademark: passion.

Like the combination of engagement and intellectual stimulation that university life offers," she said. "I feel so fortunate that this opportunity came up."

In a cross-appointment, Andrea has also taken on the role of director of the University's Australian Human Rights Centre, a research institute attached to the faculty. "This means I can be involved in building on the work of the Centre as well as research and teaching," she said.

While it's early days, Durbach would like the Centre to focus its work on economic, social and cultural rights, given its interdisciplinary objectives. "The potential to work with a

range of other schools and faculties across a range of human rights issues – whether it's health, philosophy, politics, economics or environmental science – offers exciting collaborative research and other possibilities." Health is an area of particular interest for Durbach: "It's such a critical issue."

On the international stage, Durbach is well known for her role in the notorious Upington trial in South Africa, as part of the legal team that defended 25 people arrested for the murder of a black policeman. During what became the largest court case in South African history, her colleague, barrister Anton Lubowski, was assassinated. Her account of the case, *Upington*, was written seven years after the event and published in 1999.

Durbach's abiding commitment to human rights and public advocacy was formed at an early age. "I studied law because I understood that law and justice were somehow allies and yet what I was seeing in South Africa was the use of law to actually undermine and erode justice. I worry that that trend is being replicated in Australia. The injustice in South Africa hit you between the eyes," she said.

"This experience definitely shaped the way I ended up as a lawyer."

Andrea is also a part-time Commissioner of the NSW Law Reform Commission, a member of the Legal Services Tribunal and a director of the National Pro Bono Resource Centre. ■



Britta Campion

Later this month, Durbach will introduce a screening of *Amandla!*, the inspirational documentary charting the role of song in South Africa's anti-apartheid struggle. The screening is part of an exhibition of South African artist William Kentridge's work at the Museum of Contemporary Art. Details at www.mca.com.au.

Campus 2020: Kensington's future

What sort of campus do you want? The answers to this question – by academics, students, general staff, deans and the UNSW executive – are hotly anticipated by a group of planners and designers drawing up a strategy for the Kensington campus that will direct design and development for the next 15 years. **Louisa Wright** compiled this look at Campus 2020.



“It will be a vision for the future campus which will guide design and development investment,” said Sue Holliday, director of city strategy with planners DEGW, the company leading the consortium of consultants for the Campus 2020 Master Plan.

Holliday, who was Director General of Planning for the NSW Government from 1997 to 2003, led the planning of many urban renewal programs in Sydney, including Ultimo Pyrmont, Walsh Bay and Fox Studios, and had a significant planning role for the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

The design principles and outcomes for the

next stage of development on campus will emerge in large part from an assessment of the needs of all the groups which use the campus, and to that end extensive consultations are now underway.

“Where is the University going? What is changing in academic life, and in the nature of teaching and learning? What about the increasing internationalisation of the University? And what does it all mean in terms of the next 10 to 15 years?” Holliday said. “Universities are increasingly having to pay their own way, so your assets have to work for you. Spaces must have the maximum flexibility and buildings must also be adaptable.”

The consultation process is intended to elicit the full range of the drivers of business

– all the businesses – of the University and then analyse the ways in which the built environment meets those needs. A core concern is that the University is able to grow to meet the changing nature of academic and student requirements, and to present a dynamic face to both private and government sources of funding.

That dynamism is symbolised by buildings such as the successful Scientia and the new law centre destined for lower campus. The design for the law building is modern and edgy, supporting the progressive image of the law faculty.

Holliday concedes that the elements that create good spaces and places are not always scientific. Consultation is essential because “people adopt some places and not others, and it is not always clear why that happens. The University is a town within a town and we need to know what makes the campus experience.” Consultation is also scheduled with neighbours, Randwick Council, the Prince of Wales Hospital and the AJC, all of which are affected by the University.

Every member of the University community is encouraged to contribute views about campus uses and needs. Contact Janet Martin on jmartin@degw.com.au.

Mapping the landscape

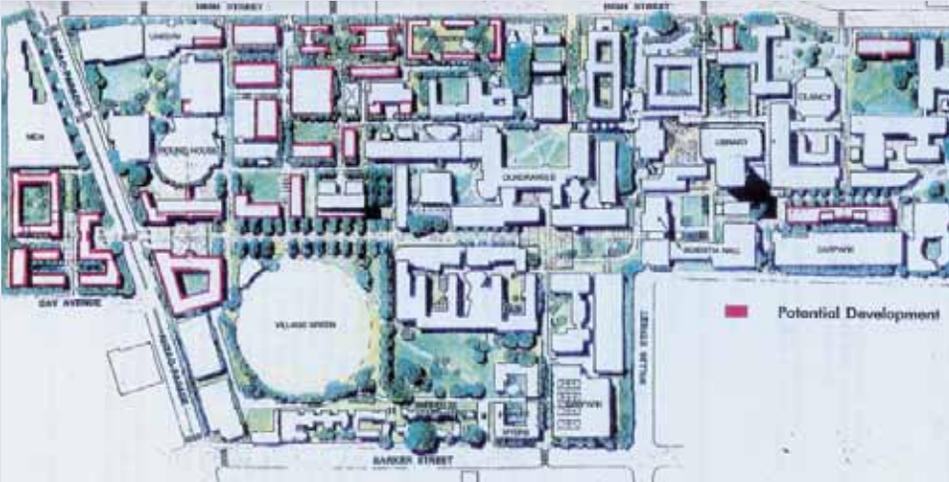
The brief of assessing the quality and performance of the open spaces on campus, and determining their future directions, falls to landscape architect Paul Knox. He believes that the outstanding improvements of the last 15 years have nevertheless left potential yet to be developed.

