Every picture tells a story…

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Successful author, Dr Brenda Walker (see page 10); Engineering a boat for the Avon Descent (see page 7); Hackett’s grave to be restored (see page 11); Oscar, Zoology’s budgie (see page 9); The mite *Nanorchestes triclavatus*, one of the few organisms that live in Antarctica (see page 5); Gold medals for staff sports stars (see page 6).

...and they’re all at UWA
What did Friday June 16 2000 mean to you?

Across the globe an extraordinary literary and cultural festival of celebration took place on what is now known as ‘Bloom’s Day’ — the reading, in many places, in many languages, with many listeners in many cultures, from James Joyce’s complex masterpiece, *Ulysses*, itself set on that single day at the beginning of our last century.

Yet, ‘Bloom’s Day’ had other special meanings for me and our UWA diary of June activities.

Not only was it a very full day, beginning with a business breakfast at 7am and ending at 11pm with a WAHEC Ministerial dinner, and including a range of meetings and committees, but it was a day which included two events symbolising the future UWA.

The first was a very modest little ceremony in Love House, the home of our Centre for Staff Development. I had the pleasure of opening the proceedings which saw the launch of CATL (Centre for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning). Most appropriately, the new CATL insignia was unveiled jointly by Ms Deborah Ingram (Co-ordinator of the new centre) and Professor Alan Robson (Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost, and Chair of the University’s Teaching and Learning Committee). Alan has already done so much for the enhancement of this area of UWA and in his speech introducing CATL, he emphasised the vital importance of the systemising of ‘flexible delivery’ modes into our teaching programs. The notable achievements of creative individuals can only be a beginning. Ultimately, we need to integrate the new technologies into all the appropriate teaching and learning environments of our University.

The challenges are huge in this new era for school and university education. We have embraced this challenge in our desire to sustain high-quality interactive learning with increased flexibility and innovation in access, content, delivery and assessment.

Major grants will be competitively available to develop new courses across the spectrum of disciplines — an enormous, difficult and costly challenge. New patterns of self-learning, group interaction, enhancing self-assessment, all these factors are involved in what is potentially a revolution in teaching and learning.

Not to engage and not to triumph in this knowledge and technology revolution is unthinkable. We can take inspiration from the exciting and creative courses already utilising the new technologies and some new faculty strategy documents. But we need to emulate these models across all faculties and units. A new age dawns on campus.

Similarly, a new era exists on our international horizons. New off-shore teaching, using the capabilities of flexible and distance delivery technologies, will increasingly take UWA into our wider Asia region and the globe beyond.

Strategic partnerships — for research, student and staff exchange, course development, joint degrees and benchmarking — open new opportunities for institutional development on a new scale. That internationalising process has already begun in UWA but there is, again, a sense that we are but at the beginning of another kind of transforming revolution in the modern university.

These later notions were symbolised by the visit this week to Perth and UWA by a major delegation of Chinese educationalists from Zhejiang Province representing their Education Commission and its leading universities (36, in a province of 44 million people, including the heartland of Chinese new industry focused around Shanghai). As China pursues further its open-door policy, higher education will be crucial. UWA is excellently positioned to be a major participant in that process.

On Friday evening, in the company of our State Minister of Education (the Hon. Colin Barnett MLA) we farewelled the China delegation who, in turn, spoke positively of the opportunities for closer collaboration in the years ahead.

Strategies for implementing strategic alliances in Zhejiang Province (including Nanjing and Zhejiang universities) are now in motion. That is also a key part of our future as a major modern university.

After that dinner, I walked along the Swan under a huge full moon which turned the river into a shimmering surface of reflecting images.

Yes, Friday June 16 was a day to remember.

Professor Deryck M. Schreuder
Vice-Chancellor and President
Studying fungi in the roots of native plants of WA could well provide the answer to environmental damage in New Caledonia.

New Caledonian PhD student Frederic Boulet, working with Dr David Jasper, Director of the Centre for Land Rehabilitation, and Professor Bob Gilkes from Soil Science and Plant Nutrition, hopes to find answers for the successful rehabilitation of nickel mine sites in his homeland.

