Research at UWA into transient ocean rips could help prevent some of the deaths that occur every summer off Australian beaches.

The coast claims about 50 lives each year but, as PhD student David Johnson and his supervisor, Professor Chari Pattiaratchi, from the School of Water Research say, it is not the rips themselves that are particularly dangerous; it is people’s ignorance of them and the panic that sets in when they find themselves caught in one.

“Surf lifesavers know where the permanent recurring rips are and will set their flags to prevent swimmers being caught in them. They do a great job,” said David. “But the transient or flash rips are the ones that occur without warning and in random locations, often developing too quickly for lifesavers to be able to warn swimmers to keep away. And, of course, they can also occur at unpatrolled beaches.”

Professor Pattiaratchi said the existence of flash rips had been questioned until he and David proved their existence and how and where they occurred.

“People used to talk about being dragged out to sea by an ‘undertow’, but what they were really experiencing was a flash rip. A real undertow would not be strong enough to carry anybody out to sea or be a factor in their drowning,” Professor Pattiaratchi said.

“It is difficult to apply directly what we’ve learnt,” said David, who is a windsurfer and worked in the yachting business before studying oceanography. “But if we can alert people, through lifesavers and public education that these rips do exist, and let them know in what conditions they are likely to occur, perhaps swimmers can be more aware and keep themselves safe.”

He said that flash rips typically occurred when there was a swell on a flat beach, “in other words, typical Perth beach conditions.” Discontinuous wave breaks are likely to form a temporary rip that occurs in between the breaks. Surfers like to ride them out to catch another wave, but a recreational swimmer can be surprised and frightened by them.

The strong narrow current flows seaward for up to 100 metres and can last for 10 to 20 minutes.

As flash rips occur randomly, it was not possible to measure them with the same methods used to monitor permanent rips. So the researchers developed ‘drifters’, using small global positioning systems receivers, which they set adrift when they saw a transient rip forming.

“I would swim out after the drifters, following their route, then, when the rip had dissipated, gather them in, take them back to the lab and download their information,” said David.

“Sometimes it was a very difficult task because I would send out four drifters and they would all take off in different directions!”

Professor Pattiaratchi, a former champion swimmer, said he became interested in flash rips after taking part in a beach rescue at Cable Beach.
If life is not meant to be easy ... then recent events have certainly made it interesting.

First there was the disappointing news from the City of Perth that councillors had declined to support the UWA Perth International Arts Festival in 2004. Unfortunately, this extraordinary decision not only removed almost $300,000 funding sought by the Festival, but made a very confusing public statement about the attitude of some councillors to PIAF: a central cultural and social event in our lives in Western Australia and one of the major annual festivals of the world. The real challenge is to reverse the long-term view of the City to our great Festival as a vital community event which puts Perth on the world map as a place of cultural excitement.

This was followed by news that we had not performed nearly as well as we should in the current round of Australian Research Council grants. Given the huge effort and commitment many of you had made in preparing applications, in many areas of funding grants, I can only share your sense of concern and disappointment. UWA is every bit the fine research university it ever was, ARC outcomes notwithstanding. We shall make a careful analysis of the issues involved and develop our strategy for 2004-2005 accordingly. The recruitment of Professor Doug McEachern as our new Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), who joined us at the end of October, will assist us in that regard.

The industrial action across Australian universities on 16 October put a sharp spotlight on Minister Nelson’s higher education restructure plans. Like so many of you, I am opposed to the proposal of the Commonwealth to make $404 million of its proposed package of new funding dependent upon creating sharply prescribed requirements in IR processes as add-ons to the package initially announced by the Minister in May. The Vice-Chancellors believe the Government has “moved the goal-posts” and have called upon the Minister to restore the original, more flexible proposals. We are also lobbying Senators to amend the Act.

Finally, there was the Senate Inquiry into Higher Education, to which I gave evidence on Friday 17 October. As a sector desperately waiting for major change in greater public funding and greater policy flexibility many of us have grown concerned that the outcome of the Inquiry will not necessarily provide an enhanced Parliamentary resolution in favour of universities. If the momentum of reform is lost, who can tell when universities will again be the centre of national debate and enhancement.

All this was however balanced for me by two academic meetings, where the topic of focus was on teaching and teachers, knowledge and learning.

The day before the Senate Inquiry in Canberra I took part in a plenary session of the annual Deans of Education meeting. They aired their problems in areas of professional education, but they also spoke with wonderful passion about the centrality of teachers in society.

The following evening I delivered the 75th Anniversary Wyndham Address of the Institute of Educational Research. This led to wide-ranging discussion about the knowledge-generating capacity of universities – beyond the expected role of producing skilled graduates and applied research.

