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# uniken

## Don't mention the war

Academic freedom  
in the age of terror

UNSW

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**Uniken** is produced by the UNSW media office  
T 02 9385 3192  
E [uniken@unsw.edu.au](mailto:uniken@unsw.edu.au)  
[www.unsw.edu.au/news/pad/uniken.html](http://www.unsw.edu.au/news/pad/uniken.html)

**Editor:** Denise Knight

**Design and production:** Gadfly Media

**Proofreading:** Pam Dunne

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## ARC funding success

UNSW has been awarded \$33 million in the latest round of Australian Research Council funding. This represents a nine per cent share of the \$365 million in the 2007 ARC funding package recently announced by the Federal Education Minister, Julie Bishop.

UNSW was awarded 79 Discovery Grants, 23 Linkage Project Grants, seven Linkage Infrastructure and Equipment Grants, and two Linkage International Awards and Fellowships. The University has also won four of the 29 ARC Professorial Fellowships awarded nationally.

The Science, Engineering and Medicine Faculties led the University's share of ARC funding by winning 78 of 102 Discovery and Linkage Grants. Two of the three largest Discovery Grants awarded to UNSW were in the School of Physics. A team led by Dr Adam Micolich won the University's largest Discovery Project Grant – \$1.3 million – for research that could lead to a new world of super-fast, low-powered transistors and powerful quantum computers.

UNSW's second largest Discovery grant of \$1.2 million was awarded to Dr Chris Tinney, who joins the University from the Anglo-Australian Observatory. He is searching for "exoplanets", Earth-like planets that orbit nearby stars within the Milky Way.

UNSW's largest Linkage grant of almost \$1 million was awarded to Associate Professor Jeffrey Braithwaite from the School of Public Health and Community Medicine's Centre for Clinical Governance Research. His team will investigate the social and economic benefits of a more responsive and efficient health system. The second and third largest Linkage Grants went, respectively, to Associate Professor Garry Barrett in the School of Economics, and Professor Veena Sahajwalla in Materials Science and Engineering.



## Ahead for business

Alec Cameron has been appointed Dean of the new Faculty of Business.

Professor Cameron has been leading the integration of UNSW'S Faculty of Commerce and Economics (FCE) and the Australian Graduate School of Management (AGSM) into the new Faculty, which is due to be in place by January 2007.

"This is a very significant initiative for UNSW," Vice-Chancellor Professor Fred Hilmer said. "It brings together Australia's pre-eminent graduate school with a Faculty recognised as a regional leader in undergraduate and postgraduate business education and research. Our objective is to strengthen UNSW's position as a world-class centre of excellence, in an increasingly competitive international market for business education.

"The integration is a bold initiative that requires vision and strong leadership", the Vice-Chancellor said. "Professor Cameron is eminently qualified to provide that leadership, as the new Faculty's inaugural Dean."

Professor Cameron has been with UNSW since September 2003, when he was appointed to the newly created position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Resources). He has brought to the University a strong business focus, having held a number of senior corporate positions in the IT and telecommunications industry, as well as experience in the higher education sector. He is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

A former Rhodes Scholar and University medallist, Professor Cameron has a distinguished academic record, holding a Doctor of Philosophy from Oxford University and a Master of Science in Management from Polytechnic University, New York.

## Chief Justice opens new Law building

The Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, Murray Gleeson AC, opened the University's new Law building on 21 September. He praised the Law School's outstanding reputation and described the new facilities as setting "a completely new standard for legal accommodation for law teachers and students in NSW".



## Indian engagement

UNSW has become the first Australian university to establish a company dedicated to developing commercial, research and academic partnerships with India.

The Acting Australian High Commissioner to India, David Holly, will open UNSW offices in New Delhi and Mumbai on 30 October to mark the launch of NewSouth Global India Private Limited, the University's in-country operation.

"UNSW has a long history of engagement with India and the region and this exciting development builds on that strong relationship," says Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Richard Henry. "As India moves to become one of the leading world economies, the University is committed to recruiting the best and brightest students."

The offices in New Delhi and Mumbai will also assist alumni development and support undergraduate and postgraduate recruitment to UNSW in Sydney and the new UNSW Asia campus opening in Singapore in March 2007.

The India opening will also mark the launch of a new NewSouth Global (NSG) scholarship for the top Indian student in the International Assessments for Schools program run by UNSW and Macmillan India. NSG supports the international initiatives and activities of the University. It currently manages UNSW offices in Singapore, Bangkok, Hanoi and Hong Kong and is looking at the viability of establishing a formal presence in Beijing in the near future.

□ First person: Kerry Hudson, NSG's A/Chief Executive Officer, p14

## Curator's choice

COFA's Felicity Fenner has been appointed curator of the 2008 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art. Fenner is currently the curator at the Ivan Dougherty Gallery at COFA. She also lectures in the College's Master of Art Administration program and is deputy director of the Centre for Contemporary Art and Politics.

"Contemporary Australian art is characterised by a self-assurance and assertiveness in the handling of sometimes delicate and potentially volatile subject matter," says Fenner, who hopes the Biennial will "entertain, stimulate and provide a meaningful and moving engagement with new work by Australian artists".

Since commencing her curatorial career in London in the late 1980s, Fenner has curated close to 30 exhibitions in Australia and overseas, including *Primavera 2005* at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney. Her numerous catalogue essays, articles and reviews have appeared in major art and design publications. She is a contributing editor to the New York journal, *Art AsiaPacific* and is the Australian-based art critic for *Art in America*.



Oliver Strowe

## The new face of schizophrenia research

The NSW Health Minister has announced the inaugural appointment to Australia's first Professorial Chair of Schizophrenia Research. UNSW and the Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute (POWMRI) are hosting the position, which was established by the Neuroscience Institute of Schizophrenia and Allied Disorders (NISAD).

Dr Cynthia Shannon Weickert was selected after an extensive international search and will take up the role in December. She is chief of the MiNDS Unit at the National Institutes of Health in Washington DC and has held a senior role at the National Institute of Mental Health in Maryland.

Eight million dollars will be invested over the next five years to establish the joint program, through funding from the government and the three partner institutions. There was intense competition from a number of other major universities and institutes to host the Chair.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Fred Hilmer, said: "UNSW is delighted to host the NISAD Chair with our partner institute POWMRI. Our leadership in the area of brain sciences is a key reason we were successful in the bid for this position, which I understand is not only Australia's first Chair dedicated to schizophrenia research, but one of the few worldwide.

"We are also very pleased to welcome a researcher of the calibre of Professor Shannon Weickert," he said. "The University's strong commitment to advancing mental health and neuroscience research is evidenced by our contribution of \$500,000 per annum towards this program."

## HIV treatment in Cambodia

A new medical clinic for Cambodians living with HIV/AIDS, developed with UNSW technical support, has been officially opened in Phnom Penh.

The Social Health Clinic, which provides free outpatient care, including antiretroviral therapy, for adults and children, has been operating out of temporary facilities for the past two years.

It is just one of the projects that the University's National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research (NCHECR) has been working on with the Cambodian Ministry of Health since the late 1990s to strengthen the country's capacity in HIV treatment, care and research.

The clinic opening coincided with the *First Phnom Penh Symposium on HIV Medicine*. UNSW's representatives included Professor David Cooper, the Director of NCHECR, and Deputy Director Professor John Kaldor. The clinic was opened by Dr Mam Bun Heng, Secretary of State for Health, with Australia's Ambassador in attendance.

# Teaching gets a peer review

Michelle Scoufis is leading the development of a pilot program that will subject teaching to similar review processes as research, writes Denise Knight.

It's been a successful year for the Director of the University's Learning and Teaching Unit. While "broadly speaking, universities are struggling to recognise and encourage teaching excellence", Michelle Scoufis is excited about a number of initiatives underway at UNSW, which are "putting us on the map, here and overseas".

In a first for an Australian university, UNSW has won entry into the Carnegie Foundation's Institutional Leadership Program, joining a number of research-intensive universities from the US, Canada and the UK.

