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# UniSA News

A newspaper of the University of South Australia

**May 2001 issue**

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There is a lot of the "perfect English gentleman" about Tim Heald. Quiet charm, humility, good humour and engaging conversational style.

### [St John and apostle Paul](#)

Paul Arbon rarely wears the uniform – but his contribution to St John Ambulance won him a Chancellor's Award for Community Service in 2000.

### [Heidi wins Australia's richest private scholarship](#)

UniSA student Heidi Thompson was one of three winners recently awarded Australia's richest private scholarship for secondary and undergraduate students, the 2001 Charles Hawker Scholarship.

### [Art school hat trick](#)

For the third consecutive year, a student from the South Australian School of Art has won the major award at the AGIdeas International Student Design Conference held in Melbourne.

### [Generation of learning](#)

UniSA academics have played a critical part in influencing the 21st century learning of students across South Australia with a new birth to year 12 curriculum implemented this year.

### [Sydney artists join UniSA for a month](#)

In May the SA School of Art and the Louis Laybourne-Smith School of Architecture and Design hosted two nationally renowned artists and designers, Joan Grounds and Stevie Wishart, for month-long residencies.

### [Training for drug and alcohol management](#)

The diverse range of students who have signed on to a drug and alcohol management course brings home the need for more support and better training for those professionals dealing with people affected by drug and alcohol abuse.

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## **June issue of UniSANews**

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## From the Vice Chancellor



Graduation is a time of celebration in the University's annual calendar. During the last week of April and the first week of May, we celebrated the achievements of our graduates and acknowledged the contributions of those who supported them - family and friends and, of course, the University's academic and support staff.

As the 10th anniversary of our establishment, 2001 is a special year for celebration at UniSA. And we were fortunate, indeed, to welcome a number of eminent speakers to the ceremonies - Professor Alan Mead OBE KSJ, The Hon Mike Rann MP, Mr Michael Abbott QC, Dr John Dawkins AO, Ms Mary Hamilton, Justice Michael Kirby AC CMG, and Ms Jan Lowe. Also delivering occasional addresses at two of the ceremonies were distinguished former UniSA staff members, Professor Lloyd Sansom and Professor Mike Miller, each of whom was conferred with the title of Emeritus Professor.

As we celebrated, however, we recognised that the future for all Australian universities is now in the balance. The political cycle is moving towards a critical period—one where we will see whether Australia's politicians are able to develop and articulate policies to address the country's desperate need for a new approach to support innovation, creativity and knowledge. We need a vision, a strategy and investment in the education, science and technology base.

Recent reports - from the Innovation Summit, from the Chief Scientist and from the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee - have warned that unless urgent action is taken to invest in education, science and technology, Australians will find that we are irrelevant in a world where wealth is increasingly measured in ideas and knowledge, rather than metals or machines.

Universities provide the underpinning infrastructure for what is now called the knowledge economy. While Australia has a proud record in education and research, at present investment by government and industry in our knowledge infrastructure has fallen far behind that of other countries, whether large - like

the United States and the United Kingdom, or small - like Singapore, Finland, Ireland or Israel.

Unless government recognises this and acts to change it, then Australia will find it hard to be a significant force in the 21st century. Investment by government in higher education and in people, programs, equipment and systems is now a critical national issue.

UniSA is a large university by Australian standards - indeed by world standards. We compete internationally in the knowledge economy but, increasingly, we are competing against universities in other countries where the level of support from government for teaching and research is much greater.

Vision and strategy are important both for nations and for universities. Our vision is for an innovative university meeting all the challenges of the 21st century. We need a national government which supports our vision for the University with a national vision, indeed international vision, for Australia's role in the knowledge economy.

During 2001 we must all ensure that our federal politicians in all parties articulate their vision for higher education and provide detail on what they intend to do to address the crisis in teaching and research infrastructure.

**Professor Denise Bradley**

**Vice Chancellor**

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## News in brief

Kerry Henderson (left) and Cheryl Barnett in good humour over the success of the Student Administration and Campus Central teams at Mawson Lakes



### High rating

Campus Central and Student Administration at Mawson Lakes this month drank orange juice and coffee (the party was during office hours!) to celebrate the highest overall student satisfaction rating across the University, an outstanding 74.7 per cent.

The two teams celebrated a collaborative effort which delivered the highest ratings in the 2000 Student Experience Questionnaire for a majority of student service categories, and a staggeringly good top satisfaction rate of 85.8 per cent for assistance, information and advice from staff.

Overall satisfaction ratings across the University were 73.7 per cent for City East, 70.7 per cent for City West, 72.5 per cent for Magill, 72.1 per cent for Underdale, and 72.7 per cent for Whyalla.

### International student services

Four regional desks have been established in the International and Prospective Students Office: Europe and the Americas, North Asia (People's Republic of China, Japan, Taiwan, Honk Kong, Korea), South Asia (Indian subcontinent), and South East Asia (Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam). Each desk will deal with applications, fairs, interview programs and information for their



region and students from those regions.

### **Herd about our computers?**

A third series of new student computer barns opened this semester at the Mawson Lakes, Magill and City West campuses. These represent a significant expansion and improvement in student computing facilities at each campus.

### **Essaying Indigenous history and culture**

A collection of undergraduate essays on Indigenous history, society and politics will be launched to mark National Sorry Day on Friday 25 May. Editorial team member Valerie Nell said Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at UniSA wanted to make their research available to the Indigenous community.

"That way," she said, "we can show in our own words to our own people what the history is, what really has been done. It also provides an important opportunity to get published."

Stay tuned for details of the launch of National Sorry Day and the journey of healing.

