

Lack of technical expertise 'costs lives'

By TANIA CUTTING

More lives will be lost and further budget blow-outs will occur unless governments begin to address the critically low levels of technical expertise within their ranks, according to a discussion paper by ANU Master's graduate, Athol Yates.

The paper — "Government as an informed buyer: Recognising technical expertise as a crucial factor in the success of engineering contracts" — published by the Graduate Program in Public Policy, calls on the federal government and its agencies to revise their contracting guidelines to ensure technical expertise is sought and fully utilised when complex engineering contracts were being considered.

"The fundamental focus of the paper is that governments need technical expertise to be informed buyers when they are buying complex engineering goods and services," Mr Yates said.

"You can find that in quite a few recent disasters a lack of technical expertise has been a contributing factor to the disaster."

Official inquiries have found that both last year's HMAS Westralia fire disaster, and the botched implosion of the Royal Canberra Hospital, which killed twelve year old, Katie Bender, were partly the result of a serious lack of technical expertise. Another recent example of the failure to utilise specialist advice involved the \$4.3 billion Collins Class submarines.

"The community needs to be protected from organisations and individuals who say they can do particular work but can't," Mr Yates said. "Another issue is that if the only criteria used for determining if an engineering company is delivering a good service or not is based on price then that is a very bad situation. A whole lot of issues need to be weighed up — qualifications, previous work, and capabilities. But if you're a contract manager and you've got no idea of the

issues in a particular field then that is just inviting disaster."

Mr Yates said that, over the past decade, the number of engineers within the Commonwealth Public Sector had dropped 30 per cent, leaving a dearth of people with the appropriate skills to handle complex engineering contracts.

"These people had the technical expertise and they were being trained to be contractors, now they've gone completely," Mr Yates said.

"In the past we probably had too many specialists within the government and the specialists ran entire departments or activities, but now it has gone too far the other way. There are now generalists who think the focus is performance budgeting, performance targets, benchmarking and so on and that will alone result in the best possible outcomes. However management tools will not compensate for a lack of technical advice or expertise."

He said government was slowly coming to the realisation that it needed to address the problem. But he said the debate about whether government should obtain its technical expertise in-house or by contract was fruitless, as the critical issue was not where it came from, but whether the government had access to it when needed.

"To be an informed buyer in government, two distinct skill sets are required: contracting skills and subject matter expertise and this has to be recognised," Mr Yates said. "Then you need to develop methods for obtaining specialist advice, and maintaining its critical mass or continual learning of the expertise if it is in-house."

Mr Yates said technical expertise would not necessarily mean the end of disasters and budget blowouts, but would still be an improvement on the current situation.

The public sector has been de-skilled, politicised and subject to numerous management fads, and this is the price we're having to pay for it."

Bright future for Union Court



Photo: Stuart Hay, ANU Photography

Court order: Melbourne-based artist, Deborah Halpern, with design examples of the public art works to feature in the redevelopment of Union Court which will commence next month.

By SEAN DALY

Work will start next month on a redevelopment of Union Court to cement its place as the "heart" of the University.

The \$2 million project will include the construction of an "amphitheatre" with grassed terraces and public art works. Major components of the project include the resurfacing of the Union Court section of University Avenue and Sullivan's Creek bridge.

Work is expected to start early next month and continue until March or April. Facilities and Services will set up a display and information office in Union Court to answer questions on the redevelopment while work is in progress.

Facilities and Services Planning Officer, Chris Coughlan, said the redevelopment had been included in the strategic plan for the University since 1993 and preliminary sketches were made in 1995.

Stage one of the redevelopment has already been completed, with the extension of the Sullivan's Creek car park, and Mr Coughlan said the forced removal of the poplars in Union Court last year had added to the need for work on the second stage.

The redevelopment will feature major art works by Melbourne-based artist Deborah Halpern. She will produce tiled murals on the two walls bordering the steps of the amphitheatre and tiled "medallions" for the side of the Student Services building.

Mr Coughlan said that, while there would be some disruption to workers in and users of Union Court while the work took place, Facilities and Services would attempt to minimise it.

"Once construction commences private vehicle access to the Court, other than by disabled people, will not be allowed — a restriction that will become permanent on completion of the project."

Mr Coughlan said the work had been timed to cause the least disruption to staff and students at the ANU, with a commencement date after the end of exams and a planned completion early in the academic year.

Council approves revised plan to retain six Faculties

By TANIA CUTTING & SEAN DALY

The ANU Council on Friday approved a revised restructuring plan to retain the University's six Faculties and generate savings of \$400,000 a year per Faculty over the next five years.

The Council unanimously supported the recommendation by Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Richards, which was backed by the Deans of the Faculties.

The decision followed its approval in October of a range of measures recommended by Prof Richards as part of the Review of the Faculties.

Those measures included appointed rather than elected Deans, protocols for financial operations and a series of changes in administrative support for academic areas. They also approved a financial boost for domestic and international student recruitment initiatives.

Prof Richards told the Council that the revised restructuring plan reduced the difference in savings between his initially proposed three-institute model and the six-faculty model to just \$150,000 per year. On balance, he said, and considering the risks to the degree programs, that amount was not "worth chasing".

Vice-Chancellor, Prof Deane Terrell, echoed the DVC's sentiments.

"This is a matter of balance," Prof Terrell said. "There are risks that a significant change in structure will impact badly on the recruitment program, so when I come to make that on-balance decision, and considering the additional savings, I believe we should stay with the six Faculties model."

"This revised recommendation resolves academic concerns with the

previous proposal, and protects ANU's outstanding reputation," Professor Richards said.

"It will ensure that the ANU retains a strong focus on its undergraduate teaching strengths and provides greater study flexibility for students."

Prof Richards said that the restructuring would entail some job losses, but said the Deans would make the

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Life's reward — a bone marrow donor's view

I had actually forgotten I had registered as a possible bone marrow donor. On one of my regular visits to the Red Cross Blood Bank, I had noticed a brochure whilst in the waiting area and picked it up out of idle curiosity. It seemed a good idea at the time, so I did it.

Now, here was a letter saying I had been identified as a potential donor. I contacted the Australian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ABMDR) run by the Red Cross in Sydney. Although I was expecting immediate action, there are a number of stages that a donor moves through before the actual donation happens.

The first stage had already happened: an initial match made against the blood sample given at the time you go on to the registry. If, as in my case, a potential match is identified, a further sample of blood is taken to retype it to confirm the match. After this was confirmed, I then went to Westmead Hospital in western Sydney for the afternoon for a range of tests to assess my health. There was also a briefing by the staff of the ABMDR before fully committing to making the donation, or harvest as it is technically known.

The tests included x-rays, blood tests, ECG and a physical examination. I had every opportunity to have any concerns and questions clarified. The Donor Liaison Officer with the ABMDR, Sharon Boatwright, could not have been more helpful or informative. I was then asked to confirm that I wished to go ahead. This is an important point for the potential recipient because this is the point of no return for him or her. If I agree to proceed, their own bone marrow will be progressively destroyed to receive mine. If I pull out after that, the recipient has no prognosis at all. But there was never

In this personal account, an ANU staff member details how their generous donation helped save the life of a leukaemia patient.

any question that I would not go ahead.

So, about two months after getting the first letter advising me of the potential match, I found myself checking into Westmead Hospital on a Wednesday for a three-day stay. The Red Cross had flown me to Sydney and transported me to Westmead. I am also grateful to the University for granting me special leave.

I was checked into the Oncology Ward and shared a room with two others. One of them was suffering from leukaemia and was to have a transplant hopefully from a member of the family later in the year. It is always a sobering experience to spend time in such a ward and it forcibly reminds you that there is a practical way you can make a real difference for someone. After more examinations and a briefing by the surgeon, I was free to go out for dinner.

The next day, the procedure was carried out under anaesthetic in the morning and I returned to my room about lunchtime. Bone marrow is harvested by making two small incisions in your lower back into the pelvic bone. To assist in my recovery, I was given a transfusion of my own blood which had been collected a week before. The surgeon had also explained that he would be injecting an anticoagulant into the area to stop any clotting. Consequently, a spectacular bruise developed on my buttocks.

Many people ask whether it hurt and what the pain was like. Individual responses vary but all I can say is that I woke on my back and had no trouble moving around within a few hours after the effects of the anaesthetic had worn off. I took a few Panadol in the first day or so, and was fine after that.

The most painful part of the exercise was removing the heavy-duty dressing. The only other times it hurt was if I carelessly bumped against a door handle or sat down suddenly in a hard-backed chair.

Friday morning saw me checking out of Westmead. In the next fortnight, the only aftereffect I could detect, apart from the incautious bumps, was a tendency to tire easily. Sharon Boatwright maintained contact with me to ensure I had no problems and to pass on any news of the patient.

At the time I agreed to proceed, I was only told that my patient was a young man, I was not allowed to meet him. To this day I have not met him although we have written to each other via the Red Cross. I understand he was treated at another Sydney hospital and the transplant was done there.

Sometime later, I got a letter from him in which he described the worry for the family leading up to the day, their excitement when they learnt of the match and his hopes for the future. It is clear that he is a courageous young man because he had completed Year 12 while waiting for a bone marrow donor to be identified and had commenced first-year university studies in business and commerce.

Did it take? The first three months are the critical period. At the time of writing, we were well past that and the donation seems to have taken.

The Australian Bone Marrow Registry was established in 1991 with a 10-year target of recruiting 100,000 donors. The support of the community saw 134,000 people registered by the end of 1998. Moreover, the Australian Registry is integrated into a global

network and has access to approximately 5 million donors around the world.

Indeed, Sharon Boatwright flew to Frankfurt, Germany, the day after meeting me to deliver bone marrow that had been harvested from an Australian. In my patient's case, he had been provisionally matched against myself and a donor in the USA.

When a patient is diagnosed with leukaemia, the search for a donor starts with the family as they have the highest chance of success. If that fails, then a search is made of the Australian Register. If nothing turns up a search is made overseas. At present a non-family donation only has a success rate of 30–50 per cent but that rate is rising.

A match depends on tissue type, which in turn depends on the donor's ethnic background. The North Caucasian group is well represented worldwide and the chances of a donor from that group are about 85 per cent.

By contrast, many other ethnic groups are not well represented. For example, patients with Asian, South Caucasian or Middle Eastern backgrounds have much less chance of finding a matched donor.

Sharon Boatwright has conducted an analysis of the Donor Registry and has identified some clear gaps. Ninety per cent of the donors registered are from a Caucasian background, to match 64 per cent of the patients. Asian donors comprise around 1.6 per cent of the total, but were 3.3 per cent of the patient population. The problem is more critical for patients of Middle Eastern origin who make up 1.5 per cent of the total, yet only 0.5 per cent of donors.

It is a rare privilege for an individual to be able to help another human being in this genetic lottery. More donors from the different ethnic communities are needed. For your chance to help, contact the Red Cross Blood Bank.

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VC's VIEW

Singing the ANU's praises

The Australian National University was represented at a distinguished and unusual musical event at Petra in Jordan in September. A PhD student at the Canberra School of Music, Katia Tiutiunnik, went to Petra for a concert at the Treasury House which was part of the General Assembly of the International Music Council (UNESCO), at which her symphonic poem *Noor* was performed.

Noor is written for a violin soloist and orchestra and was performed by the Orchestra of the National Music Conservatory in Jordan, with violinist Tymour Ibrahimov. It is dedicated to HM Queen Noor of Jordan and the reviewer in the Jordanian newspaper, *Al Rai*, described it as "an intelligent metaphor for the journey of Queen Noor". Queen Noor has written to Katia commending her musical achievements. The *Al Rai* reviewer commented upon the duet in the poem between the violin and drums in which "the drums began to depict destinies while the violin was translating the capacity for steadfast confrontation, by means of patience, struggle and the spirit which cannot be broken".

Katia's area of research is "transformation of Middle Eastern and religious concepts into musical symbolism in 20th Century Western Art Music". She is also undertaking advanced studies in Arabic at ANU.

Her compositions have been performed in Australia, Italy, Bulgaria and Scotland — and now in Jordan.

The concert at Petra was a very important UNESCO event and it was a great honour for Katia's work to be selected for performance. She is a full-time PhD scholarship student and a single mother and is finding that her works are now earning her an international reputation.

Katia's work for cello, *Al Kauthar*, was performed by David Pereira in an ABC Classics FM broadcast on John Crawford's Sunday Live at the Llewellyn Hall on 17th October. She is among four Australian composers selected by an international jury to participate in the Australian Composers' Orchestral Forum. Her participation involved one visit already made to Tasmania on 13–14 October and two more in April and June in 2000 in order to compose a substantial work for the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra. That work will be broadcast by ABC Classics FM. Katia intends that the work she will compose for the Tasmania Symphony Orchestra will join *Noor* as part of her PhD folio.