The program recognises the importance of teaching in universities, says Scoufis. "It is a great honour for us to be accepted. Our success can be attributed to the explicit recognition of our leadership in creating and implementing new promotion processes that recognise the scholarship of learning and teaching." Fellow team members on the program are Dr Peter Looker, Associate Dean (Education) Graham Forsyth, Associate Professor Lucy Taksa and Rosalind Walsh.

"It's no longer good enough to assess university-level teaching solely by handing out feedback forms to students at session's end. Universities need multiple levels of evidence to assess good quality teaching that results in enhanced student learning outcomes."

And Scoufis is tackling this much-debated

challenge head-on. She has recently been awarded a \$200,000 grant from the Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education to develop and implement peer review protocols for teaching in selected Australian universities.

## The whole point about peer review is that it's bringing teaching out in the open as a public activity.

The aim of the two-year pilot, which starts early next year, is to build the capacity within universities to recognise and reward teaching excellence, explains Scoufis, as well as to trial a "robust procedure" to improve the evaluation of teaching within the academic promotion process. "It is recognition of the significance we have placed on peer review such that teaching, like research, should be subject to similar review processes."

She says "all eyes are on this project as there are problems with the current practice of considering an academic's teaching portfolio alone. UNSW has made it clear that there has to be a minimum level of acceptable teaching with the emphasis on output in terms of scholarship in learning and teaching, and evidence of leadership."

Scoufis is confident the project team has come up with a very promising model, which incorporates current best practice in the field and recognises the labour-intensive nature of the process.

Participating universities will appoint local peer review teams comprised of a staff member well credentialed in learning and teaching, and a discipline-specific peer reviewer. They will observe an applicant's teaching activities, gain feedback from students, talk with colleagues of the academic to evaluate the impact of their teaching on students' learning, and prepare evaluation reports. An external peer review panel will consider those reports together with the applicant's teaching portfolio and, drawing on the multiple forms of evidence, make a determination as to the quality of each applicant's teaching excellence. The panel's report will be returned to the home university to be used by academic promotion committees.

Scoufis hopes that the project results in a much wider take-up of peer review. "Historically, teaching is something you did in 'private', behind closed doors, whereas research is out there in the marketplace and talked about. The whole point about peer review is that it's bringing teaching out in the open as a public activity." n

# Regarding Henry

UNSW's newly appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Richard Henry, reveals why a background in paediatrics provides excellent training for life as a senior university executive. He spoke to Denise Knight.

## What excites you about this role?

We are in a time of change and really moving forward into an exciting new era for UNSW and I'm really honoured to have the opportunity to take part in that process. I think we have a large number of very high-quality staff and students at UNSW but we've not always had processes that have been friendly to staff and students. I see one of my roles as changing that.

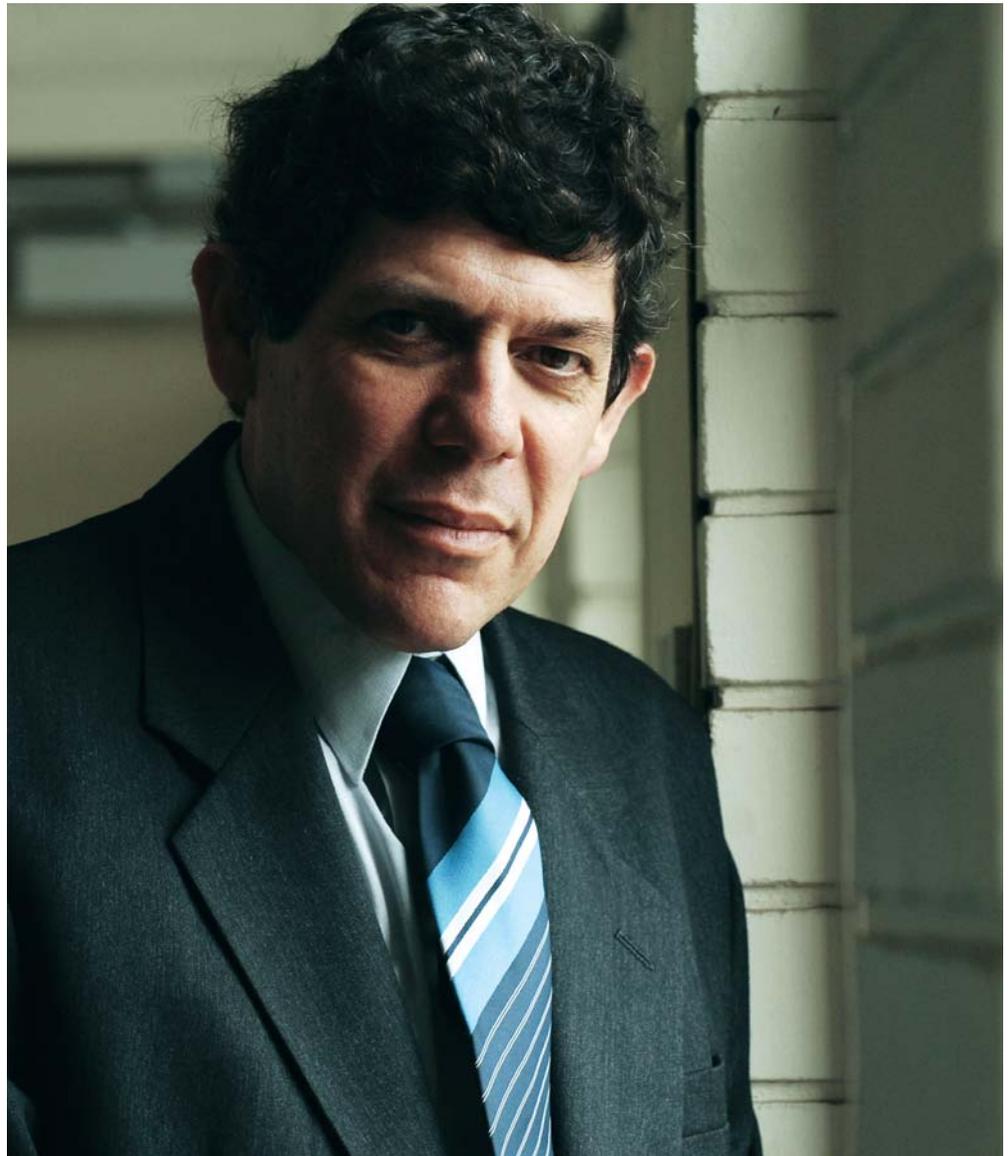
## What are some of your key priorities in the short term?

The Vice-Chancellor has highlighted a number of strategic priority areas and a couple of them fit within my portfolio – one is recruiting and retaining more of the best students entering the higher education system. I think there are a number of strategies we can implement to enhance this. I'm very keen, for example, to work with schools to look at some sort of elite students program so that students at high school have an earlier and more intimate relationship with UNSW than at present.

It also reflects an important component of where we are that I believe the focus should be on recruiting students rather than marketing to them. There's nothing wrong with marketing, and we do need to have a brand that people relate to, but I see the emphasis should be more around identifying for people the good things that will be associated with studying at UNSW, rather than some sort of hard sell. Once students are here we need to make sure that the courses we have are really top quality and that they continually improve. That also gets counterpointed with extracurricular student experience activities.

The life blood of the University is of course not just around recruiting top-quality students but recruiting and retaining the best possible staff. If you recruit good students and staff and you create a positive environment in which they interact, it's almost too easy from then on. So I really see my portfolio as having a dual focus on both.

There is also a reaffirmation that we need to be a research-intensive university and we need to have a really strong learning and teaching strategy. I think people come to this University very keen to see learning and teaching in a research-active environment.



Britta Campion

If you recruit good students and staff and you create a positive environment in which they interact, it's almost too easy from then on.