### **How we look**

An electronic version of UniSA's *Your guide to our visual identity* is available on the Marketing and Development Unit website [http://www.unisa.edu.au/mdu/forstaff\\_designcopystd.htm](http://www.unisa.edu.au/mdu/forstaff_designcopystd.htm). The guide outlines how to use logos, colours, and typography when creating UniSA documents

### **Media stars**

In April, UniSA's study on poverty received the highest coverage of any story from the University. And most featured on radio last month was Jim Dolman on the *Get Active* program.



Fernando (left),  
Sivapragasan and UniSA's  
Peter Pudney investigate  
UniSA's solar  
car



### **Sri Lankan journalists visit**

Two Sri Lankan journalists checked out UniSA in May. Manjula Fernando, education correspondent for Sri Lanka's highest circulation English language paper *The Daily News*, and freelance journalist Charmilla Sivapragasan drove our solar car, hung out in the International Graduate School of Management student facilities, and learnt a little on-line from the [Division of Business and Enterprise](#).

A front page article in *The Daily News* on 14 May, written by Fernando, detailed changes to Australian policy on international students applying for continuing work visas while still studying in Australia. Significantly, it mentioned UniSA as a university "keen on enrolling more students from Sri Lanka".

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## Five to nine



### Richard has plenty in reserve

From nine to five or thereabouts, [Richard Bennett](#) is finance officer in the [School of Pharmaceutical, Molecular and Biomedical Sciences](#). Richard has devoted his five to nine hours over the last 20 years to a second career with the Army Reserve.

Richard (pictured) was recently promoted to the rank of captain after passing the Army Warrant Officer Commissioning Scheme. The latest promotion was a big step for Richard, moving onto the “dark side” as a commissioned officer.

Richard sees his 80 to 100 days’ reserve involvement a year as a chance to face challenges and adventures that he would never have the opportunity to face in civilian life. Take heading a security team of 50 personnel at the Sydney Olympics or being part of a team in the Southern Challenge – 200km of kayaking, mountain bike riding and trekking over a gruelling 48 hours. Occasionally, Richard Bennett will ask himself why he is doing this. The answer: challenge and involvement.

### Carlos can’t hide the bald truth

[Carlos Bernsee](#), an electrician at the Mawson Lakes campus, has been wandering around campus with a cold, bald head, all in the name of charity. Carlos’ colleagues informed Five to nine that Carlos cleared the cranium to support leukemia research. Although Carlos is fortunate that neither he nor any of his relatives have been affected by leukemia, he asked friends and colleagues to sponsor the razor’s work for something he considered a worthy cause. The result was a worthy \$500.

For the record, although *Five to nine* was keen for a picture of Carlos, his colleagues mentioned that the shaved head was not a

pretty look and so spared him the additional publicity.



### **Barker's building**

*Five to nine* received a copy of the March issue of *USQNEWS* featuring a front page story about UniSA's [Professor Lindsay Barker](#) (pictured). There we saw that the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) now boasts the Lindsay J Barker Building, which houses business and commerce studies.

Prof Barker, from UniSA's [International Graduate School of Management](#), was foundation director of USQ's antecedent institution, the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education, and inaugural Vice Chancellor of the University of Southern Queensland.

In opening his building, Prof Barker told guests that his dream had always been for the establishment of a university in Toowoomba.

"The politicians told us that Toowoomba was too close to Brisbane and that a regional university could never survive against the competition from metropolitan universities," he said. "I am proud and humbled to see that my dream is here all around me and that in a very short space of time USQ has been recognised as the Good Universities Guide's joint winner of the Australian University of the Year Award."

### **Sporting Triumphs**

*Five to nine* has discovered that UniSA staff are involved in a range of sporting activities and are excelling at what they do. Here are but a few examples.

[Topa Petit](#), lecturer in the School of Environmental and Recreation Management, is a dedicated water polo player. Her team the Tritons won the water polo league grand final recently. It was the fourth success in a row for the Tritons, but only the second for Topa, who joined the team on moving to SA last year.

[Chris Warren](#) of UniSA switchboard fame joined with her netball team The Mixtures to compete in the mini masters at Port Lincoln recently. The self-proclaimed "team of scrubbers" competed in the

over 35s and, besides having a great time, came away with a bronze medal.

Property unit legend [Mark Lovell](#) continues to dazzle them on the basketball court, winning the over 35s summer competition with his Adelaide University cronies. Amazingly, Mark lights it up from the three point line, which was not even in existence during his first basketball life!

### **Young Murdoch on the line**

UniSA's own [Lachlan Murdoch](#) of the planning unit apparently caused quite a stir at *The Advertiser* recently when he left a message for a journalist to ring Lachlan Murdoch. He was met with stunned silence before the person meticulously took down his number to make sure the message got through correctly.

### **Quiz cash**

This year's quiz night - watch out for it later in the year - will raise funds for ZoomText, technology to help the vision impaired use library facilities at UniSA.

*Please email all leads, ideas and contributions for Five to nine to [Gerry Clarke](#) or phone (08) 8302 0965.*

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## Browser briefs

### Bullying in schools

This is a website developed by Dr Ken Rigby and Dr Alan Barnes to provide information for schools, students and parents on the problem of bullying in schools and what can be done to counter it. In addition to articles on school bullying by Dr Rigby, it enables the user to access a wealth of knowledge about anti-bullying resources that are currently available from many parts of the world. A unique feature is a description of how detailed information on the nature and quality of children's peer relations at school can be acquired through the use of anonymous questionnaires including an on-line service that can be provided by the authors.

<http://www.education.unisa.edu.au/bullying/>

### SA Great

This site provides information about the State of South Australia, covering all topics imaginable – general information about South Australia, government contacts, tourism and travel, business, shopping, sport, leisure and the arts, employment, environment, health, education, computing and science, and banking and finance. If you don't know where to go, go to this site to find out about the state we live in.