Katia will produce a folio of seven major works and a thesis for her doctoral candidature. She has been awarded full representation status at the Australian Music Centre, which holds all of her compositions as well

as a file on her career. It has branches throughout the world and promotes the works of its represented composers through national and international channels.

I was especially pleased to provide Katia with some assistance to match external sponsorship for her travel to Jordan. She is representative of the enthusiasm and commitment of scholars and performers at ANU to press into new forms of expression at the highest levels of excellence. That commitment brings credit to Australia and ANU. Her own works are reflective of that special Australian creation, multiculturalism, and of the cross-cultural endeavour that has become a great feature of ANU.

Most of all, her developing international profile is taking abroad the message that ANU is a centre of excellence in the best traditions of liberal education.

Katia is only one of many people at ANU pursuing the highest standards of excellence in many different fields and it is encouraging to see those individuals getting international recognition. We in turn should all be proud of their achievements and of the University's investment in them.

Deane Terrell



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ANU, Tax Office partnership launched

By SEAN DALY

The Centre for Tax System Integrity (CTSI), a collaboration between the ANU and the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) aimed at improved understanding of cooperation and conflict in the tax system, was officially launched at the ANU last month.

The Centre is a three-to-six year research project based in the Research School of Social Sciences for which the ANU receives \$500,000 a year from the ATO.

Foundation Director, Dr Valerie Braithwaite, said the work of the Centre would revolve around two major pieces of the ATO's operations — the Compliance Model and the Taxpayers' Charter. She said the centre would look at ways of improving compliance, and effectively dealing with non-compliance.

Dr Braithwaite, a social psychologist and member of the Cash Economy Taskforce established by the ATO, will be joined at the CTSI by Professor Geoffrey Brennan, a public economist and tax expert, and Professor John Braithwaite, an expert on business regulation.

The Director of the Research



Photo: Darren Boyd, Coombs Photography

Taxing times; ATO Acting Commissioner Bruce Jones (left), ANU Vice-Chancellor Deane Terrell, Dr Valerie Braithwaite and RSSS Director Prof Ian McAllister at the opening of the Centre for Tax Integrity last month.

School of Social Sciences, Professor Ian McAllister welcomed the

new centre as a model for future RSSS work.

"While this new centre is something of a departure for the Research School of Social Sciences in terms of its goal of blending theoretical work and applied research, we very much hope that it will provide a model for future centres of the school."

"In Valerie Braithwaite, John Braithwaite and Geoffrey Brennan we have some world-class scholars in the area of regulation and compliance and I am certain that the centre will produce pioneering, state-of-the-art work during the period of its life."

ATO Acting Commissioner,

Bruce Jones, said the partnership with the CTSI would enhance the ATO's operations. "For us this is a very important exercise, giving us the opportunity to think about why the [tax] system works the way it works and make sure that it makes sense not only to the people who administer it, but I think more importantly, to the community."

"From our point of view we look forward to people from your school and this Centre being able to work with people in the tax office and find out what it means to be out in the field collecting revenue.

"I think it gives an opportunity for people in the tax office to look at the world through different eyes."

Sunday Times ranks Laver 56th in power list

By TERESA BELCHER

An ANU scientist has been voted number 56 on *The Sunday Times'* 1999 list of the 500 Most Powerful People in Britain — putting him just 10 places behind the Queen, and 25 places ahead of Pope John Paul II at number 81.

Dr Graeme Laver, from the John Curtin School of Medical Research (JCSMR), and Australian colleague Dr Peter Colman (formerly of CSIRO and now Director of the Biomolecular Research Institute in Melbourne) were ranked 56 overall and third in the medicine category, for their development of the drug Relenza to combat flu.

While acknowledging that he was happy to be mentioned, Dr Laver said he thought the whole thing was a bit of a giggle.

"I can't help feeling a bit pleased, though, that somebody thinks it's okay and is going to make an impact. I guess the work we did here has the potential to influence the lives of Britain, and even around the world. If there is a new pandemic — it may save a lot of lives."

In 1983, Drs Laver and Colman discovered a part of the flu virus that did not mutate — a factor that allowed them to develop a "plug" drug to jam the non-mutating part and prevent the virus from spreading from cell to cell in the body. Administered as an inhaler, Relenza can act as a preventative, ease congestion and reduce the duration of the flu.

The drug, made by Glaxo-Wellcome, is now licensed for sale in America, Britain and Europe and is currently being assessed for the UK's National Health Scheme. The potential success of the drug, however, has not been fully realised mainly due to insufficient time for trials on the general population.

Dr Laver said those tests will



Dr Laver: third on medical list.

reveal the drug's cost effectiveness, forcing governments to decide if it will be made freely available in the public health system. At present, the estimated cost is between £20 to £30 (about \$60-\$80) for one course of treatment.

The Power List, published in the 26 September issue of the British paper, was collated to give an insight into how people were deemed powerful in their respective fields. One definition of power the newspaper gave was the ability to make another person do something they would not otherwise have done.

"I was very surprised to hear our rating — it's a bit extraordinary when you consider all the other people who are out there. Mrs Thatcher wasn't even on the list," Dr Laver said.

Dr Laver also emphasised that Relenza is the result of basic research done at the ANU since the 1960s. "It has been a long process without commercial funding or commercial aspirations — this is exactly the thing that the government should fund."

La Tuna brings sounds of Spain to Court



Photo: Stuart Hay, ANU Photography

La Tuna, de Ceincas, a musical group from the University of Alicante in Spain, brought last month's festivities for Spain's National Day celebrations to Union Court with a lunchtime performance. The band has performed throughout Europe and was flown out to Australia by the Spanish Embassy for the celebrations. La Tuna members, dressed in traditional costumes dating back to the 13th century, played a selection of traditional folk pieces.

Council approves plan to keep six Faculties

From Page 1

decisions about the numbers and nature of those cuts. He said it was also inevitable that some departments would not survive.

"Departments will have to go, whether they will be amalgamated or removed I'm not sure," he said.

Prof Ric Pashley, Chair of the Board of the Faculties, said the Faculties were grateful to the Council for its recognition of the recent financial stress they had been under. But he said Council should realise that, even with the \$5 million it had allocated to help the Faculties write off their \$9 million debt,

at least two or three would have severe problems trying to make their payments.

"It would be good if they were given more time to achieve the cost reductions by natural wastage rather than voluntary redundancies," Prof Pashley said.

BA major to focus on media in politics

By TANIA CUTTING

The role of the media in all aspects of political life has formed the basis of a new Bachelor of Arts major devised by ANU political scientist, Dr Marian Simms.

The major in Political Communication, to be offered for the first time next year, will provide students with an understanding of the communication theories that drive the political machines in Australia and overseas.

Dr Simms said the course, which has had the generous support of Faculty of Arts Dean, Professor Paul Thom, would be a study stream unique to the ANU.

"What is interesting from an intellectual perspective about this is that it's coming from a political science perspective and other studies of communication in Australian universities are tied fairly firmly into communications schools that train journalists," Dr Simms said. "This major isn't specifically designed to train journalists — it's for more generalised work within the political arena."

Dr Simms said the course would be invaluable to students interested in pursuing careers as political media advisers, campaign planners, public relations practitioners or lobby group representatives.

The major consists of three core units and a larger group of electives — including political science subjects, and subjects from women's studies, film studies, history and linguistics — all focusing on aspects of how political messages are communicated through different media.

To complete the major students will need to choose at least three electives and two of the three core units of Politics, Policy and the Media; Psychological Perspectives on Politics — understanding the processes of cognition and theories about how people learn new information and which particular messages people do and don't absorb; and Elections and Campaigning — how political communication occurs in practice.

"What we're trying to do is give students intellectual handles in order to understand something that is an important part of their everyday lives. Because of the importance of political communication to all aspects of political life, including interest groups and social movements as well as political parties, understanding some of the rudiments of communication theory is crucial," Dr Simms said. "In addition there's a question of the new media, most notably the Internet, and the merging of different media streams through digital television for example."

The major, which has been two years in the planning, is expected to attract upwards of 100 students next year and Dr Simms has already foreshadowed a postgraduate equivalent in the future.

ACT award for University carer

By SEAN DALY

One of the University's longest-serving childcare workers has been recognised in the inaugural ACT Childcare Awards announced last month.

Eileen Webster, from University Preschool and Childcare Centre (UPCC), won the award for a Level 5 childcare worker — the highest level of childcare training which also covers preschool teachers.

Ms Webster, a staff member of UPCC for 23 years, heads the "Possums" section of the centre, caring for children from 10–18 months.

Centre Director, Norma Williams, said the presentation of a "teaching" award to a worker with children so young was recognition of the importance of structured learning from an early age.

Ms Webster said she considered her role as a teaching position rather than being a "babysitter".

"Children learn through their play experiences from birth," she said. "The younger the child the more in-

dividual attention they require and through observation and planning, individual play experiences are offered that assist the child to develop physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially."

Ms Webster's career has been focused on caring for children aged under three — an age group she enjoys working with. She also has the nature to cope with the many demands of children of that age.

The calm atmosphere of the "Possums" room is testimony to Ms Webster's skill and experience — and those of her colleagues in the nursery.

"Working in the nursery is very demanding, requiring teamwork, knowledge, skill — a sense of humour also helps," she said.

Seven awards were given this year, one in each of the five levels of childcare training, one in the area of voluntary work in the field and another for the promotion of childcare in the ACT. There are plans to make the awards, sponsored by the Hyatt, a biennial event.



Photo: Stuart Hay, ANU Photography

Constant care: Eileen Webster from the University Preschool and Child Care Centre and some of her admirers.

Honorary Law degree for Bangladeshi PM

The Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, received an honorary degree at the ANU last month.

In a special ceremony in the Hall, University House, Chancellor Professor Peter Baume conferred the Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa* in recognition of Sheikh Hasina's distinguished creative contributions in the service of society.

Sheikh Hasina (pictured centre right after the ceremony surrounded by well-wishers), is the eldest child of the founder of independent Bang-

ladesh, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. She was elected leader of the Opposition in 1986. In the 1996 parliamentary election, her Bangladesh Awami League emerged as majority party and she became Prime Minister.

She has authored several books. In 1998 she was awarded UNESCO's Houphouet-Boigny Peace Prize with George Mitchell of the United States.

Her Excellency's entourage included 20 business executives from Bangladesh interested in expanding trade and business opportunities in Australia.



Photo: Darren Boyd, Coombs Photography

Swiss Prizes awarded

Australia is a truly multicultural country according to the Swiss Ambassador to Australia, His Excellency Mr Bernhard Marfurt.

In an address at the recent presentation of the 1999 Swiss Prize, Mr Marfurt said despite his homeland having four national languages — German, French, Italian and Romansch — as a multicultural nation, Switzerland paled in comparison to Australia where hundreds of languages were spoken.

Only three though were in the spotlight at the 1999 ceremony hosted by Mr Marfurt. Students of French, German and Italian in ANU's Department of Classical and Modern

European Languages were all in the running for awards in this year's expanded essay competition. Last year's inaugural Swiss Prize was only offered to students of German.

The students from six language units — two units each of German, French and Italian — wrote essays on either language policy in Switzerland or Swiss literature. The essays were a part of normal assessment but were also entries in the competition. The best three students in each unit were awarded a certificate and \$150/\$100/\$50. German category winner, Joy Danson, was the only winner not present to receive her prize.

TANIA CUTTING



Photo: Tania Cutting, ANU Reporter

Swiss Prize winners (from left), Kees van Rooy, Fergus Grieve, Chris Downing, V-C Prof Deane Terrell, His Excellency Mr Bernhard Marfurt, Robert McLellan and Christiane Patron.



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Science teaching workshop

A teaching workshop, "Science Teaching at the ANU: 2000 and Beyond", designed to illustrate teaching innovation in the ANU's Faculty of Science, will be held on Friday.

Six staff members will make brief presentations of new developments in their courses. These developments were chosen because they are largely cost neutral to implement, an important consideration in the current budgetary climate.

The workshop is designed to encourage all staff to think about teaching innovation when planning new courses and modifying existing courses. This is particularly timely because many B- and C-point courses within the Faculty will be changing in 2000.

It is also designed to gather information from staff about factors seen as barriers to teaching development and collate ideas on how to overcome these barriers.

Significant changes have occurred at the ANU in the area of treating quality teaching as important to promotion and these will be outlined by Professor Fyfe Bygrave, Dean of the Faculty of Science, and by Professor Richard Arculus, a member of the Board of the Faculties Promotions Committee.