## UNSW seems to have a history of appointing paediatricians to senior management positions!

I facetiously say to people it's because as paediatricians we are used to managing "bad behaviour". I think one of the things about managing children is that your status and authority mean absolutely nothing to them – they care about whether you are a nice person and they respond accordingly. I think universities and their staff and students have a not dissimilar mistrust of authority. They don't really respect people because they happen to have a particular title, you have to earn it. n

## His career

Richard Henry joined UNSW in 1997 after a 14-year academic career in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Newcastle. His initial appointment at UNSW was as the Foundation John Beveridge Professor of Paediatrics. He served as Head of the School of Paediatrics and then of the School of Women's and Children's Health, before moving to the role of Senior Associate Dean in the Faculty of Medicine. He was Acting Dean and more recently Acting Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education and Quality Improvement).

Professor Henry has a strong academic background in research and in teaching and learning. His broad research areas include epidemiology, paediatrics and pulmonary disease. He also has extensive managerial experience in the University and in the health sector. He is on the Board of Directors of the Children's Cancer Institute Australia.

# Virtual breakthrough in **mine safety**

A new simulation training system developed by UNSW researchers is being installed in mine rescue stations across the state, writes **Susan Williamson**.

There is no doubt that mining is a dangerous career choice. According to the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union, it is the most dangerous occupation in Australia. But thanks to technological advances, the number of fatalities in the industry has fallen to about 10 per year.

A new development by UNSW researchers that promises to take mining safety to another level is a state-of-the-art virtual reality simulation for training miners on safety issues.

**This system provides a visual simulation of problems mining workers may come up against ... it is a useful teaching tool.**

“There is lots of information about mining safety protocols, but it is all text based,” says project leader Phillip Stothard, of UNSW’s School of Mining Engineering. “This system provides a visual simulation of problems mining workers may come up against. It also includes text prompts, which are emphasised with dialogue, presenting options for dealing with a problem. It is a useful teaching tool.”

The system uses a curved screen that wraps around the user, immersing them in a realistic representation of underground and surface coalmining environments. Trainees navigate the simulation using a joystick and touch screen.

“The system includes three simulations that teach miners about unaided self escape, rib and roof stability, and truck and shovel operations,” Dr Stothard says. “Miners are prompted to make decisions about how to deal with these situations through group discussion ... and the system provides feedback on responses as part of the assessment process.”

The project began in the School of Mining Engineering in 1999 with seed funding from UNSW, the Australian Coal Association Research Program and coal industry safety company, Coal Services.



Project leader Dr Phillip Stothard with students

Maria Basaglia

This latest research, funded by Coal Services, became a cross-disciplinary effort involving a team drawn from UNSW’s School of Mining Engineering, the College of Fine Arts, the School of Computer Science and Engineering, and the Faculty of the Built Environment. The success of this collaborative effort enabled the three-year project to be fast-tracked into one year.

“The cross-disciplinary shift has benefited the project significantly. This, combined with the expert input provided by Coal Services personnel who provided specific mining problems to address within the simulation, has allowed the project to gain greater momentum,” says Stothard, adding that they now plan to take the work into hard-rock mining.

The system has now been commissioned for use at the Newcastle Mines Rescue Station, which was opened last month by the NSW Premier, Morris Iemma. Coal Services plan to install similar modules in other mine rescue stations. □

## **Life:** the final frontier

Despite the complexity of technological, scientific and ethical issues, researchers in biomedical engineering are not shying away from the “big” issues, such as extending and enhancing life through tissue engineering and regenerative medicine.

Henry Ko, a final-year PhD student in the School of Biomedical Engineering, is one such researcher. He is part of a team working to create replacement tissue for damaged or degenerating body parts. “It’s very exciting to be at the cutting edge of biotechnology,” says Ko, whose research involves working out how to grow blood vessels in synthetic, biodegradable multiple-channel scaffolds.

“The ultimate aim is to produce a ready-made scaffold in the lab that contains nutrients and blood vessels and then implant this into a patient and attach it to their blood vessels,” Ko explains. “This would enable the perfusion of blood through the scaffold, which would support the growth of tissues, such as bone, skin and organs – but this is a long way off.”

Ko recently received a University of Oxford James Martin Institute for Science and Civilization scholarship, as well as winning a Foundation for Young Australians Individual Grant to attend the 2006 *World Forum on Science and Civilization on Tomorrow’s People* at Oxford. The Forum covered issues such as re-engineering the human body, living longer, living smarter, and the governance of human transformation.

“Some propose that the concept of convergence will drive things forward, the coming together of nanotechnology, biotechnology, cognitive science and information technology,” Ko says. “For example, those working in nanotechnology predict that in the future we will be able to infuse the skin with agents to protect against UV rays, or to produce skin containing biosensors that regulate temperature.”

“There is a push towards ‘transhumanism,’” says Ko of the movement that envisions humans moving beyond the limitations of biology to extend our life span to 200 years or more. “I imagine that in the future off-the-shelf replacement body parts will be available to surgeons to improve and enhance people’s lives.” □

Susan Williamson

## It's in the stars

The historian, a villa and Renaissance astrology

By Victoria Collins



Monica Azzolini's nine-month Italian research fellowship reads like a best-selling novel: a young historian travels to a beautiful Florentine villa where, surrounded by some of the world's most eminent academics, she pores over unreadable antique manuscripts and makes groundbreaking discoveries.

While the reality wasn't quite so glamorous, it was no less exciting, says Dr Azzolini, a lecturer in the School of History.

The base for her prestigious Ahmanson Fellowship was Villa I Tatti, home to the Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies. "In 1959 the Renaissance art historian Bernard Berenson bequeathed the estate and his collection of Medieval and Renaissance books, photographs and works of art to Harvard University," explains Azzolini, a native Italian. "The principle of the Villa is to give the fellows as much freedom as possible to research and to discuss ideas with international colleagues. It all looks quite decadent but an awful lot of work gets done there."

For Azzolini, work involved research for a new book, which has a working title of *The Duke, The Physician and the Stars: Medicine and Astrology at a Renaissance Court (Milan 1450–1499)*. Her research interests centre on how science, medicine and politics interrelate in Medieval and Early Modern Italy.

"I've had to train myself in Renaissance astrology, which is very different from current astrology," she says. "Astrology and prophecy became very important in Italy in 1494. In the face of a French invasion the Italian courts turned to them as political tools to deal with the unrest."

Some of the manuscripts she used were so old they were impossible to read without ultra-violet light. One of these, now housed at Oxford, included the horoscopes of popes, dukes and other important figures of the period. It was also very significant because the author made notes next to his horoscopes as events happened, in effect recording whether his predictions had, or had not, been accurate.

Discovering these manuscripts and being able to attribute them to a person or link them to a specific historical event was very exciting ... I had gone in blind hoping to find it and I did.

"Historians use sources that are also used by authors such as Dan Brown for the *Da Vinci Code*. We have really good stories to tell ... they are as exciting, accessible and interesting as a novel."

During her fellowship Azzolini successfully attributed a manuscript containing the horoscope of King Henry VIII of England to the Italian physician Gian Battista Boerio, who studied at the University of Pavia (the university of the Duchy of Milan) before moving to England. Historians had previously been uncertain as to the origin of the text.

"This particular manuscript is fascinating because as well as containing important Renaissance horoscopes it details the physician's experiences while learning astrology at the University of Pavia and his concern about the conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter in 1484 – the same one that, allegedly, signalled the birth of Luther."

For Azzolini, the breakthrough provided a happy ending to her Italian adventure. "Discovering these manuscripts and being able to attribute them to a person or link them to a specific historical event was very exciting. In the case of the Oxford manuscript I was trying to locate the horoscope of one of the Milanese dukes

that does not appear in the printed sources. I had gone in blind hoping to find it and I did."

Azzolini says the Villa I Tatti is unique for two reasons: "The first is that it is made up of international scholars. In fact a lot of Australians have taken up fellowships there because, as a country, we have a very strong reputation in Italian Renaissance studies. The second is the quality of the resources they have. Their book collection is extraordinary."

