His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has always been a champion of the environment.

So it was an obvious choice for him to visit UWA’s Cooperative Research Centre for Plant-Based Management of Dryland Salinity when he was in Perth earlier this month.

The CRC showcased their best and latest research, which had Prince Charles sniffing eucalyptus oil, hearing about a weed that is the key to growing wheat on salt-affected land, and meeting a sheep that grazes on saltbush.

The centre’s research into eucalyptus trees (mallees) shows the native trees capable of making a huge contribution to arresting salinity, while producing extremely valuable agricultural products.

Researcher John Bartle demonstrated the distillation of eucalyptus oil from the leaves of mallee trees and explained to the Prince that the same tree had spent its whole life soaking up greenhouse gases.

At harvest the mallee tree delivers a host of valuable products, aside from the oil, such as activated charcoal (the most important component of most of the world’s air and water filters), raw material for particle board and, finally, biomass for energy generation. “All this on top of lessening the threat of salinity that is scarring our land,” Mr Bartle said.

The Prince also saw world-first research that is developing a wheat plant capable of growing on saline land. The research, led by Dr Tim Colmer, aims to provide farmers with future options for producing wheat from land that has become too saline or waterlogged to risk normal cropping.

Dr Colmer and postgraduate student Natasha Teakle explained to the Prince that a common weed (sea barley grass) is one of the few plants actually capable of growing happily on quite salty ground.

The research team is crossbreeding the barley grass with wheat, to develop a plant that still yields a valuable grain but which can grow on saline land.

The impact of this research, supported by the Grains Research and Development Corporation, goes beyond the millions of
continued from page 1

**Prince of Wales visits campus**

hectares of land threatened by salinity in Australia. It could be applied to restore productivity to waterlogged and saline soils around the world.

Also on show for Prince Charles was research demonstrating the opportunities for using saltbush as fodder for sheep on salt-affected land. It shows that farmers don’t have to give up on land that has been damaged by salt.

CSIRO’s Dr Hayley Norman (a partner in the CRC) described their work to the Prince.

“Quite aside from the bonus of simply having grazing available where once there was nothing, the nutritional value of a mixed diet of saltbush and annual pasture is of real benefit to sheep and to their production,” Dr Norman said.

“This diet provides sheep with high levels of Vitamin E, which is normally deficient in many parts of Western Australia.

Tammin farmer Tony York explained how saltbush research on large areas of salt-affected areas of his farm had helped him to manage drought and maintain a profitable farm business.

“While drought does not have the same meaning to farmers in Britain as it does to us in Australia,” he told Prince Charles, “we can all appreciate the value of having feed available at a time of the year when most of the other paddocks are bare.”

His Royal Highness enjoyed his visit to UWA so much that he overstayed his allotted time and was late for his next appointment in Subiaco.

The idea of an environmentally sustainable car that could drive around Australia has inspired more than 70 engineering students.

They hope their work and enthusiasm will, in turn, motivate visitors to the second annual Sun Fair at UWA, where their plans will be on display.

The Renewable Energy Vehicle (REV) is due to take off on its Australian tour in less than a year. But, for now, it will be one of the features of the Sun Fair, which is well on the way to becoming WA’s premiere sustainability event.

The Renewable Energy Vehicle (REV) is due to take off on its Australian tour in less than a year. But, for now, it will be one of the features of the Sun Fair, which is well on the way to becoming WA’s premiere sustainability event.

The fair is organised by UWA’s Jonathon Thwaites, who is spearheading Facilities Management’s sustainability push and who is also a branch convenor for the Alternative Technology Association.

It will be held on the Oak Lawn on Sunday April 3 from 9am to 5pm.

The fair is an opportunity for community groups, businesses, government departments, corporations and individuals to showcase their part in sustainability and renewable energy.

It is also a chance for the public to learn first hand about such initiatives in a non-threatening family atmosphere.

Along with a dynamic series of free lectures during the day, there will also be children’s activities, roaming theatre, music, and trade displays, all promoting social and environmental responsibility.

Mr Thwaites said the inaugural Sun Fair, last year, was a great success, and he had been successful in attracting funding for this one from the Sustainable Energy Development Office and Lotterywest.

UWA is also a major sponsor, with the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson recognising that “sustainability is a key to our future.”

For more information about the Sun Fair, go to www.sustainability.ofm.uwa.edu.au
First aid often involves stemming a flow of blood, cooling a burn or immobilising a broken limb.

But it can also include calming somebody who’s having a panic attack, talking to somebody who may be depressed, and knowing what to do if someone is having a psychotic episode.

This is Mental Health First Aid and UWA is the first university in WA to offer training to its staff and students in this area.

Tricia Wylde, a nurse in the UWA Medical Centre and an active health promoter, won a Diversity Initiatives grant last year for herself and two other staff members (Averil Riley, an occupational therapist from Safety and Health, and Sylvana Oates, a counsellor from the Support Centre) to be educated as trainers in Mental Health First Aid.

A course, to train people to have a better understanding of mental health disorders, and to learn how to recognise and provide support to others experiencing mental health issues, was developed about three years ago by the Centre of Mental Health Research at the Australian National University.

Their 12-hour course, run over three four-hour sessions, can now be run by Tricia, Averil and Sylvana.

They recently ran the first course for 16 library staff members. Later courses will be administered by the Organisational and Staff Development Services (OSDS).

Tricia Wylde’s initiative is also supported by Student Services, Safety and Health Office and the UWA Local Drug Action Group, which she helped to set up on campus a couple of years ago.

“People often know a lot about common physical health issues, while there is widespread lack of knowledge of mental health issues. This course will help students and staff members to provide appropriate initial help to students, colleagues and family members who may be experiencing a mental health problem before professional help is sought.”

Averil Riley said a better understanding of mental health issues could also help staff deal with bullying or stress in the workplace.

“Mental health issues are so common that we really must address them,” she said. “Every year, one in five Australian adults experiences some mental health problem.”

Averil said that some people’s first reaction to the course was that others might think they had a mental health problem if they undertook training. “But it’s not therapy – it’s all about helping others,” she said.

Ralph Kiel was one of the library staff who took part in the first course offered on campus.

“There’s really not much difference between physical health issues and mental health issues, except that often the latter is less tangible. But they both need understanding and people who know how to deal with an emergency,” he said.

“Staff in client service positions may have to deal with behaviour that is confronting.”

He said he had worked at another university library in the eastern states where a supervisor had displayed some bizarre behaviours and his colleagues didn’t know how to react or what to do to help him. “Members of my family have also had some mental illness, so when I heard about this course, it rang a bell with me,” he said.