“It’s one aspect of our role to champion

the natural qualities of the campus – such as habitat values, retaining valuable trees, increasing the efficiency of water use and allowing rainwater to permeate ground sources and return to the aquifer,” Knox said. “It’s also our role to make sure that people move through comfortable, beautiful, safe spaces and to make the campus an easier place to find your way around.

“The work since 1990, from a landscape

point of view, is of a very high standard, almost unparalleled. But there are still issues of connecting upper and lower campus more effectively, and there are issues about certain zones currently not in optimum development, such as the area around Gate 2, the western campus and the Wallace Wurth/Samuels/Mathews, which are all clearly areas which will change as the University’s academic strategy develops.”



The previous masterplan guided development from about 1990. The plan now under preparation will reinforce the principles of this earlier, seminal plan.

Creating the blueprint

Architect and urban designer David Chesterman was a key player in the Campus Development Strategy which first addressed Kensington's significant physical deficiencies in the late 1980s. Along with then-Vice-Chancellor Professor John Niland, Chesterman's work led not only to an overdue facelift of the entire campus but also engendered a long-term plan under which every building proposal was reviewed by a development committee chaired by the Vice-Chancellor.

"All improvements since 1989 grew directly from the Campus Development Strategy," said Chesterman, who also updated the strategy in the late 1990s. "We pulled down a lot of rubbish and created a campus where people wanted to come, wanted to study and work here."

The strategy saw the removal of temporary huts

and unfortunate additions and the eventual construction of the Quadrangle, Scientia, the central mall and extensive landscaping. It also oversaw the siting of every building constructed since 1989; the distribution of union facilities, particularly food outlets, around the campus; the upgrading of major precincts such as the Roundhouse and Clancy; and the relocation of parking to the area perimeters, allowing buildings to be more directly connected.

Although this work began before Niland's Vice-Chancellorship, "he picked it up and ran with it," Chesterman said. Niland, who was also known to water the recent plantings personally over a long hot summer break, encouraged the recycling of building materials, the use of bicycles and better bus services to the campus. "You could call him John the Builder," Chesterman said. "He had a strong sense of urban design and a vision of what the campus could be, a vision of turning a bloody awful campus into a great place." ■

The Dean's view

"There is clear evidence that the quality of the 'informal' curriculum will increasingly drive the reputation of universities as destinations of choice for students. Our ability and willingness to be creative about open and connecting spaces which promote interactions between students and between students and staff should be tested in this process. In addition, many aspects of research are demanding greater multidisciplinary. These learning and research imperatives mandate careful attention not only to the design of individual buildings but to the articulation of spaces in ways which will enhance the node and network feeling of the campus."

– Bruce Dowton, Medicine

Between the idea and the reality

What is built does not always match what is needed. Kenn Fisher's job is to fill the gaps in communication arising between the language of academics and the language of designers, to ensure that the strategic brief meets the spatial needs and wants of those who will use the finished building.

Dr Fisher's particular interest is in the changing nature of teaching and learning over time, and the impact of technology – particularly wireless networks – which will permit learning to leave the formal environment of classroom or laboratory and become more mobile, more self-directed and often more collaborative and social.

"Academic practice is embedded and traditional, but the role is changing from that of teacher-centred pedagogical practice to that of a facilitator," Dr Fisher said. "This transition is part of the shift to problem-, resource- and project-based learning. This affects the spaces inside buildings – facilities planning – and outside buildings – the campus public realm."

The latter space includes those fringe areas at the edges of buildings, transitional areas between formal and informal learning such as courtyards, cloisters and passageways with coffee carts, seats and tables, which students effectively transform into informal classrooms.

These considerations form part of the campus 'educational overlay', which seeks to understand the learning and teaching requirements and to match them to the physical campus, to see how the environment can be best shaped to meet present and future needs.

Fig tree on High Street.



Daniel Woo



High seas of sound

By Mary O'Malley

Two engineering academics have helped to create a novel experience in seafaring by mounting the world's largest location-dependent sound composition on a ship cruising the Baltic Sea. *Syren* is a sound-art project involving Dr Daniel Woo, lecturer in the School of Computer Science and Engineering, Professor Chris Rizos, head of the School of Surveying and Spatial Information Systems, and sound artist Nigel Helyer of Sonic Object.

With the aid of a global positioning system (GPS) receiver and specially created software, the team were able to place sounds in the natural environment, creating an authentic surround-sound experience for 1500 passengers. As the

ship approached historic landmarks, for example, atmospheric sounds conjured images of the era. At a fortress belltower bells would ring, cannons fire and Handel play with gusto in the background.

"We placed sounds in the environment that acoustically appeared to be attached to elements in the real landscape," said Nigel Helyer, who created the sound files for the 41-hour journey. As the ship changed position, different sounds would play. One minute an atmospheric track from nature's orchestra, the next a detailed account of a 13th century voyage to the Orient. These sounds were directional and gave the sense that they came from the elements in the

real environment. This was done by placing audio layers over electronic nautical chart information. GPS technology mounted onboard was used to track the location of the ship.