These two events, and meeting excellent and positive scholars and professionals, gave me enormous heart and a sense of hope about campaigning for the positive future of education as the basis of our society in this globalising century.

The creation of the future will begin in schools and universities. UWA will be at the centre of that national endeavour.
UWA staff get a life!

The University has been rewarded for assisting its employees to find a balance between their work and the rest of their lives.

UWA recently won the GU Corporate Award for Best Work/Life Balance Strategy, in *The Australian* 2003 HR Awards.

Human Resources (HR) at UWA is responsible for strategies that are at least part of the reason why so many university employees choose to stay at UWA. Among the staff of just under 3,000, about ten percent have been working here for 25 years or more.

These strategies take into account family responsibilities, offering generous leave for employees to care not only for children but for other family members. Permanent part-time work, job sharing and flexible hours are common on campus.

Part-time work is always available to employees returning from maternity or paternity leave. Lack of opportunity to accrue merit (curtailed by part-time work or time away from work due to family responsibilities) is factored into decisions on promotions or tenure.

Ongoing or fixed term employment is offered wherever possible, to provide employees with security so important to family life.

On-campus child care is supported by UWA and courses on achieving a good work/life balance are offered through the Faculty of Economics and Commerce, to ensure that Australia’s future employers continue the tradition set in place by UWA.

Up to three Fay Gale fellowships for overseas study are offered every year for employees who have taken time off to raise a family and need the opportunity to develop their careers. Also available for employees returning from family leave are re-entry postdoctoral research fellowships for work at UWA.

Every three years, the university conducts a Working Life Survey, and Human Resources hones strategies to accommodate staff needs based on the survey results. Heavy workloads for academics, identified in the 2000 survey, resulted in a change in the committee system to reduce workloads. Results of this year’s survey are still under review.

The University was also short-listed for the Prime Minister’s Employee of the Year award for employment of people with disabilities. It was to be announced on October 30, after this issue went to print. UWA won the national award last year.
Recognising rips

“We were doing some field work at what we thought was a deserted part of the beach when we heard a shout from a man caught in a rip. It took five of us 10 to 20 minutes to get him ashore because he was panicking so much.

“I thought then that if swimmers understood more about rips and what to do when caught in one, everybody would be happier.”

When caught in a rip, the advice of surf lifesavers is not to fight against it but to go with it, then swim across the rip, parallel to the beach, where you can then swim in more easily.

“A good lifesaver knows intuitively where flash rips might occur,” said David. “Now we can prove it scientifically.”

Drifters and stubby holders

Tiny endangered marsupials and stubby holders might seem a curious mix.

But PhD students in animal biology, Kirsten Wolfe and Annabelle Stewart hope that sales of their unique stubby holders will help to save the species.

Dibblers are found only on three islands in Jurien Bay and on the south coast of WA. One of the islands, Whitlock, is a popular snorkelling spot and Kristen explained that tourists moor their boats on one side of the small island, then walk across it to the snorkelling beach (where it is not possible to take a boat).

“As they walk across the island, most of them would not realise that they are crushing burrows made by seabirds. The dibblers often shelter in these burrows and we hope to protect them, by erecting a sign on the island, explaining that the dibblers are endangered, showing people what to look out for and asking them to take care,” she said.

But the students did not have the $600 required for a sign, so they have used this photograph of baby dibblers taken at Perth Zoo by the dibbler keeper Cathy Lambert, to decorate 200 stubby holders, which they are selling for $8 each.

They hope stubby holders will be a popular item for summer holidaymakers who take their boats to Whitlock Island.

Kristen’s and Annabelle’s PhD research projects both focus on dibblers. Kristen is jointly supervised by Dr Roberta Bencini and Dr Mark Garkaklis from Murdoch University, while Annabelle is also supervised by Dr Bencini, as well as Professor Don Bradshaw and Tony Friend from CALM.

The dibbler stubby holders are available from the office of the School of Animal Biology (the old animal science administration in the north wing of the agriculture complex) or by sending a cheque, made out to either Kristen or Annabelle, to the office.

For any further information, call 9380 2976 or email the students at astewart@agric.uwa.edu.au or kwofe@agric.uwa.edu.au

Drink with a dibbler this summer
At two o’clock one morning, Andre Leicester’s phone rang. It was one of the international students he was mentoring.

“He was very distressed and said he hated his course, he hated Australia and he wanted to go home. He had an exam the next day, which he clearly couldn’t sit,” said Andre, who is in the final year of his second degree.

Andre listened to the student, then took the initiative and made an appointment for him to see a psychologist later that morning, followed by an appointment with the student’s sub-dean. He supported him in his distress and helped him to come to a solution.