"In New Caledonia, nickel mining has caused damage to the environment during the past century," Mr Boulet said. "It is only since the 1970s that mining companies have been interested in restoring the land. But, even when native species were replanted, they would not grow easily.

"This is partly due to the soil extreme conditions, such as low nutrient content and high concentration in certain heavy metals, like nickel with up to 1.5 per cent," he said.

Mr Boulet said he had travelled to Paris (where he studied for his undergraduate degrees in geology and biology) and tried to interest the mining companies in supporting his research. "But they were not interested. After I found David Jasper, who has an excellent reputation for land rehabilitation, I talked my government into funding me to come here and work with him.

"The environments in Australia and New Caledonia have many similarities. New Caledonia was part of Australia several million years ago. We even have many similar plant genera as you do in Australia, including the Grevillea."

Mr Boulet said New Caledonia had a diverse environment with many endangered species of plants. Along with the southwest of WA, it was listed as one of the 20 environmental "hot spots" in the world that needed conservation.

Supported by local nickel mining company Comet Resources NL and assisted by plant scientists at Kings Park, Mr Boulet has propagated some rare native species.

He collected seeds from Comet's project site near Ravensthorpe and found that Kings Park's "smoke water" method was useful to germinate some seeds. He is now examining the adaptations of these plants that are needed to improve nutrient uptake and metal tolerance.

He is concentrating on the symbiotic relationship between some fungi (Mycorrhizas) and these plants. "I am proposing that mycorrhizal symbioses are beneficial to plant species grown on lateritic nickel soils and are an essential strategy in their adaptations for nutrient uptake and metal toxicity tolerance," Mr Boulet said.

He is looking at two types of mycorrhizal fungi — arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF) and ectomycorrhiza fungi (ECM), both of which occur in association with plant hosts in natural ecosystems.

The plant and fungi growing together seem to form a beneficial relationship, with the fungi helping the plant to absorb nutrients, and possibly limiting the entry of heavy metals. The fungi, of course, uses the plant as its host.

His work will be useful for mine rehabilitation both in New Caledonia and in Western Australia.

"The choice of these two environments allows for the exciting perspective of comparing nutrient uptake and metal tolerance mechanisms of plants in two different climates, facing similar soil constraints," he said.

Mr Boulet is amazed and delighted at the friendship and support he has received at UWA. "I have learnt so much working with a great team and they are always so happy to share their knowledge with me."

Frederic Boulet’s experiments will benefit both Australia and New Caledonia.
When David Yarran’s father became one of WA’s first Aboriginal death-in-custody statistics, his grief took a positive form.

He and his brother Ivan threw themselves into helping to establish the Aboriginal Legal Service (ALS).

That was in the 1970s when David was one of the states’ first Aboriginal court officers.

His daughter Gningala was proud of him, and, at the age of ten, made a decision that she would carry on her family’s fight for justice but she would go one step further. She would become a lawyer.

A few years later Gningala Yarran left school, went to business college, then worked in government offices, married, had five children and remained active in indigenous politics.

She never lost sight of her dream and, a few years ago, when her youngest child started pre-school, the time was right. Gningala Yarran-Clanton enrolled in law at UWA.

Now, almost finished her studies, Ms Yarran-Clanton is one of the recipients of a highly-contested award for Aboriginal students, the Gloria Brennan Scholarship.

Accepting the scholarship at the inaugural Aboriginal Scholarship Presentations at Shenton House recently, her family were uppermost in her mind.

“My husband, my kids, my sister — my whole family — have helped and supported me while I achieve my dream.

“My father made a difference to indigenous Australians. I want to take that a step further,” she said.

Ms Yarran-Clanton is an outstanding advocate for indigenous students. She spoke brilliantly at the recent Reconciliation Week launch, organised by the Guild in association with students from Shenton House.

The Gloria Brennan Scholarship, set up by ATSIC and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, is in memory of the late Ms Brennan who was one of the first Aboriginal graduates from UWA and who was instrumental in setting up the ALS (with David and Ivan Yarran) and the Aboriginal Medical Service.