“Libraries have always attracted people with some odd behaviours, and sometimes, staff can find it very confronting. This course can help them to identify what’s happening and know how to deal with it.”

The next Mental Health First Aid Course is available through OSDS and will run for four three-hour sessions on May 24 and 26, and June 7 and 9.
Managing our reputation

Over the past six months our Faculties and Schools have done substantial thinking around how they engage with our overall aim of achieving international excellence.

The key of course is performance, particularly in research and teaching. But beyond performance, there is a range of other issues on which we need to focus — notably the issue of reputation.

From all the information which has come to our University in the past 12 months in domestic and international rankings of universities, one point is clear: while our University is rated highly on performance, we have not built the international reputation to match it. There can never be any doubt that in the long-run substance will always win out over style. That having been said, it is extremely important that we address the issue of our reputation in Australia and internationally.

This is not about establishing public relations 'spin'. It is about building an awareness of our performance, based on fact. In a most practical way this will help fulfill a number of university goals, for example, enhancing our ability to meet our primary staffing goal of attracting, developing and retaining staff of the highest quality; and enhancing opportunities; or building our national and international standing to lever maximum benefit from collaborations and relationships.

A number of initiatives are under way and more will be implemented throughout the year:

• We have designated particular Deans as coordinators of specific international relationships in key target markets: George Stewart (China), Alistair Robertson (Malaysia and the Middle East), Mark Bush (India) and Anne Pauwels (Europe). As well, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and I will continue to coordinate relationships with benchmarking partners and others in Canada, the US and the UK. These coordinators should be kept informed of visits and activities to and within the respective regions.
• Staff on study leave are being encouraged to carry with them a package of information from the Vice-Chancellery to be presented to the Vice-Chancellors of the institutions they are visiting.
• A monthly series of advertisement has begun in The Weekend Australian highlighting the international excellence of our teaching and research staff, and our alumni.
• We have joined with our strategic partner in Singapore (PSB Corporation) in a campaign to jointly promote our activities in the region and highlight our University’s performance.
• We have identified universities in major international university networks to whom we will send information about our university.

Bringing a more strategic focus to our international activities will be the ongoing responsibility of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the Deans. The more general program will be coordinated by Doug Durack in the Vice-Chancellery. But such a project can not just be left to a few. It is a challenge I would like all staff to be involved in. As mentioned earlier, this is not about spin; it is about making sure that people involved with the university — from our students and our alumni, to our partners in business and government and our collaborators here and abroad — and those who potentially will be involved with the university in the future have an understanding of the facts that back our claim that we are achieving international excellence in all we do.

Alan Robson
Vice-Chancellor

First among equals

A UWA medical scientist has won the WA business community’s 40under40 award.

Professor Lyle Palmer, Chair of Genetic Epidemiology, Director of the Laboratory for Genetic Epidemiology at the WA Institute of Medical Research, and Professor in the Schools of Medicine and Pharmacology, and Population Health was voted ‘First Among Equals’ in the annual sweep of high achievers aged under 40.

At 36, Professor Palmer is the youngest scientist to be appointed to a Chair in the UWA Medical School. The entrepreneurial streak that contributed to his win is evidenced by the private and government funding and the outstanding young staff he has attracted over the past 12 months.

He attracted $6 million and increased his staff from two to 25. Professor Palmer returned from his position as Assistant Professor of Medicine and Director of Statistical Genomics at Harvard Medical School in Boston, to take advantage of WA’s unique population and health data.

"WA has an extraordinary history of population studies and a unique population-based health database which is the envy of medical research groups around the world," Professor Palmer said.

According to Professor Palmer, WA is uniquely placed to establish a biobank to become an international leader in biotechnology and human genetics health research. This bank would consist of DNA samples from consenting West Australians which, when cross-matched with the existing health data of more than 30 years, would form the most comprehensive resource for human genetic research in the world.
A Lions Eye Institute researcher has won a Young Inventors Award in Singapore.

Sajeesh Kumar, who is doing his PhD in telemedicine, has developed some easy to use software for health workers to conduct eye tests in remote and rural areas.

"Without extra interventions, the global number of blind people will increase from 44 million in the year 2000 to 76 million in 2020," said Sajeesh. "Almost half of blindness and 70 per cent of vision impairment are caused by conditions that are preventable or treatable."

“Preventing blindness in the bush”

Kylie Forth wouldn’t let anything stand in her way when she decided she wanted to climb the mast of the sail training ship Leeuwin.

The crew were very impressed when the small teenager, who has total vision impairment and one leg amputated above the knee, achieved her goal.

So it is no surprise that Kylie is on the way to achieving her next goal, studying Psychology at UWA. She started her studies this month, armed with a special computer that has a Braille keyboard and display and also converts text into voice.

Funding for the computer came from a scholarship from the Resource Unit for Children with Special Needs (RUCSN). The Unit distributes grants to help young people with disabilities who are entering tertiary education.

Kylie comes the wheatbelt town of Kununoppin and has known for years that she wanted to study psychology. She says the key to inclusion for people with disabilities is to “earn the right to participate equally, to break common stereotypes, rather than waiting for others to include you.”

Last year’s winner of the grant was also a first year student at UWA, who preferred to remain anonymous, but she said the laptop the RUCSN funds helped her to buy has been a boon to her first year of studies.

Breaking down stereotypes

Medal for David Blair

UWA physicist David Blair has been awarded the ANZAAS medal for his outstanding work in gravity research.

The Medal has been awarded annually since 1965 for services in the advancement of science, or administration and organisation of scientific activities, or the teaching of science, and in contributions to science which lie beyond normal professional activities. It is awarded to scientists in Australia and New Zealand.

Professor Blair was presented with his medal at the AIP World of Physics Conference in Canberra last month.

Previous recipients of the award include Sir Gustav Nossal and three Western Australians, Professor Eric Underwood, Professor Don Watts and Professor John de Laeter, who is Chair of the Foundation for Professor Blair’s brainchild, the Gravity Discovery Centre, near Gingin.
Environmental mining expert

The mining industry has funded a new position at the Australian Centre for Geomechanics (ACG) to advance environmental research, training and education in the field.

Dr Andy Fourie has joined ACG (attached to the Faculty of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences) to focus on safe and sustainable management of mining wastes, new disposal strategies and mine closure.

The Centre can advance environmental geomechanics as a result of support from Rio Tinto, AngloGold Ashanti Ltd, Newmont Australia, WMC Resources Ltd and Worsley Alumina Pty Ltd.