That was just one of the heart-warming stories heard at a gathering of student mentors recently. Student Services held an appreciation ceremony for the students who give up their time at the start of each semester to ease new students into university life.

They all received certificates, but three, Andre, Zoran Grujic and Mary Bui, were presented with awards for outstanding and significant contributions.

Zoran, a final year philosophy and anthropology student, was paired up with a girl who couldn’t attend Host Day at the beginning of the semester and was very anxious. Zoran gave her a personalised tour of the campus, answered all her questions and even accompanied her to her first lecture.

“It was anthropology and I really enjoyed it — more than she did I think!” he said.

Zoran started university study before the mentor system was developed, and said he felt a culture shock, coming straight from school and a conservative family life.

“I wanted to help to offset that for other new students,” he said.

Andre said he had a great mentor when he came to UWA from South America and was happy to return the favour.

“I was afraid that being a new student here would mean undergoing unpleasant initiation ceremonies, like those at my South American university. So the first question I asked my mentor was whether I should turn up to my first lecture. When I explained why, she was able to put my mind at rest.

“After a month, you’re no longer a mentor, you’re a friend,” said Andre, who mentored 15 students this semester (the usual group is four).

“But some of them have high expectations, in fact, unrealistic expectations,” he said.

“One of my mentees called me one night and asked me to go to her home and help her with her first assignment. She thought a mentor was like a private tutor!”

Mary, who will complete a combined engineering and commerce degree next year, said she was mistakenly paired with a student from another faculty when she first came to UWA.

“So my experience of being mentored was very brief and not very satisfying, but I had an older brother here, so he helped me to settle in. I have enjoyed being at University so much that I wanted to give something back.

“I have been mentoring for two years and I’m always willing to do something for somebody else if I possibly can,” she said.

She has taken part in focus groups, faculty functions and student panels related to the Uni Mentor Scheme and has proved herself to be an excellent mentor. Mary has also volunteered to lead groups in the Future Leaders’ Forum and is heavily involved with UWA Young Engineers.
Innovation is often about making use of simple concepts, and mechanical engineering lecturer James Trevelyan has made a name for himself with his simple ideas.

Associate Professor Trevelyan has just been selected as the 2003 winner of a coveted teaching award from the Australasian Association for Engineering Education. The award cited his innovative contributions to the education of engineers.

As testament that innovation doesn’t need to be complicated, Professor Trevelyan demonstrated one of his latest remote access laboratory projects for his students, which involves a domestic electric iron.

“An iron is something that most engineering students wouldn’t actually use very much, but they do know what it is and understand what it does!” he said. “So if they are going to do laboratory work remotely it’s good to start with a piece of equipment that they recognise. When they know what they are working with, it’s easier to show them that there are hidden complications.”

The experiment involves switching the power on and off at different frequencies and monitoring the temperature changes, then working out how to build a temperature control for the iron.

His students obviously enjoy his teaching methods because Professor Trevelyan has won three UWA teaching awards over the past two years. But it is not only his students who appreciate his expertise. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), an icon within the engineering world, has asked him to be a member of their international advisory committee for their iLab on-line laboratories project.

Professor Trevelyan has been developing an on-line laboratory system for the past few years, with the help of an initiative grant from his faculty. He says there are not many on-line laboratories around the world.

“Most of them are set up by graduate students who are famed for producing high maintenance software, then they leave the institution, and it all falls in a heap,” he said. “So portability and low-cost maintenance are important issues for us to consider.”

He said he asked a class of third year engineering students about their hands-on experience in laboratory sessions and a third of them admitted that they had never touched a piece of equipment.

“In a lab class, we might have 15 students standing around...
watching while one or two get the hands-on experience. This system provides the opportunity for them to get that experience in their own time, when they feel comfortable, without feeling that they might make fools of themselves in front of the other students.

"The most common comment I get from other staff is that you just can't do a lab experiment remotely. I think this system gives the students confidence and more time to learn, then they can come into the lab. By combining both remote and hands-on systems, we will get the best results."

Professor Trevelyan said there were plenty of students who worked part-time to support their studies and sometimes found it difficult to attend a class. The on-line system was very valuable for them.

“And we have found that, the more time students spend working with a particular piece of equipment, the better they get at using it. The on-line lab allows the students unlimited time to become familiar with something.”

He also pointed out that engineers in the real world were not expected to come up with solutions in one afternoon. “Yet, that's what we were expecting our students to do. Now, using this remote system, I get my students to take measurements during one session, then they can go away, use the system to try out different ideas over the next few days or weeks, taking their time over developing a solution, then come to a better understanding of the problem and a better-researched solution.”