<http://www.sacentral.sa.gov.au/>



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## Classifieds

*Advertising in the classifieds section is available only to staff of UniSA. Email classifieds to [unisa.news@unisa.edu.au](mailto:unisa.news@unisa.edu.au)*

### For sale

**A wide range of baby and toddler-related articles - including push chair, double pram, high chair, cot and more**

Phone 8239 0436 Mobile 0407 797 260

### Commodore VP sedan

Automatic, aircon, powersteering, cruise control, electric windows, rare mags, heavy duty tow bar, CD player and speakers, service history, alarm. Phone 8381 9362 or Mobile 0411 110 916. Regret sale - moving interstate. \$8,800 ono

### Electric stove and oven

Simpson Nova 503 - excellent condition \$100 ono. Buyer to collect. Phone Tracy 8302 2557

### Household items

Hoover tumble dryer - excellent condition \$40 ono

Home box freezer - excellent condition \$40 ono

Three seater lounge - apricot colour, suitable for family room \$40 ono

Moving house, need to sell asap. Phone 8384 3735 or Mobile 0411 110 916

### Large dog kennel

To suit Doberman size dog \$70 ono. Phone Julie on 8302 3092 or after hours on 8295 3765

### Volunteers needed

To help adult migrants learn English. Free eight-session training available. Phone Home Tutor Scheme 8226 6866.







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## Sparks fly over plea for more public spending

by Jessie Byrne

Hands up for primary schools: Adelaide Oval plays host to a different kind of team - teachers, parents and school support staff - who conducted a protest against inadequate public school funding



One of UniSA's most recently awarded honorary doctors Justice Michael Kirby sparked major debate this month on public education and the role of the judiciary when accepting his degree at the Adelaide Festival Centre on 27 April.

The only justice of the High Court with a fully public education, Justice Michael Kirby used the occasion to strongly criticise policies which, he claimed, had stripped funds from public education and redirected them to elite private schools.

"If parents see new private schools with better facilities, gardens, fresh paint, public relations units, and public schools that are shabby, run down, overcrowded, closed or ill-funded, with students and teachers drifting away, it is scarcely surprising that they should join the drift from public education," he said.

Outspoken:  
Justice Michael Kirby  
(below centre) fuels national  
debate on funds for public  
education  
(Photo courtesy of The  
Advertiser)



"For the first time in Australian history, the expenditure per child on those in non-government schools is now higher than in public schools; the teacher/student ratio is significantly better because of funding and, most worrying of all, the education retention rate is substantially higher."

Justice Kirby said in 1999 retention in year 12 in public schools was 64.4 per cent compared with 77.4 per cent in Roman Catholic schools and 95.9 per cent in other private schools.

"We must make sure that we give our top priority in this centenary year to reversing the high drop-out rate of students in the public education system," Justice Kirby said.

Justice Kirby's speech coincided with rising national concern over public school funding, including rallies in South Australia and a national campaign to target marginal seats on the issue in the forthcoming federal election.

Kirby's claims drew a swift rebuttal from the Federal Minister for Education, Employment and Training Dr David Kemp who said that Kirby was wrong about the relative funding.

"The two million students at government schools receive around \$13.5 billion in public funding each year, while the one million students at non-government schools receive \$3.5 billion," Dr Kemp said.

Kemp was joined in his criticism by Federal Attorney-General Daryl Williams who admonished Justice Kirby for crossing the line into political debate rather than respecting the judicial independence expected of a High Court judge.

But shadow attorney-general Robert McClelland defended Justice

Kirby, saying he had not breached any code of judicial independence, but had delivered a much-needed warning about a social trend rather than criticising a specific government program.

Opposition education spokesperson Michael Lee also praised Justice Kirby and accused the Federal Government of "shovelling millions of dollars of taxpayers' money at elite schools."

Dean of Research Degrees in the Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences Professor Robert Crotty said conferral of Justice Kirby's honorary doctorate recognised his achievements in promoting the public good. He praised Kirby's "fierce determination to make the world a better place in which to live."

Justice Kirby has served on numerous legal and human rights bodies within and outside Australia, including the Global Commission on AIDS in the World Health Organisation and the International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO. He was elected president of the International Commission of Jurists in 1995 and appointed to the High Court of Australia in February 1996. In 1991 he was awarded the Australian Human Rights Medal and in 1998 was named Laureate of the UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education.

[\(Full text of Justice Kirby's speech - word document\)](#)

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## Plugging Australia's brain drain

by Michele Nardelli



On shore: highly skilled international students will soon be able to stay in Australia when applying to be permanent residents

New incentives to keep bright young international students in South Australia after they finish their degree studies could make an important contribution to boosting SA's intellectual capital.

The long lamented brain drain of Australia's brightest and best may soon be balanced by a new policy to keep top international students on shore by making it simpler to get permanent residence.

In Adelaide this month, the Federal Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs Philip Ruddock announced policy changes that will make it easier for fee paying international students to apply for permanent residence from 1 July this year.

In the past, students in Australia on a study visa had to pay for a ticket home and return to their country of origin while waiting for approval for any application for permanent residence.

"The facility for top overseas students to apply to migrate from within Australia at the completion of their studies is a move away from the current system, where all overseas students without an Australian employer to sponsor them must apply offshore and be out of the country to receive their visa," Ruddock said.

He said the policy change would help to fill the gap for highly skilled workers in particular industries.

"There are in Australia very significant shortages of people with high level skills, particularly in the IT area," he said.

"These changes will ensure that Australia can build on its competitive skilled migration system and retain its leading position

in the crucial global information and communications technology marketplace."

UniSA's Pro Vice Chancellor Research and International [Professor Ian Davey](#) said the University welcomed the policy changes.