Dr Fourie comes to UWA from the University of Witwatersrand, where he was Professor of Construction Materials.

His work here will include the development and provision of training and training materials dealing with environmental issues, as well as developing and coordinating research activities that deal with problems identified by industry partners.

One of Dr Fourie’s first projects will be the development of training materials for operators of tailings dams. This will enable on-site personnel to recognise and react to signs that the dam is not being operated as designed and what should be done about it.

Now no need to pity those on a committee

The word committee can be a loaded one.

Depending on your perspective it can imply extra work or off-loading your responsibilities; a boring waste of time or a vibrant resource; a way of getting things done or a reason for putting things off…

A review of UWA committees in 2002 recommended some training of staff to ensure that committees ran more effectively.

A new on-line resource will be launched next week (March 30) to do just that. It has been written by Wendy Edgeley, who has probably had more experience in University committees than almost anybody. Mrs Edgeley retired from the University Secretariat two years ago, after more than 20 years at the heart of the campus committee structure.

“She had a lifetime of committee experience, she knew how UWA worked, and she had the time to put it all together,” said Vivienne Blake, lecturer in higher education development at Organisational and Staff Development Services, who jointly brought the project to fruition.

“It’s well written, in Wendy’s bright breezy style, underpinned by her solid understanding of UWA,” she said.

Mrs Blake said that, soon after the review’s recommendations, OSDS offered some training courses for people involved in committees.

“But, except for staff taking the roles of secretary or executive officer, these were fairly poorly taken up. So we decided to produce an on-line resource that everybody on staff could access whenever it was convenient for them. This way we hope that everybody involved in committees — chairs, executive officers or simply members — will use the resource and improve their performances.

“It is the responsibility of every member of a committee to ensure that it works well, not just the chair or the secretary,” she said.

The Website has practical tips and guidelines that support the University’s Principals for the Operation of Committees (www.secretariat.uwa.edu.au/home), as well as the recommendations of the review. It has strategies for ensuring the decision-making process is accurate.

For committee chairs, the resource gives an overview of the rewards and responsibilities of that position. For executive officers, there is advice on how to prepare an agenda, take minutes, create an information folder and induct new committee members.

The web guide is a joint initiative of the University Secretariat and Organisational and Staff Development Services, funded through the Senior Women’s Network.

After the launch, by Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Margaret Seares, on March 30, the resource will be at: http://www.secretariat.uwa.edu.au/page/66362
New interest in ancient lives

As technology dominates our lives with computers, mobile phones and DVDs, there seems to be a revival of interest in ancient history.

The Roman Archaeology Group was set up at UWA last year, after two successful tours of Roman Britain (led by Professor David Kennedy) revealed a wide cross-section of people eager to promote the subject, to enjoy it, and to help sustain its study.

The group’s newsletter RAG (for Roman Archaeology Group) published its broad aims: to provide financial support to tertiary students in WA to further their studies in Roman Archaeology; to create fieldwork opportunities for students and RAG members; to endow an additional teaching and research position in Roman Archaeology in a university in WA; and to arrange exhibitions, publications and lectures for the community.

It’s not just academics who are members of RAG. The deputy chair, Don Boyer, works in the mining and resource industry; and Kevin O’Toole, who handles correspondence for the group, is a barrister and solicitor.

The first issue of RAG featured a detailed analysis of the battle scene in the film Gladiator, and concluded that it was not terribly authentic.

Also featured was an article by David Gibb, a retired medical technologist who, in his retirement, is completing an MA in ancient history. He wrote about molecular genetics in the study of ancient peoples.

If you would like to join the group, please contact Professor David Kennedy on 6488 2150 or by email, d kennedy@cyllene.uwa.edu.au
Four graduate students who completed their PhDs last year have been awarded an extra bonus for outstanding papers they published during their research.

Professor Robyn Owens, Dean of Graduate Studies, said the prizes were awarded in four categories: Biological Sciences; Humanities and Social Science; Mathematics, Physical Sciences and Engineering; and Medicine and Dentistry.

She said the student prizes also recognised excellent work by the winners’ supervisors. All of the graduates complemented their supervisors, who often co-authored their published papers.

**Dr Kate Frencham**, Biological Sciences (pictured above), who completed her PhD in the School of Psychology, wrote several major papers instead of one extended thesis. It was one of these, *Effects of verbal labelling on memory for hand movements*, that was published in the *Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society* that won her the $1,000 prize.

Her supervisors were Dr Allison Fox and Dr Murray Maybery, whom she said were very supportive of the way she wanted to approach her thesis, and provided invaluable feedback along the way.

"Completing my PhD as several separate papers really suited the way I like to work. It meant I could get results published and disseminated without having to wait years to complete a lengthy thesis," she said.

Dr Frencham’s winning paper looked at the cognitive components of a task of memory for sequences of hand movements.

"The tasks had been used clinically (in neuropsychology) for some time, yet before this study, nobody had identified, which cognitive processes it was tapping. Our previous paper had shown that the task was more verbally based, and this study addressed the specific nature of that verbal processing.

“We had participants complete the task while saying labels that were either matched or mismatched to the movements presented. Our results showed that rather than remembering movement sequences as such, participants were generating verbal labels to remember them.”

Dr Frencham is now working as a neuropsychologist in Melbourne, based in a memory clinic, assessing individuals in the early stages of dementia, and also in an aged psychiatric ward. She hopes to return to research that relates to clinical practice.

**Dr Joe Clare**, Humanities and Social Sciences (pictured below) had high praise for his supervisor, Professor Stephan Lewandowsky.

"Steve was excellent: a huge influence on the way I went about things and a major factor in actually having my work finished on
**Dr Daniel Andrews**, Medicine and Dentistry (*pictured left*) was enrolled to do his PhD in the School of Biomedical and Chemical Sciences, but worked with Dr Mariapia Degli-Esposti, head of experimental immunology and the Centre for Ophthalmology and Visual Science (COVS).

*Nature Immunology* published his winning paper, *Functional Interactions between dendritic cells and NK cells during viral infection*.

His group was one of the first to show the relationship between dendritic cells and natural killer cells: a relationship that Dr Andrews says is important in a lot of cancer therapies.

Dendritic cells are the main cells of the immune system and natural killer (NK) cells, are lymphocytes which rapidly respond to infection, and fight it.

"Only a couple of people had looked at this relationship before, and we were the first to show an *in vivo* interaction in cytomegalovirus," Dr Andrews said.