Dr Malcolm Pettigrove from the Centre for Education and Development of Academic Methods will outline available methods for assessing quality in teaching.

Staff hope to present the findings of the Workshop to the Dean.

Rosemary Martin
Senior Lecturer in Neuroscience

RSC glassblower wins award



Photo: Stuart Hay, ANU Photography

Paul Siu (above), trainee scientific glassblower in the Research School of Chemistry (RSC), received a Certificate of Merit when he, and colleague Chris Tomkins, attended the 4th Australasian Scientific Glassblowing Symposium in Wellington, New Zealand last month. Mr Siu was awarded the certificate for a glass diffusion pump he constructed in the RSC glass workshop. He has been training as a scientific glassblower under Mr Hans Adler since January 1997. The symposia, held biennially in Australia and New Zealand, are organised by the Scientific Glassblowing Association of Australia and the New Zealand Society of Scientific Glassblowers, and attract scientific glassblowers from as far afield as UK, USA, Japan and Malaysia.

Boost for disadvantaged IT students

By TERESA BELCHER

A new industry-funded scholarship scheme will begin in 2000 to help indigenous or disadvantaged students pursue a career in computing at the ANU.

The scholarship, an initiative of Mastech Asian Pacific, the Australian subsidiary of a US information technology recruitment company, will fund at

least two students \$10,000, for the period of their undergraduate study.

Representatives from Mastech, Andrew McCarroll and Martin Harris, recently visited the Dean of Engineering and Information Technology (FEIT), Professor Darrell Williamson, Head of the Department of Computer Science, Dr Chris Johnson and the Director of JABAL Centre, Mr Neville Perkins, to formally seal the agreement and discuss potential opportunities the collaboration could bring to the IT industry. The group also visited the Advanced Computational Systems Co-operative Research Centre's (ACSys CRC) Virtual Environment laboratory in the Department of Computer Science.

According to Mr McCarroll, during an enormous growth in business, Mastech has been unable to fill all the jobs with Australians and has consequently needed to seek skilled staff from overseas.

"This scholarship is part of our company's commitment to build up IT resources and skills in Australia," Mr McCarroll said. "By investing in to-

day's students, we will help overcome this shortage."

"Indigenous or disadvantaged students may have the academic ability, but not necessarily the economic means, to pursue further study," Mr McCarroll said. "These scholarships will be of assistance in this regard."

In addition, Prof Williamson noted that there is a lack of IT-trained indigenous Australians. "This shortfall is as equally significant as the shortfall of indigenous Australians in other professions," he said.

The group discussed the stereotypical and sometimes unexciting image that computer science has had in the past, and the possible strategies that could be used to boost its image.

"The IT industry is about people," Dr Johnson said. "It needs to be demonstrated that it is an attractive, extremely dynamic profession with endless opportunities."

Prof Williamson said that Mastech's decision to offer the scholarships to the ANU was a strong vote of confidence in the quality of ANU programs in information technology.



Photo: Stuart Hay, ANU Photography

Andrew McCarroll from Mastech is given a demonstration of the "haptic workbench", which incorporates a force field into a three-dimensional visual environment to enable more efficient data processing.

IN BRIEF

In a recent edition of *New Scientist* two ANU authors were recognised. The "Bestsellers from Melbourne" list contains two titles by CRES authors: in second place was *Water in Australia* by long-term CRES member David Ingle Smith. Recently arrived research fellow Libby Robin's *Defending the Little Desert* was at number seven.

The Canberra School of Music (CSM) and the Canberra National Multicultural Festival have announced details of their major collaborative project for the Festival next year. The CSM Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Professor Nicolette Fraillon, along with massed choirs from Canberra and regional NSW will be performing Mahler's Symphony No. 8 as the finale concert of the festival on 20 March 2000.

The US-based John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation has announced a grant of \$51,000 for Professor Hilary Charlesworth, Director of the Centre for International and Public Law. She will be researching Feminist Analysis of International Dispute Resolution.

The ACT Careers Day at the University of Canberra for senior school students proved successful for two lucky door prize winners. The Microsoft Office 2000 Premium Software Package went to Winnie Rajoro (ACT TP99/1078) and the Trial Introductory Flight to Reina Syntawati (ACT TP99/1077). The Careers Day allows students and prospective employers from the ACT region to talk in a low stress environment about various careers available to them.

EVENTS

Poet Mark O'Connor will deliver the 'official report' on his time as the H.C. Coombs Creative Arts Fellow on Wednesday 24 November at 8pm at Chats Cafe at the School of Art. The report will consist of a reading of poems inspired by his time at ANU and especially with the Department of Archaeology and Natural History in the Research School of Social Sciences (RSSS). For details contact Mark O'Connor on 6247 3341.

The Law Program in RSSS will host two seminars in honour of distinguished lawyers. The focus of Responsibility in Law and Ethics on Tuesday 30 November will be themes in the legal philosophy of Professor Tony Honoré, formerly Regius Professor of Civil Law at Oxford University. Prof Honoré will also give a seminar on causation in Coombs seminar room A at 2pm on Thursday 2 December. Administrative Law in a Federal System, to be held on Thursday 16 December, will mark the end of Sir Anthony Mason's formal connection with the Law Program as ANU National Fellow. For information about all these events contact Chris Treadwell on 6249 2331 or email <cmt306@coombs.anu.edu.au>.

ANU DIARY

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PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

These lectures are free and interested members of the public are invited to attend.

The Allure of Archaeology

by Mark O'Connor, The Australian National University's H.C. Coombs Creative Arts Fellow

Thursday 18 November at 3.00pm. Coombs Lecture Theatre, Fellows Road, ANU.

Enquiries to Peta Hill, tel: 02 6249 3040

Where to for Australian foreign policy? National interests and human rights

Thursday 18 November at 4.30pm. Manning Clark Lecture Theatre 4, ANU.

Enquiries to Rick Kuhn, tel: 02 6249 3851

The 1999 Anthony Forge Memorial Lecture

Anthony's Feast: The Gift in Abalam Aesthetics

by Diane Losche

Thursday 18 November at 6.00pm. Manning Clark Lecture Theatre 2, ANU.

Enquiries to Anne-Maree O'Brien, CCR, tel: 02 6249 2434

Why Should the Public Bother to Appreciate Science?

Professor Charles Stirling, FRS, University of Sheffield

Tuesday 23 November at 5.15pm

Ian Wark Theatre, Becker House (The "Dome")

Gordon Street, Acton

Enquiries to Tony Steeper, tel 6249 4144.



THE
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PAD 464

Isolated outpost forging strong links to Asia

The North Australia Research Unit (NARU) was established in Darwin in 1973 as a primary northern Australia research facility of the ANU. At that time, Aboriginal people were already shaping the institutions of governance in the Northern Territory—the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* was about to come into effect and political institutions in the Territory were under transformation as self-government became a reality. Anthropologists began moving north to build a research base for the future study of traditional societies.

NARU has maintained a focus on Aboriginal land matters, indigenous institutions, and recently has established itself as a facilitator into research on relations between Australia and Indonesia.

As Darwin expanded, local tertiary institutions and Aboriginal organisations grew up alongside NARU. Land Councils, Aboriginal associations and a network of civil and urban infrastructure now surrounds the area where the Unit is located.

NARU's academic staff numbers are woefully small — only three, consisting of one anthropologist and an economist, both working within the research program of the Cooperative Research Centre for Tropical Savannas at the Northern Territory University (NTU) and, one PhD student. The Unit Director works on equity in government for Indigenous peoples, intergovernmental relations policy, and comparative federalism.

NARU has been effective in flagging itself as an expert institution in indigenous development issues, and as an adept facilitator into

research in East Asia. Recently, we completed a project on Best Practice for Native Title Representative Bodies in the Pilbara, and an ATSI project on economic development in the remote East Kimberley region is now underway.

NARU has fruitful research-based relationships with the Commonwealth Grants Commission, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and, among others, the Centre for Democratic Institutions at the ANU. In October 1998, NARU became signatory to a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indonesian Institute of Science (LIPI), and has convened several workshops on joint relationships with Indonesia at Parliament House in Darwin.

In 1996, NARU established the annual Dr H.C. (Nugget) Coombs North Australia Public Lecture to promote Aboriginal cultural values. Last year, our commitment to

Indigenous education was cemented through establishing a joint relationship with the JABAL centre at the ANU. Our two centres founded an Indigenous scholarship scheme under the auspices of the Vice-Chancellor's Endowment fund. NARU has great potential to make worthwhile contribution to student research through relationships with Aboriginal land councils, associations, the Faculty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies at NTU, and dozens of Aboriginal organisations in northern and central Australia. Our local outreach activities extend to Indonesia and East Timor and NARU is currently supporting, in kind, several activities in these areas.

With approximately 5000 kilometers between NARU and the ANU, securing the future of NARU has never been easy.

Whatever the future, NARU's



contribution to research has always been disproportionately larger than the sum of its academic parts. It remains a fundamental institution with an enviable reputation for producing quality research, without compromise.

Dr Christine Fletcher
Director, North Australia Research Unit

Art pioneer's long wait to see collection on display

By TANIA CUTTING

Twenty-six years after reluctantly handing over her art collection to the Institute of Aboriginal Studies, renowned Aboriginal art expert and collector Dorothy Bennett is still waiting for it to go on display in the National Museum currently under construction.

Ms Bennett, who will turn 86 early next year, is widely acknowledged as the first person to promote Aboriginal art as an art form. Although she remains actively involved in promoting art as a valuer and interpreter today, it was her solo art collecting ventures into the remotest regions of the Northern Territory during the 1960s that brought her to the world's attention.

"I started out on my own and my ambition was to just work amongst the Aborigines for eight to 10 months getting the art, going everywhere and then put on an exhibition at the end of it, which I did," Ms Bennett said.

"My first exhibition was in 1963 in the Blaxland Galleries in Sydney and it was a runaway success. I received tremendous publicity for the work I was doing."

For nearly 20 years Dorothy Bennett travelled extensively throughout Arnhem Land, the Tiwi Islands, Groote Eylandt and Port Keats, even visiting a Darwin leprosarium to collect Aboriginal art. She held several exhibitions in Australia and overseas and was the first to offer detailed explanations of the art and the artists.

"I used to put a photograph of the Aboriginal alongside the art, and a history of him, and the reporters everywhere I went wrote it up as the first time anyone had done this and given them a bigger insight into it. I gave the artists a profile and explained the different ways that the paintings were done and it really made it much more explicable to the people — so some people do credit me for putting aboriginal art on the map in Australia."

The artists who Dorothy worked with have also hailed her as the only collector who didn't "quibble" about payment.

"I always paid cash, and everywhere I went they used to say I paid the



Photo: Courtesy of Dorothy Bennett

Taking note: Dorothy Bennett travelled widely in the 1950s and 1960s collecting information on and works by Aboriginal artists.

best money and didn't try to beat them down like some other collectors."

Eventually after buying and selling art for others for several years, Dorothy decided it was time she began a collection of her own. It was that collection, of nearly 200 pieces, that she sold at the cost price of \$87,000 in 1973 on the promise that it would be displayed in the National Museum in Canberra, which is only now under construction — 26 years later.

"Actually it was my son who said to me: 'You're doing all of this, and we won't have anything to look at when we leave, so why don't you make a collection for yourself?' and I did."

"I've always been glad that I did except I handed it over to the Institute of Aboriginal Studies on the promise that the Museum would be built within two years and it hasn't been. That was in 1973."

"It broke my heart to sell it but at the time I had nowhere to store it so I had to, but you know if I had held on to it

and sold it today I'd be a millionaire many times over because of the prices now. I still have collectors come to me and say: 'Look we'll pay \$50,000 for a piece if you've got any.' And I say: 'No I haven't got a thing left', so I then refer them to collectors who I know have pieces and they tell me: 'Oh thanks for the recommendation, they gave us \$55,000 for one piece'."

"It really saddens me but it'll be absolutely fabulous when it's finally on display in the Museum because it's a magnificent collection and you don't get art like it these days."

With construction of the National Museum expected to be completed in 2001, there is hope that Dorothy will finally get to see her work on display as she intended. In the meantime, she will spend her days at the North Australia Research Unit completing an autobiography in the same room where another great Australian, Nugget Coombs, did much of his work.

Study seeks better measure of quality of life for Aborigines

Health professionals and government agencies are closer to being able to obtain meaningful information on the quality of life of Aboriginal Australians, thanks to research by NARU PhD student Kate Senior.