The on-line laboratory also takes the pressure off staff who are setting up experiments. “A lot of time is involved in setting up these classes: the course structures we use were put in place when we had almost twice as many staff as we do now,” Professor Trevelyan said.

He has had to travel a lot over the past few months and the system means that he can keep a check on what his students (second and third year mechatronics) are doing, via computer, anywhere in the world.

“I can check their results, see if they have particular problems, ensure that the equipment is working properly, and send them messages,” he said.

When Professor Trevelyan volunteered to take on some high school students over the mid-year break, for the CSIRO-sponsored Student Research Scheme, he asked them to assess the on-line system to see if it would be helpful in their curriculum. “I think that university equipment should be available as a community resource, and high schools are a good place to start.”

Professor Trevelyan’s innovations began long before anybody thought of remote laboratory delivery. His robotic sheep shearing developments were of huge interest around the globe. And his students’ on-line robot, which is still doing Internet browsers’ bidding, after about nine years, was the next step. His students are currently building a new system for the robot so it can be used more intensively in teaching programs.

He became passionately involved in the struggles of war-torn countries which couldn’t get back to normal life after conflict had ended because their lands were riddled with unexploded land mines. Professor Trevelyan has worked both in Australia and in Pakistan and the middle east, finding the simplest solutions for demining, training local people, and always keeping costs low. He became a world leader in the area of humanitarian research. And always, he relates his research to his students.

“During our landmine research, we discovered in developing countries, that there are crucial shortages in engineering skills, which makes the cost of engineering, in providing water and electricity supplies, much higher for the very people who can least afford it.

“There is a crucial link with engineering education in the sense that, at present, it tends to focus on the technical skills of students rather than what will make them cost-effective as engineers.

“I am constantly struggling to find new ways of teaching better, despite the financial restraints and the difficulties of balancing demands of research and teaching…”

The Governor of WA, Lieutenant General John Sanderson, visited the engineering faculty in November 2000.

The Governor of WA, Lieutenant General John Sanderson, visited the engineering faculty in November 2000.

With one of the simple tools developed for the demining project and research assistant Abdul Hadi Popal demonstrates tools, techniques and protective clothing for demining, developed at UWA.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA • 3 NOVEMBER 2003
Rural development goes on-line

Dr Fiona McKenzie has learnt a lot about the WA rural regions of Jerramungup and Merredin, over the course of a UWA program for agriculture professionals.

But Dr McKenzie is not one of the students. She’s the head of academic programs for the University’s Institute of Regional Development, which delivers the on-line course culminating in a Graduate Certificate in Regional Agricultural Development Planning.

“The students were all agricultural scientists working in various regions while they took the course. And they applied the theory they were learning to their work in the regions. So I gained quite an insight into these areas,” Dr McKenzie said.

The students were the first cohort to graduate from this program, developed by earth and geographical scientists from UWA in collaboration with the State Department of Agriculture. All are employees of the Department and their Director-General, Dr Graeme Robertson, made the trip to Katanning for their graduation ceremony recently.

The professional development program was developed to help keep agriculturalists abreast of work trends in sustainability and to provide a consistent approach to land use planning in line with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation guidelines.

It addresses key agricultural issues and their impact on rural and regional development, which include balancing the maximum financial returns with the best use of natural resources and conservation of the environment.

There are no other similar courses being offered wholly on-line by any other universities in Australia. There are currently 42 rural students enrolled in the program throughout the state. One of them is not an employee of the Department of Agriculture, but a Masters student with IRD, who liked one of the units being offered.

The students complete two units, one concentrating on issues in regional agricultural development and another on planning for regional agricultural development.

“The Department of Agriculture had been spending a lot of money on professional development for their employees and decided that it would be preferable if their study earned them a recognisable certificate, so they came to IRD and asked us to develop a program for them,” Dr McKenzie said.

Associate Professor Arthur Conacher and Dr Matthew Tonts worked on the course with the Department. The students were already applying what they had learnt to their everyday work in the Department, which Dr McKenzie says proves its success.

“The fact that we have our first student from outside the Department doing the course is a sign that it will continue to thrive,” she said.

The teaching program will relocate to UWA’s Albany Centre next year, while the IRD will continue to be based in Perth.
Awards safely in the hands of OFM

The Office of Facilities Management is doing an award-winning job in helping to make the campus safe.

OFM took off both this year's UWA Safety Awards.

The OFM workshop won the group safety award, which was accepted by Gerald Stack, Manager Operations and Maintenance, and Simon Stanton-Cook, Workshop Manager.

The workshops have 37 staff, directed by Simon, in two locations, Myer Street and McGillivray, with staff covering six different trade areas. They carry out more than $5 million work each year.