At the end of the year Azzolini will take up another research fellowship, this time at the Warburg Institute in London. There she will spend three months investigating the transmission and reception of Arabic astrology in the Italian Renaissance. □

# Don't mention the war

Academic freedom in  
the age of terror

The law's lack of clarity will lead to self-censorship and hinder academics seeking to understand terrorism, argue **George Williams** and **Edwina MacDonald**.

Academic freedom is essential to the work of Australian universities. Their role in educating students and advancing human knowledge depends upon academics and students working and learning in an environment in which they can freely exchange ideas, challenge conventional wisdom and debate controversial issues.

However, recent changes to the Australian Research Council and the allocation of research funding allow for greater political interference. The pressure on universities to become more like commercial enterprises, such as the need to support core activities no longer funded by compulsory student union fees, is also a continuing cause for concern.

Further threats have emerged since September 11. In the wake of the 7 July 2005 London bombings, the Federal Parliament enacted new sedition laws. The new offences include where a person urges "another person to overthrow by force or violence" the Constitution, a state, territory or Commonwealth government, or the authority of the Commonwealth government.

The law provides a defence for a person who acts in "good faith" in specified circumstances – pointing out errors in legislation, for example, or urging someone to attempt lawfully to bring about a change to a law, or publishing a report or commentary on a matter of public interest. The defence is limited and does not expressly include many forms of communication like artistic speech or academic or scientific discussion.

Academics are routinely involved in scrutinising and criticising government action and policies. Without an express exception for academic debate, it is uncertain whether academics will contravene the sedition laws. For example, would an academic commit an offence if he or she included in an exam question someone else's words urging another person to overthrow a government by force?

It would be unlikely that the academic would be found to have intentionally urged another person to carry out such actions merely by publishing them in this way. However, the breadth of the offence leaves room for doubt. The offence does not require that the academic actually intend that the violence occur. Further, such an example would not fall within the good faith exception – an exam paper is not intended to bring about a change to the law and is not a report or commentary.

In cases where sedition laws do not apply, the government has been able to ban books on security grounds. In July 2006, the Classification Review Board "refused classification" for two Islamic books, *Defence of the Muslim Lands* and *Join the Caravan*, that encourage suicide bombing and call for Muslims to engage in acts of violence.

In NSW and Victoria, for example, a person who sells a book that has been refused classification or who leaves such a book in a public place can be punished by up to two years in jail. Banned publications are also prohibited from being imported into Australia without the Attorney-General's permission.

Once a book is refused classification, an academic would need to apply for a special exemption from the Attorney-General to obtain it. By limiting academics' access to books on terrorism, the government is also limiting their ability to understand and criticise the ideas expressed in them. It is likely that we will see an extension of these laws. The Attorney-General has announced that he is pushing for censorship laws to be reviewed to determine whether they deal adequately with the threat of terrorism.



“By limiting academics’ access to books on terrorism, the government is also limiting their ability to understand and criticise the ideas expressed in them.”

Even if academics do not commit an offence in carrying out their research or teaching, they can still be taken into custody and questioned by ASIO. It is not necessary that the academic is suspected of any wrongdoing, only that there are reasonable grounds for believing the warrant will “substantially assist the collection of intelligence in relation to a terrorism offence” and that “relying on other methods of collecting that intelligence would be ineffective”.

An academic who is researching terrorist organisations or even just alienation in parts of the Australian community may interview people associated with such organisations. ASIO may be interested in such interviews but unable to obtain such a candid interview themselves. It is possible that they would use a questioning warrant to bring an academic in for questioning and obtain copies of their research and interviews.

This possibility is not remote. The Australian Federal Police has already used its separate powers to interview a terrorism studies student. In 2005, a Monash University student was questioned by the police after purchasing and borrowing books on Palestinian suicide bombings, a subject he was researching for his course on terrorism. Following this, the academic teaching the course, Dr David Wright-Neville, said he would warn his students that they were probably being monitored.

An academic can also be detained for up to a week under ASIO’s powers if the Attorney-General is satisfied that if they are not immediately taken into custody they may destroy something they may be asked to produce. If an academic is to be questioned about their research, detention could occur where it is thought an academic might destroy their notes to protect an interviewee to whom the academic had promised anonymity.

Attorney-General Philip Ruddock has said he does not expect that “genuine” academics would break the law. However, this is not clear

## The law on **terror**

Australia’s anti-terror laws are attracting renewed controversy as the legal system grapples with new crimes and the growing role of intelligence agencies. In just five years the Australian parliament has created 37 pieces of legislation dealing directly with terrorism – laws limiting freedom of speech and creating new categories of crime and new ways of dealing with suspects.

With so much change in such a short time it is difficult for Australians to judge the impact on their freedoms or to understand how the law works, according to Dr Andrew Lynch and Professor George Williams who have made major contributions to the public debate since September 11. In their new book, *What Price Security?* (published this month by UNSW Press) they provide a clear and accessible guide to the key components of Australia’s anti-terrorism laws and examine whether the country has gone too far in limiting democratic rights.

### **Brain Food**

Professor Williams will discuss his new book at the UNSW Alumni Association’s *Brain Food* speaker series at the Scientia on Wednesday, 25 October at 6.30pm. Phone 9385 3279 or email [alumni@unsw.edu.au](mailto:alumni@unsw.edu.au) for more information.



from the legislation and there is no guarantee of how this or future governments will apply the law. Regardless of whether academics actually commit terrorism offences, the risk can lead to self-censorship. Such laws inevitably have a “chilling” effect on what academics say and the research they undertake. Academics are less likely to use robust critical speech about the “war on terror” or may even shy away from undertaking terrorism research in the first place. When people do not have free on-the-spot legal advice, they may not act for fear of the consequences.

There is likely to be a further chilling of academic research if the government enlists the help of universities in policing terrorism. Academics play an important role in ensuring that Australians are protected from terrorism. “Safeguarding Australia”, including “Protecting Australia from terrorism and crime”, is a National Research Priority for ARC funding. However, if academics do not have access to relevant books, cannot conduct interviews and fear that they may have to hand over their research to intelligence agencies, they may become reluctant or even unable to undertake research in the field.

### There is likely to be a further chilling of academic research if the government enlists the help of universities in policing terrorism.

Surveillance, policing and controlling finances alone will not beat terrorism. If we are to win the “war on terror”, it is essential that we understand the motivations and rationales behind it. In order to understand the mindset of a suicide bomber or a home grown terrorist, it is vital that academics are able to interview potential terrorists and have access to the books they read.

The Attorney-General has indicated he is happy to meet with academics and talk to them about their projects. But the role and obligations of academics should be clear on the face of the law. Where relevant, there should be an express exemption for their work. Even this is not sufficient. There needs to be education about how the law applies to academics. It is difficult enough for legal academics to understand the hundreds of pages of terrorism laws, let alone academics in other disciplines.

It is reasonable that academics should be required to report information and answer questions that may prevent a terrorist attack. On the other hand, they should be able to pursue research into the ideology and causes of terrorism and the motivation and psychology of terrorists without the threat of interference from government or the fear of committing a terrorism offence. ■

George Williams is the Anthony Mason Professor and Director of the Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law, where Edwina MacDonald is also based.

This article was first published in *The Australian*. It is taken from a paper delivered to the 2006 National Tertiary Education Union national council meeting last month.

## Defining terrorism

Academics need to balance their responsibilities as citizens towards national security and the public, with their freedom to hypothesise about terrorism, argue Rhyll Vallis and Hussein Abbass.

One of the key issues neglected in some present discussions about terrorism and counter-terrorism is the lack of an agreed upon definition of what actually constitutes terrorism.

Inevitably, some definitions fail to include or differentiate between religion-based, state-sponsored and state-based terrorism, while others lack the ability to distinguish between hate crimes and terrorism. Furthermore, definitions centring on the use of violence fail to take into account electronic and economic strategies used by terrorists. The issues of “framing” and definition, then, are central issues for any meaningful discussion about terrorism.