Ms Senior has already completed a survey of self-assessed health in two urban Aboriginal communities in Darwin and is undertaking similar work using a more anthropological approach in the community of Ngukurr, in south-east Arnhem Land.

Although the research is specific to the communities Ms Senior is working with, she hopes that one day a general method can be developed that will provide more meaningful information about Aboriginal quality of life than what is currently available.

"The aim is to develop a valid measure to assess quality of life in the particular community of Ngukurr," Ms Senior said. "But I think the most significant thing that we'll gain from the research is an understanding of the issues that Aboriginal people think are important and also some sort of methodology for developing an instrument."

Ms Senior said health was a good example of how one issue could have differing relevance in two culturally different populations, and how important it was to ask questions that were relevant to people's lives.

"Usually when people assess their own health it's a fairly good indication of their health status but what we find with Aboriginal people is that they're saying their health is excellent but we have no idea on what basis they're actually saying that," Ms Senior said.

"For example a lady I spoke to in the Darwin survey who was very, very sick with diabetes, actually said her health was excellent. She even collapsed three times and I had to come back on three different days to finish the interview, but when I asked why she rated her health as excellent she said: 'Well firstly, for someone who has diabetes my health is excellent. Secondly, I'm 50 so my health is really

excellent for an old person, and thirdly, since I've been sick all of my daughters have come home to look after me and so my health really is excellent'."

Efforts had been made, Ms Senior said, to develop quality of life instruments that were applicable across communities and could be compared, but she said there was little point doing comparisons if valid information was not available in the first instance.

"For example, the World Health Organisation has developed a quality of life measure that was supposed to be cross-culturally valid but, while there's no doubt people in Ngukurr could answer it's questions, it just wasn't valid to their lives and it wasn't picking up the things they considered to be important," Ms Senior said.

"The trade off was that it became so general that it lost all of the things that people thought were most important."

Ms Senior's Darwin study revealed major differences between the issues that the Aboriginal communities nominated as important to quality of life and what non-Aboriginal communities surveyed in other studies found important.

The Aboriginal groups said family, including extended family, was of primary importance to quality of life, while non-indigenous groups nominated social life, recreation or health.

Culture and community rated second with the indigenous communities whilst family and health were next important to most white populations, and the third most important area of life for Aborigines was pride, self-esteem and sense of control as opposed to finances, family or health for non-Aborigines.

"These results add substantial weight to the argument that it is necessary to develop entirely new instruments when dealing with Aboriginal populations and that the loss of opportunity to compare across groups is compensated for by increased sensitivity and validity of the instrument," Ms Senior said.

TANIA CUTTING

Study looks at growth of Aboriginal pastoralism

By TANIA CUTTING

The proliferation of Aboriginal owned and operated cattle stations in northern Australia has prompted ANU anthropologist, Mr Richard Davis, to adopt a new approach in the study of indigenous pastoralism.

Mr Davis, a postdoctoral fellow at the North Australia Research Unit, said the research is unique because it is the first project to view contemporary Aboriginal pastoralism as a social practice in its own right and in terms of the Aboriginal life of which it is a part.

"Almost all existing research on Aboriginal pastoralism has fallen into two categories," Mr Davis said. "It was either policy related (How does government better spend its money in the support of Aboriginal stations?), or it was historical (What was life like in the old cattle industry?)."

The project, undertaken in conjunction with the Tropical Savannas Co-operative Research Centre at the Northern Territory University, is focusing on Aboriginal pastoralism in the Kimberley where 26 of 98 leases are Aboriginal-owned.

"Thirty years ago no leases were owned by Aborigines and 15 years

ago there were only half a dozen, so they've become a significant sector of the pastoral industry and will soon become the single largest operator group in the Kimberley with the numbers growing even further in the next five to 10 years," Mr Davis said.

"Yet most people know very little about Aboriginal pastoralism."

Mr Davis said that, because of the social and historical contexts of Aboriginal pastoralism, there are significant differences between the way non-indigenous and indigenous groups run cattle stations.

"Aborigines have had generations of experience with cattle but they've never managed cattle themselves," Mr Davis said.

"Aboriginal cowboys deal with cattle the same way as any other cowboy in Australia but, because they're Aboriginal, they also have a relationship to the land and to cattle that is really unique to them, and that affects what they do and how they do it."

The most obvious example of those differences is during muster, Mr Davis said. Aboriginal cowboys have to be mindful of the country when they are driving cattle, a con-



Photo: ATSIIC

Traditional methods: Aboriginal cowboys have a different view of land use.

cern not shared by non-indigenous pastoralists.

Aboriginal pastoral leases are also collectively owned, usually by groups

of traditional owners with strong links to the land. This contrasts with the non-indigenous single owner/operator situation.

"So they're concerned, as traditional landowners, in the health of the country in religious and symbolic terms. But they're also concerned about economic development and getting an economic return from the cattle that they run and somehow they have to balance all of that," Mr Davis said. "That doesn't happen on non-aboriginal stations, and managers on non-aboriginal stations don't have to report to a board of a dozen traditional owners. They might report to one person who is the owner or they may be the owner themselves."

Mr Davis said most people were not aware of the enormous contribution Aborigines had made to Australia's pastoral industry but he hoped research such as his would provide a greater insight into their role and relationship to the cattle business.

"In many regards there will never be enough recognition of the role Aboriginal people played in taming the frontier and in the cattle industry of the Kimberley or the Northern Territory or Queensland."

Lands rights legislation 'failing traditional owners'

By TANIA CUTTING

Aboriginal land rights legislation and the bureaucracy that has grown up around it have failed to deliver an essential aspect of self-determination, according to Jacqui Katona from the Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation.

Ms Katona, delivering the 1999 NARU-sponsored Dr H.C. (Nugget) Coombs North Australia Lecture in late September, said that, as Nugget Coombs had foreseen in 1976, land rights had become a fraud because Aboriginal communities had been prevented from developing their own contemporary economies.

"For the most part Aboriginal communities have been faced with the choice of either accepting white domination of their economy and inevitably their society and culture, or completely foregoing the economic wealth and power which accrues to most other substantial landowners in Australia," Ms Katona said.

Ms Katona, of the Mirrar tribe — the traditional owners of Kakadu — said the dominant white economy in the region, and associated promises of financial benefit for people other than the traditional owners, had created a social fragmentation that was destroying traditional methods for maintaining harmony and equality.

"It is this economic and jurisdictional dominance by a mining company that is the prime contributor to a disturbing decline in the practice of living tradition," Ms Katona said.

"The social problems associated with this decline — including alcoholism, community violence, chronic health problems, disinter-



Photo: Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation

Jacqui Katona leads a 1998 protest in Darwin against Jabiluka mine.

"While the NLC may disagree with many things the Mirrar say about the 1982 agreement, there is absolutely no doubt that the negotiations began in 1981 because the NLC convinced traditional owners that, unless they started talking to Pan Continental, the mining company would use its economic muscle to defeat the Alligator Rivers Stage Two Land Claim," Ms Katona said.

"Once more it was demonstrated that the forces of economic assimilation in the region were so powerful that the NLC was convinced that a land claim could not succeed without the support of the mining companies."

Ms Katona said Kakadu provided a unique lesson for all Aboriginal communities facing a decision on whether they should enter into social contracts with mining companies and governments.

"The bitter lessons experienced with Ranger and Jabiluka should lead to some basic minimum standards for development in order to avoid the worst aspects of economic assimilation," she said.

"The fact is that the traditional owners of the north Kakadu region own one of the most valuable pieces of real estate on this planet. Any notion that this cannot be converted into a viable Aboriginal economy runs contrary to the very economic theories that have been used to brow beat us in the past."

"We will resurrect a distinctive Aboriginal economy in Kakadu. It will be helped along with the reform to the Kakadu National Park Lease; the legal recognition of Mirrar ownership of Jabiru; and the gradual transfer of jurisdictional and economic power to the Aboriginal landowners."

est in education, structural poverty and collective despair and hopelessness — are mere symptoms of the economic assimilation."

However, Ms Katona pointed out that mining alone was not the only impact on the living tradition of the Mirrar people.

"The Mirrar argue that mining and its associated social, economic and political impacts are the single greatest impact and that an additional mine [at Jabiluka] will push the local Aboriginal culture past the point of cultural exhaustion to genocidal decay."

In her address Ms Katona was scathing of the Northern Land Council (NLC), blaming its acquiescence to white economic imperatives for kick-starting negotiations over the proposed Jabiluka mine site.

ANU DIARY

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David Meyers cordially invites you and your friends to

THE 1999 ANU POETS' LUNCH

Wednesday 8 December at 12.00pm for 12.30pm.
Common Room University House

This year's theme: "Afternoon-De-Light"

Sponsored by University House and Montrose Poet's Corner Wines

All selected poems will be published in a souvenir program (\$5) and recited after lunch. Tickets \$30 from ANU Ticketing telephone 6249 5491.

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\$10 for one parent and one child*
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Territory's statehood "in indigenous hands"

By TANIA CUTTING

North Australia Research Unit (NARU) Director, Dr Christine Fletcher, says Northern Territorians would vote yes to statehood if there was a referendum tomorrow, but the final outcome would depend on the Territory's indigenous population.

Dr Fletcher believes the Territory will ultimately embrace statehood but a lot of work needed to be done to ensure Aboriginal people were a visible part of the process.

"I think we can be a State but we can be a State that is different to the others," Dr Fletcher said.

"The footnote to all of the debates on statehood though, is what about the 26 per cent of the population which is Aboriginal? Where do they fit in?"

"Unless the Aborigines are driving the agenda in at least an equitable fashion, and you can convince them that they're going to have a foot in the door and at least some equity in the preamble and within the constitution itself — their own law recognised for example — then what have they got to gain?"

Dr Fletcher said it was an indictment of the Territory that, despite over a quarter of the population being Aboriginal, very little had been done to incorporate Aboriginal culture in any more than a tokenistic way.

"You see evidence of art and culture but it's not built into the architecture or the infrastructure in a cultural way. Everything has the European hallmark on it and there are no signs of a strategic framework for amplifying Aboriginal culture in mainstream society."

She also believes a change of government is paramount to advancing dialogue between Aboriginal representative bodies and the mainstream political bureaucracy.

"The tension between Land Councils and government here is palpable mainly because there hasn't been a change of government in 21 years," Dr Fletcher said.

"It has always been the same party so it's values are entrenched in the wider bureaucracy and the system at large. There's a lot wrong."

Relations with the indigenous population aside, Dr Fletcher says there are other problems that also need to be addressed before the Northern Territory becomes Australia's seventh state.

"The problem with statehood is that we've only had self-government here since 1978 and there are large gaps in the legislative framework. For example, until recently, although drunk-driving is illegal, drinking whilst driving was not — that is, you couldn't be drunk and drive but it was okay to drink and drive. Freedom of information legislation is also missing and all sorts of anomalies like that still exist.

"Basically, I think with the problems in the relations between the government and the Aboriginal population and also the inadequacies within the legal framework — the gaps and weaknesses such as the non-existence of freedom of information legislation — you would have to say that the people of the Northern Territory are mature enough for statehood, but the system is not."

Dr Fletcher said NARU had also played its own small role in the ongoing debate — running workshops on other issues relevant to statehood.

"We held a workshop called 'Budgeting for Statehood' and another called 'Federalism in the Northern Territory — Options for Fiscal Maturity' to flag NARU's interest in the need to address good government."

NARU and OECD study Asia's crisis capabilities

The North Australia Research Unit (NARU) has joined forces with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to see whether a select group of south-east Asian countries have the ability to provide basic services such as health care and clean water to their populations in times of crisis.

The project that began in March focuses on the governmental frameworks of Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

NARU Director, Dr Christine Fletcher, said the arrangement was a big coup for the small ANU research unit.

"It's nice to know that big organisations in Europe will, through networks, come to a little organisation like NARU and say: 'We hear that you're well networked in the region and there's some federalism expertise here,'" Dr Fletcher said.

"It's also heartening that the OECD is actually interested in this sort of social development, but I think that's mainly because OECD countries invest in the region and to continue that it needs to be a stable region."

To get some insight into the stability of the four selected countries, the project team looked at the social safety nets of each country. That is, how each government was structured to provide health and other basic fundamental services to people affected by the Asian financial crisis.

"We wanted to investigate whether, under the current governmental structures, people in these countries still had access to basic health, education, et cetera," Dr Fletcher said.

"Basically it all comes down to whether or not governments can govern properly. If they have inadequate administrative structures,

they'll always have problems. If you can't administer to the population generally, you're not going to be able to administer a particular program that you invent in a crisis."