Two students from each of Curtin and Edith Cowan universities also won a $1000 Gloria Brennan Scholarship.

The Evaline Rosina Henty Scholarship, set up as a bequest from her will, was also presented at the function. It is open to all Aboriginal students studying full-time in their first undergraduate degree. Each year, at least one student from each of WA’s public universities win an award.

This year, Kiarna Adams, a first-year medical student, and Jenny Bedford, a first-year law student, shared the scholarship with four others, each being awarded between $1000 and $3000.

Jenny Bedford, a mature-age student, said although it was hard to go back to study, she recommended that all Aboriginal people should give it a go.

The Lilian Harris Scholarship for Aboriginal women enrolled at any UWA university, went to two UWA students: Gayle Singer-Edwards, a first-year law student, and Rowena Hamlet, in her second year of arts.

The $500 Christine Morrow Scholarships, presented by Girija Taplin, from the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) went to Scott Roper, a UWA arts student and a student from Edith Cowan.

Christine Morrow was neither an Aboriginal person nor a Quaker but she was a lecturer at UWA who was interested in and concerned about Aboriginal issues.

The Gloria Brennan and Christine Morrow scholarships are considered under one application, as a symbol of reconciliation.

It is seen as the legacies of two women, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, coming together to promote understanding and reconciliation between the two communities.

This is the first time all the scholarships for Aboriginal students have been presented at the one time and place.

Gningala Yarran-Clanton, following in both her father’s and Gloria Brennan’s footsteps.
Not just ice, but isolation makes life hard to find

Why is there so little life in Antarctica?

The answer seems obvious: it’s too cold for anything much to survive there.

But the obvious answer is not the only answer. Polar ecologist Andrew Kennedy explained at a recent UWA seminar that geographical isolation is also an important factor contributing to Antarctica’s low biodiversity.

Dr Kennedy is a University Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Geography who is working on a project to identify the factors that control species distributions across Antarctica.

“Only species capable of long-distance dispersal are able to reach the shores of the Antarctic. So for a new species to be introduced, it must reach Antarctica by wind or wave, on the bodies of migratory birds or by human dispersal,” Dr Kennedy said.

“This is one of the reasons why there are no trees or polar bears in the Antarctic. The Arctic does not have the same geographical isolation.”

Initially a marine ecologist, Dr Kennedy spent four years as a biogeographer in the Antarctic with the British Antarctic Survey. After that, he worked on savanna ecology in the Kruger National Park, in tropical Africa.

“It’s really not that different: they are both extreme environments,” he said.

Although the Antarctic makes up a sixteenth of the world’s land surface, only a few varieties of flora grow there: mosses, lichens, algae, liverworts and just two flowering plants, the hairgrass Deschampsia antarctica and the pearlwort Colobanthus quitensis.

There are no trees, shrubs, reptiles or amphibians and, with the exception of man, there are no terrestrial mammals.

“But there is certainly life on the continent. It is a common misconception that the Antarctic is abiotic. There are areas that are not covered with ice and living organisms often thrive in these places,” he said.

Dr Kennedy took part in the 50th National Antarctic Research Expedition two years ago and completed a survey of plants and invertebrates in the Stillwell Hills on the eastern side of the continent, which had not been done before. A drill with tungsten-carbide teeth was used to get through the permafrost.

Dr Kennedy is now working on a project entitled “Impact of global environmental change on the terrestrial biogeography of Antarctica” for which he has recently been awarded funding from the Australian Antarctic Division.

“Politicians are concerned about the effects of climatic change but we need to understand what factors control contemporary species’ distributions in Antarctica before we can look at how they will respond to global environmental change.”

“How can we predict how a species will respond to global warming”, Dr Kennedy asks, “if we have not identified temperature as an important limiting factor?”

“Although Antarctica is the coldest place on Earth” he continues, “my research suggests that water availability is more important than low temperatures in determining species distributions.”