"The ship itself became a cursor that drove the software that rendered the audio to the speakers," said Dr Woo, who travelled with PhD student Nick Mariette on the voyage.

Twelve surround speakers were mounted on the helipad of the ship, *L'Silja Opera*, which travelled to Helsinki, Mariehamn, Stockholm and Tallinn as part of the International Symposium on Electronic Art.

The team is now working on a Virtual Berlin Wall project that will relate personal and public stories as well as a UNSW Campus Navigator project.

"The art community tends to build exhibits," said Dr Woo. "We build tools which means they can be used on another project quickly." For more information on *Syren*, see www.cse.unsw.edu.au/~nomad. ■

Good reef! Rough waters

By Alex Clark

Research by biological oceanographer Dr Mark Baird has achieved the most accurate observations to date, to explain why corals flourish in rough waters.

Dr Baird, of the School of Mathematics, undertook his study at Warrabar Island reef flat in the Torres Strait where, for the first time, research was conducted in an uncontrolled benthic (sea-bed) environment, simultaneously measuring nutrient uptake and energy dissipation.

"Changes in sea surface elevation were used to infer energy dissipation," Dr Baird said. "The results demonstrated, in the field, that nutrient uptake can be limited by diffusion of ions to the surface of the corals." The research was published recently in the journal *Coral Reefs* and provided confirmation of recent theoretical work by Cliff Hearn of UNSW@ADFA.

Dr Baird believes measuring the amount of mixing to predict nutrient uptake would surprise many people who think coral reefs are so desperately in need of nutrients that they build up the capacity to get all the nutrients they can.

"They just can't overcome physics, which limits the rate at which they uptake nutrients," Dr Baird said. "Ironically, it's because they are so good at taking up nutrients that the limitation is not in themselves but in their environment."

Having successfully predicted nutrient uptake rates in the natural reef environment, Dr Baird is heading overseas next month as part of an international collaboration to 'fine tune' this relationship between nutrient uptake and energy dissipation.

Dr Baird will return to the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology in Kaneohe, where he completed his Masters eight years ago. He will work alongside Marlin Atkinson, his one-time supervisor and founder of the field.

"Working in this world-leading closed-laboratory environment, we hope to establish an experimental protocol for the quantification of nutrient uptake in a broad range of coral environments," Dr Baird said. "If we can predict the growth of photosynthetic organisms at the bottom of the food chain we will improve our ability to manage these unique environments." ■

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Looking for Jo

Many Australian families followed the commemoration earlier this year, on the northern beaches of France, of the 60th anniversary of the D-Day landing in June 1944. The personal interest of knowing that relatives lived and died through the event which marked the beginning of the end of World War II was shared by Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education), Professor Adrian Lee, who traced the last steps of his father.

Adrian and his adult children, Amanda and Andrew, first set out to solve the mystery of what exactly happened to Jo Lee. They had little to go on, other than a handful of original letters and documents. But with extensive research, good luck and good timing on the internet, they were able to follow Jo's route from his landing point on Sword Beach inland toward the Leбіsey Wood, where he died.

Captain Jo Lee, of the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, was a Beach Liaison Officer (BLO) in the third wave of the Normandy landing – an enormous undertaking of Allied troops in which many thousands died. He was assigned to a squad of Bren Gun carriers, small tanks with mounted guns.

On the day after the invasion, when the Warwicks were ordered forward to take the inland town of Caen, Jo's Bren Gun carrier hit a mine a short distance from a division of Panzers which were countering the move on Caen. Graham Rogers, a medical orderly of the Royal Artillery Medical Corps, wrote to Jo's wife, Olive, confirming Jo's death. Rogers assured Olive that he had not been in pain as he had received morphine and Jo had died in his arms.

Once home from the emotional visit to Normandy, Adrian Lee decided to make a slide show to share the experience. To get some old pictures, he typed keywords into Google. Up came a Salvation Army web page about a male nurse of the 2nd



Adrian Lee at Jo's landing place at Sword Beach

Battalion of the Warwickshire Regiment, now aged 87 and one of only two who could administer morphine. "It could not be him," Adrian thought. But it was indeed Graham Rogers who, when telephoned, told Adrian the story of his father's death, including the fact that it was a German Panzer officer – a fluent English speaker and Oxford graduate – who laid Jo's body under a tree.

With Rogers' information, Adrian and his children were able to establish the site of Jo's death and, 60 years to the minute after his death, drank to his memory. Amanda and Andrew subsequently visited Rogers in England. This fluke of finding the army medic was the remarkable conclusion to a trip that highlighted the horrors of war.

In his last letter, written two days before D-Day, Jo wrote: "Darling Olive, if you read this, it will mean I've been reported killed... Thank you for everything – you've been the most wonderful wife any man could ever have had. I can't imagine any way we could have been happier... Adrian will of course go from strength to strength. They're both good lads and we shall be proud of them. Let them like all the splendid things – birds and trees and sunsets and then books and music and friendship. I've loved all those things, next to you." ■



Jo Lee

From the bench to the bedside

By Susi Hamilton

Two leading medical researchers at UNSW are juggling cutting-edge research with organising a major congress for their Australian colleagues. Dr Maria Kavallaris from the Children's Cancer Institute Australia is convener of the second Australian Health and Medical Research Congress, to be held in Sydney this month, and Associate Professor Levon Khachigian of the Centre for Vascular Research is convener of the Congress's scientific program.