The project was divided into three stages and the first two have been completed. Stage one focused on the production of four background briefing papers that evaluated the governmental organisation of each country. Stage two involved a workshop in Darwin in July that aimed to identify how systems or governments could improve the capacity to meet and support the needs of people in a diversity of regions. The third stage, a major workshop scheduled to be held in Jakarta last month but postponed — will examine federalism-type reform options to assist the selected governments to develop the capacity to deliver essential services in crises.

Along with NARU, the OECD project has also involved the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI), which will host the Jakarta workshop, and the South Australian Centre for Economic Studies (SACES). This follows a research agreement signed between the three educational institutions late last year.

"When NARU and SACES signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with LIPI in October last year, we intended developing a research profile with Indonesia in a way that would extend our regional perspective within the Australia Indonesia Development Area Agreement (AIDA)," Dr Fletcher said.

"It's our view that the OECD project will now strengthen the research links between the MoU and AIDA."

TANIA CUTTING

ANU dominates ARC's 2000 grants

The ANU received 31 new ARC Large Grants worth \$4.769 million over three years compared with 24 new grants in 1999 worth \$3.75 million over three years. The success rate was the highest of any university at 34.4 per cent compared to the average of 22 per cent. The ANU also received more ARC Large Grant funding in new grants per academic staff member than any other university with \$2,731 per full-time equivalent academic staff (\$2,170 for University of Sydney).

Fellowships: The ANU has won 14 fellowships in the 2000 round, down from the 16 in 1999 but the new fellowships include four senior research fellowships for The Faculties and University Centres out of the 15 awarded by the ARC. The ANU also received seven postdoctoral fellowships and three Queen Elizabeth II Fellowships. **Strategic Partnerships with Industry — Research and Training (SPIRT) Grants:** In the 2000 round the ANU has won 15 SPIRT grants for research collaboration with industry, totalling \$2,174,710 over three years. This includes 11 Australian Postgraduate Awards (Industry)

(APA(I)s) and two Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships (Industry) (APD(I)s). The University's success rate was 75 per cent compared to the national average of 44.9 per cent and it rated sixth in the funding received per academic staff.

Indigenous Researchers Development Scheme: The ANU has received a grant under the Indigenous Researchers Development Scheme. Dr Larissa Behrendt has received one of 15 such grants awarded by the ARC for the project *The Protection of Indigenous Rights in Australia and Canada: A Comparative Study*.

Small Grants: The ANU will receive \$1.314 million in ARC Small Grant funding in 2000 compared with \$1.313 million in 1999.

Research Infrastructure (Equipment and Facilities) (RIEF) Grants: The ANU will receive four RIEF Grants in 2000 in which it is the lead university totalling \$1.16 million. This compares with \$4.366 million in 1999, however, \$2 million of that was special funding for the Institute of Advanced Studies. In 2000 the ANU will also be a partner on a further six grants worth \$885 000.

Hot rocks project wins \$790,000 funding boost

By TERESA BELCHER

A team of ANU geologists working on the development of clean, renewable energy using heat trapped in underground rocks, has received a boost with the awarding of a \$790,000 joint grant with electricity company Pacific Power.

Geophysicist Dr Prame Chopra and geochemist Dr Doone Wyborn from the Department of Geology are part of the team working with Pacific Power to determine the potential for a geothermal power station in the Hunter Valley.

Their grant was part of more than \$6 million in Commonwealth funding awarded by the Greenhouse Office's Renewable Energy Commercialisation Program (RECP). Nine projects received grants following the Government's decision that 2 per cent of electricity would be generated from renewable resources by 2010.

Geothermal energy is produced when cold water is injected into a bore-hole in hot granite rocks and heats up as it percolates through tiny fissures. The water then returns as super-heated steam to the surface through a second borehole to produce electricity.

"Pacific Power has already completed the shallow drilling program of 14 holes up to nearly a kilometre deep to make temperature measurements," Dr Chopra said. "Now, with the Greenhouse Office funding, we can drill a hole to 2.2 kilometres to do further temperature measurements and also perform a seismic survey on the surface to tell us the composition and depth of the hot rocks."

At depths of about 3.5 kilometres researchers expect the temperature to be about 250°C — sufficient to build a small, trial, 10 megawatt power station that will supply about 10,000 people with electricity. It has been estimated that the resource in the Hunter Valley is enough to meet more than half of NSW energy needs for the next 30 years, and there are areas in central Australia that are very much larger.

"We think that the amount of energy locked up

in Australia's hot rocks is enough to supply the whole country's needs for at least 7000 years. So there is enormous potential," Dr Chopra said.

"The game plan is to develop a small power station in NSW and show that it is manageable over a period of time and generates power reliably. At that point we can think about doing further things, like increasing the power station up to 350 megawatt," Dr Chopra said.

The siting of the trial plant close to the national power grid in the Hunter Valley will minimise infrastructure costs. Power generated by the plant is expected to cost about eight cents per kilowatt hour to produce, compared to two to three cents for coal, 12–15 cents for wind and higher costs for solar power. Larger geothermal stations will produce power more cheaply.

"For geothermal, the cost will depend on the temperature of the resource, the costs of drilling and the reliability of the plant," Dr Chopra said.

The advantage of geothermal power over solar or wind power is that it is available 24 hours a day. "This system is available whenever you pump water down the hole, so it is a base-load power generation system," Dr Chopra said.

Although the project is now underway, negotiations had not been all plain sailing, Drs Chopra and Wyborn said. They have been working on the project for more than six years and, while suitable areas were identified at an early stage, securing commercial funding was difficult. One stumbling block to commercial interest was identifying the owner of the resource, as the mining of heat was not included in the NSW Mines Act. To solve this, state regulations were modified and the title was put out to competitive tender.

"I think it is an interesting story of how commercialisation of research is not straightforward," Dr Chopra said. "There are all these steps in the road that researchers don't know much about."

However, with the collaboration between the ANU, Pacific Power and other potential partners, the project has reached the pilot phase.

Economists secure lion's share

The ANU's Department of Economics has come out as the most successful department in the ANU Faculties, and the most successful of all economics departments across Australia, in terms of attracting competitive Commonwealth grants. Seven out of the 14 members of the department have been awarded Australia Research Council (ARC) funding, with all of this year's applications being successful.

In the recently announced 1999 funding round, the ARC awarded the department a total of five of the 21 Large Research Grants, one Senior Research Fellowship and one Strategic Partnerships with Industry grant, cementing its reputation as

the premier research department in the country.

"The competitive funding results are a tribute to the dedication of ANU's academic economists who have continued to devote great energy to high level research activity at a time when our teaching duties have been increasing and Faculty reorganisation and downsizing have seriously threatened morale," Head of the Department of Economics, Professor Steve Dowrick, said.

"The results are a tremendous boost which will enable us not only to carry out important research but also to expand our graduate teaching and PhD programs in economics."

Powerful images may induce daydreams

By JOHN REID*

This is an engaging and resourceful book. It contains an edited and annotated selection of 190 previously unpublished photographs taken by Polish ethnographer Bronislaw Malinowski (1884–1942) in Kiriwina, Trobriand Islands, in the period 1915–18. As such, it contributes significantly to scholarship in the disciplines of anthropology, ethnology and Pacific history by making more accessible an otherwise closeted resource. It also records responses to the folio from contemporary Trobrianders familiar with much of its subject matter.

For historians of the medium of photography itself, it is an important account of a pioneering application of the camera as a tool for social documentation. Malinowski's inclusion of photography in his functionalist fieldwork strategies of both "transparency" and "participatory observation" demonstrated convincingly the photograph's expanded usefulness in ethnography.

For readers of biography the book is permeated with characters. Malinowski of course looms largest (Young is Malinowski's official biographer) and there is considerable insight into his personality and his approach to both ethnography and photography through extracts from his diaries and field notes.

A picture of Malinowski's intellectual sensibilities and field demeanour is also shaped by contrast with some important colleagues. One of them, Stanislaw Witkiewicz, now recognised as an outstanding figure in the 20th-century Polish avant-garde, had a considerable influence on Malinowski's approach to photography. Malinowski's disciplined realism was pitched against the indulgence of Witkiewicz's artistic expressionism.

For the armchair time-traveller, the book offers an introductory tour of a Melanesian island undergoing rapid, but relatively peaceful, cultural transition at a time when much of Europe was entrenched in war.

If you fit none of the above categories of reader, pick up the book



One of the 190 photographs by Polish ethnographer Bronislaw Malinowski featured in the book. "The most striking objects of display ... are coconuts," Young writes. "Their presence in such great numbers is no less astonishing to present day Trobrianders."



Malinowski's Kiriwina Fieldwork Photography 1915-1918

Michael W. Young

The University of Chicago Press, USA, 1999. \$US40.

anyway. Young has produced a book of wide appeal. The folio is conveniently structured, mainly in accordance with Malinowski's own grouping of the visual material. It is a publication that should sit (as it did in my house) within reach of a comfortable chair. Individual plates and accompanying text make for bite-sized conceptual portions.

Be warned though, each one is potent enough for a daydream.

The introductory essay and chapter passages are eminently readable and before you know it you'll be searching for Malinowski's *The Sexual Life of Savages* and *Coral Gardens and Their Magic* in your local library for more pale-face accounts from "Topwegigila". How do

previously published photographic folios compare? This book is a tantalising invitation for further inquiry.

Michael Young is an anthropologist and Senior Fellow in the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies at the ANU. It was, however, in the Archive Room of the British Library of Political and Economic Science at the London School of Economics that Young did his work as a pictorial editor. There, Malinowski left a visual estate of 1,100 images — a "cumbersome" collection of glass plates, film negatives and prints.

Having published during his life time 270 different photographs in three major monographs (and a few elsewhere), Malinowski left the rest as fodder for a second order of visual

ethnographic research.

Young viewed each one of the residual 800 images. First of these to be dispatched back into archive boxes were the "considerably under- or over-exposed, hopelessly unfocused, or irreparably damaged". (Poor focus was Malinowski's besetting technical flaw).

After taking account of subject matter representative of the unpublished corpus, Young had 190 pictures at hand. These have been offset printed in black and white on acid free stock in a well-produced and designed document. It is a "visual ethnography of the Trobriands", Young writes about his book in the introduction, "presented with a reflexive eye on the historical and personal circumstances of Malinowski's legendary fieldwork".

A publication full of pictures worth viewing will lure back those who have cast eyes upon it. I have lived with this book for three months and have returned repeatedly to gaze at its pictorial contents. Pictures, which are also photographs, are in-

herently provocative by virtue of their special relationship with the forms of life that give rise to them. When those forms are mainly people there is much to muse about — bodies and their language and adornment, interpersonal relationships, group dynamics, local politics, cultural identity and the people's relationship with the space/place they occupy.

All this, punctuated in turn, with artefacts and produce. These pictures of Malinowski's are densely populated. At first glance with non-expert eyes (satiated by brilliant full-colour reproduction of visual detail generated by contemporary camera lenses in today's mass media), Malinowski's photographs seem technically feeble.

Young gently compensates for the possibility of this temporal affliction through his skill as editor and annotator. He draws in the viewer with his text to appreciate the narrative content of Malinowski's photographs.

His contextualisation is well pitched, offering salient benefits of his own scrutiny and knowledge. Yet there is room for everyone to don their pith helmet, engage with the photographs and play the visual ethnographer. And it is this very attribute that is testament to the documentary quality of Malinowski's photographic work. There is not a shred of visual sensationalism.

Accounts of Malinowski's ambivalent attitude towards photography will amuse all practitioners of the medium. One could imagine his irreverent appropriation of the last line of a children's ditty (recorded in a delightful section of the book titled "The Children's Republic") to alleviate the tension that accompanies the medium's high attrition rate especially under field conditions. It ends ... "O kweya! kweya! kweya!"

*John Reid is a visual artist and lecturer in the Photomedia Workshop, Canberra School of Art. He works in the media of photography, collage and performance. He also convenes the School's Field Studies Program which assists students to produce visual art based on field experience.

CSA Glass Workshop invited to join Taiwan exhibition

The Canberra School of Art Glass Workshop has been invited to exhibit at the Hsin Chu International Glass Festival in Taiwan next month.

The prestigious international glass exhibition and conference will

attract participants and visitors from around the world.

The Workshop's exhibit will include 20 works by staff, students and alumni.