They are also central to the issue of academic freedom with regard to making statements about terrorism. Terrorism is a complex domain, and public debate alone can have potential national security implications and create harmful public perceptions. Freedom should not be seen as equivalent to unconstrained behaviour. Academics need to balance their responsibilities as citizens towards national security and the public, with their freedom to hypothesise about terrorism. Studies of the economic impact of terrorism, motivation, origins and so forth should be substantiated with more than a hypothesis and a single point of view. Claims need to be grounded in rigorous theory and research, and the impact of these studies on the wider society should be taken seriously.

As academics, we normally rely on the peer review process to establish the academic value of research. The assumption here is that our peers have substantial knowledge in the field and that they can assess the credibility of the claims made in the publication. Academic rigour demands validity and generalisability, and prefers methods that are objective and rely on first-hand data. These criteria are difficult, sometimes impossible, to satisfy in classified work in general, and in terrorism in particular. There are legal (not to mention safety) implications if an academic wishes to meet with someone officially designated a terrorist; and there are national security implications for making data available to the public – not because the government does not trust the public, but because public data can fall in the hands of perpetrators. Therefore, the traditional peer review process collapses in these studies, leaving academics to make poorly substantiated claims that can generate serious hazards for society.

### Terrorism studies should focus on what researchers are good at doing; that is, research.

That said, we are not suggesting stopping academic research on the topic. On the contrary, rigorous science is needed, such as investigations into the economic impact of terrorist attacks; risk assessment of terrorist attacks and critical infrastructure; establishing credible criminology literature on terrorism; and building models for understanding the impact of terrorist attack on a city. Australia has a real need to build rigorous findings in these areas and the ad hoc approach cannot survive long without legitimate and credible theories.

Terrorism studies should focus on what researchers are good at doing; that is, research. Judgements passed on certain official decisions without having access to the information triggering those decisions; making claims based on personal judgement and opinion rather than rigorous theory or findings; or giving practical security advice based on one’s favoured academic theory and persuasion, all clearly fall outside of what we would call “research” and should not be used to justify academic freedom.

Dr Rhyll Vallis and Associate Professor Hussein Abbass, based at the Defence and Security Applications Research Centre at UNSW@ADFA in Canberra, are currently leading the development of a position paper on terrorism with other colleagues.

## Exporting policy expertise

Throughout the Asia-Pacific region, UNSW academics are taking a leading role in providing high-level policy advice, research and training to governments, international agencies and aid organisations. As part of an international series, *Uniken* is featuring a selection of these projects that cover a broad range of fields including health, education, energy and governance.

Anthony Zwi with Joao Martins, the first Timorese PhD student in the School of Public Health and Community Medicine



## Fragile states

By Susi Hamilton

When Anthony Zwi was a young doctor working in the South African health system in the 1980s, he saw first-hand the results of structural and political violence.

“I was always keen to get involved in the social aspects of health,” says Professor Zwi, who was earlier this year appointed to the newly created position of Associate Dean (International) in the Faculty of Medicine. “Like many others, I saw it as my role to engage in some way in the anti-Apartheid struggle, and did so through my health-related activities – working with activist organisations which were conducting research, working with communities and articulating alternatives.”

After leaving South Africa during the state of emergency in 1985–86, he went on to develop a career in the field – first in the UK and now at UNSW where he has been based at the School of Public Health and Community Medicine for almost five years. “One gets a sense of being a global citizen, an ongoing challenge, through engaging in different, but equally complex, settings.”

Most recently, Professor Zwi’s attention has focused on East Timor, the Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Aceh and Uganda – all conflict and disaster-affected, yet all demonstrating aspects of resilience by individuals, organisations and systems.

“In these difficult contexts there are community members and health professionals who are seeking to contribute to building their societies,” he says. “But there are significant constraints and we rarely hear their voices and concerns, and even less so their strategies in responding to adversity. We need to listen and learn from them.”

Rather than simply describing the impact of violence on health and health systems, Professor Zwi’s work has sought some very practical outcomes.

AusAID funded the development of the *Health and Peace-building Filter* which Zwi and colleagues (Natalie Grove, Anne Bunde-Birouste, Emily Waller, Jan Ritchie and others at UNSW) have developed. It will be launched at UNSW this month.

“The filter is a way of looking at health-related activities in fragile settings to assess whether they are likely to do more good than harm through how they organise themselves and how they structure their activities,” explains Professor Zwi. He hopes the model will be used and adapted by governments committed to more equitable development, as well as aid organisations and NGOs operating in countries affected by violence.

While the sheer number of world crises affecting health and health

systems could seem overwhelming, Professor Zwi is most interested in strategies of response: most recently, emerging insights from East Timor’s 2006 period of instability and violence.

“Without overlooking constraints and limitations, it does appear that the health sector has been quite effective in continuing to deliver key services. While many government departments and ministries collapsed in Timor, the health sector managed in many cases to carry on providing services with a high degree of professionalism.

“We are now doing a study with a range of institutions and Timorese colleagues to try to understand the health sector’s resilience during this period,” he adds.

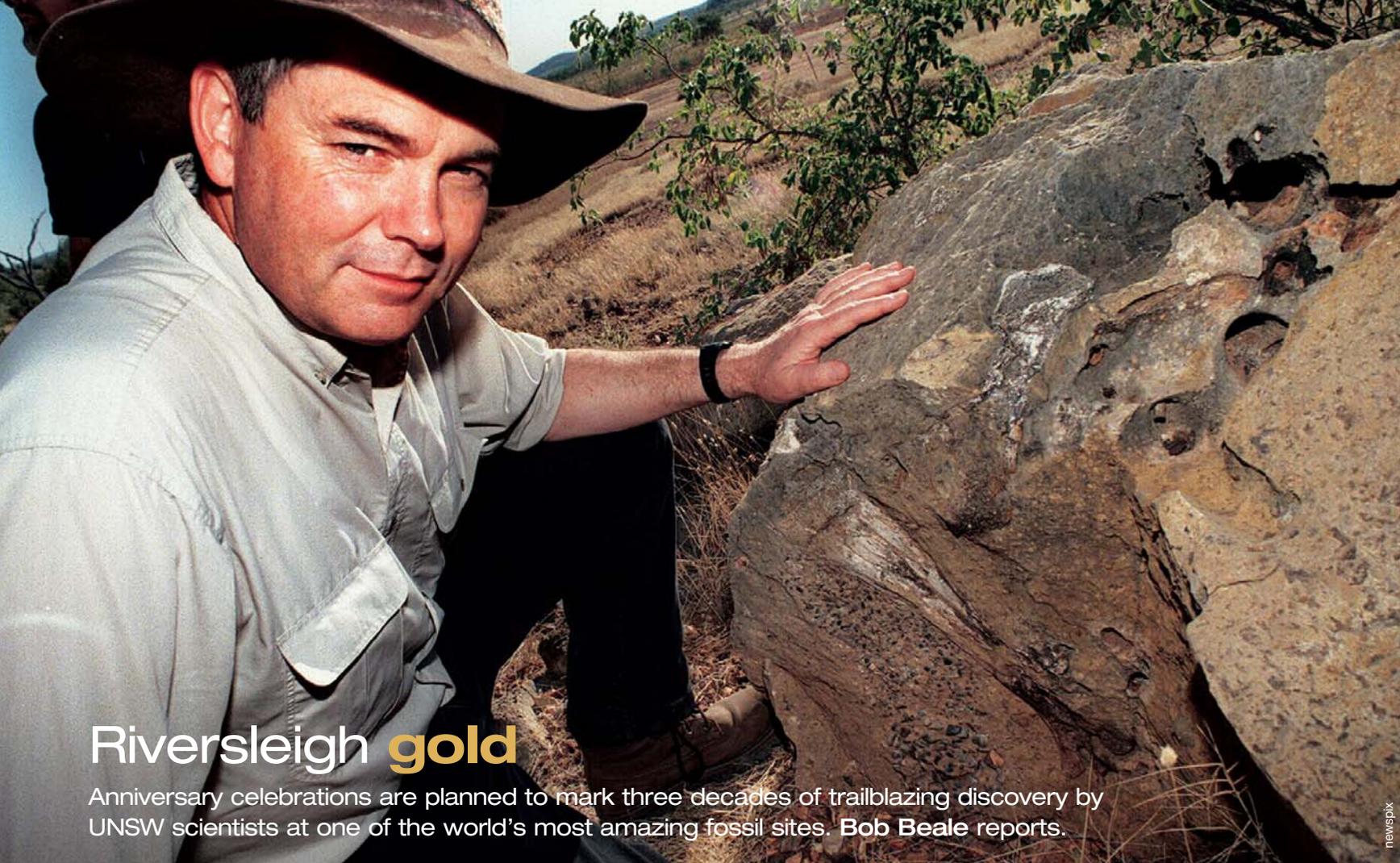
One of those colleagues is Dr Joao Martins, a Timorese doctor who is undertaking a PhD with the School of Public Health and Community Medicine, supervised by Zwi. Dr Martins, 39, is the School’s first doctoral student from East Timor and has impressive credentials. He was the Vice-Minister of Health during the transitional period, he’s been involved with a range of different projects and has even developed and led his own School of Public Health at the private da Paz University in Dili.