"Certainly any move to encourage students in high demand fields of study to stay in Australia is very welcome," Prof Davey said.

"The changes will not only help to boost the numbers of skilled migrants to Australia but will also enable Australian universities to compete with the rest of the world in attracting students to study programs here in Australia, especially programs in which we excel such as IT and communications technology."

In 1999, there were more than 84,000 international students enrolled at Australian universities, 65 per cent of these studying on shore. Currently, international onshore and offshore students make up 22 per cent of UniSA enrolments.

A new national centre for processing applications for residence from skilled migrants will be based in Adelaide and begin operations in November this year.

Ruddock said the centre would process about 30,000 migrant applications a year. In 2000-01, Australia's migration target was for 40,000 migrants in the non-humanitarian skills category.

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## SA's poverty doubled over last two decades

by Geraldine Hinter



Joint concern for poverty: Archbishops Leonard Faulkner (left) and Dr Ian George launch the study, watched by Madeline Hedges of the Department of Human Services

Poverty rates in South Australia have more than doubled since 1981 and the gap between rich and poor has grown, a major study has revealed.

The study also shows that South Australia has the highest rate of poverty in the country, with more than 23 per cent of households living below the poverty line compared with around 18 per cent nationally.

At greatest risk are single people aged between 21 and 24 years, who may experience extreme poverty, sole parents, and families with dependants. Families with a greater number of children are likely to experience more financial difficulty, especially in households where there is only one breadwinner.

The study, conducted by the SA Council of Social Service (SACOSS) and UniSA's [Social Policy Research Group](#) under the leadership of [Associate Professor Ed Carson](#), is the first of its kind

in South Australia to track poverty over two decades.

"We found that 23.3 per cent of households in the State were living below the poverty line. Across the nation, the figure is 17.9 per cent," said Prof Carson.

"The rate of poverty in SA drops to 11.8 per cent once housing costs have been removed. This suggests that higher levels of poverty are being contained by lower housing costs.

"We are being rescued from poverty by a legacy of adequate housing provision and management through good investment in public housing and in land sales through the South Australian Housing Trust and the Land Management Corporation. There is some concern that this might be less likely to continue in the future because of lower vacancy and higher rental rates and reduced levels of investment in public housing."

Prof Carson said South Australia had the lowest mean income of \$25,029 compared with the national average of \$28,074, before housing costs were taken into account. Once these were calculated, mean income became \$21,139, bringing disposable income close to the national average because housing costs were higher in most other states.

While it is often said that rural and regional areas are 'doing it tougher' than the city, this is not necessarily the case, according to Professor Carson.

"There are clusters of serious disadvantage in both metropolitan and rural areas. The five most disadvantaged areas in South Australia are Enfield, Elizabeth, Whyalla, the Riverland and Wallaroo," he said.

"A decline in tariff protection for the manufacturing industry has particularly affected low income areas, including communities in Adelaide and the Iron Triangle, while some rural areas that produce commodities such as grain and wool have been hard hit by falling international commodity prices."

SACOSS executive director Pam Simmons said what was heartening about the results of this research was that investment in public transport, public housing and community services were found



to make a big difference to quality of life and independence, although access was not always readily available. This was especially the case for low income people in country areas who had to travel to the city and endure high petrol costs to access services.

Prof Carson said that families were important bases of support for disadvantaged people, but some people who found themselves in poverty couldn't ask more well-off family members for help because they had done so previously and were worried that it would create an obligation they couldn't pay back.

"The exhortation to rely on family resources is increasing the stigma and it impacts on the pride and self-esteem of those families who are in difficult circumstances anyway - effectively blaming the victim," he said.

Catholic Archbishop Leonard Faulkner and Anglican Archbishop Dr Ian George launched the report Social Disadvantage in South Australia on 23 April.

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## National first for two double degrees



Prof Edgar Carson, Christine Charles and Prof Mary Ann Bin-Sallik at the launch

Two double degree programs launched this month which bring together Aboriginal studies and social work are a national first.

The Bachelor of Arts (Aboriginal Affairs Administration)/Bachelor of Social Science (Human Services) and Bachelor of Arts (Aboriginal Studies)/Bachelor of Social Work double degrees are a joint venture of the SA Department of Human Services (DHS) and UniSA's [Unaipon School](#) and [School for Social Work and Social Policy](#).

According to DHS chief executive officer Christine Charles, they aim to equip human services and social work graduates with the knowledge and skills to work effectively with Indigenous people.

Dean of the College of Indigenous Education and Research [Associate Professor Mary Ann Bin-Sallik](#) said the Aboriginal community wanted the programs to increase both awareness of cultural issues and the numbers of Indigenous people qualifying for human services careers.

Students were accepted into the programs for the first time in semester one this year.

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## Eggsanimation



Egghead: student feedback for industrial design lecturer [Justin Evans](#)

The ultimate eggsamination: industrial design students at UniSA had the rare opportunity to let loose with an end of semester project that had academics as the target of a real egging. Worth 10 per cent of their grade, the project asked the second-year students to design catapults or trebuchets from cardboard. The project tested students' abilities to design machines with measurable outcomes, overcome and explore the structural capacity of the materials and promote team design work. Lecturers say they offered themselves up as targets as an incentive for the students to build accurate machines. All a bit of a yolk, eh?

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## Speaking volumes: library named in Neal's honour



Neal, Sir Eric: holding his father's books from the new Sir Eric Neal Collection

When you enter the halls of learning as a raw youth, you hardly imagine that one day part of that same institution will take your name.

That was SA Governor Sir Eric Neal's experience when UniSA's Mawson Lakes library officially took his name on 10 April, a career away from the day he started engineering at the SA School of Mines and Industries.