"This Congress is unlike other meetings," Kavallaris said. "The aim is to bring together medical researchers from different disciplines who would not normally get together. There are a lot of complementary themes that each group has that they often don't realise.

"The government is pushing for scientists to apply for big multi-disciplinary, collaborative grants. This Congress is facilitating that approach. It's really a means of bringing people together to promote these collaborations and cross-fertilisation of ideas.

"As researchers, we need to be aware of all the steps involved in making something happen. If you can think about how your research can go from the bench to the bedside, then you really will have a chance of making a difference. This Congress will provide successful examples on how this can be achieved."

The Congress is an initiative of the Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR) and will run from 21 to 26 November. Further information at www.ahmrcongress.org.au. ■

Gifted students: exposing the myth

By Alex Clark

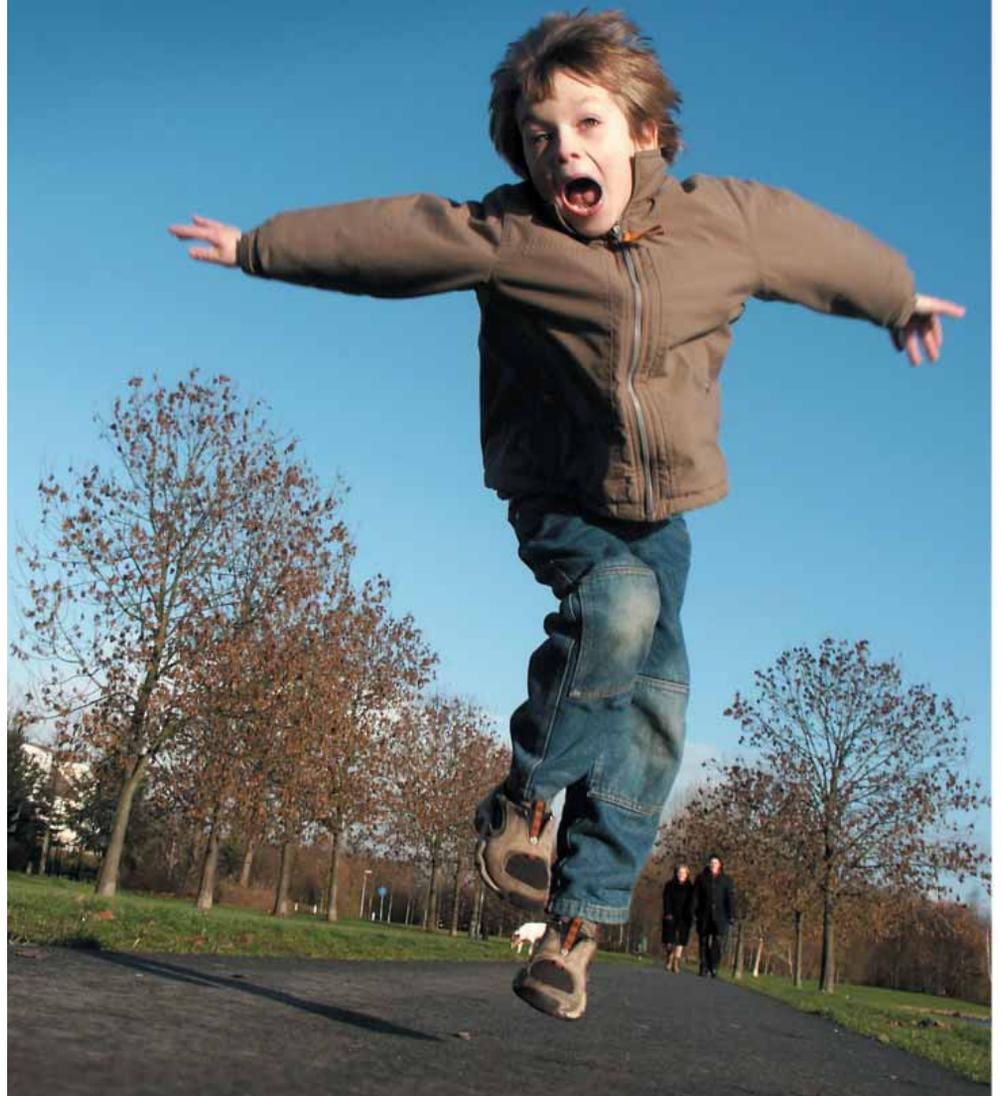
A study has shown that, contrary to popular myth, gifted students will not be socially stunted if they are accelerated.

According to the study co-authored by Professor Miraca Gross, *A Nation Deceived: How Schools Hold Back America's Brightest*, moving bright students ahead has strong positive results both academically and socially, a situation Professor Gross believes is paralleled in Australia.

Professor Gross, an international leader in gifted education, is the founding director of UNSW's Gifted Education Research Resource and Information Centre (GERRIC).

"Gifted and talented students comprise 10 to 15 percent of the student population which means that every Australian teacher has gifted children in their classroom. However many are unaware of this or unsure how to help them," Professor Gross said.