“Thus we should be focusing on how global warming will modify patterns of precipitation and snowmelt if we are to understand the biological consequences of global change”.

ABOVE: Dr Andrew Kennedy, UWA’s first polar ecologist, working among the ice.
LEFT: One of Antarctica’s living organisms: Nanorchestes triclavatus, a mite the size of a pinhead.
Pass, shoot, goal . . . all underwater!

The idea of playing hockey underwater might stretch the imagination for the uninitiated. But it’s not stretching it too much to place UWA at the Mecca for this unusual sport.

Australia has been the world underwater hockey champion for 12 of the past 14 years. And WA is the top state, holding the national title for 16 years, before losing it for the first time last year.

Four UWA staff and one student represented Australia at the world titles held in Tasmania last April: all of them came home with gold medals.

Craig Mackenzie, Manager of Uniprint, and wife Bronwyn, an administrative officer, Gavan Wise, a University courier, student Clare Forward (vice-captain of the Elite Women’s team) and another staff member who doesn’t wish to be identified all devote many hours a week to a sport that some people have never heard of.

It’s a sport that requires great aerobic fitness, skill, agility and teamwork. It was created about 50 years ago as a recreation for British naval divers, to keep them fit.

It has since spread to about 40 countries around the world. With about 100 players in Perth and more in country areas, WA has developed a reputation for having the best players.

So much so that Gavan Wise moved to Perth from the eastern states five years ago, to better his chances of making the Australian team.

A multiple medal winner, Gavan is passionate about the sport that he’s played and coached around the world. He trains up to 18 hours a week, including running, swimming, cycling and lifting weights. He was in the gold medal-winning Elite Men’s team at the World Championships this year.

Bronwyn Mackenzie and Clare Forward were both members of the Elite Women’s team, which also won gold. Craig Mackenzie won gold in the Men’s Masters division and was captain of that team.

They explained that the game is played by teams of six, with four substitutes for each team. The players wear mask, snorkel and flippers and play with a 30cm wooden stick, manoeuvring a plastic-coated lead puck along the bottom of a 2m deep swimming pool.

A 25m x 15m court is marked out with goals at either end and the skills needed to pass the puck between players are similar to soccer or field hockey.

Craig Mackenzie said that most underwater hockey players were born of scuba divers, looking for a challenge, rather than former field hockey players.

Players are actively involved in the play for between 10 and 15 seconds before surfacing for a quick breath of air, but even then, they are still watching the game.

Close teamwork and training is very important because, unlike field sports, you can’t shout instructions at your teammates while underwater.

The first time some people hear of underwater hockey, they are tempted to laugh. But the skills, fitness and dedication of the players are sobering.

Gavan Wise says it’s an inexpensive sport to play but his constant interstate and overseas travelling for competition makes it an expensive choice.

“Because it’s a minority sport, it’s very difficult to get sponsorship,” he said. “And we’re a long way down the list for consideration as an Olympic sport.”
Preparing for a high tech descent

Engineering skills could provide the edge at this year’s Avon Descent.

And part of the edge (of the boat) will be made of a new material used in ballistics, called zylon. It’s part of a vacuum bagged foam sandwich construction developed at UWA.

Two final-year engineering students, Andy Buck and Haydn Law, are building a powerboat to take part in the race in August. They aim to make it the best-engineered boat for the unforgiving Avon course.

Their consultant is PhD student Laurie Walker, whose research into composite materials was the inspiration for the project.

The students are concentrating on building a hull that will be faster, lighter, stiffer and tougher than their competitors’

Haydn and Andy have spent about a month building the boat, Daytrader HQ, named after their major sponsor, a new on-line share trading company, partly owned by a UWA graduate.

Laurie’s job was to find sponsors and materials and he had great success. The boat would have cost about $8000 to build, but sponsorship has covered all of these costs.

Toyobo Company in Japan has given the team the zylon. Other materials have come from Ciba Specialist Chemicals, Synthetic Resins, Colan Fibre Glass Products and Araldite.

Further financial assistance has come from Sound and Vibration Technology and Noise and Vibration Monitoring Systems.