The Sir Eric Neal Library houses a Sir Eric Neal Collection, a record of Sir Eric's contribution to Australian business and the South Australian community. It includes photographs, books, papers, and memorabilia donated by Sir Eric and his family, including Sir Eric's father's collection of rare engineering books, some dating back to the 1860s.

Sir Eric was awarded an honorary doctorate from UniSA in October 1996 in recognition of his contribution to business and the community.

Sir Eric was chief commissioner of the City of Sydney from 1987 to 1988 and was appointed Governor of South Australia in 1996.

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## No waste of time

by Jessie Bryne



Solid solutions: Mei Lim finds ways to waste not

A Master of Commerce program which asks students to select their own projects allowed Mei Lim to get her hands dirty on a topic she felt passionate about – solid waste management.

Her final, high-distinction report also won her a job offer from the state of Sarawak in Malaysia.

Lim, who is from the Sarawak capital Kuching, said her interest had been sparked when she arrived in Adelaide to study in 1993 and was struck with the contrast between waste collection and management in the two cities.

"The system in Adelaide was well-managed. There were clear collection dates and waste collection vehicles were automated," she said.

"Back home in Kuching, rubbish was on the streets for long periods of time because no clear waste collection timetables existed. No one knew when rubbish would be picked up. It's an important health issue not only from the point of view of hygiene but because rotting

garbage attracts feral animals.

"Another concern was that waste was collected manually, which posed health risks for rubbish collectors and was less efficient than the automated carriers in Adelaide."

Working from an economic perspective, Lim identified a number of problems of waste management in Kuching, including a lack of effective equipment, low investment, poorly structured charges for solid waste disposal, and the absence of government environmental controls.

Among a raft of recommendations, Lim proposed the introduction of cost recovery programs to encourage wiser use of waste services, regulatory instruments imposing limits on the quantity and quality of effluent discharges, tradeable waste discharge permits, and environmental taxes and charges.

A copy of the final report was sent to the two city councils which manage Kuching and was forwarded to the Natural Resources and Environment Board. It was so impressed, it immediately wrote back and offered Lim a job. Although very excited about the offer, Lim declined so she could continue research in the field at the PhD level, which she has just begun at UniSA.

She noted that the waste management system in Kuching had recently been privatised, with some changes implemented including the introduction of wheelie bins. She was surprised to find these hadn't been a success.

"People bore holes in them to let liquids out. They also refuse to put them out on the streets because, if they are stolen, they are required to pay the replacement value which is about A\$100," Lim said. "A valuable lesson for my PhD is that, in making changes to any management systems, cultural as well as economic factors need to be considered."





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## Celebrating our people: Nicholas Procter



[Associate Professor Nicholas Procter](#) is from the School of Nursing and Midwifery.

My area of nursing is mental health, which is very fortunate because I find people fascinating. When it comes to meeting new people, getting to know them in a meaningful way, I like to make the most of each and every opportunity.

Whether it is research, community service, or teaching students, I really believe people must come first. Along the way - and always with a sense of humour - I have tended to maintain an oblique relationship with formal psychiatric perspectives and this has led to some exciting collaborations with government and community groups.

So whenever people ask me what it is that I do for a living, my answer always reflects the way I tend to integrate the interpersonal aspects of work with teaching and lifelong learning. At the same time I see it as inevitable that links are made with community service and scholarship.

The University gives me the flexibility to move freely between clinical mental health and social science - and often in combination - to illuminate the human health experience.

Education truly is a lifelong process with the capacity to change people's lives for the better. My work with marginalised community groups has helped me to integrate this philosophy into everyday practice.

*Meet more of our people and forthcoming 10th Birthday events on <http://www.unisa.edu.au/birthday/>*

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## Writer in residence

by Michele Nardelli



Tim Heald: 'I would never have made it as a spy'

There is a lot of the "perfect English gentleman" about Tim Heald. Quiet charm, humility, good humour and engaging conversational style.

It is no wonder that this leading novelist, biographer and journalist decided not to pursue a career in the Foreign Office as his parents would have preferred.

"I would never have made it as a spy. I don't have the temperament for it," Heald jokes.

And he is right - he is far too easy going.

So it is possibly a little ironic that in a writing career that spans almost 30 years and about 40 books, Heald, among many other things, has built a strong reputation for crime writing.

While Heald is the third writer in residence to be welcomed at UniSA, Writer in Residence - 003 as it were, his semester-long stay, reputation and broad experience ensure he is the most significant. Those students attending Heald's workshops and have had a rare opportunity to draw from his enormous depth of experience in a career in writing. Lesson one: penning a novel or two is not enough.

Whether it be freelance writing on the travel experience of a lifetime in Nepal, a humorous look at workplaces and industry idiosyncrasies in a satirical novel, the subtle twist of a crime story, or indeed the blending of accuracy and interest in the biography of an international celebrity, Heald believes all genres are within the scope of a career writer.

Heald is the perfect example. Heald's latest book is a comic satire of the newspaper industry called *Stop Press*. In recent years he has also written a biography of Prince Phillip, a piece on the history of cricket, and is now working on a history of the Royal Warrant.

"It's been said before but it stands as the best advice I know – good writers write, write, write and read, read, read," he says.

"Whichever way you approach writing a novel - either to carve out the plot and write a plan for the whole book and then fill it in as English crime writer Simon Brett does, or start with a place and use an already developed character and position them in those surroundings as PD James does – in the end it is always bloody hard work.

"Crime writing has appeal because it already has a fairly clear basic formula – murder to resolution with about six characters developed as part of the story. I often use aspects of real life as a starting point. My first book was based around a murder in a monastery modelled on an old monastery near where I grew up.