“My PhD started by focusing on malaria programs and policies during the period of transition,” he says. “Malaria is a major health problem, but plans to tackle it have been a problem because people don’t use preventative measures. Because of the recent instability, my research has broadened to look at how to continue delivering services and programming around malaria in such a situation.”

Dr Martins and Professor Zwi, along with other Timorese colleagues such as Nelson Martins and other Australian collaborators, notably Paul Kelly from ANU, hope to establish an independent health-related research institute in Timor.

“I’m interpreting the role of Associate Dean (International) as having a strong focus on research linkages and developing international opportunities,” Zwi says. “UNSW is well positioned to be a regional research leader and to focus on a range of cutting-edge issues concerning fragile states, health and development, aid effectiveness, and critically examining and enhancing the role that Australia can play in addressing poverty and promoting human security and equity in the region.”

And he’s equally excited about collaborating with PhD students from the region. “Working with able, concerned and engaged individuals from countries with major challenges is a huge privilege,” he says. “Our University can play a major role in developing partnerships with colleagues in the region. It is a two-way flow. I’m honoured if, in some small way, I can encourage the endeavours of students like Joao and support them in addressing their country’s most pressing issues.” n



## Riversleigh gold

Anniversary celebrations are planned to mark three decades of trailblazing discovery by UNSW scientists at one of the world's most amazing fossil sites. **Bob Beale** reports.

**M**ike Archer was standing atop a small boulder on a rugged limestone plateau deep in the heart of north-west Queensland's Gulf Country. It was a clear blue day in 1983 and the young scientist watched as his colleagues fanned out purposefully through a maze of weathered rocks, dotted with spinifex grass and bauhinia trees, searching for fossils of prehistoric Australian animals.

Archer was waiting while a zoology doctoral student, Sue Hand, retrieved some maps from their four-wheel-drive vehicle. Casually looking down at his feet he saw something that, in his words, "left me in a state of palaeontological shock". Jutting out all over this boulder were bones, jaws, teeth and whole skulls of animals. For someone long accustomed to expeditions that yielded as little as a single tooth or fragments of bone this was astounding.

"I just fell to my knees and I don't remember anything after that," recalls Professor Archer, now UNSW's Dean of Science. Soon the other scientists were scrambling around on their hands and knees. It was an astonishing find. "Within 10 minutes, we saw enough fossils to triple the number of Australian mammals known from the past 65 million years." These mammals had lived in a lush, moist, rainforest environment – a landscape today that is now harsh, dry and time-worn.

The boulder that first drew Archer's attention later yielded 34 species of animals. The place it came from was named Gag Site, after a practical joke the scientists played there. What followed was definitely no joke: some 40,000 specimens so far have been recovered from more than 200 other sites, representing almost 300 species of molluscs, crustaceans, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.

The first indicator that Riversleigh was promising had been in 1976 when Henk Godthelp discovered Microsite, a rock bristling with millions of tiny bats bones and teeth. Until then, only a single bat tooth of this age was known in Australia. Subsequently it has become recognised as one of the richest and most important fossil sites ever known. "It was that turning point or epiphany you reach in your life," says Archer, "when you realise that you don't have to keep searching for that special something you've sought for so long – there you are, standing on it."

As Sir David Attenborough explained in 1991: "Only in one or two places on the surface of our planet, in the course of the last three thousand million years, have conditions been just right to preserve anything like a representative sample of the species living at any particular time. Riversleigh is one of them."

Indeed, Riversleigh is even more exceptional than the number and variety of animals so beautifully preserved in the limestone. It provides a continuous record of animals and plants that lived in northern Australia over a vast period. The oldest fossil dates back 25 million years and the youngest is just 20,000 years. No other site offers such an extended insight into the processes of evolution and the story of life on Earth.

Also of great significance, says Dr Hand, is that the same geological and biological processes that led to the fossils' formation clearly are still at work today. Riversleigh's secret lies in the chemistry of its limestone rocks.

### The **discovery** trail

**1900:** W.E. Cameron collects marsupial bones, which he believed were less than two million years old.

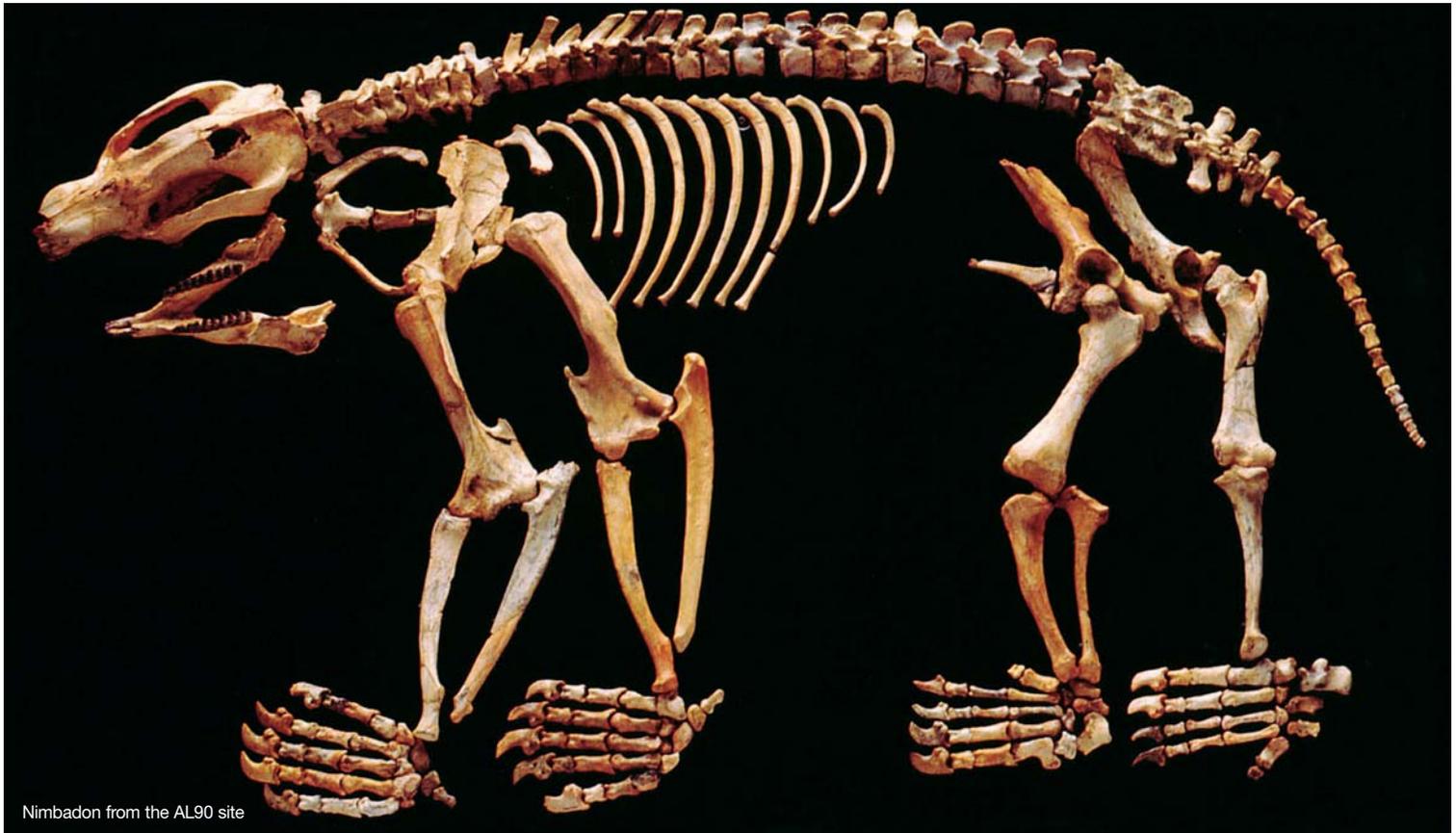
**1963:** Tedford and Lloyd collect more specimens and later conclude they are close to 15 million years old.