"Many gifted students are at risk of significant underachievement, demotivation or dropping out of school if they are not allowed to achieve their potential. Popular belief that a student who skips a grade will be hurt socially is not supported by the research. Instead acceleration is the most effective intervention for highly capable students, both for the short term and long term." ■



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An ethical world

By Susi Hamilton

The film *Face/Off* tells the story of an undercover agent who has a face transplant to take on the appearance of a criminal. While face transplants remain in the realm of science fiction, two discussions on their ethical implications will be among papers presented at the World Congress of Bioethics, being held in Australia this month for the first time.

Some of the other topics to be considered at the 7th biennial Congress, hosted by UNSW, include embryo selection, cloning and child organ donation.

"While we will be discussing controversial issues like transplants, euthanasia and genetics, bioethics is much broader than that," said Congress president and UNSW Associate Professor Paul McNeill of the School of Public Health and Community Medicine. "It is about things which affect large numbers of people, from ethics surrounding Indigenous and refugee health through to equity of care."

The theme of the Congress – *Deep Listening: bridging divides in local and global ethics* – reflects this broader view of bioethics. *Deep Listening* will be explored in three areas of ethics: local and global public health, Indigenous health and understanding the body.

"In suggesting the theme of the Congress, I was responding to an aspect of Ngangikurrungkurr culture," said Dennis McDermott, also of the School of Public Health and

Community Medicine, who is co-convenor of the Congress's Ethics and Indigenous Health Day. "They have a word – *dadirri* – that means you are tuning in to the person beside you. It is listening with awareness and stillness. This is particularly important for health professionals. You can't work across the cultural divide till you hear what the patient is saying and also do some self-reflection.

"One of the big bioethics issues which face Indigenous people is how to conduct health research ethically with Indigenous communities. It has been done so badly in the past. You don't get change until you get a genuine exchange of ideas. This Congress is a chance to talk back to mainstream ethics, medical practice and bioethics."

The Congress has attracted international speakers and abstracts from more than 35 countries. Two international guests, Professor George Annas from Boston University and Professor Alexander Capron from the World Health Organization, will deliver a potentially controversial public lecture, *Why Bother with Human Rights and What Do They Have to do with Bioethics?*

The free public lecture will be held in the Clancy Auditorium on 10 November.

The open forum *Bioethics and You: Where are we going with gene technology, stem cells and cloning?* will be held at the Garvan Institute on 9 November. Further information at www.bioethicsworldcongress.com. ■

Left, right, left, right... right

By Alex Clark

A new political strategy – the so-called Third Way – emerged in response to the Reagan/Thatcher era of neo-liberal economics. Neither left nor right, the Third Way promised both public investment and a surplus budget. Dr Flavio Romano has shown, however, that the Third Way is in fact strikingly similar to the first, neo-liberal, way.

"When Bill Clinton was campaigning for office in 1992, he came up with what is known as the concept of the Third Way, the idea of a new socio-economic program that was neither left- nor right-wing. In 1996 we saw Tony Blair pick up the concept," said Dr Romano, a lecturer in the School of Social Science and Policy.

Dr Romano compared the rhetoric during both campaigns with the practice of economic policy once each was in power. "Both believed the state had an essential role to invest in education and public infrastructure but the contradiction arose when they both committed to a macro-economic policy of surplus budgets," Dr Romano said. "Once in office, these two tensions were in conflict and the latter won."

Dr Romano believes Australian politics may have been at the forefront of this 'not-so-new' Third Way. He argues there is evidence suggesting that former Prime Ministers Bob Hawke and Paul Keating pioneered this political strategy and that Blair in particular had taken great interest in Australian politics.

But why the pretence? Dr Romano's research shows that, following the Reagan/Thatcher era, there was a movement of electorates in the English-speaking world towards the right-of-centre. This shift was in response to the idea that if parties of the left were to win, they would need to reposition themselves as a viable alternative, capable of governing capitalist economies in the age of globalisation.

"This is the most outstanding legacy of the Reagan/Thatcher years, a complete reorientation of the electorate," Dr Romano said.

Dr Romano's research will be published in a forthcoming book, *Clinton & Blair: the Political Economy of the Third Way*. ■

ACCESS connecting students

The Equity and Diversity Unit is piloting a scheme to provide personal computers to students from low-income families who do not have access to a computer or the internet at home.

ACCESS Connect is a group initiative of the Green Office, the Computer Working Group and the Equity and Diversity Unit.

The scheme arose from the need to find an effective way to dispose of UNSW's unwanted computers, matched with a concern that students without home access to a PC are disadvantaged by the increased reliance on the internet as an essential study tool.

The Faculty of Commerce and Economics and the School of Computer Science and Engineering provided the first batch of computers for the pilot. They have been reconditioned through a Wesley Uniting Employment program to give long-term

unemployed people skills in computer refurbishment.

The Equity and Diversity Unit received a large number of applications and the 20 successful applicants will collect their computers shortly. Students receiving a Centrelink/Social Security allowance such as Youth Allowance are eligible for ACCESS Connect.