"Using elements of personal experience and real life are essential but you also need to be able to develop creative ideas. One of the exercises I like to give students is simply to give them each two postcards and ask them to develop a short story based on the postcards. It is always fascinating to see what comes out of an exercise like that."

If Heald follows his own advice, it may well be that the hero of his crime novels, Inspector Simon Bogner, will be strolling about a gum-filled campus when he investigates murder in the aptly named *Death and the Visiting Fellow* which he is now writing.

In his stay with UniSA, Heald has been teaching two full courses, one in Advanced Writing within the Bachelor in Professional Writing and Communications and a level three subject called Writing Lives which specifically deals with autobiography and biography. He has also delivered guest lectures to journalism students, the SA Writers' Centre and at the Ann Marie Mykyta Memorial Lecture.

So will 003 be back? Heald has already been asked to return to UniSA in two years. I think he likes it here, but he might be too polite to tell me otherwise. After all, he looks neither shaken nor stirred.



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## St John and apostle Paul



Attending the crowd: SA St John Commissioner Gary Coombes, Paul Arbon and Chancellor David Klingberg at the awards

[Paul Arbon](#) rarely wears the uniform – but his contribution to St John Ambulance won him a Chancellor's Award for Community Service in 2000.

Paul, a senior lecturer in the [School of Nursing and Midwifery](#), has made his research skills available to St John as chief investigator for three ground-breaking first aid projects – examination of first aid services delivered at major events throughout Australia, design of an Internet model to help predict first aid requirements at major public gatherings, and analysis of firefighter injury rates.

Funded by St John and the Rotary Health Research Fund over two years, the major events project investigated the effects of environmental factors, such as crowd size, temperature, humidity, and venue on the type of patient problems and the number of patients who present for first aid services. Over a period of 12 months, Paul led a team which surveyed 213 events attended by a combined audience of 12.4 million people across Australia, with 12,282 patients in the total sample.

"About 100,000 casualties are treated by St John each year at major events, that is those which attract more than 25,000 people,"

said Paul. "Our research, involving UniSA researchers, represents the first attempt internationally to develop a data set that can be applied across venues and is not venue-specific. Our aim is to see more effective patient care at mass gatherings."

Data from the research will feed into a second project – a predictive model on the Internet which can be accessed by event organisers and emergency services to determine what care and resources might be required at large events. The Internet model, funded by St John, is in the final stages of preparation.

A third project is under way to investigate firefighter injury rates. Funded by the South Australian Government Emergency Services Levy Project Grants, the project covers data collected over the 2000-01 fire season and is at the collation stage.

So, the next time you receive first aid when you've fainted at a Kylie concert, you may have Paul – and of course St John – to thank.

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## Heidi wins Australia's richest private scholarship

by **Elissa Elliott**



Political ambition: Heidi Thompson receives her scholarship from the SA Minister for Education Malcolm Buckby

UniSA student Heidi Thompson was one of three winners recently awarded Australia's richest private scholarship for secondary and undergraduate students, the 2001 Charles Hawker Scholarship.

Heidi, who is currently enrolled in her first year of a Bachelor of Arts (Journalism), is one of only 25 young Australians who have met the stringent conditions of the scholarship to share in \$1.1 million awarded since 1991. It recognises students who are academically capable, of sound principle and character, and are committed to Australia's future.

It was Heidi's commitment to the ideals upon which the Hawker Scholarship was founded and her keen interest in political issues, and in particular the workings of the State and Australian parliaments, which made her an ideal candidate for the scholarship.

"I've always been a person who won't sit back and let things pass me by and I've always been involved with leadership at a student level," Heidi said about her interest in political leadership.

For Heidi, studying journalism is a stepping stone to a future restricted only by her determination. Her short-term goal is to conquer broadcast journalism, but her long-term plans are broader.

"I believe I'll soon grow tired of reporting things and will actually want to do something reportable," she said.

The \$40,000 awards were presented to Heidi and two Victorian recipients by the SA Minister for Education, Children's Services and Training Malcolm Buckby.

The Hawker Memorial Scholarship Trust Fund was established by the late Kathleen Lilius Needham to perpetuate the memory of her brother Charles Allan Hawker, a successful and well-travelled scholar, soldier, pastoralist and statesman.

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## Art school hat trick

For the third consecutive year, a student from the [South Australian School of Art](#) has won the major award at the AGIdeas International Student Design Conference held in Melbourne.



This year the winner was Sam Morris, undertaking honours in the Bachelor of Visual Communications, with his multimedia work *Sweet talkin' guy* (pictured). The work is an interpretation of the Bob Gill quote, "There is almost no graphic design in our society. It is all commercial art".

Sam wins an all expenses overseas trip to the next Icoграда Conference, plus spending money. Two other visual communications students, Margo Tummel and Trudie Zadow, were finalists in the competition which attracted more than 600 entries.

AGIdeas is an annual three-day event in which designers from every design discipline and from all over the world showcase their work and discuss their philosophies. A list of outstanding designers addressed the 2,000 delegates who attended this year's conference on topics including animation, type and website design, digital media, special effects and advertising.

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## Generation of learning



SACSA: salting up the curriculum for the 21st century

UniSA academics have played a critical part in influencing the 21st century learning of students across South Australia with a new birth to year 12 curriculum implemented this year.

More than 40 UniSA academics were part of the team which wrote the South Australian Curriculum Standards and Accountability (SACSA) Framework in conjunction with the Council for Educational Associations of South Australia (CEASA), SA's peak professional body for teachers.

The curriculum team was recognised in the Chancellor's 2000 Community Service Awards for the impact the new curriculum will have on education across the State and for the collaborative process which marked the project.