The staff are responsible for the construction and maintenance work that they perform themselves, requiring a high level of competence in trade skills and an intimate knowledge of WorkSafe regulations; commissioning and overseeing of contractors and sub-contractors in accordance with UWA safety and health guidelines; and the safe operation of buildings and services.

One reason cited for the award was that the workshops had adopted the UWA Occupational Safety and Health policy and have promoted it to all staff and contractors through inductions, notice boards and posters and weekly all-staff meetings.

They also have well-developed plans for dealing with particular hazards and responding to emergencies.

An individual from OFM, Jack Kirkness, senior technical officer (building) for planning and design and accommodation planning, won the other award, for the second time. Jack won his first Safety Award in 2001 and was also nominated in 2002.

This year, his nomination came from BGC Construction, and was signed by seven of their management, supervisory and safety nominated personnel.

The construction managers, site foremen and various tradespeople from BGC have been associated with Jack over the past four years and said they always found him to be extremely knowledgeable and professional in matters of safety.

“His approach to issues of safety and health are of a ‘no tolerance’ approach, which we, as responsible builders, appreciate,” they said. Both Jack and the workshop received vouchers from the Co-op Bookshop and framed certificates.

Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Margaret Seares, said the safety awards reflected the importance the University placed on safety and health issues and congratulated the committee and all staff who embraced safety issues.

“I know there are people who work quietly beyond the call of duty in this area,” she said.

There are 49 safety and health representatives across campus and six of them work on the University Safety Committee, headed by Dr Allan McKinley.

Dr McKinley thanked the University for the budget allocated to the committee each year for expediting safety problems on campus.

The UWA Safety Awards are run by the University’s Safety and Health Office.

Based on Lonely Planet,” said Peter. “They were losing money through their guidebooks, phrasebooks and television and internet productions.

“We all had an individual role to play, so we divided up the information and knew we each had to concentrate on our area, and trust our partners to do the best they could in their areas,” he said.

“Teamwork was the most important part of our efforts.

“We recommended that the company look at the growing market of over-55 travellers instead of just concentrating on backpackers. We advised them to recommend slightly more upmarket accommodation, focus on cultural events, cafes, restaurants and galleries, rather than pubs, foodhalls and rock festivals. We recommended that the company outsource its TV and internet side, and ignore the small loss from that now, as it would become an important part of their operations in the future.”

These were just a couple of the solutions the group came up with, and Professor Stockport said they delivered thoughtful replies to the judges’ probing questions.

“One of the main reasons BCG runs this competition is to headhunt potential employees who can work really well in a team. We have all been advised to apply for positions with them,” Peter said.

He thanked other GSM staff who had helped them prepare for the finals: Sathya Ganganahalli, Bruce McCallum and Professor Andre Morkel.

“This is a feather in the cap of the GSM staff and students,” said GSM director, Professor Geoff Soutar, “and we are very proud of them.”
Support of a friend funds crucial research

Most people know that a predisposition to breast cancer is hereditary.

But where does that line start? And what it is that initiates the cancer in a young woman with no previous history?

A generous donation from the students and staff of Penrhos College to the University’s School of Surgery and Pathology is helping to find answers to these questions.

They were questions that the girls and their teachers were asking themselves last year when their popular young head of English, Cathy Bradstreet, was diagnosed with breast cancer.

In between surgery, chemotherapy and radiation therapy, Cathy was able to keep teaching, thanks to the great support of her school principal and the co-operation between the school and her medical practitioners.

But her colleagues and pupils went even further. They swung into action to raise funds for research into breast cancer in women under the age of 30.

Like a lot of cancer fund-raising, the shaved head idea was popular, in keeping with the usual loss of hair by patients undergoing chemotherapy.

Penrhos principal Graham Rixon agreed to have his head shaved for $2,000. Donations quickly reached $10,000 and “Get Rico” posters appeared on the backs of toilet doors. A boarder at the school approached every business in her home town and raised $500; a year 12 girl raised $1,500; year 7 girls donated their lunch money; others made and sold pink ribbons and donated wages from their part-time jobs.

Bald and Beautiful Day resulted in 25 staff (teachers, gardeners, laboratory technicians and a school nurse) having their heads shaved, and raising $26,000, which was shared between the Breast Cancer Foundation of WA and the School of Surgery.

Head of the School’s general surgery unit at QEII, Professor Christobel Saunders, said the generous donation meant that she and Dr Arlene Chan, a consultant oncologist at RPH and the Mount Hospital, were able to fund a research program that they had wanted to undertake for a long time.