For further information call Penny Pitcairn in Equity and Diversity on 9385 5434 or p.pitcairn@unsw.edu.au. ACCESS Connect is seeking computer donations from Faculties, Schools and work units for the scheme in 2005. ■



Support for Bali project

A cheque for more than \$5000 was recently presented to the Yakkum Bali Rehabilitation Project by Deborah Raphael from the School of Public Health and Community Medicine. The money, to which UNSW staff contributed following an appeal in *Uniken*, was the first year's result of a pledge by the International Health Special Interest Group of the Public Health Association of Australia

to support the project for three years, following the Bali bombings in 2002.

Yakkum Bali is a non-profit organisation helping physically challenged young people in poor areas of Bali through its recently established prosthetics and orthopaedic workshop and physiotherapy clinic.

The girls on the motorbike, pictured above, were keen to demonstrate the freedom that leg callipers from the project have provided.

OBITUARY

Alan Oldfield, Artist
1943–2004



Alan Oldfield first came to national prominence with his hard-edged abstract paintings in *The Field* exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria in 1968. His later work became quiet meditations on medieval mysticism as part of his own personal investigation into the nature of art and faith.

When he travelled on a Visual Arts Grant in 1974, the destination was Rome and his painting began to reflect the subtle tones of sculptural form. Later, a growing interest in medieval mysticism led him to research *The Revelations of Divine Love*, by the English mystic Dame Julian of Norwich. His cycle of 16 Julian paintings was exhibited at Norwich Cathedral in 1988. He was awarded the Blake Prize in 1988 and 1991. He also painted the shrines of Our Lady and Our Lord at Christ Church St Laurence in Sydney.

He was an inspirational teacher. He joined the staff of the Alexander Mackie CAE in 1976, and remained until the week before his death, during which time the College became the City Art Institute and then the College of Fine Arts, UNSW. In 1991 he was promoted to Associate Professor. His generosity and rigour as a teacher led to his students surprising themselves with their results. In art history he taught inspirational classes on Renaissance art.

His cancer gave him time to say goodbye to friends and plan his funeral. The music was in Latin, the air was thick with incense. There was standing room only in the church. He would have loved it.

Joanna Mendelssohn
COFA

By Denise Knight

The myth-busters

COFA academics Rick Bennett and Leong K Chan are busy busting myths about online education. Their internationally recognised work has just received national teaching and research awards from the Australian Council of University Art and Design Schools (ACUADS).



Rick Bennett and Leong K Chan

“If the result of the first decade of online education has been to raise a series of myths, insecurities and negative opinions, it must be the aim for the next decade to dispel them,” the researchers argued at the recent ACUADS conference in a paper titled *The Future has already happened: Dispelling some myths of online education*. The paper was co-authored with Andy Polaine of the School of Media Arts. “Myths and suspicions about online learning and teaching have arisen and include

perceptions that students are left to their own devices without any guidance and therefore ‘teach themselves’. Fear of inactive student participation in online courses and increased isolation for students has led to anxiety about how the technology will replace the teacher. Online delivery is commonly viewed cynically as a cost-cutting measure without any proper justification on pedagogical ground,” the authors said in the paper.

Bennett, who received a distinguished teaching

award, is a senior lecturer in the School of Design Studies and the head of COFA Online. “It’s particularly pleasing that this is the first ACUADS award that recognises the considerable and growing role of online teaching and learning,” he said. “COFA is being seen as a leading player in online education in the creative arts and design. Next year we will have at least 13 fully online courses on offer, and quality is the key component.”

Chan’s inaugural distinguished research award recognises the designer’s research, track record in publications, links with industry, and co-ordination of postgraduate research programs. “It is especially pleasing to receive the award from my peers,” he said. “I incorporate research in my teaching – that’s how I inspire my students.”

Chan is currently working on two ARC-funded projects. The first, with Dr Raymond Donovan of the University of Newcastle, supports their internationally prominent work on the socio-graphic representation of HIV/AIDS. *The Australian Graphic AIDS Project* investigates the design history of HIV/AIDS public health campaigns since the 1980s.

For the second, *The Omnium Project*, Chan and Bennett are jointly developing an online technical system and formalising a conceptual approach for effective online collaborative design in visual communication. Bennett founded the Omnium research initiative in 1998, for online collaborative education in the arts and design.

“The issue is not how to incorporate online technologies into education but, as has always been the case, how to make education relevant to students for whom these technologies are part of their everyday lives. The brave new world is already here.” ■

shaping memory

SCULPTURE AT THE
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Signs of life: war sculpture

Signs of life, a sculpture by Dean of COFA Ian Howard, is part of the exhibition *Shaping Memory: Sculpture at the Australian War Memorial*, which runs until late November. The show displays for the first time the Memorial’s wartime sculptures from World War I through to recent works.

The catalogue describes Howard’s travels across Europe documenting monuments before making a series of ‘black’ works about the industrial military complex and its effect on society. “Using the familiar conventions of the monument and the victory arch, he has simplified and distorted forms to focus on the essence of a complex concept: our relationship to military actions both past and present. The scale is distorted to reflect the subjective views of the varying degrees of gain and loss and personal hurt to which the memorial refers.”