Led by the Dean of Education, [Associate Professor Alan Reid](#), and head of the Research Centre for Languages and Cultures Education, [Associate Professor Angela Scarino](#), the \$1.2 million project was completed after 15 months of hard work in October 2000 - within the project deadline. It has attracted considerable interest from around the nation and internationally for its charting of new territory in the field.



The SACSA framework articulates the theoretical approach behind the curriculum. It sees educators as professionals whose key task is creating curriculum which is directly relevant to learners in their own patches.

"The curriculum is student-centred, not subject-centred," said Prof Reid. "It breaks new ground in areas such as assessment, lifelong learning and values education.

"Essential learnings have been introduced into the curriculum. These are capabilities we believe people should develop throughout their lives through the 21st century, such as futures oriented thinking, the ability to understand social and environmental interdependence, and recognition of different ways of thinking and communicating.

"The curriculum also has a radical approach to equity. We get students to ask questions about the things they hear – where they come from, whose interests are represented, and whose voices are silenced."

Prof Reid explained that the writing team for each curriculum learning area comprised an academic from the University and a teacher nominated by CEASA. Teachers were based at the University during the writing phase.

"What we created was a rich combination of perspectives for each learning area which I believe was a major factor in the quality of the final curriculum documents," he said.

The Chancellor's award recognised the community links forged during the project with teachers and schools, but also with the three education sectors, the SA Department of Education, Training and Employment, the Catholic Education Office and the Independent Schools Board, each of which was represented on the project's steering committee.

In addition to the writers, there were many academics from the [Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences](#) who were chairs and members of the experts working groups and the reference group established to provide advice and guidance to writing teams.



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## Sydney artists join UniSA for a month

In May the [SA School of Art](#) and the [Louis Laybourne-Smith School of Architecture and Design](#) hosted two nationally renowned artists and designers, Joan Grounds and Stevie Wishart, for month-long residencies.

The artists work in areas of critical concern to each school. Grounds, aptly, works in ecological, landscape, and public art. Wishart is engaged in electronic, sound, and multimedia art. They each use architecture in their work and have substantial experience in technology relating to web work and site-specific temporary public art works, such as in the Sydney botanic gardens and Perth's Weld Square.

Grounds and Wishart will exhibit their resulting collaborative sound and site-specific work at the Contemporary Art Centre, a joint sponsor of the residencies, for one month from Friday 11 May and will provide students and staff with the opportunity to see the finished and installed work, as well as be involved in the exhibiting processes.

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## Training for drug and alcohol management



The diverse range of students who have signed on to a drug and alcohol management course brings home the need for more support and better training for those professionals dealing with people affected by drug and alcohol abuse.

Successfully piloted in 2000, the [School of Nursing and Midwifery's](#) short course Alcohol and Other Drugs: Practical Responses to Contemporary Issues is providing skills this semester to 17 professionals from fields as varied as hospital emergency departments, church groups, aged programs and schools.

The course teaches practical skills, such as referral options, how to work with other agencies, risk assessment, intervention, and patient/client management.

"Those professionals working in our hospitals, schools and community centres come face to face with drug and alcohol abuse everyday, but training has been scant," said course coordinator [Elizabeth Haebich](#). "We are conducting the course to help individuals and to build skills across the community services sector."

The next course commences in semester 2. Enquiries regarding fees and entry can be directed to Elizabeth Haebich on (08) 8302 6484.

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## Research update

### International

#### **Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

##### *Australia-India Council Grants*

Funding is provided for activities that will contribute to the AIC's objectives of promoting a broader and deeper relationship between Australia and India.

<http://www.dfat.gov.au/aic/>

#### **Department of Industry, Science and Resources**

##### *Major Research Facility Support*

Applications accepted continuously.

#### **The Wellcome Trust**

##### *Travelling Research Fellowships*

<http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/en/1/biosfgintintfunaustrf.html>

Preliminary applications can be made at any time. Full applications are considered four times a year.

##### *Biomedical Research Collaboration Grants*

<http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/en/1/biosfgintintfunausbrc.html>

Preliminary applications can be made at any time. Full applications are considered twice a year in April and October. The next deadline for full applications is 21 August 2001.

##### *Support for Collaborative Research between Australian/New Zealand and the Developing Countries of South-East Asia and the Pacific*

Australia/New Zealand and those in the developing countries of the Asian Pacific region, including the Pacific Island nations and territories, in order to develop research capacity in these countries. Preliminary applications can be made at any time. Decisions are made four times a year.

## **New Grant Opportunities**

### **Australian Football League (AFL)**

*AFL Research Applications*

The AFL is seeking applications for funding for research projects that relate to Australian football.

Internal closing date 25 May 2001

External closing date 8 June 2001

### **Australian Research Council**

*Discovery - Indigenous Researchers Development (replaces the ARC Indigenous Researchers Development Scheme)*

<http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/discovery/ird/default.htm>

Internal closing date 7 June 2001

External closing date 21 June 2001

*Linkage (Awards) - International Programme (replaces the IREX Scheme)*

<http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/linkage/international/default.htm>

Applications are accepted continuously.

### **BHP Community Trust**

*Community Grants Program*

<http://www.bhp.com/default.asp?page=69>

External closing dates 1 August and 1 November.

### **C&W Optus**

*C&W Optus Grants*

Applications accepted continuously.

### **Emergency Management Australia**

*Australian Disaster Research Grants Program*

EMA provides limited financial support for researchers to go to a disaster site in Australia to gather valuable data which might otherwise be lost. Areas of investigation can include either scientific, social or management areas.

<http://www.ema.gov.au/fs-sitemap.html>

Internal closing date 17 May 2001

External closing date 31 May 2001

### **Gordon Darling Foundation**

### *Visual Arts Grants*

Funding is available to assist public institutions promoting innovative projects in the visual arts.