“We’re looking at young women, 36 years and under, who are diagnosed with breast cancer, to see if there is a genetic defect that triggers the cancer,” Professor Saunders said.

Clinical trials co-ordinator in the unit at RPH, nurse Glenys Longman, is running the project and has approached 70 women in the age group.

“We have 30 women currently enrolled in the project, some with a history of breast cancer in the family, some without. There is a low percentage of young women who contract breast cancer, but it is significant. There have been 70 young women diagnosed in Perth over the past few years,” she said.

Glenys said it would take a further six to 12 months before results of genetic testing were available.

Cathy Bradstreet’s prognosis is positive but she says she could not have faced the challenge without the support of her school community. Principal Graham Rixon said that while he was proud of the school’s donation to breast cancer research, it was the community’s support of Cathy that was most important.

Some of the Bald and the Beautiful at Penrhos College: teacher Alan Harding after his shave;

BELOW: English teacher Tom Rowley with students Jenna and Candice
Some people’s private pleasures differ vastly from their daily work, but for Chari Pattiaratchi, it’s hard to tell where one stops and the other starts.

The Professor of Marine Science in the School of Water Research leaves his oceanographic research on his desk at the end of the day, then dives into a swimming pool to play water polo.

Chari has just started his 32nd season of water polo, the past 15 seasons for the water polo club of City Beach. He plays centre-forward for the club’s E-grade team, but the pinnacle of his water polo career was playing at international level for his native Sri Lanka in 1975 and 1976.

And before that, he was a champion swimmer. One of his under-19 records, for 100m freestyle, stood for 18 years in Sri Lanka.

“But my first swimming coach told my mother: ‘Don’t waste your money and don’t waste my time!’ He said I would never be a swimmer, but my mother persevered. She suffered from asthma and she wanted my sisters and me to be swimmers as a preventative measure,” Chari said.

He started serious training at the age of 14, and at 15 was selected to represent his country. He left Sri Lanka at the age of 18, with a hoard of trophies, at the peak of his career. Chari went to Swansea University in Wales, where he resumed swimming and water polo, being awarded colours and a gold award for both sports.

He represented Swansea, then Wales in the Universities Athletics Union.

“The UAU covers all universities in the UK except London, Oxford and Cambridge, who have their own competition. I was the fastest swimmer in that competition for two years.”

He also captained the swim team for two years and the water polo team for eight years. A natural athlete, he excelled in track and field, setting new records for the open 1500 metres and the high jump. “I never trained for athletics but constant swimming always kept me very fit,” he said.

Chari played in the Welsh Rugby Union Cup while at university but, these days, his winter sport taste runs to soccer. He has been coaching 13-year-olds for a few years and has taken his local team, Subiaco, from the third division up to the premium division, winning the league competition last season.

His success on the soccer field has resulted in him being invited to take a young men’s soccer team, the Wanderers, overseas in January. The players are the best 15 to 18 year-olds from around Australia and they will play friendly matches again England, Scotland, Wales and Italy.

“But the first time I meet them will be when they arrive at Heathrow!” And he says t will probably be the biggest challenge of his coaching career!

Chari’s wife Gabi was a swimming coach when they met, then became a physical education teacher, so it is no surprise that his son Nafyn and daughter Tessni are keen and successful sports players. When Chari is not playing water polo or coaching soccer, he and Gabi take on the role of taxi driver for their busy children.
Kimberley Heitman
Director of Legal Services and University Lawyer

The latest challenge to music copyrights is the “mp3” file — a compressed digital audio file that can be transferred on the Internet in minutes by downloading it from a website, a chat room, via email or with a “peer to peer” program such as Kazaa.

Unauthorised trading of music files online is a clear breach of copyright and providers of Internet access are required by law not to “authorise” users to breach copyright.

In October 2003, an ISP was raided by music copyright owners on the basis that the ISP hosted an mp3 search engine owned by a client. Both the client — who provided links to music files online, but no actual music files were hosted — and the ISP have been joined as defendants in a case the prosecutor claimed was a multi-million dollar damages claim. The ISP was joined as a defendant because it “profited” from the bandwidth generated by the downloading of music files. This is a controversial assertion, but as is often the problem with Internet law, there are no court decisions within Australia to provide clear precedents for the rights and wrongs of the matter.

The law strongly backs copyright owners in the changing circumstances of digital media and differing hardware and software, and it has been seriously argued by copyright owners that it is illegal to edit advertisements from a TV broadcast or cache online content transmitted across the Internet. It is odd that Sony makes an mp3 player, yet asserts in court that there are no legal mp3 files to play on it.