The sides of the hull are basically polystyrene foam. The base is a carefully engineered sandwich, starting with a layer of carbon fibre (inside the boat), then 3mm of divinycell (a heavy-duty foam, which encases the hull sides), followed by unidirectional carbon, then the styrene core. Under the core is the zylon, then another 10mm of divinycell, finishing with several alternating layers of fibre glass and kevlar.

The transom is a balsa carbon construction and the whole vessel should weigh about 30kg when complete. It will be painted by Carlisle College of TAFE with signwriting by PK Signs and should be ready for water testing in July.

Andy and Haydn have already taken part in a trial on the Swan River and have another trial to complete to be eligible for the race. Neither of them has been in the Avon Descent before and will compete in the novice 8hp standard class.

Laurie paddled the Avon Descent last year and that started him thinking about using engineering skills and composite materials to build the ultimate Avon competitor. He does some boat building on the side and all the students had been involved in making windsurfers, but this is their first power boat.

“Haydn is in charge of the design, so if it’s slow it’s his fault; Andy is in charge of construction, so if it falls apart, it’s his fault. I’m just the consultant so I take no blame!” laughed Laurie.

Birthday presents from the Queen

EIGHT graduates from UWA received recent Queen’s Birthday honours.

The Hon. Dr John Dawkins was made an Officer in the Order of Australia (AO).

Five others became Members in the Order of Australia: Ronald Green, for his services to the Red Cross; the Hon. Bill Hassell, for his promotion of business and commerce and to the community through Anglicare; June Jones (former principal of St Hilda’s School) for services to education in curriculum development and educational theory; Emeritus Professor Roy Lourens (Department of Accounting and Finance); and Peter Panegyres, for services as Crown Solicitor for WA.

The Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) went to Merle Bignell of Kojonup for her work in local history; and Joyce Westrip, for services to the arts, especially administration of cultural events from the Indian Ocean rim.

The University congratulates them all!
Tuesday 27 June

LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY
“Ian Frith and Victorian stained glass”. Ian Frith is a stained glass artist who has worked in some of Britain’s most important churches and cathedrals. In the context of our exhibition, There was war in Heaven: stained glass design by Henry Holiday, Ian will talk about religion and the art history of stained glass during the Victorian period. 1pm, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery.

Wednesday 28 June

PATHOLOGY RESEARCH SEMINAR
“A possible mouse model for Alzheimer’s disease”, Dr Terry Robertson, Pathology. 1pm, Pathology Conference Room, G14, Ground Floor, M Block, QEII-MC.

Thursday 29 June

STATISTICS SEMINAR
“Spatial survival analysis”, Professor Adrian Baddeley, Mathematics and Statistics. 2.15pm, Blakers Lecture Theatre.

Monday 3 July

BOTANY SEMINAR
“Challenges for world food production in the new country”; Dr Donald L. Smith, New Sun Professor, McGill University, Montreal. 4pm, Room 2.14, Second Floor, Botany.

ADVANCE NOTICE
Saturday 29 July

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (WA) INC. — DINNER AND DEBATE 2000
In association with Medical Women of WA, Women in Engineering and Women Lawyers of WA. The topic discussed: “Medico-legal implications of tissue transplantation and cloning”, intro. by Professor Val Alder, Pro Vice-Chancellor of Research, Murdoch University. 7 to 11pm, Winthrop Hall. Dress: Formal. Cost: Tables of 8: $480 or $60 per person (incl. GST). RSVP by 22 July. Enquiries to L. Cala on 9384 1174 (after hours) or email lesacala@iinet.net.au. Partners, friends and students also welcome.