He said this research formed the basis of a lot of work in the immunology lab and allowed the group to move on to other experiments with immune cells.

"I’m now getting into immunology of the eye, working in the area of age-related and diabetic-related problems."

At COVS, he is using a state-of-the-art fluorescent activated cell sorter which uses laser technology and fluorescent dyes to help define and follow pathways.

**John Bamberg**, Mathematics, Physical Sciences and Engineering (*pictured left*), co-authored his winning paper with his supervisor, Professor Cheryl Praeger, in the School of Mathematics and Statistics, where he is now working.

His PhD thesis was on *Innately Transitive Groups*. "The topic I studied was on a class of abstract entities called group actions, which are, in some sense, the abstraction of the idea of symmetry," Dr Bamberg said.

"During my PhD candidature, we looked at a large class of groups which we termed ‘innately transitive’ and we developed a completed characterisation of the groups, together with an alternative characterisation, whereby every innately transitive group arises from a more basic object known as an ‘innate triple’," he said.

His paper, *Finite permutation groups with transitive minimal normal subgroup*, encapsulated much of the main results of the thesis.

It was published in the *Proceedings of the London Mathematical Society*.

If you would like to follow up any of this prize-winning research, please contact the relevant Schools.
More than 120 outstanding school leavers have begun their studies at UWA this year with the help of the UWA Fogarty Foundation scholarships program.

Ten of them have received new City and Regional Scholarships, initiated this year by the Fogarty Foundation, and five have won Vice-Chancellor’s Awards of Distinction.

They were presented at a ceremony in Winthrop Hall the night before semester began. Also awarded that night were four Group of Eight scholarships, 16 UWA Diversity and Merit Awards and 93 UWA Excellence Awards (one for each high school in the state).

The inaugural City and Regional Scholarships went to three rural students and seven city students. The rural students, whose accommodation costs are covered by the scholarship (as well as their HECS contributions) are: Michael Douglas, from Bunbury, who is studying Law and Arts; Natalie Akl from Dalyellup and Vinith Menezes from Geraldton, both of whom are studying Medicine.

Michael was head boy at Newton Moore College and helped with fundraising activities in Bunbury, playing music for charitable events and organising one of Australia’s Biggest Morning Teas. He was chosen to speak at a leadership forum where he shared the podium with Steve Waugh.

Natalie went to Bunbury Catholic College and was active in Young Vinnies, the youth sector of the St Vincent de Paul Society. She provided peer support for younger students at her school.

Vinith is active in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, organised a group to clean up Geraldton’s beaches, co-ordinated a swim-through for cancer research and fundraised for local young sports players, to send them to national competitions.

In the city, Melissa Watts, (Medicine) was also active in fundraising for water polo, swimming and hockey clubs both in and out of school, as well as taking part in her school’s Big Sister mentoring program.

Raymond Chester (Law/Commerce) used his skills in drama and debating to speak at church fundraisers. He was the CEO of a business set up under the Young Achievers Australia scheme.

Marc White (Science, in particular Physics) was a house prefect at his school and worked on their school year book. He is also a keen cricketer with the Balcatta Cricket Club.

Jeremy Cowcher (Law/Commerce) took an active role in the religious program at his school, leading retreats for his fellow students. He was also involved in debating and drama.

Robert Marshall (Medicine) is from Pingelly, but was a boarder in the city. He has worked with the Red Cross soup patrol and the Hale-Sony Foundation which runs holiday camps for children. He was a joint winner of the Lions Youth of the Year, which recognised his leadership in sport and cultural activities as well as his public speaking ability.

Kyle Hoath (Medicine) was dux of his school in Warnbro and nominated by the school for the scholarship. He hopes to be able to use his medical skills one day to help people in situations such as the Bali bombing and the tsunami.

Darren Kirke, from Halls Head, was also awarded a scholarship, but has deferred and will be overseas for a year.

The vice-chancellor’s awards of distinction went to four city students and one from the country. Claire Van de Ruit was the dux of Collie Senior High School, played in both her school’s brass and jazz bands, played soccer and volleyball during Country Week, and was a volunteer at the ANZAC Day dawn service.

Justin Tadros was a house prefect, played saxophone in three school ensembles, was captain of the 2nd XI cricket team, and won awards for service and citizenship. He has already been accepted to study at Cambridge University when he turns 18, but as he is only 16, he will study at UWA and defer his course at Cambridge.

Jessica Hewitt is currently pursuing her silver Duke of Edinburgh award, and teaches hockey and swimming to younger children. She won a marketing award from Young Achievement Australia.

Chloe Heath was the dux of her school, took part in the UWA SmArts program, and is a tennis professional at Alexander Park. She was a finalist in the ANZAC competition for public speaking.

Madusha Chandratilleke has a Duke of Edinburgh bronze award. She played in the string ensemble and symphony orchestra at school and is a netball umpire.

Winners of the vice-chancellor’s awards of distinction and the city and regional scholarships all had TER scores of 99 and above.

It is expected that they will become leaders of the student community and in their chosen professions when they graduate.
Autumn Graduations

Ten West Australians who have made significant contributions to the state have been honoured at UWA’s autumn graduation ceremonies.

A further three will receive their awards at the final ceremonies this week.

Eight Honorary Doctorates and five Chancellor’s Medals will have been presented in nine ceremonies in Winthrop Hall.

At the first ceremony, husband and wife philanthropists, Sir James and Lady Cruthers were both honoured: Sir James with an honorary Doctor of Letters, and Lady Sheila with a Chancellor’s Medal, for their contribution to the arts and culture. The pair nurtured budding Australian artists when they lived in New York.

Dr Patricia Kailis, neurologist and geneticist, businesswoman and patron of many charitable organisations, was made an honorary Doctor of Letters. At the same ceremony, former Chair of the Friends of the UWA Perth International Arts Festival, Adjunct Professor Mike Grant, was awarded a Chancellor’s Medal.

Eminent scientist, Dato’ Dr Noramly bin Muslim, who has worked to improve conditions in developing countries, received an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters at a ceremony for the conferring of awards in Economics and Commerce.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Port of Fremantle, Kerry Sanderson, was made an honorary Doctor of Letters, and former Albany Mayor Annette Knight was awarded a Chancellor’s Medal.

University of Queensland Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Hay, was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Science on Wednesday.

Professor George Stewart, Dean of the Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences delivered the occasional address at the ceremony for the conferring of awards in science faculties, and Dr Barrie Purser was awarded a Chancellor’s Medal.

Emeritus Professor John Bloomfield was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Science.