**1973:** Alan Bartholomai (Queensland Museum) reports seeing a marsupial fossil tooth and jawbone embedded in a massive rock.

**1976:** Mike Archer and Henk Godthelp (Queensland Museum) find the jaw (but can't extract it) as well as giant bird bones, a crocodile skull and other mammal jaws. Godthelp discovers Microsite.

**1983:** It becomes clear that Riversleigh is truly exceptional when Archer's discovery of Gag Site reveals scores of mammals, frogs, lizards, birds and lungfish.

**1994:** Riversleigh receives World Heritage listing as an outstanding example of "major stages of the Earth's evolutionary history and significant ongoing ecological and biological evolution".



Nimbadon from the AL90 site

I just fell to my knees and I don't remember anything after that ... within 10 minutes, we saw enough fossils to triple the number of Australian mammals known from the past 65 million years.

As they erode away, waterways become highly enriched with calcium carbonate. Anything that falls into such water is quickly encrusted with the mineral compound, which gradually seeps into soft tissue as well, sometimes preserving perfect casts of organs such as brains and even blood vessels. Teeth, in particular, are so intact that the shiny enamel looks as if it came from a freshly dead animal.

Riversleigh's profound global significance led to its 1994 inscription on the World Heritage Register. Archer says the discovery of Gag Site was pivotal in the careers of all those at the initial discovery. Remarkably, that core team from the early 1980s still makes annual pilgrimages to Riversleigh.

The UNSW team has not been alone in revealing Riversleigh's secrets. The research has been generously supported by the Australian Research Council and a wide variety of private, business and industrial sponsors, and by the Riversleigh Society. Over the years some 300 volunteers have done the backbreaking work on the ground of splitting, bagging and hauling rocks.

Scores of scientists from every major Australian museum and university – and many more internationally – have been involved in studying the fossils. Visiting documentary makers and high-profile federal politicians have also happily swung a pick or hefted a rock.

There's evidence of much older human visitation around the Riversleigh region where archaeologists have found evidence of Indigenous Australians living there as far back as 30,000 years. As Sue Hand notes, the site will be yielding new fossils far into the future and the intriguing work of piecing together the larger story they collectively tell has only just begun.

Briefly, we now know that 25 million years ago northern Australia was draped in dense rainforest. The continent's northward drift, due to plate tectonics, gradually took it into warmer climate zones. By 12 to 14 million years ago, it had become much drier and by eight million years ago, the rainforests were well in retreat.

Of direct relevance to today's climate change concerns, Riversleigh's fossils record four "greenhouse" cycles of warming and cooling. "They

## Outstanding finds

**Microsite (1976):** Godthelp finds a boulder bristling with millions of tiny bats bones and teeth. Species are surprisingly related to others in France, linking Australian fauna to the world.

**Gag Site (1983):** Archer finds 34 species of animals in a single boulder.

**Elkaltadeta (1984):** A meat-eating kangaroo, with huge sharp teeth to match.

**Obdurodon (1985):** The complete skull and brain cast of a toothed ancestor of the platypus.

**Thingodonta (1988):** A mammal so bizarre that it is named accordingly and placed in its own taxonomic order.

**AL90 (1990):** A former cave site containing the skeletons of a trapped herd of 18 million-year-old diprotodontids (adults, juveniles and pouch young) and a thylacine that probably preyed on them.

**Gondwanan snake (1999):** The complete skull and skeleton of a Gondwanan madtsooid snake.

**Demon Duck of Doom (2000):** The preserved brain of a massive extinct carnivorous bird related to ducks.

show that some species became extinct, some retreated to the coast and high country with the rainforests, and some adapted to the drier conditions," says Hand. Among those that disappeared were several species of thylacine, pint-sized koalas and lumbering marsupials the size of cows. Kangaroos followed their lineages with the Riversleigh fossils revealing how their chewing teeth adapted from those suited to soft leaves to hard dry grasses of the arid zone – evolution in action. "That's just a tiny part of the story Riversleigh reveals," says Professor Archer. "We've only scratched the surface so far." <sup>11</sup>

## FIRST PERSON

### Kerry Hudson

Acting Chief Executive Officer,  
NewSouth Global



I commenced my professional career in education working first as an English and History teacher and then for the Faculty of Education at Sydney University. I left in the early '70s to pursue a career in the corporate sector and spent a large part of my professional life working for a multinational publishing company, first as their educational publisher and later as international marketing manager. In the '90s I decided I wanted to return to education as I believed I had something to offer the sector. I spent a brief stint with the then NSW Ministry of Education and was Director of Educational Services at the College of Law before coming to UNSW.

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

In the late '60s/early '70s there was a palpable sense that UNSW was a bit edgy, very creative and at the forefront of intellectual debate. The Arts Faculty was at the centre of this activity and was already producing prominent artists, activists and writers – people like Alex Buzo, Richard Neville, Lex Marinos, Sharan Burrow and Stephen Loosely – who would have a significant impact on Australian intellectual life. I was very conscious of this legacy coming to UNSW and was very excited to be part of an institution that achieved Go8 status in such a short history.

As far as my own role is concerned, we have the best of both worlds with NewSouth Global – the rewards that come from being part of a great institution like UNSW, with the flexibility of action that our corporate status allows. Our staff also take great pleasure in the fact that we have driven revenues of \$60 million a year into the University through direct donations, Study Abroad distributions and students continuing on from our pre-University courses since 2000.

#### How important is international outreach for the University?

Part of NSG's responsibilities include the management of the UNSW Offshore Offices, so we have quite a lot to do with prospective students and our international alumni, who are passionate about the University and are keen to see us constantly improving our presence and positioning in the region.

They appreciate that we need to

continue to attract the best and brightest students, and the right institutional and business partners. If we are to be a truly international university, we will need to extend this influence beyond the region in the near future, and our existing international alumni network has an important role to play in such a move.

#### Greatest challenge?

My greatest challenge was in raising two happy, healthy children to adulthood; everything else seems relatively easy by comparison.

Unnecessary bureaucracy has been something of an annoyance during my career.

#### Dream project?

To assist in establishing a truly viable and significant profile for UNSW in Europe and the Americas so that we become a truly international university.

#### What inspires you?

A glass or three of decent red.

#### Best advice you've ever received?

Are you really going to worry about it on your death bed, if not, why does it have such importance now?

#### Favourite expression?

\*\*\*\* them if they can't take a joke.

#### What are you currently reading/listening to?

Reading *Collapse*, by Jared Diamond, and listening to a stacker full of Stacey Kent CDs.

#### Who is on your ideal dinner party guest list?

Any random half dozen Sydney poets – and a team of security guards for the sheer spectacle.