2000 AGRAM CONFERENCE
Every two years, the world-wide community of mathematicians working in Abelian Groups and related areas holds an international conference.
Following Colorado Springs in 1996 and Dublin in 1998, the 2000 AGRAM Conference will take place at UWA from July 9 to July 15. The acronym stands for ‘Abelian Groups, Rings and Modules’.
Apart from WA and the eastern states, the 50 participants come from every part of the world, including Fiji and Malaysia in our vicinity, Mexico, Canada and the USA, South Africa and Morocco as well as Germany, Czech Republic, Russia and China.
They range from famous established mathematicians such as 91-year old Professor B. H. Neumann from ANU and Professor L. Fuchs from New Orleans to postgraduate students from Australia and overseas.
The conference was last held in Australia in 1987, also in Perth. AGRAM is sponsored by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics and the Australian Mathematical Society. It will be opened by Professor M. Barber, Vice-Chancellor for Research at 10am on Monday 10 July. For further details, please call Phill Schultz on ext. 3381.

FACULTY OF ARTS
GRACE VAUGHAN AWARDS 2001
Friends and colleagues of the late Grace Vaughan have provided a sum of money to establish an award to be offered to individuals wishing to pursue studies in the area of social justice and human rights at UWA, or individuals with a demonstrated scholarly or professional concern for social justice and human rights wishing to travel in Australia or overseas for further studies likely to benefit the community. The award for 2001 will be $2000.
Staff, students and others interested in applying or requiring further information should contact the Administrative Officer, in the Faculty of Arts on ext. 2096. Closing date is September 1 2000.
Oscar, the Department of Zoology’s blue budgerigar, loves mimicking members of staff.

His favourite phrase is “Where’s Wally?” which administrative assistant (and Oscar’s owner) Kerry Knott says is on everybody’s lips.

“He’s our senior technician, Wally Gibb, and the most wanted man around here,” she said.

Oscar spends Monday to Friday in the department office, mostly out of his cage, chatting to the staff and sitting on their shoulders. Here, he makes friends with Andrea Davis.

UWA student and champion swimmer Jonno van Hazel just missed out on going to the Olympics by 0.3 of a second.

In our last issue, we said he finished fifth in the semi-finals of the Australian Olympic swimming trials. In fact, he finished the semi-finals as the third fastest qualifier but was narrowly beaten by slightly slower qualifiers in the finals.

Jonno came in fifth in the finals of the 50m freestyle. Only the two fastest swimmers go to the Olympics.

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**Catch that torch**

If you’re on campus on Saturday July 8, take a peek out the window about mid-afternoon.

The Olympic torch will be passing the University along Fairway, from about 3pm. It will be carried from Princess Road, into Fairway, then left into Clark Street, right into Broadway, right again onto Mounts Bay Road, then left into Winthrop Avenue.

The Fairway leg should take about 15 minutes, but if you miss it, you can catch it outside the front of the University a few minutes later.

**Faster than we thought!**

UWA student and champion swimmer Jonno van Hazel just missed out on going to the Olympics by 0.3 of a second.

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**GUILD NEWS**

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Located to the right of the North entrance to the Guild Village Courtyard

Call Laura on extension 2283 or email your requests to laura@gu.uwa.edu.au
Creative writing students could have no better teacher than a highly successful, award-winning author, in the midst of writing her fourth novel.

Inspiring is an adjective that Dr Brenda Walker’s students undoubtedly use about her.

But she insists that, conversely, it is her students who inspire her.

“My students are so excited about the possibilities of writing. They create a very positive environment in which to do my own writing,” Dr Walker said.

She has been teaching creative writing since its inception at UWA. Current colleagues include Professor Dennis Haskell, Dr Van Ikin, poet Marcella Polain and, more recently, Dr Steve Chinna.

Some of her students are writing substantial, publishable novels.

“But it’s not a forcing ground for novelists. My second/third-year course, Theory and Practice of Creative Writing, is an exploratory course, which places emphasis on technique.

“It’s not a waffly course. It includes how to negotiate with a publisher as well as focusing on techniques of poetry, scriptwriting and fiction,” Dr Walker said.

Her third novel, Poe’s Cat, an historically-based novel, has just been reprinted by Penguin, after its initial launch in Australia and the UK under the Viking imprint. It has now taken its place among the Penguin standard orange spine paperbacks.

Dr Walker’s current manuscript, which will be released by Penguin next year, is about the shiny idealism of the 19-year-olds who went to war, looking for excitement.