University of Queensland Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Hay, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters and delivered the occasional address at the ceremony to confer awards in Education and Law.

At the ceremony to confer awards in Engineering, Computing and Mathematics this week, Gregory Bourne will be awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters.

Also this week, Patrick Henry will be awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Dental Science, and former UWA executive Director Finance and Resources, Martin Griffith, will receive a Chancellor’s Medal.

More than 2,700 students graduated at the autumn ceremonies, most of them with undergraduate degrees, and 75 with PhDs. More students (557) had Bachelor of Commerce degrees conferred than any other degree. About 400 students graduated with Bachelors of Science in various disciplines, and 315 with Bachelors of Arts.

More than 250 new engineers, 93 medical doctors and 116 teachers were part of the cap and gown processions.

The Other Brother

Holmes à Court is one of the best known names in Western Australia.

But the recognition afforded businesswoman Janet Holmes à Court, her late husband Robert, their children and even his mother did not extend to Robert’s brother, Simon.

The Other Brother is the appropriate title for a book about Simon Holmes à Court and his mysterious disappearance and death in Africa in the 1970s.

It was written by UWA economics graduate and journalist Geoff Elliott who was plunged into the world of the Holmes à Courts in his first year as a journalist at The West Australian newspaper: “It was 1987, the year of the stock market crash, and having an economics degree, I was rushed into the finance department.”

Geoff later worked in Europe for a few years, then went to South Africa. “When I said I was from Perth, they knew I’d know the Holmes à Courts and asked if I’d heard about Simon and the mystery that surrounded his disappearance,” he said.

“I read the files and became intrigued by the case. The two brothers seemed to me to be such opposites. Simon was a conservationist, and adventure and an artist who didn’t seem remotely interested in making money.”

Although it is a true account of the last days of Simon Holmes à Court’s life (as far as anybody knows) The Other Brother reads like fiction: a fast-moving easy-to-read mystery. The adventurous, sometimes reckless brother of the Perth billionaire disappeared at a time when South Africa was on the brink of civil war. Why? What happened? Was he murdered or was it suicide? Geoff Elliott’s book takes the reader deep into Africa to try to understand the tragedy at the heart of one of Australia’s most prominent families.

The Other Brother is published by Allen &Unwin and is available at the Co-Op Bookshop for $24.95.
How to get into print
All notices, classified ads and redundant equipment can now be sent to our new email address:
staffads@uwa.edu.au
We are no longer publishing Campus Diary, as these events are now available on the Web at http://events.uwa.edu.au
Instead of the Info Lift-out, we have made the magazine bigger by four pages, and all the information that used to be in the lift-out (except for Campus Diary) is now in the inside back pages.
Please call Maryvonne Bestel in Public Affairs (6488 1900) or Lindy Brophy, editor UWA News (6488 2436) if you have any queries.

RESEARCH GRANTS AND CONTRACTS
WA GOVT OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND INNOVATION
Dr Karen Georgianna Haines, Computer Science and Software Engineering: ‘Parallel GPU-based Computation and its Application to Next Generation Telescopes’ — $180,000

AUSTRALIAN PIPELINE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Dr David Pack, Oil & Gas Engineering: ‘Elemental Sulphur Formation in Natural Gas Transmission Pipelines Stage 2’ — $95,000

BUSSELTON POPULATION MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION
Prof John Kevin Olynyk, Medicine Foundation Medical Research

NEW STAFF
Welcome to the new staff who have joined the University this year.

Dr Snezana Agatonovic-Kustrin, Senior Lecturer, Biomedical and Chemical Sciences
Dr Rhonda Clifford, Senior Lecturer, Biomedical and Chemical Sciences
Dr Charlene Kahler, Senior Lecturer, Biomedical and Chemical Sciences
Dr Harry Sakellariou, Lecturer, Biomedical and Chemical Sciences
Treslyn Hansen, Technical and Course Co-Ordinator Manager Clinical Training & Education Centre (CTEC)
Lucas Bradstreet, Research Associate, Computer Science and Software Engineering
Dr Alan Crake, Lecturer, Economics and Commerce
Tracey Horton, Dean, UWA Business School, Economics and Commerce
Dr Rita Armstrong, Faculty Administrative Officer, Engineering, Computing and Mathematics
Chee Keong Leong, Informatics Team Leader, Medicine and Dentistry
Zarrin Siddiqui, Lecturer, Medicine and Dentistry
Lisa Mayer, Administrative Assistant, Natural and Agricultural Sciences
Katherine Edhouse, Administration Officer, Law
Rodney Hamilton, Library Officer Librarian
Michelle Murphy, Research Nurse, Medicine and Pharmacology
Karen Farrelly, Dental Clinic Assistant, Oral Health Centre of WA
Elva Murphy, Dental CIWA Assistant, Oral Health Centre of WA
Elva Rodriguez, Dental Clinic Assistant, Oral Health Centre of WA
Tanya Swift, Dental Clinic Assistant, Oral Health Centre of WA
David Ford, Associate Lecturer, Population Health
Jane James, Administrative Assistant, Primary, Aboriginal and Rural Health Care
Herbert Ludewick, Chief Technician, Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences
Dr Alison Bartlett, Senior Lecturer, Social and Cultural Studies
Sharon Mackie, Medical Receptionist, Student Services
Kathleen Daven, Laboratory Manager, WA Institute for Medical Research
Dr Minakumari Patel, Dentist, Oral Health Centre of WA
Kayla Radcliffe, Dental Clinic Assistant, Oral Health Centre of WA
Elva Rodriguez, Dental Clinic Assistant, Oral Health Centre of WA
Anastasia Saveleva, Dental Clinic Assistant, Oral Health Centre of WA
Orlando Dos Santos, Oral Health Centre of WA
Roberto Rispoli, Senior Information Analyst, Planning Services
Dr Sheng Chen, Research Associate, Plant Biology
Lynette Colvin, Research Officer, Population Health
Catherine Unwin, Senior Research Officer, Population Health
Jennifer Casson, Project Officer, Primary, Aboriginal and Rural Health Care
Jane James, Administrative Assistant, Primary, Aboriginal and Rural Health Care
Ildam Mukmin, Dental Officer, Primary, Aboriginal and Rural Health Care
Maureen Robertson, Liaison Officer, Primary, Aboriginal and Rural Health Care
Dr Sarojini Weerasinghe, Medical Co-ordinator, Primary, Aboriginal and Rural Health Care
Peta Lindsay, Graduate Research Assistant, Psychology and Clinical Neurosciences
Herbert Ludewick, Chief Technician, Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences
Donna Bayliss, Lecturer, Psychology
Dr Nicolas Fay, Lecturer, Psychology
Penelope Rowllett, Administrative Officer (Grants), Research Services
Dr Alison Bartlett, Senior Lecturer, Social and Cultural Studies
Emily Buckland, Administrative Assistant, Social and Cultural Studies
Dr Mark Sachmann, Lecturer, Social and Cultural Studies
Peter Cottam, Administrative Officer, Student Services
Sharon Mackie, Medical Receptionist, Student Services
Dr Robyn Mayes, Learning Skills Advisor, Student Services
Anthony Turner, Administrative Officer, Student Services
Deborah Bolton, Receptionist, UniPrint
Janine Drakeford, Publishing Manager, Vice-Chancellor
Rishelle Hume, Indigenous Employment Officer, Vice-Chancellor
Kathleen Daven, Laboratory Manager, WA Institute for Medical Research
Katherine Sandford, Administrative Officer, WA Institute for Medical Research
Rahshim Bangoura, Assistant (Accounts), WACRRM
Edward Jones, Research Associate, Water Research
Graeme Polglase, Research Associate, Women and Infants Health