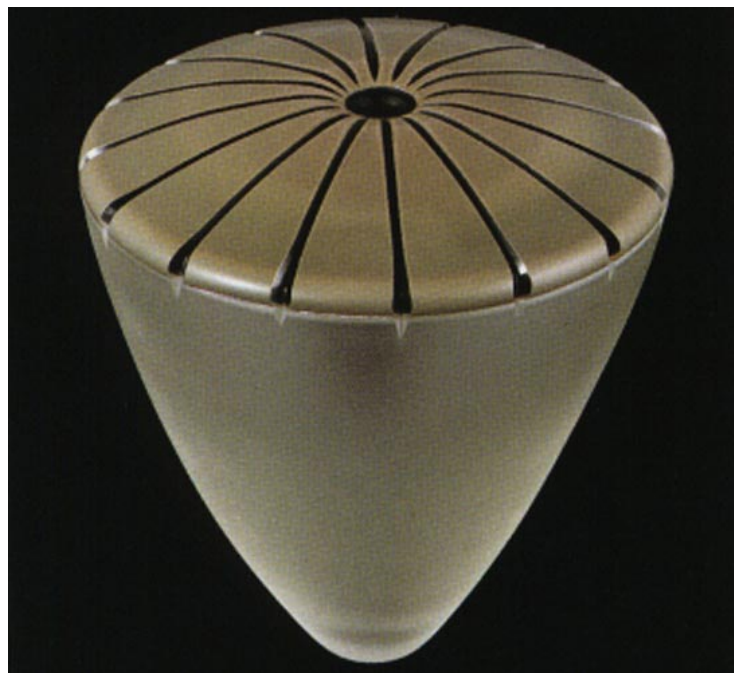
The pieces were selected from those shown at Venezia Aperto

Vetro at the start of the year and most recently at the Customs House Gallery in Sydney.

School of Art Director, Professor David Williams, and Glass Workshop head, Stephen Proctor, will travel with the exhibition and Mr Proctor will also give an address at the conference that runs from 18 December to 23 January.

Professor Williams said the invitation was a reflection, not only of the international reputation of the ANU's Institute of the Arts as a centre of excellence, but also of its continuing relationship with Taiwanese cultural and educational institutions.

"Following exhibitions in Osaka, Seattle and Venice, the Hsinchu International Glass Festival invitation confirms the international reputation of the ANU School of Art Glass Workshop and caps an outstanding year for the staff, students and alumni of the School," he said.



Lidded Vessel, 1998, blown glass, wheel cut, hand finished, 24x23x23cm

On show: One of the works chosen to go to Taiwan, Jane Bruce's Lidded Vessel.

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Little evidence for supernatural theories

By COLIN GROVES*

It is 1979. A man is driving his car at about 40km/h down a narrow, winding gravel road south of Hobart. Suddenly the driver's four-year-old daughter, sitting beside him, becomes agitated and cries: "Slow down, Daddy. Please slow down." As he does so, a car coming in the opposite direction cuts the blind corner in front of them and veers into a field.

Did the little girl have a premonition? Dr Ashton thinks so; he was that driver, and he tells the tale very early in *The Seventh Millennium*. It helps to set the scene for what he hopes will be an irrefutable argument for the real existence of precognition.

In the introduction and the early chapters of the book, Ashton recounts anecdote after anecdote to persuade us that windows into the future do sometimes open for us — in dreams, daydreams, visions, whatever. People foresaw the sinking of the *Titanic*, or the assassination of President Kennedy. Mothers had sudden visions that their children were in trouble, and found out that, yes, they were.

We've all had episodes of precognition, haven't we? Be honest. One morning we think of a friend whom we haven't seen for years and, that very afternoon, he telephones. Amazing, isn't it?

No, it's not in the least amazing. How many times do we think of that friend and he doesn't phone? Hundreds of times. How often do we have a dream that doesn't come true? We cannot tell, because dreams fade into permanent oblivion unless something occurs to remind us of them — or we write them down immediately on waking.

Many years ago I read a book called *An Experiment with Time*, whose author, J. W. Dunne, having persuaded people to keep notepads beside their beds and record their dreams, became convinced that they could predict the results of horse races. He concluded, in a phrase more famous than the book itself, that: "Time is the passing of a point of consciousness over a series of events that already exist."

Ashton seems unaware of Dunne's book, and as *The Seventh Millennium* progresses it becomes apparent that he has scant knowledge of the literature on the subject at all, except where it suits his thesis. On p.101 he tells us all about J. B. Rhine's early experiments in parapsychology, except that he omits any mention of the criticisms — that Rhine's experimental control seems to have been generally poor, and that in the 1930s alone at least six other teams tried to replicate his results, clocking up some half million trials between them, and failed (see Zusne and Jones's

The Seventh Millennium



John F. Ashton PhD
New Holland Press,
1998. \$16.95

[1982] *Anomalous Psychology*). And on p.102 he tells, all innocent, about how Targ and Puthoff successfully tested and validated a subject's extraordinary remote-viewing powers, and published a report on it in *Nature* in 1974.

What he does not tell is that the subject they tested was the famous Uri Geller, a magician who from time to time declares himself psychic; and that another magician, James Randi, in his 1982 book *The Truth about Uri Geller*, revealed how very easy it is for magicians to fool scientists. And so it goes on: the prophets of history, from Joseph through Joan of Arc to Jeane Dixon, are paraded for our inspection, all totally uncritically, presumably under the impression that each piece of "evidence" may of itself be lousy, but bucketloads of lousy evidence add up to Something Amazing. The author has a PhD in Chemistry, by the way.

Throughout the book we get little hints as to where all this is leading to. In Chapter 4 he summarily dismisses evolution and radiometric dating, therefore the Book of Genesis must be true, the world was created 6,000 years ago and we are approaching the Seventh Millennium. And what will happen therein is revealed in Chapter 6, and in the Book of Daniel.

Now, there is a view that the Book of Daniel might not be entirely historically accurate, but Dr Ashton rejects it, preferring to believe these writings — that describe how an otherwise unknown personage called Darius the Mede conquered Babylon from King (actually Regent) Belshazzar, and predicted there would be only three other great world (or does he mean Middle-Eastern) empires after the Babylonian — hold the key to the future of heaven, earth and humankind.

While the rest of us may vaguely recall the name of Cyrus the Great, and struggle to restore the Parthian, Sassanid, Caliphate, Seljuk, Ottoman, British and French Empires to their allotted place in the history of South-western Asia, Dr Ashton (like Daniel) dreams on about a world where you believe something not because the evidence supports it but because you desperately want it to be true.

*Colin Groves teaches in the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology in the Faculty of Arts and is a member of the Canberra group of the Australian Skeptics.

Paper awards at Drill Hall

A celebration of some of Australia's finest contemporary works of art on and with paper will be displayed at the ANU's Drill Hall Gallery until 19 December. *The Australian Paper Art Awards* is a biennial award and exhibition featuring works by established and emerging artists.

The Awards were conceived in 1995 to support, nurture and promote the use of paper in contemporary Australian art. The exhibition showcases the breadth of production of art that uses paper as a support, as well as providing

an outstanding display of contemporary art to a national audience.

For each biennial award, 12 artists are invited to participate. Invited artists for the 1999 exhibitions are Godwin Bradbeer, David Harley, Dorothy Herel, Martin King, Hertha Kluge-Pott, Peter Lyssiotis, Megan McPherson, Howard Taylor, Aida Tomescu, Guy Warren, Judy Watson and Sarah Winfrey. The 1999 awards are sponsored by Australian Paper and the national tour has been managed by the Victorian Arts Centre.

Timely warning for ANU's end of the year travellers

Australians are adventurous, the staff and students at the ANU perhaps even more so than average, according to Dr Alison McIntyre of the University Health Service.

"At the University Health Service, we see many people about to depart for overseas destinations.

"Unfortunately, it's often a case of: 'I'm flying to in (4) days time, what vaccines do I need?' This is far too late," she said.

Dr McIntyre said that, depending on the destination, it is wise to consult a doctor at least six weeks before departure, for advice on prevention and treatment of diarrhoea, medication to take with you, especially for malaria prevention, vaccination, travel insurance, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and accident prevention.

"Your doctor will need to know the destination, the purpose of your trip, the duration of stay, type of travel and accommodation, and the time of year, to assess the risks to your health.

"If you plan to travel or reside overseas for a long period of time, seeing the doctor six months before departure will allow time for completion of such vaccination schedules as Hepatitis A and B.

She said it has been estimated that, of the 2 million Australians travelling overseas each year, up to 50 per cent will suffer a travel-related illness while away or on return home. While some of these are trivial, some are potentially very serious, e.g. malaria.

"The most common illnesses suffered are diarrhoea, respiratory infections, dengue fever, Hepatitis A, malaria and STDs.

"The most common injuries are sprained ankles and those suffered in bicycle, moped or car crashes," Dr

McIntyre said.

She said it is recommended that travellers take a bike helmet with them if they are planning to use a bike, especially in Southeast Asia, where helmets are not readily available.

Dr McIntyre said airlines have a list of possible reasons not to fly. These include:

- Severe heart or lung disease
- A myocardial infarction (heart attack) within six weeks of departure
- Acute infections
- Acute psychiatric illness
- Pregnancy of 36 weeks or more
- Middle ear infections.

"It must be at least two weeks after surgery, root canal therapy and invasive procedures such as treatment of a collapsed lung and myelograms, to allow trapped gases in body cavities to disperse," Dr McIntyre said.

"Consequently, the doctor will need to know your past medical and surgical history, especially a history of ear problems, hepatitis, allergies, as well as any current medications and in young females, pregnancy or likelihood of pregnancy."

Awards given at RSPHysSE

By TERESA BELCHER

Last month the Research School of Physical Sciences and Engineering (RSPHysSE) celebrated "Founder's Day", in honour of Sir Mark Oliphant who turned 98.

The day event included technical displays, and brief lectures highlighting research in the school. RSPHysSE Director Professor Erich Weigold presented inaugural prizes to two outstanding PhD students. The Director's Award, for a student who is author

Vaccinations for tetanus, polio, influenza, hepatitis A and B, typhoid, meningitis, measles, mumps and rubella are available through the University Health Service and other GP surgeries, while vaccines for rabies, yellow fever and Japanese encephalitis are available at special clinics in the ACT.

Anti-malarial drugs for prevention and treatment are available, as is a malaria detection test kit for travellers to remote areas. No drug is 100 per cent guaranteed to prevent malaria.

Antibiotics, anti-diarrhoeals, oral rehydration treatments and anti-motion sickness tablets may be useful in a first aid kit, especially if travelling to remote areas.

"It is important to avoid mosquito bites, using repellants and mosquito nets and clothes impregnated with permethrin. Malaria, dengue fever and Japanese encephalitis are all mosquito born," Dr McIntyre said.

"Finally, if you are ill on your return, especially if you have been to a malarial area, it is important to seek medical help promptly."

(or joint author) of a research paper seen as making a substantial and original contribution to scholarship in physics, was presented to Marcus Kohonen from the Department of Applied Mathematics. The Inaugural Jagadishwar Mahanty Prize, comprising a medal made in the school's mechanical workshop, went to the author of the best thesis submitted between 1 September 1997 and 31 August 1999. It was awarded to Dr Elena Ostrovskaya from the Optical Sciences Centre.

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Stromlo observatory celebrates 75th anniversary

By DON FAULKNER*

Canberra has been home to an observatory for all of its history. Within nine months of the proclamation of the Federal Capital Territory on 1 January 1911, astronomers from Melbourne had installed the 9-inch Oddie Refractor on the summit of Stromlo to site-test the mountain. World War I intervened, but the campaign to create a national observatory was renewed when it ended with Walter Geoffrey Duffield as the chief driving force.

The Commonwealth Government gave final approval in 1923, and Duffield was appointed as the foundation Director of the new Commonwealth Solar Observatory on 1 January 1924. Thus 1999 marks the 75th anniversary of Stromlo's founding.

To celebrate, the Observatory held a gala dinner last Friday at its original temporary home — the Hyatt Hotel Canberra. Astronomers spent two years working in one of the pavilions there while waiting for the original Stromlo buildings to be completed.

Among the guests at the dinner was the daughter of the founding Director, Miss Joan Duffield, who marked the occasion with a major gift to the University for the endowment of a Duffield Chair of Astronomy.

Much has happened at Stromlo in the last 75 years. In 1957 the Observatory became part of the youthful ANU; it now enjoys full Research School status. In the 1960s an entirely new site was opened up at Siding Spring; this has developed into one of the world's leading international astronomical centres — home to the 3.9-m Anglo-Australian Telescope, and several other major instruments.