“I suppose I was inspired to a degree by my students here. I look at the 19-year-old boys in my classes and it’s unbearable to imagine them facing the horrors of Gallipoli.

“All the imagined horror of Poe (in her last novel) becomes historically realised in Gallipoli and France.”

Dr Walker has just returned from a war historians’ tour of Istanbul and Gallipoli and spent a sabbatical at Sydney University last year, working on her new novel.

Although success as a writer is now part of her life, she tells her students that it is not economically easy to be a writer in this country.

“They’re sensible about it, but they’re also focused and dedicated,” she said.

“**My students are so excited about the possibilities of writing. They create a very positive environment in which to do my own writing”**

Brenda Walker... finds UWA a very supportive place in which to write.
Restoration honours our greatest benefactor

Sir John Winthrop Hackett is commemorated in grand style on campus but his grave was left for many years crumbling and peeling.

The Office of Facilities Management has recently been given the go-ahead to restore the impressive grave at Karrakatta Cemetery.

The father of our University is remembered every day with Winthrop Hall, Hackett Hall, Winthrop Avenue, Hackett Drive and the annual Hackett studentships named after him.

A lawyer from Trinity College, Dublin, Sir John emigrated to Australia in 1875. By the 1890s, he was virtually running Western Australia, in tandem with the Premier Sir John Forrest.

According to UWA’s foundation Professor of English, Sir Walter Murdoch, “Hackett’s was the commanding brain, Forrest’s the commanding will.”

His dream that higher education should be accessible to all led him to donate 425,000 pounds to the University: 150,000 pounds went to the building of Winthrop and Hackett Halls; 50,000 pounds to the maintenance and management of the Hackett buildings, library and grounds; 190,000 pounds for Hackett studentships and bursaries; 10,000 pounds to the Hackett student loan fund; and 25,000 pounds endowment for the Vice-Chancellor’s salary.

Sir John’s wife Deborah and his daughters Patricia and Joan are also buried beneath the impressive monument on his grave. The ashes of his son, General Sir John Winthrop Hackett, and granddaughter Susan are also interred in the grave.

The Hackett grave at Karrakatta.

Restoration will involve cleaning of the granite monolith, resetting loose components, repointing all joints and repainting the lettering. New groundcover will be planted and maintained by Unigrounds.

In October, the grandchildren of Sir John will visit Perth from the UK and Zimbabwe for the Bussell family reunion and the Office of Development will host a function to celebrate the establishment of the Hackett Foundation and restoration of the grave.

Ningali Lawford, the actress whose infectious grin adorns Water Corporation billboards (pictured), is the star attraction at an aboriginal health conference to be held next month.

Run by UWA’s West Australian Centre for Remote and Rural Medicine (WACRRM) the conference will be held on 29 and 30 July at the Sebel Hotel in Perth.

Ningali will talk about Aboriginal health from a personal perspective, about the difficulties experienced by Aboriginal people when seeking medical assistance.

WACRRM is working to counteract the inequality in health between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians by educating doctors in Aboriginal health and improving medical services in remote and regional Australia.

“The conference has two objectives,” says WACRRM director Greg Down. “The first is to raise the profile of aboriginal health among GPs — to acknowledge their role in this area and to encourage them in their potential to play a bigger role.

“The second objective is to use the conference as a forum to discuss where we are going in aboriginal health — the improvements that have been made and the future, from a GP’s point of view, for improving aboriginal health.”

Also speaking at the conference will be Dr Ngaire Brown, the Executive Officer for the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association and Preventative Health Co-ordinator for World Vision Australia’s Indigenous Program.

For more details contact Annika Priest on 9384 2822.
Through the eyes of a rare species

Western Australia’s animal emblem, the numbat, has contributed to its scarcity by its choice of food.

Numbats eat termites, which are active during daylight hours, so numbats, unlike other marsupials, are diurnal animals, which forage during the day and sleep at night.

With their noses down snuffling out termites, they are easy prey for predators like snakes and birds with very well-developed sensory systems.