Alex Clark

Rachel Guthrie
Psychologist

I have had a long affiliation with UNSW, beginning as an undergrad BSc (Psych) student and returning to complete a Masters in Clinical Psychology. I worked as a research psychologist for Professor Richard Bryant in the School of Psychology, based at Westmead Hospital, in the Post-traumatic Stress Disorders Unit. This position enticed me to come back to complete a PhD at UNSW with Professor Bryant as my supervisor. For my PhD I investigated the biological and psychological vulnerability factors for post-traumatic stress in a cohort of firefighters. I am now conducting research on the relationship between biological and psychological factors in assault victims with post-traumatic stress. What drew me to research in post-traumatic stress was the desire to contribute to knowledge about a potentially very disabling mental health problem. I also work part-time in private practice as a clinical psychologist, and really enjoy the balance between science and practice. In addition to the career opportunities I have gained at UNSW, I also met my husband here, so it's been a positive experience all round!

What do you like most about your job?

Something really important when deciding on my career path was to have variety in my job. I have achieved this with a combination of research, teaching and practice in the field of psychology.

Pet hate?

A disturbed night's sleep (but see next answer).

What are you reading/listening to at the moment?

I'm reading *What to Expect When You're Expecting...* our first child is due in January.

Best advice you've ever received?

If you're going to do a PhD, use Reference Manager. I never looked back.

Who or what inspires you?

People who manage to prevail over adversity. Courage is such an admirable quality.

You're hosting a dinner party and can invite three people (living or dead). Who is on your guest list?

My husband, Julius Caesar and Voltaire.

Favourite expression?

It's the principle...

What would you have been in another life?

A suffragette.

What are you good at?

Working out what makes me happy.

What can't you do?

Read people's minds.

What is your reaction to stress?

Stress isn't all bad – it can be performance-enhancing.

What do you think when you hear fire-engine sirens?

Is that one of my subjects in the fire truck? ■

THE STACK

New books by UNSW authors

Business Ethics: Problems and Cases 3ed, by Damian Grace and Stephen Cohen (Philosophy); \$55

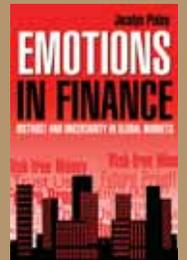


Analysis of Variance Via Confidence Intervals, by Kevin Bird (Psychology); \$146.70



The Art and Science of Marketing, by Grahame Dowling (AGSM); \$95

Powerscape: Contemporary Australian Political Practice, by Ariadne Vromen and Katharine Gelber (Politics); \$44.95



Emotions in Finance, by Jocelyn Pixley (Sociology); \$44.95

The Eloquent Body: Dance and Humanist Culture in Fifteenth-Century Italy, by Jennifer Nevile (Dance); \$62.95



Law and Justice in Australia: Foundations of the Legal System, by Peter Vines (Law); \$59.95

Performance-Based Optimisation of Structures, by Quin Quang Liang (Civil Engineering); \$218.70

These titles are already out or will be available from the UNSW Bookshop, 9385 6622, www.bookshop.unsw.edu.au, email info@bookshop.unsw.edu.au.

DO YOU HAVE A BOOK COMING OUT SOON? Email Uniken@unsw.edu.au with the details.

COUNCIL REPORT

By Dr John Yu, AC, Chancellor

October meeting

Appointment of Vice-Chancellor extended

The Council was pleased to extend the term of appointment of Professor Mark Wainwright as Vice-Chancellor until the end of 2005. A search process for a new Vice-Chancellor will be undertaken shortly.

UNSW Strategic Plan 2005–2009

The Strategic Plan and the proposed Planning Process would be presented to Council members at the UNSW Council and Vice-Chancellor's Advisory Committee mini-retreat on 14 October 2004. The Council meeting on 22 November 2004 has been extended by three hours to allow for focused discussion on strategic planning.

UNSW staff dining facility

Council welcomed the initiative for the UNSW staff dining facility to be located in the Tyree Room of Scientia, and commended the inclusion of postgraduate research students as part of its focus. Postgraduate research students would be represented on the Staff Dining Facility Project Team. Council acknowledged the significant support and commitment of Sir William Tyree for the project.

UNSW Asia

Council noted with interest the article by Emma Young, "The insider – Singapore: The game is on", *New Scientist*, 18 September 2004, pp48 to 51, which provided a perspective of Singapore's commitment to research and the developing research opportunities in biomedical sciences. Council will continue to keep abreast of pertinent matters to inform its future discussions.

Honorary degrees

Council approved the award of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*, to Dr Rachel Kohn in recognition of her eminent service to the community and to Mr Gianfranco Cresciani in recognition of his distinguished eminence in the field of history.

Meeting dates

Council meeting will commence at 11am on 22 November, the earlier time to allow a strategic planning focus. Council meeting on 13 December 2004 will be held at the usual time of 2pm to 5pm. A schedule of 2005 Council meeting dates is available on the Secretariat website. Council meetings are open to all members of the University – that is, staff, students, graduates and emeriti. If you wish to attend a Council meeting, go to the inquiry counter of the Chancellery before the meeting where you will be issued with a pass and some notes for observers. Observers have no speaking rights and must leave the Chamber when confidential items are being discussed.

Council Minutes

Council minutes and other information about Council are available to all members of the University by accessing the Secretariat website (www.secretariat.unsw.edu.au) then following the links to Council.

For further information on matters relating to Council or its Standing Committees, please contact Rhona Fraser, rhona.fraser@unsw.edu.au, 9385 3068 or Jenny Noble, j.noble@unsw.edu.au, 9385 3072.