Internal closing date 17 May 2001

External closing date 31 May 2001

### **Ian Potter Foundation**

*Travel and Cultural Trust (Travel Grants)*

<http://www.ianpotter.org.au>

Applications accepted continuously.

### **National Library of Australia**

*Community Heritage Grants*

<http://www.nla.gov.au/>

Internal closing date 25 May 2001

External closing date 1 June 2001

### **River Basin Management Society**

*Ernest Jackson Memorial Research Grants*

Provides support and assistance with student research projects being undertaken in any field of study allied to river basin management.

Internal closing date 1 June 2001

External closing date 15 June 2001

### **New Fellowship Opportunities**

#### **GlaxoSmithKline Australia**

*Award for Research Excellence 2001*

This is one of the most prestigious awards available to the Australian research community.

<http://www.gsk.com.au>

Closing date 1 June 2001

#### **National Archives of Australia**

*Frederick Watson Fellowship 2001*

Two fellowships annually are offered to individuals interested in conducting research substantially utilising its collection.

Internal closing date 15 June 2001

External closing date 29 June 2001

## Contact

For further information contact Maria Arena on (08) 8302 3954

<http://www.unisa.edu.au/orc/>

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## Graduation

### QC says resist conforming



"Keep throwing the pebbles of your thoughts and opinions into the public pond and keep measuring the ripples that you generate. That's the way you can make a difference to our society."

Michael Abbott QC confessed to UniSA graduands during this year's graduation ceremonies that he was "a conforming non-conformist". He made an impassioned plea for students to continue to demand changes in society once they had left university. An abridged version of his speech is below ([click here for the full version](#)):

I grew up in the sixties. It was a time of huge change. It was the days of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, the "make love not war period". It was the days of Vietnam and the drafting of conscripts.

It was the days of becoming aware of drugs, the days of marijuana. Light up, turn on, drop out.

I have mentioned the sixties because it seems to me that whilst it's easy to be an individual when you're at university, it's much harder to be an individual when you leave. You're no different from me. You will suffer from the same problem that we all suffered when we left the embrace of the university. The pressure to conform.

My plea to you is to resist that pressure and fight against it. Don't give up your ideals. Don't give up the causes which you have espoused.

There is something of the angry old man in me, and I suppose you all are in the category of "angry young people," at least with some degree of anger about the current system and its reluctance to change. It is important that you keep the anger.

One way is to maintain your interest in the problems that beset the world and our society and to voice your opinion on these seminal

issues. I urge you to become actively involved in one or more of the big issues of this century. Let me list a few.

Firstly, the human genome and what it has done to bioethics. There are going to be huge problems in our society about what we do with the knowledge we now possess and will possess via our knowledge of the human genome. At the family level, it will be a problem of do we have the right to choose the sort of babies we want? Are we entitled to inflict on society more of us or clones of us? Or do we have the right to deny life to an infant that doesn't conform with our idea of how a child should be?

The second issue, the state of Australia. I am a committed republican but obviously there are two sides to the republican debate as was witnessed by the referendum. A majority of thinking Australians already believe we should have a republic. The issue is, what sort of a republic and how it should be managed.

A further issue, the issue of our Indigenous people and reconciliation. I think that reconciliation will happen in the next two to three years and I imagine that, if there is a change of government, the apology that is so urgently required will be forthcoming.

There are environmental issues such as genetically modified foods, greenhouse emissions and the related problem of global warming.

And I believe that the most important issue facing every one of you is the issue of human rights or perhaps, better still, equal rights. There is a tendency in our society today for these to be eroded.

In the area of criminal law it is easy for a government to deny rights to persons convicted of heinous crimes on the basis that the sole consideration is that they be convicted and punished. But they don't realise that when you take away rights from a criminal, you take them away from us all.

Mandatory sentencing, for example, is one such way in which rights have been taken from us and shows the need to be ever vigilant when it comes to protecting individual rights and freedoms.

To those of you who have had nothing to do with the law, I urge you to stand up and be counted when governments want to reduce the quota of rights available to us, as they inevitably will. Justice is something that we need more of, not less.

You don't have to espouse every issue but if you are to be well-rounded citizens then it is important that you take positions on these and the other important issues facing our society.

There's nothing worse than a lawyer who only talks about the law or a doctor who only talks about her patients. I know, I've sat next to them at too many boring dinners!

I am not necessarily advocating that you march in the streets or write letters to the editor. What I am suggesting is that you continue to think about all of these issues and take a position on them.

It is easy to be a firebrand and an agitator and hold radical opinions inside a university. It is when you are faced with the pressures of work, marriage, and bringing up children that some of these important issues assume a second place or, worse, no place at all.

But the people who will be remembered are not those who have ended up amassing millions of dollars and great wealth; it will be the thinkers. The ones who are provocative, the creators of society, the ones who made society think about itself. It is they who should be your model, not the Kerry Packers and the Ted Turners of this world.

So keep throwing the pebbles of your thoughts and opinions into the public pond and keep measuring the ripples that you generate. That's the way you can make a difference to our society.

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## Medici May update



All admissions and enrolments for semester 3 of 2001-02 will be undertaken using Medici.

We are continuing to meet the roll-out schedule to meet this deadline:

- production of modules will begin in October this year and will extend into 2002
- working groups have now been established to create new business processes and strategies to assist users at the local level.

User acceptance testing is the next step. In this phase, staff from divisions and units will carry out independent tests on the functionality of each module. A test of the web enrolment interface by UniSA and secondary school students will be carried out in June.

After testing, end-user training will begin. We have adopted a 'train the trainer' approach for this phase, with UniSA staff from divisions and units receiving the necessary training and then conducting sessions within their own work areas.

See what's new on <http://www.medici.unisa.edu.au/>

**Medici Change Management Team**