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

I am on record at my secondary school for aspiring to be an "interpretive dancer" in my vocational orientation interview at 13 years of age.

#### Least known talent?

I am an old surfer and part of the group that formed South Side Surf Team, the first women's board club in the world, a good 12 months before the Kurunulla Wahines (Cronulla) and the Malibu Wahines (US). A dip in the ocean is still my greatest passion. n

## A man of high note

Roger Covell, co-founder of UNSW's resident Australia Ensemble, has been honoured for his lifetime contribution to Australian music, writes Anabel Dean.

A distinguished career in music seems to have been anticipated by Emeritus Professor Roger Covell from infancy. As a baby, he so relished the music played by small instrumental groups for the entertainment of passengers on the Manly ferry, that he burst into furious protest when it stopped.

Music has never been allowed to stop for the respected academic, artistic director and music critic who has now been honoured for a lifetime of achievement and commitment to Australian music.

Last month, in recognition of his work, Professor Covell accepted the Long-Term Contribution to the Advancement of Australian Music award under the auspices of the Australasian Performing Rights Association (APRA) and the Australian Music Centre.

"Music has always meant more to me than most things," he says. "When I was quite a small boy at primary school, I would run home to hear certain pieces of music on ABC radio, which I knew would be broadcast at a certain time. That was a kind of enthusiasm which I'm glad to say has never wavered."

Professor Covell's enthusiasm has been deployed far beyond teaching in the Music Department he created at UNSW 40 years ago (later the School of Music and Music Education of which he was founding professor).

These were things that you would not be able to do at a university ... it was possible at the time at UNSW because this institution has a long and distinguished history of innovation in the performing arts.

One of the things he focused upon was helping to build the future for Australian music. He co-founded University of New South Wales Opera with a colleague, Dr Jean Wilhelm, from the then School of Drama. The company ran from the 1960s to the 1990s.

"There was nothing else like it in Australia," he explains. "It used professional instrumentalists and singers for the principal roles and gave us the opportunity to do a fairly astonishing number and variety of productions of opera and music theatre (about 55 in all)."

Many of these were first Australian performances and nearly a third were new Australian works. One piece of music theatre, Barry Conyngham's *Edward John Eyre*, conducted by Professor Covell and directed by Aubrey Mellor, now head of NIDA, was performed in Scotland and London and partly televised by the BBC.

"It was the first time any Australian group had taken this kind of work abroad, certainly in the 20th century." An EMI recording of the piece later won an APRA award for the best classical disc of the year.

"These were things that you would not be able to do at a university," Professor Covell continues. "It was possible at the time at UNSW because this institution has a long and distinguished history of innovation in the performing arts."

In 1980 Professor Covell turned – in his spare moments from teaching – to the co-founding (with the clarinetist Murray Khouri) of the Australia Ensemble, resident at UNSW. This professional group of leading instrumentalists (six at first, later seven) speedily became recognised as the country's leading chamber group. Its campus series is solidly supported, it has toured interstate and overseas, and has made many recordings.

"The Ensemble has always had a strong commitment to contemporary Australian music," he says. "Our tally of works commissioned from the



The music never stops for Professor Covell

Birrita Campion

leading Australian composers of today numbers about 25 and, of course, the group has performed many other Australian works."

Although Professor Covell retired as Head of School in 1996, he remains with the Music Performance Unit, as the Ensemble's artistic director.

His scholarly work includes several books and articles. *Australia's Music: Themes of a New Society*, published in 1967, is still considered groundbreaking and the book is often cited today. His research achievements earned him election as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities (an honour he describes as "particularly dear" to him). And he was appointed Australian national advisory editor for the 29-volume edition of *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* published in 2001.

Professor Covell pays tribute to the University, for its support of music, but also to *The Sydney Morning Herald*, where he was chief music critic for 41 years. He still writes occasionally for the newspaper.

Throughout his career, and like all good teachers, he has been delighted to discover a stream of students in love with the subjects presented in the music program.

"You never know where that kind of feeling is developing," he says, although it probably won't be on a present-day Manly ferry. "You might think, as you go through a dreary-looking suburb, that nothing could be happening there; but you can't tell what is underway in those houses. Somebody may be discovering a whole universe of wonder." n

To celebrate Roger Covell's 40 years at UNSW, a new work has been written by leading Australian pianist and composer, Ian Munro, to a text by poet Peter Porter. It will premiere at the Collegium Musicum Choir's annual Christmas concert at the Clancy Auditorium on Thursday 23 November. Booking and inquiries phone 9385 4874.



## The new global citizens

Universities owe it to their students to provide a genuinely international education, writes John Ingleson.

Universities are among the last of the major institutions in the world to become substantially affected by the process of globalisation. Hitherto, for the most part, they have seen themselves as primarily serving either a local or a national community. In the coming decades a growing number of universities will expand this view to include the international community.

Over the last 10 years most major universities have begun to explore the likely future impact of globalisation on their institutions. Curricula are becoming more international in focus and student mobility is growing quickly as students increasingly recognise the value of an overseas experience as an integral part of their university education. Universities are creating networks in order to explore deeper levels of cross-national collaboration, such as the development of joint courses. Increasingly, international consortiums of universities are being put together to find better ways of cooperating, including working together on high-cost research projects with funding from multinational sources or from more than one national government. And, of course, eLearning by definition transgresses national boundaries.

We must ensure that universities are developing graduates with a strong sense of global citizenship. If we are going to do this successfully then we need to think very carefully about what internationalisation means for our own institutions.

The process of globalisation has a long history and we cannot be entirely sure of its future direction. However, the speed of globalisation is unlikely to slow: the rapid advancements in communications technologies are changing much of our everyday lives – at the personal, institutional and national levels. The flow of goods and capital between countries is not reversible, nor is the ever-increasing flow of people between countries.

In this rapidly globalising world the intellectual input of universities is more important than ever before. We are educating future generations of students who will live and work in a very different world from the one that most of us have experienced. We must ensure that the universities we lead and in which we teach and research are developing graduates with a strong sense of global citizenship. If we are going to do this successfully then we need to think very carefully about what internationalisation means for our own institutions.

Internationalisation for a university is fundamentally about broadening the educational experience of

students. We owe it to them to provide a genuinely internationally focused education. University graduates will become key decision makers in their societies and key influencers on the intellectual life of their countries. In a rapidly globalising world, it is important that they have a global view. Moreover, increasing numbers of graduates will work either with multinational companies in their own country or work overseas with national or multinational companies. The intellectual and professional skills that students need in this international labour market include an ability to cross cultural boundaries, to understand values and beliefs different from their own, and to be able to work within different social, political and religious frameworks.

A good internationalisation strategy for a university must include, at a minimum: internationalising the content of the curriculum; adjusting modes of teaching to allow for quite different cultural modes of learning; creating both an internationally diverse student profile and an internationally diverse academic staff profile; incorporating an overseas learning experience as a normal expectation of undergraduate

study; creating opportunities for the regular exchange of staff with partner institutions overseas; developing research projects and teaching programs that cross national boundaries; and developing deep collaborative alliances and joint ventures with overseas institutions.

This will only be achieved by having a strong campus-wide commitment. For a university to genuinely internationalise, the implementation of a well thought out international strategy has to be at the institution's core.

The broader benefits of internationalisation of university education are considerable. If we are to live in a peaceful, stable and prosperous world – not just for a few countries or for a few people – then it is in all our interests to encourage students to broaden their intellectual horizons to encompass knowledge of other cultures, other periods of time and other languages. It is also important that we encourage them to spend a period of time studying overseas. There is no better way to understand that not everybody thinks as we do. There is no better way to see our own culture and value system in a clearer light. ■

John Ingleson is the University's former Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International & Development). A professor of history, he is currently writing a book on work and workers in the towns and cities of Indonesia in the last decades of Dutch colonial rule.

This is an abridged version of a speech presented to the World University Presidents Summit in Bangkok.