In that context, the University affirms its commitment to intellectual property rights — after all the University, its staff and students, creates and markets intellectual property in many forms. While the University pays considerable sums to copyright owners’ licensing societies for photocopying, musical performances and electronic rights management, the University also receives royalties for its copyrights. As an educational institution, the University has privileged access to copyrights and reproduction for educational purposes’ — online at http://www.legalservices.uwa.edu.au/__data/page/20386/FAQ_v4.pdf — and takes seriously its obligations to copyright owners.

As an important example, the University provides Internet access solely for fulfilment of its academic mission, and has always prohibited unlawful use of that Internet access by staff or students. All campus Internet users should be aware that policies governing the rules and responsibilities of account holders are online at http://www.uwa.edu.au/it/policy/existing and that breach of those rules may result in appropriate disciplinary action.

Like most other sector members, the University has decided not to implement extreme measures, such as crippling Internet access, monitoring traffic or editing hyperlinks. The Copyright Act does say that a network owner is not liable for copyright infringement by users of the network, and universities may reasonably assert that Parliament did not intend the rules against commercial piracy to impose policing burdens on educational institutions. Ultimately the legal liability for copyright infringement must lie with the person breaking the law rather than the many utilities and service providers that provide the means of doing so.
Call for Nominations for Membership of the Senate

Under Sections 10 (c) and 8 (2) of the University Act, the membership of the Senate includes three “persons who respectively hold a full-time salaried office in the University as a dean, professor, reader, senior lecturer, lecturer or such other office as the Senate may by resolution declare.” While the list still includes ‘deans’, the Deans in the current structure, as members of the University’s senior management team, are not eligible to stand, but are eligible to vote. The term of office for members in this category is 4 years, and the maximum number of consecutive terms permissible is three.

The current members of the Senate under this category are: Professor C Prager (to March 2006); Dr S Bunt (to March 2004); Dr T Quiggin (to March 2007).

Dr Bunt’s term of office expires immediately before the first Ordinary Meeting of the Senate in March 2004. An election to fill the vacancy will take place on Tuesday 2 March.

In terms of Section 10 (c) and 8 (2) of the University Act, those eligible to submit nominations and to vote in the election are the same group as those who are eligible for election. The group comprises all those who hold a full-time salaried office in the University as a Professor, Associate Professor, Reader, Senior Lecturer, Lecturer, Associate Lecturer (other than Deans), and those in other positions approved by the Senate i.e. the University Librarian, the Director of the Centre for Microscopy and Microanalysis, and the Sub-Deans (or equivalent) of the Faculties of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Economics and Commerce, Engineering, Computing and Mathematics, and Life and Physical Sciences. Those in the last category are in effect those employed as full-time Sub-Deans (or equivalent).

Nominations are now invited for the vacancy on Senate for the period March 2004-March 2008 and should be submitted on the Nomination Form which appears on the web http://www.secretariat.uwa.edu.au/home/senate/electionform to arrive, in accordance with Statute 25, no earlier than 20 January and no later than 3 February 2004. The completed form should be accompanied by a “Candidate’s Statement” not exceeding one side of A4 paper, which includes a short biography and a brief summary of the reasons for seeking Senate membership. This statement must be submitted in final form ready for reprography. The Registrar’s Office accepts no responsibility for the editing of statements. Voting papers will be sent out between 3-9 February 2004, voting will close on 2 March and votes will be counted immediately after voting closes.

A reminder about this call for nominations will be sent later this year.

MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMIC STAFF

Highly Commended: Linda Dorendorff, Dr Ricks Allan, Dr Anh Margaret Giles, Dr Ann Larsen, Dr Catherine Lees, Dr Ricks Allan, Dr Anh Tram Le, and Lyn Bennett, Centre for Labour Market Research and Economics and Commerce: ‘The role of VET in prison-work transitions’, $375,000 (2003-05).

WAHEALTH PROMOTION FOUNDATION

Dr Valerie Burke, Prof Lawrence Beillin and Dr Trevor Morl, Medicine and Pharmacology: ‘Health promotion in individuals at risk of heart disease: long-term effects’, $375,000 (2003-05).
Monday 3 November

ASTHMA AND ALLERGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE MEDICAL RESEARCH SEMINAR
‘Redirecting gene expression for fun and profit’, A/Prof Steve Wilton, Australian Neuromuscular Research Institute. 12.30pm, Joske Seminar Room, School of Medicine and Pharmacology SCGH Unit, Fourth Floor, G Block, SCGH.

Tuesday 4 November

SOIL SCIENCE AND PLANT NUTRITION SEMINAR
‘Microbial diversity and N transformations in WA soils’, Dr Richard Cookson. 4pm, Agriculture Lecture Theatre.