PROMOTION BRIEFS
SENIOR LECTURER TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
Dr John Gordon (School of Social and Cultural Studies) was responsible for the journal Anthropological Forum becoming one of the premier anthropological journals in Australia. He has contributed enormously to the high standing of UWA in anthropology. His excellence in teaching is evidenced by the Distinguished Teaching Award. He has given sustained outstanding service to the University at both the Departmental and School level of leadership and management.

Dr Peter Eastwood (School of Anatomy and Human Biology)
His collaborative research program, focused on the clinical investigation of respiratory disorders relating to sleep disorders, bronchitis and chronic lung disease, has brought him national and international recognition. Published a series of seminal studies on the function of the human upper airway, particularly examining the effects of various levels of anaesthesia. Has attracted a series of important peer review grants, most notably his recent NH&MRC project grants, NH&MRC development grant and ARC Discovery grant. An effective and committed teacher who has demonstrated innovation and flair in his preparation and presentation achieving high SPOT scores. He has a substantial research supervision load.

LECTURER TO SENIOR LECTURER
Dr David Bishop (School of Human Movement and Exercise Science) His supervision of successful Honours students is extraordinary in the light of the amount of mentoring and thesis writing that is required Doctoral student supervision is also clearly demonstrated. He has received several “young investigator awards”, testimony to the growth of his reputation. He is a prolific producer of research in high quality international publications.

Dr Anthony Bakker (School of Biomedical and Chemical Sciences)
Highly regarded for his work on skeletal muscle physiology and has published in high-quality physiology journals. A commendable list of conference proceedings publications nationally. Has attracted significant external support for highly specialised laboratory infrastructure, and effective collaborations. A significant and appreciated contributor to the teaching of physiology with high SPOT scores who makes effective use of the Web for teaching materials.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE TO RESEARCH FELLOW
Dr Itai Einav (Centre for Offshore Foundation Systems) received a high level of professional recognition demonstrated by several invited lectures, prizes and awards, including the prestigious 2004 ARC AP Fellowship award for his outstanding research on Continuum Damage Mechanics in Geotechnical Engineering, illustrating his efforts to support his own and his students research. He is a reviewer for the ASCE Journal of Engineering Mechanics and Canadian Geotechnical Journal, both of international standing.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR TO PROFESSOR

Dr Kevin Singer (School of Surgery and Pathology)

Internationally recognised for a major contribution to the understanding of thoracoabdominal visceral anatomy and its functional and clinical implications, and has published in high impact journals. Taken a major developmental and administrative role as Director of the Centre for Musculoskeletal Sciences. Designed and delivered the Centre as a focus of postgraduate teaching and research excellence in physiotherapy. Has mentored and inspired significant numbers of graduate students, workers on novel clinical courses, and provided service across a range of university committees and within his profession.

Dr Michael Hobbs (School of Population Health)

As the first academic appointment in Public Health in Western Australia, he stimulated the development of his discipline, becoming inaugural Head of the University Department of Public Health (now School of Population Health). Promoted the early development of medical record linkage in Western Australia and its use in epidemiological and health services research, receiving national and international recognition. Has an impressive record of research. Instigated the internationally renowned cohort studies of asbestos related disease in former Western Australia asbestos workers and residents and was a Principal Investigator in the World Health Organisation MONICA project of trends and determinants of coronary heart disease, 1982-94. Developed, with colleagues, the School's highly successful medical teaching programmes.

Dr Matthew Knuiman (School of Population Health)

Demonstrating the highest level of educational leadership, and exhibiting best practice in relation to teaching and learning, in particular the design of educational materials. An enormously productive researcher, with significant contribution to methodological advances. Contribution to and leadership of the Busselton health study.

SENIOR LECTURER TO PROFESSORIAL FELLOW (RESEARCH)

Dr. Ji t i Gao (School of Mathematics and Statistics)

Possesses a rare capability in both econometric and statistical theory. Academic scholarship of the highest standard in time series econometrics, statistics, applied finance and financial econometrics. Received international recognition for his breakthrough research on semi-parametric statistics and stochastic processes with long-range dependence, and non-linear, non-stationary time series econometrics and financial econometrics. Substantial contributions to curriculum reform and course development in the statistics area.

RAINE VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS

First Round

Closing Date: Monday, 2nd May 2005

First Round nominations are invited for Raine Visiting Professorships in the context of the international debate on individualisation of work. These awards facilitate the visits of distinguished scholars to the University for the purpose of advancing medical research.

Two categories of Visiting Professorship are offered:

• long-term visits fully funded by the Raine Foundation (Category I Professorships); and
• short-term visits funded on a shared basis with the host School (Category 2 Professorships).

A copy of the Conditions and Nomination Form are available from the Raine administrative office, or the web site as detailed below. http://www.raine.uwa.edu.au/visit/

Raine Medical Research Foundation, Suite 24, Hollywood Specialist Centre, 95 Monash Avenue, Nedlands, WA 6009

Telephone: 9386 9880 Fax: 9386 9522 Email: lelli@raine.uwa.edu.au

SCHOOL OF ANATOMY & HUMAN BIOLOGY

FIRST SEMESTER SEMINARS 2005

Held on Tuesdays 1.30pm (unless otherwise indicated) Room 1.81, 1st Floor ALL WELCOME

22 MARCH Pru Hart (NHMRC Principal Research Fellow, ICHR) How sunlight, via mast cells, controls immune responses.

29 MARCH Mid-Semester Break

5 APRIL Pia Marie Nisson (Danish Institute of Agricultural Sciences) Within-litter variation in muscle fiber characteristics, pig performance, and meat quality.