The Chancellor is the chair of Council.



ACADEMIC
BOARD

Improved conditions for research students

Academic Board 3 October 2004

The Academic Board approved a number of policies designed to improve the conditions for Research Students, introducing a Policy on Minimum Facilities and Resources for Postgraduate Research Study, streamlining Rules for Preparation and Submission of Master by Research and Doctoral Theses for Examination and endorsing the establishment of a Graduate Research School. The Board noted the UNSW Institutional Student Equity Update 2005–2007 and UNSW Student Equity Plan 2004.

Many academic issues arise from the plans to open UNSW Asia in Singapore and it is crucial for the Academic Board to have input into this venture. The Board established the UNSW Asia Liaison Committee to provide advice to the Board and its Committees on academic programs, student services, academic services and research matters at UNSW Asia. The Committee will also facilitate communication with other appropriate committees and working groups.

The Board approved student appointments to the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, endorsed the UNSW website policy and received an update on the UNSW online handbook project for 2005.

The Academic Board recommended that Council approve appointments to the Honorary Degrees Committee of Council, the award of the degree of Doctor of Science and a number of new programs combining the Bachelor of Engineering with the Bachelor of Commerce and the Bachelor of Engineering with the Bachelor of Science.

Board members were invited to attend a Board-sponsored Forum on Information Technology. The forum aims to communicate some of the initiatives being implemented and supported by ITS (formerly DIS) and other IT groups, to give an overview of recent changes in information technology, a review of current activities and to provide input into planning for the future.

Rather than be purely agenda-driven, part of the Academic Board's meeting time has been set aside to discuss wider policy issues. Resulting from a call to members, the issue of retention of staff was discussed and members made a valuable contribution and provided some possible strategies for the future.

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 or 9385 2393.

Tony Dooley
President, Academic Board

By Christopher Sheil

Before 2004 enters political mythology...

On one of the blackest days for the left side of Australian politics in history, John Howard won a famous victory for the right on 9 October. He is the first prime minister to increase his government's vote at two successive elections since Bob Menzies, and will soon pass Bob Hawke to become Australia's second longest serving prime minister.

Crowning the triumph, Howard now heads the first government with a majority in the senate for over 20 years. With most pundits expecting the Liberal-National coalition to be returned with fewer votes and seats, and some predicting Labor, the significance of 2004's conservative victory is likely to stand next to 1949 and 1975.

What explains the result? A pundit favourite is that many citizens ignored much of the campaign. These 'don't cares' or 'disengaged' decided our national destiny at the last minute, primarily because of fears over interest rates and economic management — along with doubts sown over Mark Latham's experience, compounded by the disastrous forest policy. From another

direction, social researcher Hugh McKay is the most prominent of several voices arguing that the campaign made no difference, as citizens had long settled on their votes.

I suspect the not-interested-last-minute thesis and the never-going-to-win-it antithesis will synthesise into an implicit consensus that the campaign didn't really happen at all. Before 2004 is thereby conjured into political mythology, let me catch two observations.

First, it seems perfectly understandable that some voters couldn't tolerate the idea of greater financial risk. Forget the perception of good times; interest payments as a proportion of household incomes are heavier today than in 1989, when the mortgage rate was 17 percent, because housing values have trebled in the meantime.

Secondly, Howard showed once again that he is a class act. He has long traded on the preferred neo-conservative class conflict between 'liberal elites' and 'ordinary people'. In the recent campaign, Howard also made pitches deep behind Labor's lines. In his policy speech, he audaciously claimed that the "coalition has been a better friend of the workers of Australia than Labor could ever dream of being".

The policy substance may be nonsense. What, for example, did the prime minister mean in saying he wants a "nation in which a high quality technical qualification is as

prized as a university degree"? Clearly, he doesn't intend to intervene in his precious labour market to ensure fitters are paid as much as lawyers. Or does he mean everyone should be valued in their station? Who would object to the idea of equal dignity in all labour?

The substance may be incoherent or meaningless, but that's not the point. In contrast to Menzies, Howard has always aimed to appeal to workers, as political scientist Judith Brett has long noticed. With the changing nature of work, with Labor's hold on work diluted by its appeal to the middle class, and with so many jobs destroyed by the previous Labor government's economic rationalism, Howard grabbed the imagery of work in 1996, and hasn't let go. In seizing this symbolism, as Brett has argued, the leader of Australia's business party has claimed "a decisive victory for the Liberals".

Of course, the significance of the result remains prey to the future, and obviously the interest rate cycle, over which the government has little control, regardless of Howard's campaign stance. The senate presents the government with an extraordinary legislative opportunity, yet also brings fresh risks in removing excuses to fend off the coalition's extreme and potentially destabilising supporters.

Moreover, if it can recover its base, Labor faces a formidable but not impossible task in 2007, as many of the new Liberal voters were also found in safe government seats. Labor enjoyed a slight swing, picking up some seats, with little net change in the representative chamber. Three years is an eternity in politics. The conservative outlook today is remarkably rosy, but hold the history books just yet.

Christopher Sheil is a senior research fellow in the School of History. His writing has been published widely in newspapers, journals and books and his weblog, *Back Pages*, is at <http://backpagesblog.com/>. ■