Friday 7 November

ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY SEMINAR
‘Landholder attitudes towards weed management in Western Australia and a brief overview of non-market valuation of public goods’, Frank D’Emden, Agricultural and Resource Economics. 4pm, Social Sciences Lecture Theatre 2.

Friday 14 November

CLIMA SEMINAR
‘Virus resistance in transgenic lupin’, Dr Steve Wiley. 4pm, CLIMA Seminar Room.

LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY TALK
‘Paper matters’, Janice Baker, Curator (Public Programmes), LWAG. 1pm, LWAG.

ANATOMY AND HUMAN BIOLOGY SEMINAR
‘Functions of the nuclear lamina in nuclear integrity and human disease’, Professor Chris Hutchison. 1pm, Room 1.81, Anatomy and Human Biology Building.

BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY SEMINAR

Monday 17 November

ASTHMA AND ALLERGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE MEDICAL RESEARCH SEMINAR
‘Update on PARS’, Professor Geoff Stewart, Microbiology. 12.30pm, Joske Seminar Room, Medicine, Fourth Floor, G Block, SCGH.

Tuesday 18 November

PSYCHOLOGY COLLOQUIUM TALK
‘Neural dissociations between vision for perception and action’, Petroc Sumner, Cognitive Neuroscience and Behaviour, Imperial College, London. 11am, Room 2.33, North Block, Psychology Building.

Friday 28 November

LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY TALK
‘The meaning of drawing in Italian Renaissance culture’, Sally Quin, Curator (Collections), LWAG. 1pm, LWAG.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Tuesday 2 December

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES FREE PUBLIC LECTURE
‘Science, society and sustainability’, Nobel Laureate Sir Harry Kroto. 6.30pm, Social Sciences Lecture Theatre. All are welcome.
Beyond Good and Evil? Or Trapped Within Them?

As long ago as 1885 Nietzsche published an essay that claimed we could move “beyond good and evil”, thinking that the concepts were socially determined but masqueraded as moral absolutes. However, at the beginning of the twenty-first century we do not seem beyond good and evil at all. The US President’s verbal and physical attack on an “axis of evil” suggests a corollary axis of good, on which the USA and its allies live. Such declarations have encouraged a revival of interest in Huntington’s thesis of a “clash of civilisations”, in intellectual circles and in the media. In popular culture, works in which there are clear cut divisions between good and evil, such as novels, computer games or films of mythology and fantasy, have enormous appeal.

It now seems necessary to ask how meaningful are these terms, “good” and “evil”. Why have they reassumed central importance in contemporary cultures? Have they always been crucial? Are they terms of meaning or merely rhetoric? Do they necessarily revive a concern with cultural clash – between east and west? between different religious orientations? between different ethnic groups? In a world of globalised trade and communications is such talk nonsense? How are these issues reflected in contemporary cultural genres and societies? What can the past teach us about good and evil, or about their representation?

Papers are invited on any aspect of these issues as they appear in literature, culture, society and politics in the Asia-Pacific.

For further information and details of registration, contact Dennis Haskell or Megan McKinlay: ph: 9380 2071; fax: 9380 1030; email: megmck@cyllene.uwa.edu.au.
FOR SALE
SUZUKI SIERRA 1988, black, soft top, low km, good cond., ideal summer vehicle. $4800. Ph: Krish at 9380 7314 or email krish@cyllene.uwa.edu.au.

DINING SUITE, 5 pce, oval table (removable centerpiece makes it round table), US-made, very good condition, $140. Ph: Krish at 9380 7314 or email krish@cyllene.uwa.edu.au.

2.5 SEATER SOFA (pictured below) with curved back and two matching armchairs. Covered in bazaar plush. Very well made furniture, comfortable and in excellent condition. $1000. Call 0438 920 641.

2 SEATER SOFA (pictured below) with rounded back. Covering in rust-red plush. Very well made furniture, comfortable and in excellent condition. $300. Call 0438 920 641.

TOYOTA CAMRY ULTIMA 88/89, exceptional condition. 1 owner, 190kms, air-con./power steering, alloy wheels, cruise control, auto, has all electrics, excellent 1st or 2nd car. $4990 ono. Phone: 9380 3583 (business) or 9330 2869 (after hours), email: kgarwood@agric.uwa.edu.au.

SUZUKI SIERRA SOFT TOP 1990, black, 450kms, good cond., excellent condition. $300. Call 0438 920 641.

Suzuki Sierra 1990, white, auto, low km, ideal for winter. $2500. Ph: 9330 2089.

Suzuki Sierra, black, auto, 450kms, £2500. Ph: 9330 2089.

Suzuki Sierra, white, auto, 450kms, £2500. Ph: 9330 2089.