19 APRIL Stuart Bunt (Anatomy & Human Biology) Possible radical changes to education and industrial relations once the Liberals have control of the Senate.

26 APRIL New Honours proposal seminars

3 MAY No Seminar

10 MAY Rachel Sherrard (Anatomy & Human Biology) Developmental Climbing Fibre Re-innervation Confers Functional Benefit? Repair or Adaptation?

17 MAY Guy Ben-Ary (HEART) & Oron Catts (TC&A) (Anatomy & Human Biology) Update on recent exhibitions, workshops and activities.

24 MAY No Seminar

31 MAY Luis Filgueira (Anatomy & Human Biology) Bone, Metal Implants and the Immune System.

PARKING: Coin operated visitor parking is available in Car Park 4 near Shenton House. City of Subiaco controlled riverside parking is also available. Enquiries: Vicki Wallis Phone: 6488 3290 Fax: 6488 1051 Email: vwallis@anhb.uwa.edu.au

CLASSIFIED ADVERTS

Classified advertising is free to all university staff. To place your advertisement, please email: staffads@uwa.edu.au

FOR SALE

HOLDEN COMMODORE VX2 Equipe 2003, as new, only 18K Kms! Fully optioned with elect windows, cruise, leather steering wheel with audio cont, premium tint, garaged. Price possible. Inspection by overseas. Contact: Viera - ext 3129 CARAVAN: Jayco Classic pop-top, 1.3ft, roll-out awning, annex, 3-way fridge, 4 burner stove, 2 single beds, all accessories included, immaculate condition. $16,500 ono. Contact: Victoria Wilkinson ext 1239; e-mail: victoria@phil.uwa.edu.au ANTIQUE LOUNGE: Club Style 1930s, 3 seater and 2 singles, solid Jarrah frame, scrolled arms, solid embossed fabric, excellent condition. $1,800 ono. Contact: Victoria Wilkinson ext 1239; e-mail: victoria@phil.uwa.edu.au KEYBOARD: Yamaha PSR-150 with stand. Hardly used. Excellent condition. $250 ono. Contact: Victoria Wilkinson ext 1239; e-mail: victoria@phil.uwa.edu.au SHADOW CRUISER NISSAN PINTARA 1992 Manual Sedan, 5 spd, white, 5 door, fairly new battery. A very reliable car and extremely cheap to run. registration till Sep 05. Perfect for a student. $1,850. Contact Kabilan on kk Krishna@admin.uwa.edu.au or 6488 3185 weekdays.

APARTMENT: PANTOMIC CITY VIEWS can be seen from the balcony of this fully furnished one bedroom apartment. Situated in a fully secured high rise complex, in house caretaker, fabulous B/ G pool, secure parking, excellent investment. Located in Victoria Park close to public transport, schools, universities, shops and cafes. Can e-mail photos. Inspection by appointment only. $159,000. Phone: Ext 1259 or 0414 747 755 or e-mail: wvinko@bigpond.com APARTMENT: Enjoy city glimpses from this ground floor fully renovated and furnished one bedroom, open plan living apartment with private courtyard. Enjoy relaxing times...
FOR RENT


SOUTH FREMANTLE: 3 bedroom, fully furnished character home in South Fremantle, quiet cul de sac with community playground, walk to beach, cafes, and central Fremantle, bus route to UWA and Murdoch at end of street. Ideal for family on sabbatical or professional couple. Available June 25 2005 to January 25 2006. Rent $300 p.w. References required. Ph. 0419 388 270 or Paul. Higgins@uwa.edu.au.

COMO: 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom duplex. Furnished. From c. 1 April to mid-August or part. Phone: 040-891-7952; dkennedy@cyllene.uwa.edu.au

PACKING BOXES. $2 each, good condition. Contact Matt on: 3170 or piggott@cyllene.uwa.edu.au.

FOR SALE

continued

around the B/G pool and barbeque area. Situated in a fully secured high rise complex, in house caretaker, secure parking and excellent tenant. An ideal investment property located in Victoria Park close to public transport, schools, universities, shops and cafés. Can e-mail photos. Inspection by appointment only. $159,000. Phone: Ext 1259 or 0414 747 755 or e-mail: wilkinson@bigpond.com

LIGHT TABLE: A0 size light table on stand. Excellent condition. Offers over $500. 6488-2150; dkennedy@cyllene.uwa.edu.au

REDUNDANT EQUIPMENT

Bids should be accepted by Monday 4 April with schools to have first option

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>COND.</th>
<th>SECTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>iMacs x 3</td>
<td>$300 (ono)</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery</td>
<td>Sharon Tassicker, 6488 3977</td>
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<td>iMacs 233 x 5</td>
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<td>4-5</td>
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<td>iMacs 333 x 5</td>
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<td>HP Laserjet 6MP</td>
<td>Offers</td>
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<td>Business</td>
<td>Amanda Godecke, 6488 3879</td>
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<tr>
<td>2x Toshiba Port Replicators (for Satellite 4xxx series)</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Business</td>
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<td>PS2 keyboards</td>
<td>Offers</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apple Laserwriter 16/600</td>
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<tr>
<td>2x retractable monitor arms</td>
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<td>Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Natural Pro keyboards (USB/PS2)</td>
<td>Offers</td>
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<td>Amanda Godecke, 6488 3879</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural keyboard (PS2)</td>
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<td>IBM thinkpad 570 laptop</td>
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<td>UMAX Astra MX3 scanner</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>Set speakers x 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slot Loading iMacs 350 MHz G3</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mathematics and Statistics</td>
<td>Belinda Dood, 6488 3881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6GBHard Disk, 320 MB RAM Built in 56K Modem, CD ROM Drive</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fuji Xerox Photocopier 451 / SS1 series</td>
<td>$500 ono</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Human Resources</td>
<td>Annette Hockley, 6488 2184</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONDITION refers to the general condition of item (1 = as new; 2 = good; 3 = serviceable; 4 = unserviceable). AGE refers to the nearest year.

Schools are reminded that all University equipment available for sale must be advertised in the UWABEWS. Receipts should be PeopleSoft account coded 490 (computing with barcode), 491 (non-computing with barcode) or 493 (items with no barcode). If equipment has an existing barcode please contact extension 3618/2546 for details.