Most important of all, of course, has been the scientific output of the Observatory — achievements such as:

- the initial solar research, including the monumental Stromlo compilation of some 2700 Fraunhofer line strengths, yielding information on the chemical composition of the Sun;
- unravelling of the nature of the million-degree solar corona;
- early extragalactic research which established the Magellanic Cloud cepheid variable stars as a fundamental stepping stone in setting up a distance scale for the Universe;
- the discovery of the Local Supercluster, an enormous grouping of galaxies some hundred million light years in size;
- 1959 observations of the gaseous nebula 30 Doradus with the 74-inch Telescope, which yielded the first information on the chemical



Small beginnings: The completed 9-inch Oddie Refractor on the Mt Stromlo site in 1911.

make-up of anything beyond our Milky Way;

- the stellar astrophysics of the mid-century decades, which made such notable strides towards an understanding of the chemical evolution going on within our Galaxy;

- dynamical studies, which have shown how important a part mergers between galaxies play in their life histories, and how a large fraction of the mass of the Universe is invisible;
- the famous MACHO Project,

which detected the first recorded gravitational microlensing event, and which has shown that some, at least, of the 'missing mass' in the Universe consists of very faint, low-mass stars; and

- recent work using the foremost astronomical facilities in the world, including the Hubble Space Telescope, to build up a comprehensive picture of the structure and distance scale of the Universe as a whole.

Director Professor Jeremy Mould

says, "In 1999, our original home on Mount Stromlo continues as a world-class observing site, and as the headquarters of our operations, including our internationally renowned Graduate Program. We are extremely proud of all that has been achieved here during the past 75 years, and we look forward to even more illustrious accomplishments in the next."

*Don Faulkner is Professor at the Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics.

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

Australia-Malaysia Conference

This will address the theme *Malaysia after the Financial Crisis: Economic, Social and Political Implications*, and will involve papers by twelve distinguished Malaysian and Australian scholars, business persons, and political and other analysts.

Speakers include Dr Tan Tat Wai, the chief executive of Southern Steel in Penang, who will address the consequences of the Crisis for business, and Dr Datuk Rais Yatim. Datuk Rais was Malaysian foreign minister before the split in the United Malay National Organization, and will discuss civil liberties in Malaysia.

The format will be relaxed, with ample time for audience interaction

with speakers.

The Conference was to be held on Wednesday, 24 and Thursday 25 November, with a workshop on Friday 26 November, in the Faculty of Asian Studies where students and other persons researching Malaysia can explain their studies. However, following last week's election announcement in Malaysia, the conference has been delayed until May 24 and 25 2000. There will also be screenings of Malaysian films in the Coombs Theatre (the famous feature film *Layar Lara* [Lara's Sail] and some fascinating documentaries), a display of photos of Sarawak in the Menzies Library (taken by the brilliant Australian photographer, Hedda

Morrison), and demonstrations of Malaysian cooking. On Wednesday evening there will be a Conference Dinner in the Great Hall of University House, accompanied by performances of Malaysian traditional dancing.

The program promises to be interesting and informative, giving fresh and valuable insights into our near-neighbour Malaysia as it enters the 21st century. Further information is available from Helga McPhie of the ANU Centre for Continuing Education (Tel 6249 2888 Fax 6279 8066 email <helga.mcphie@anu.edu.au>, and from the web at <http://www.anu.edu.au/CCE>).

COLIN BARLOW

APSEM hosts China-US forums

In the first week of November, the Asia Pacific School of Economics and Management (APSEM) held two conferences on China: The 1999 China Update, "China after the East Asian Crisis" and a policy forum on "US-China Relations: Fulcrum of Asia Pacific Security and Economic Development".

The 1999 China Update, run by the China Economy and Business Program in APSEM included opening remarks by APSEM, Director Professor Ross Garnaut and presentations by ANU and Chinese academics.

Topics covered included: "The challenge of deflation: policy choices"; "Financial reforms amidst East Asian crisis"; "Rising unemployment and the need for social security"; "Sustainability of China's economic growth in 1999 and beyond"; "The private sector: the new centre of gravity of growth";

"China's accession to the WTO and implications for trade"; "China's securities markets through the East Asian crisis"; "Equity investment in China: past experience and prospects" and "Sino-American relations and implications for economic reform".

The "US-China Relations: Fulcrum of Asia Pacific Security and Economic Development" conference was introduced by Prof Garnaut with an address on "What is at Stake? Power Shifts Created by a Rapidly Growing, Large Economy".

Former Chinese Ambassador to the USA and Member of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress Mr Li Daoyu, spoke on China-US Relations.

Dr Bates Gill, Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy Studies, and Director of the Center for Northeast Asian Policy Studies, Brookings

Institution, discussed "China-US Relations: Trends in the Policy Environment in the USA".

Other topics and speakers included:

"China's Ambitions for Advanced Technologies and Likely Outcomes" by Professor Denis Fred Simon, Director, China Strategy Group, Andersen Consulting, San Francisco;

"Regional Economic Integration and China's Strategic Choices" by Professor Peter Drysdale, Director, Australia-Japan Research Centre, APSEM;

"Domestic Politics in China of Relations with the USA" by Dr Greg Austin, Co-Chair International Policy Forum, ANU; and a concluding discussion: "Tensions in China-US Relations: Challenges for Policy of Small Powers" convened by Professor Stuart Harris, Convenor, Northeast Asia Program and Co-Chair, International Policy Forum.

Asian teaching update



Photo: Darren Boyd, Coombs Photography

Last month the ACT Education Department conducted a one-day seminar for about 50 ACT Teachers of Studies in Society and the Environment (SOSE) in the Common Room of University House. The morning session featured distinguished scholars from the Faculty of Asian Studies, who delivered three country updates to provide a context for the afternoon session. It was introduced by Dr Tony Diller, Deputy Dean of Asian Studies and Reader in the Centre for Thai Studies (pictured above) and followed by country updates delivered by Professor Bill Jenner (Head China/Korea Centre); Dr Tomoko Akami (Asian History Centre) and Mr Amrih Widodo (Southeast Asian Centre).

Minister opens population forum

The Hon. Philip Ruddock, Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, last month opened a two-day seminar "The Transformation of Australia's Population — 1970–2030". The seminar on Thursday 14 and Friday 15 October was conducted by the Demography Program in the Research School of Social Sciences.

Papers addressed changes in different aspects of the Australian population over the past 30 years and looked forward to the coming 30 years.

Papers included: "The Indigenous Population"; "Fertility Trends"; "Mortality Trends"; "Immigration"; "Internal Migration"; "Population Distribution"; "Family"; "Ethnicity"; "Labour Force" and "Ageing".

Leading United States demographer, Prof Philip Morgan of Duke University, discussed similarities and differences in trends in the United States and Australia.

Prof Geoffrey McNicoll provided a synthesis.

Major reforms needed before another vote

The status quo has again exercised its vice-like grip on the Constitution. The last eight proposals for change in referendums during 1984, 1988 and 1999 have all been lost. To find a successful "Yes" vote, we need to go back to 1977, when Australians voted, amongst other things, to require High Court judges to retire at the age of 70.

The decisive factor in this referendum was John Howard's advocacy for a "No" vote. This referendum shows yet again that a successful "Yes" vote must have bi-partisan support, not to mention the active encouragement of the Prime Minister. Indeed, it was surprising that the "Yes" vote reached as high as it did given the obstacles in its way, and given that the four proposals voted on in 1988 gained a "Yes" vote ranging from 30-37%.

Australians emphatically rejected this model for a republic. However, the result on a republic in general is ambiguous. Over the campaign, the debate shifted from whether Australia should be a republic or monarchy to what sort of republic we should become. The monarchy has drifted to last position on people's list of preferred models.

The result then did not amount to

In the wake of the resounding "No" vote in the 6 November republic referendum, barrister and ANU senior lecturer in constitutional law, **George Williams**, argues a new approach is needed.

a vote of confidence in the current system. Indeed, it suggests the opposite. Australians did not want this republic, but are strongly in favour of some form of republic in the future. The question now is just how distant that future is likely to be.

In the wake of the referendum, we should be taking a step back to analyse the process for change and whether the focus on the republic has obscured the need for reform in other areas.

The two most effective arguments of the "No" case were "Don't vote for a politician's republic" and "Don't know? - vote No". The success of both strongly points to flaws in our current system.

The strength of these arguments suggest that Australians are not sufficiently engaged in the political process, and indeed are alienated from it, and that as a community we lack necessary knowledge about how the system works. The debate has exposed a lack of confidence in Australian democracy, as well as a need for change in our education system.

The pattern of failed referendums



over the last 20 years shows that a new approach is needed. Australians are not likely to support any significant change to the Constitution while they lack the knowledge to assess the effect of the proposal, and when they fear that the change would transfer power to the hands of their elected representatives.

More groundwork must be undertaken before Australians are again asked to vote for constitutional reform. Plebiscites, or some other form of non-binding vote, might work well. However, this would need to be carefully managed so that it does not lead

to constitutional deadlock with support evenly split between competing models.

The challenge here will be to construct a model that allows a more direct say for the Australian people, while also improving upon the safety of the defeated model, such as by codifying the powers of the President or altering the dismissal mechanism.

Reform other than by changing the Constitution itself should also be considered. For example, it would be possible to alter the method of appointment of the Governor-General, or the Governors of each State, to test new methods of selection. This might include a popular vote or a body of community representatives that would choose between candidates.

Another possibility would be for a State to go it alone and sever its links with the Crown. For example, this could be achieved in Victoria, which voted "Yes" to this referendum, by an Act of its Parliament rather than a second vote of its people.

The wider problems in our politi-

cal system exposed by this debate show that we have focussed too narrowly upon reform of our symbols and Head of State. In *A Bill of Rights for Australia* (published by the University of NSW Press), I propose rebuilding the connection between Australians and government through a Bill of Rights enacted by Parliament. This recently occurred in the United Kingdom, leaving Australia alone among like nations in not having determined the fundamental rights and responsibilities of its citizens.

This would engage the community in a reform process without the need for a referendum. It would produce a document that set out the place of Australians within the political system, without transferring the power to solve our pressing social, moral and political concerns from the Parliament to the courts.

If we are to become a republic in the longer term, we should not lose sight of the imperative for reform in other areas. Indeed, a republic will be of little value unless it takes root within a system of government, known to and understood by the people, that fosters their participation.

This article first appeared in The Australian on 9 November 1999.

ANU Reporter

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FOR SALE

ROLLERBLADES: SPIN size 39/40 (Europe), women's blades, fast, top bearings, metallic purple/black, worn only handful of times, lace-up boots each with one buckle fastener, cost \$340, sell \$180/ano; Contact Tania on email <reporter@anu.edu.au> or 6249 2106 work.

WEDDING DRESS: Bodice, ivory/gold/rose brocade, worth \$600 new, \$200; Contact Alison on email <Alison.Todd@defcen.gov.au> on 6265 0414 work or 6253 8772 home.

BABY ITEMS: Change table and bath, \$50, pram/stroller in excellent condition, \$75 ono; Contact Jackie Blake on 6249 0099 work.

DOG KENNEL: Small, brand new, \$60; Contact 6286 5077 home.

FREE ROCKS: Collect anytime, 8 Yumba Ave Nggunawal (off Wanganeen Ave); Contact Anthony on email <Anthony.Bettanin@anu.edu.au> or 6270 3206 work or 6253 8772 home.

BEDSIDE TABLE: Pine Sidetable, \$20; Contact Charlene Lobo on email <CJL109@rsphysse.anu.edu.au> or 6249 0374 work or 6247 3647 home.

BED: QS waterbed, soft-sided, \$350; Contact Margaret Makara on 62981390 home.

BED: Single, pine with slates, excellent condition, \$65; Contact Kim Hocking on 6249 5929 work or 6282 8939 home.

BED: Freedom single & mattress, 1 year old, \$180; Contact Alex Peachey on 6279 8426 work or 6257 9980 home.

BEDS: 2 single and pine student desk, all vgc., \$65, \$40 & \$50; Contact Grazyna Sienko on 6279 8368 work.

LOUNGE SUITE: 5 seat oatmeal and rimu vgc, \$500; Contact Valerie Clifford on 6201 2253 work or 6258 7874 home.

LOUNGE: Brown leather with two matching arm chairs good cond., \$350ono; Contact Jim on 6280 0111 work or 6262 9740 home.

BED & CHAIRS: Sofa bed plus 2 armchairs, good condition, \$300, negotiable; Contact Charlene Lobo on email <CJL109@rsphysse.anu.edu.au> or 6249 0374 work or 6247 3647 home.

FURNITURE EXCHANGE: Large fridge plus sofa, in good order, in exchange for computer that can still do word processing for my assignments; Contact Sue Doyle on 6230 0047 home.

BOOKCASE: 7 x 3 Oregon beautiful piece of furniture, \$1,000; Contact Valerie Clifford on

6201 2253 work or 6258 7874 home.