RENTAL OFFICE

Contact Ray Horn on 6488 8790 to discuss all your printing needs.

Email uniprintjobs@admin.uwa.edu.au

Website www.uniprint.uwa.edu.au

UniPrint is UWA’s in-house printshop. We provide a friendly and efficient print, copy and design service to all areas within the University.

- Graphic design and typesetting
- Digital copying
- General printing
- Sale of course readers
- Assistance with UWA and faculty branding guidelines
- On-campus copying
- Daily delivery and pickup

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- General printing
- Sale of course readers
- Assistance with UWA and faculty branding guidelines
- On-campus copying
- Daily delivery and pickup
Support sustainable transport

Win a Pedometer

Fill in the crossword below and return to UWA Sustainable Transport Programme, M458(B), UWA, 35 Stirling Highway, Crawley 6009. If you are unsure of any of the answers to the clues, check out the Transport webpage at http://www.ofm.uwa.edu.au/about/transport.

Be one of the first six correct entries drawn to win a Yamax Digi-Walker Pedometer valued at over $50. Entries will be drawn on Friday 1st April, 2005 at UWA Environmental Services.

Winners will be notified by mail.

ACROSS
1. Transperth online timetable programme, Journey _______.
3. Research shows that people who exercise regularly tend to be _______ than those who don’t. (more cheerful)
7. Active commuting is an excellent way to keep fit, even if you sit at a _______ all day.
9. Give off, exude (pollutants).
11. University Bicycle User Group (initials)
13. Use alternative transport modes and _______ money.
15. Short form of ‘Court’.
16. The UWA Sustainable Transport Programme aims to give every person equitable _______ to the campus.
20. Paths taken.
21. Place your morning commute begins.
22. Wear one of these when walking on sunny days.
23. UWA is working to improve _______ Of Trip Facilities.
24. Green transport guide, UWA/ Nedlands Access _______.
25. UWA-sponsored local bus service, the Subiaco _______.
28. Public transport, cycling and walking are all _______ commuting options.
31. Journey
32. Smog
34. New bicycle lockers will _______ with card access only. (become accessible)
36. Lots of people choose to cycle for _______.
38. Short form of ‘Street’.
39. There are two peak hour periods each day, AM and _______.
40. Particulate matter, sulphur dioxide, acid aerosols, nitrous oxides, ozone, carbon monoxide, lead, hydrocarbons, aldehydes and organic compounds are all emitted by motor vehicles and all contribute to Perth’s rising levels of air _______.

DOWN
1. People on foot.
2. Active commuting is an excellent form of _______.
4. Australian University with excellent cycling facilities (initials).
5. Public Transport Authority (initials).
6. Extreme driving stress can cause some people to develop road _______.
10. If you lack the confidence to cycle in traffic, we can _______ you. (Email transport@admin.uwa.edu.au for more details)
12. Undercover area on roadside where commuters wait for public transport.
14. Installing _______ End of Trip Facilities will encourage more people to walk and cycle. (additional)
17. Person who travels to and from work each day.
19. Sustainable Transport Coalition (abbrev.)
26. Bicycle-sized, snail-shaped shell for secure bike parking, bike _______.
27. Share a car ride to work or study with friends.
29. University Facilities Management department (initials).
30. Ensuring your bike is secure and in a well-lit public area, will help to prevent _______.
32. Tracks for pedestrians and cyclists, shared _______.
35. UWA has a parking _______ of 4,250 bays, including staff, student, visitor, service and reserved bays.
36. Active commuting will help to keep you _______.
37. National Greenhouse Office (abbrev.)
39. Public Transport (abbrev.)

NAME..........................................................................................................
ADDRESS...................................................................................................
PHONE..........................................................................................................
EMAIL.........................................................................................................
In 1964 I turned up at UWA as a student without any inkling of the revolution that attending university would usher into my life.

As an undergraduate in Arts and postgraduate in History I had my mind opened. It was a pleasure and challenge learning from Geoffrey Bolton, Iain Brash, Bert Hallam, Trish Crawford and Brian de Garis and I have many times given thanks for my training as an historian which gave me a view of the world as being shades of grey and not black and white, right and wrong. The past plays a powerful role in our lives and even today I have to stop before I enter the Arts building and remember that I am no longer an undergraduate, as the same polish is used in the corridors and the smell inducts me back to the 1960s.

I was fortunate to spend three years in Oxford as a postgraduate and the significance of this was the beginning of an excellent international network of friends and colleagues which has greatly expanded during my time at UWA Extension. I’d always had the view that I’d probably end up teaching and researching in a university somewhere but never in my wildest dreams would have imagined myself having a career in Extension. How fortunate I have been. It is a career that I have loved and found that I had a passion for providing and partaking of a rich variety of learning experiences offering challenge and opportunities for change. I’ve seen Extension as a place providing people with different ideas and possibilities of ways of being.

Like Johnny Appleseed, Extension walks across the landscape scattering seeds, unconcerned about germination, as that is up to the individual. The seeding is the critical process.

Extension has thrived and overcome many challenges in the time that I’ve been there and the emphasis we have on our entrepreneurial spirit, a futuristic approach to technology, the generation of new ideas and risk-taking is what has carried us through. As an ancient Chinese proverb says: “If you don’t change direction, then you’ll end up where you are headed”. UWA Extension is an active and adaptive organisation that sees and responds to the challenge of change and our peers see us as innovative and creative. We’ve received four International Awards, the most recent being for Excellence in Management Practice from LERN (a global US based organisation whose purpose is professional development for adult educators).

The times we live in are very challenging and Extension provides courses and experiences that will assist people in moving and developing throughout their life so they can think clearly and freely. Sometimes we are criticised for some of the courses we offer because they challenge accepted beliefs. I think this is great. There needs to be a great deal more of stirring the pot in our society and I do not think that universities do enough of this or take enough risks with new ideas. Seeking wisdom is in my view what really matters.

Adult education has always been the Cinderella of education in Australia. It is viewed by John Howard as hobby courses that deserve the impost of GST. Such a view shows a breathtaking ignorance of the significance of adult learners for the community. Over the thirty years I have been involved in the richness of adult education I have heard from so many people that the courses they attended had changed their lives and given them new perspectives and new ways of tackling situations that had arisen in their lives.

UWA has given me so much and enabled me to have an international career personified by fun, freedom, creativity and responsibility and I would like to thank all who have shared the journey with me. Now it is time to move onto a new life and discover what awaits me.