BOOKCASE: 6 x 4 ft colonial pine baltic excellent condition, \$400; Contact Valerie Clifford on 6201 2253 work or 6258 7874 home.

FURNITURE: Wood-stained chest of drawers plus matching bookshelf, \$250 (\$90 bookshelf, \$160 chest of drawers if sold separately); Contact Charlene Lobo on email <CJL109@rsphysse.anu.edu.au> or 6249 0374 work or 6247 3647 home.

TALLBOY: 5 drawer pine new, \$160; Contact Valerie Clifford on 6201 2253 work or 6258 7874 home.

DESK: Large, Mahogany woodstained desk, 6 drawers, \$60; Contact Charlene Lobo on email <CJL109@rsphysse.anu.edu.au> or 6249 0374 work or 6247 3647 home.

WOOD DESK: Solid student desk with four draws, \$40; Contact Adrian Lynch on email <fangit@hotmail.com> or 6267 4188 home.

BAR FRIDGE: Westinghouse, almost new, 1 year old, \$190; Contact Alex Peachey on 6279 8426 work or 6257 9980 home.

FREEZER: Small cabinet freezer, vgc \$250; Contact Valerie Clifford on 6201 2253 work or 6258 7874 home.

BAR FREEZER: Westinghouse, excel cond., \$200; Contact Damien Bright on 6249 3408 work or 6247 5737 home.

FRIDGE/FREEZER: 5L frost-free, 5 years old vgc \$600; Contact Valerie Clifford on 6201 2253 work or 6258 7874 home.

WASHING MACHINE: Simpson Riviera Washing Machine, \$200; Contact Charlene Lobo on 6249 0374 work or 6247 3647 home.

MICROWAVE: Sanyo, excellent cond., \$100; Contact Damien Bright on 6249 3408 work or 6247 5737 home.

POT BELLY STOVE: Masport pot-belly stove, vgc, with flue, \$200; Contact Sanderson on 6249 2786 work or 6282 2676 home.

STEREO: Panasonic SC-CH55, midi tower CD, tuner, 2x tape, \$100; Contact Michael Hartmann on 6249 3771 work or 6257 2717 home.

STEREO: Radio-cassette player, good cond., \$20; Contact 6286 5077 home.

MOBILE PHONE: Nokia incl adaptor, \$20; Contact Ivan on 6121 6720 work or 6295 3215 home.

TELEVISION: ONWA stereo, remote control, incl. warranty, \$200; Contact Michael Hartmann on 6249 3771 work or 6257 2717 home.

CAMERA: 35mm, similar to Olympus Trip, ex cond., \$20; Contact Ivan on 6121 6720 work or 6295 3215 home.

MONITOR: NEC MultiSync 2A 13" B&W monitor with 15 pin cable, \$20 ono; Contact Anthony on email <Anthony.Bettanin@anu.edu.au> or 6270 3206 work or 6253 8772 home.

GRAPHICS TABLET: GeniusGT-1212A with cable & AutoCAD templates, \$40 ono; Contact Anthony on email <Anthony.Bettanin@anu.edu.au> or 6270 3206 work or 6253 8772 home.

COMPUTER: Mac Performa 5260/120, 64MB RAM 1.6 GB, CD-Rom drive & modem with Colour Style Writer 1500 printer, \$950; Contact John Banks on 6249 3632 work.

COMPUTER: Mac PB5300 16/750, ethernet card, ext modem, carry case, \$900 and a 6200/75 Mac

with display, modem, ethernet card and software \$500; Contact Sam Hill on 6263 2934 work or 6262 8820 home.

ELECTRIC LAWNMOWER: Stealth, \$150; Contact Margaret Makara on 6298 1390 home.

BIKE: Repco Easyrider Hybrid 21 Speed incl. locks, \$250; Contact Michael Hartmann on 6249 3771 work or 6257 2717 home.

BIKE: Girls10-14years, 10 gears, gd cond., \$50; Contact Mia Millbacher on 6249 4392 work or 6282 1770 home.

BARINA: 1994 Swing 5dr hatch, 50,000km.p/s, ex/cond, \$8,900; contact Maureen on 6205 1753 work or 0413 906 225 mobile.

FORD FALCON: XE Falcon Wagon, six seat, automatic, good condition, \$2,200; Contact Martin on 0407 487 588 mobile.

FORD LASER: 1985, 4 door sedan, 6mths rego, fair con., \$2,400; Contact Lorraine Arnaudon on 6241 2152 home.

HOLDEN JACKAROO: 4WD 1982, reconditioned engine, aircon., very good tyres, \$4,900; Contact Peter Clayton on 6201 5431 work.

MAZDA 323: Station Wagon, rego to 6/2000, runs well, good tyres, \$900; Contact Mary Bomford on 6272 4263 work or 6258 5323 home.

MAZDA ASTINA: New model (Sept. '99), 6,500km, a/c, p/s, auto, 6-stack CD player, must sell due to relocation, \$24,500ono; Contact Max Tani on email <mtani@coombs.anu.edu.au> or 6249 4146 work or (02) 9328 0042 home.

MITSUBISHI MIRAGE: 1998, many extras, mmo equipped, sony sound system, \$14,500; Contact Brett Gorman on 0412 399 569 mobile.

MITSUBISHI SIGMA: 1981 4-speed manual, good condition, runs well. Must sell! \$1,500 ono; Contact Mel Wee on 6249 2529 work or 6267 4809 home.

MOTORBIKE: 1955 Model AJS 500cc for restoration. 95% complete, many new parts including piston valves big end etc., engine and gearbox completed. Best offer. Contact Glenn Large on email <glenn.large@anu.edu.au> or 6249 0684 work.

NISSAN PULSAR: 1984, vgc, A/C, stereo cassette player, \$2,500ono; contact David Cooper on 6249 4415 work or 6247 0419 home

NOTICES

ACADEMIC GOING OVERSEAS LOTS OF ITEMS FOR SALE; Contact Valerie Clifford on 6201 2253 work or 6258 7874 home.

TUTOR WANTED: For more information, contact Chris Boyapati on 6266 2300 work or 6230 5663 home.

WANTED TO BUY

EXERCISE BIKE: In good condition; Contact Judy on 6258 1670 home.

LAWN MOWERS WANTED: All types and all conditions; Contact email <cookproperty@anu.edu.au>.

BBQ: Pref. gas, good cond and cheap; Contact Steve Wornell on email <swornell@yahoo.com>.

TO LET

MACQUARIE: One Bedroom, partly furnished,

roomy flat. Flexible lease. Available now. \$125/wk includes electricity. Contact Vince Craig on email <Vince.Craig@anu.edu.au> or 6249 3359 work or 6251 8424 home.

NARRABUNDAH: Dec '99-Jul '00, fully furnished, large modern home, 5 bedrm, 3 bthrm, \$450/wk; Contact Collette Barton-Ross on email <Baross@webone.com.au> or 6274 1939 (Mon-Wed) work or 6295 1208 home.

AINSLIE: Two people to share large 3BR house, bills and meals with male, \$93/wk each; Contact Simon on 6276 6472 work or 6248 2972 home.

THEODORE: 3BR freestanding townhouse, lockup garage, quiet area, short lease available, \$140/wk; Contact John on 6279 9776 work or 6291 5557 home.

DOWNER: Sunny, large 3 br home, gas htg (AGL credit), LUG, moving interstate, \$185/wk; Contact Jane Stratton/James Painter on 6257 9776 home.

O'CONNOR: Furnished 3 bedroom townhouse available from January 2000, \$270/wk. Contact Andrew Johnson on 1800 815257 work or 0419 244 556 home.

WANTED TO LET

O'CONNOR/LYNEHAM: 1-2 bedroom flat for responsible grad law student, excellent references, \$90-\$125/wk; Contact Bronwyn on 6247 6638 home.

CLOSE TO ANU: Academic couple with 9 and 12 year old boys visiting ANU Jan 2000-Jan 2001, rent negotiable/wk; Contact Joseph Carens on email <jcarens@chass.utoronto.ca> or +1-416-516-4224 home.

INNER CANBERRA: Visiting academic couple seeks a house or flat for April-June, 2000, rent/wk negot.; Contact Benjamin Penny on 6249 5527 work or 6249 8895 home.

TURNER/O'CONNOR/BRADDON: 2/3 bedroom house/apartment Nov 99 to July 2000, up to \$240/wk; Contact Alex Krumm-Heller on email <kruachon@mehta.anu.edu.au> or 6279 9665 work or 6279 4551 home.

TUGGERANONG: 3 bedroom with garage, \$180 - \$200/wk; Contact Susie Otto on 6279 8720 work or 6294 0896 home.

HOLIDAY RENTALS

AVOCA BEACH: Modern 2 bdr unit, 30 seconds from surf, sleeps 4-6; Contact Tony Adams on 6249 5616 work or 6288 5065 home.

MOSSY POINT: 3br house, excellent position, close to beach, sleeps 6, fully equipped, \$50 /day. Contact Ben Jenkins on 6249 5596 work or 6285 0176 home.

LONG BEACH: Holiday house, easy access to beach, sleeps 6, \$250-\$400/wk - seasonal; Contact Gillian Malbon on 6288 4998 work or 6249 4617 home.

MALUA BAY: 2 Bedrooms, 5 minutes from beach and shops, \$450/wk. Contact John on 6241 9971 home.

MORUYA HEADS: Townhouse, private bushy outlook, short walk to lovely beaches, sleeps 6, \$200-\$400 /wk seasonal. Contact L and I Keen on 6249 3662 work or 6248 0015 home.

BROULEE HEADLANDS: Studio + two bedrooms, 2 baths, Sleeps 8. Bush and garden setting, secluded. Contact Kate Jacobs on 6943

2551.

BROULEE: 2 or 3 bedroom, 200m from beach, prices vary. Contact John Frezza on 6279 9809 work or 6286 4580 home.

SURF BEACH: Unit 11 Breakaway Lodge, right on beach, great views. Contact Wendy and Dave on 6249 4460 work or (02) 4471 3522 home.

BAWLEY POINT: Holiday cottage, secluded bush setting, short walk to beach. Contact Pat Walker on 6251 3136 home.

BEACH COTTAGE: Rosedale, NSW, with sea views, native bush, verandah, 2 BR, SC, sleeps 4, non-smokers only. Contact Roma Fisher on 6295 9067.

MYSTERY BAY: Narooma/Tilba region, 2-storey house, close to beach, beside National Park, 3br/2 bath, Dec-Jan, \$550/wk, other times \$375/wk. Contact 6251 1467.

SERVICES (THIS SECTION IS FOR ANU COMMUNITY ADS ONLY)

MATHS/PHYSICS TUITION: PhD student available to tutor maths and physics individually or in a group; Contact Lynn Bloomfield on email <Lynn.Bloomfield@anu.edu.au> or 6247 5737 work.

SPANISH PRIVATE TUTOR: Individual tutoring and conversation classes with a native Spanish speaker. Rates negotiable. Contact Ana Luz Galvez on 6279 9070 work or email <algalvez@hotmail.com>.

SPANISH CONVERSATION GROUP: All levels welcome, meets Tuesdays 5:30-7pm, univ. house cellar Bistro; Contact Maribelle Young on email <Maribelle.Young@anu.edu.au> or 6295 1710.

ENGLISH TUITION: Conversation sessions especially for people with Vietnamese as their first language; Contact James on email <james.gordon@anu.edu.au>.

TOASTMASTERS: For better listening, thinking and speaking and if you are worried about public speaking come along and learn in a friendly environment; Contact <http://www.anu.edu.au/tm2>.

EDITING/WRITING/RESEARCH: Well qualified/widely experienced; Contact Geri Bryant-Badham on email <vetaa@ozemail.com.au> or 6288 1888.

EDITING AND THESIS ASSISTANCE: Editing, proofreading, formatting by professional, qualified editor, student rates; Contact Helen Saunders on 6267 4971 work.

COPYWRITING/PROOFREADING/EDITING: Contact Lisa Curtin on email <lisac@teknet.net.au> or 0408 650 765 mobile.

EDITING/PROOFREADING: DTP, computer work, thesis assistance, a wide range of computer based service; Contact A&T Mettenmeyer on 6299 5547 work or <atm@netspeed.com.au>.

EDITING: For more information, contact Narelle Radford on 6453 7209 or 018 485 664 mobile.

CONTEMPORARY ACTOR TRAINING: Adult workshops and individual coaching. Enhance creativity, career, charisma through intuition. Spolin techniques; comedy improvisation; acting basics; Contact Margaret Forster on 6248 7280 work.

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