Zoology PhD student Catherine Arrese is working out exactly what numbats can see.

“One once we understand that, we can work out the best environments for re-introduction and translocation,” she said.

Catherine is working with Perth Zoo, which is involved in a numbat breeding program, in a bid to rid the marsupial of its endangered tag. Her PhD is being supervised by Professor Lyn Beazley and Professor Don Bradshaw.

Her work also encompasses the visual capabilities of other species at risk, the honey possum and the fat-tailed dunnart.

“We have found that the numbat has a very good visual acuity, which is unusual in marsupials. The numbat’s lifestyle doesn’t require such good visual capability — it’s an adaptation left over from its past life as a carnivorous predator.

“But it doesn’t really help the numbat avoid its predators because its eyes are situated halfway between a frontal position and a lateral position. They are not far enough round to the side or high enough on its head for it to sense the presence of a snake or bird while it has its head down feeding, which it does most of the day,” Ms Arrese said.

“So its visual system lets it down and contributes to it being endangered.”

She hopes to be able to recommend the best locations for reintroducing numbats, bred at Perth Zoo, (as well as honey possums and fat-tailed dunnarts) to the wild, taking their vulnerability and eyesight into account.

LEFT: Catherine Arrese has a passion for Australian native animals.
BELOW: WA’s numbat: its visual capacity will dictate its environment.

New home in advanced stage

The new pink building on campus that people are puzzling over will be revealed in all of its glory by July (but probably in a more sedate colour!).

The new wing behind the old Irwin Street building on James Oval, colloquially known as the Cricket Pavilion or Archives, is to be the home of the Institute of Advanced Studies. Construction began at the start of March and the steel-studs frame and weatherboard-clad building was up in a flash.

The architectural design is entirely in keeping with the original University building and will provide study space and meeting areas for visiting scholars.

In 2000, the first year of operation, there are more than 25 new visitors to UWA and the IAS, most of them to participate in cross-disciplinary research programs. A future Professor-at-Large scheme will see scholars, writers, artists and public intellectuals housed in a building that then allows them to roam widely across the campus.

The IAS and its building will be officially opened on 11 September by Dr Colin Lucas, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford. In the meantime, the Advisory Board was shown the almost-completed addition to the campus architecture at the start of its last meeting.

Terri-ann White, Executive Officer, IAS
Globalisation, Internationalisation and Universities

• UWA needs to enable our students to be competent world citizens and employees, comfortably able to operate anywhere in the world, through what we provide them in terms of course knowledge content, generic skills, research skills, and experiences with other cultures, languages, travel and study abroad.

• UWA needs to connect meaningfully with the global changes in information communication technology and flexible modes of delivery so as to adapt these technologies/modes to improve the quality of educational provision, as well as to strategically reach the new groups of students which are now possible.

• UWA needs to ensure that our educational provision is high quality and relevant to different markets, and internationally known to be so, so that we recruit the best students possible from wherever they are in the world. While we want to continue to provide well for our local market, our potential for attracting new kinds of high quality students is huge.

• UWA needs to strategically consider how to confront the enormous and rising global demand for higher education brought on by growing middle classes in developing countries, the requirements of professional continuing education, and the interest in lifelong learning. This demand is particularly strong in our region. We have a high-quality product that is increasingly in demand but the demand cannot possibly be met through traditional means. Others will seek to meet it (news media alliances, computer company conglomerates, publisher collaborations). Universities could easily lose their monopoly on not only knowledge but also certification.

• UWA needs to develop ways to participate in the policy and research debates on globalisation so that the intellectual resources of the University can be brought to bear on a dominant issue of our generation. As has been pointed out, this area is highly contested. We need to be active participants in the debate, and most importantly, creators of our own futures.

UWA intends to be active in relation to internationalisation. Last year we held a review of our internationalisation approach and an eminent panel made a series of recommendations. Faculties, departments and other units around the University have recently responded to this review. The new Internationalisation Committee will be working on a strategic action plan based on this review and on the responses to it. Of this you will hear more later. I invite you to visit the new website for Internationalisation (go to the UWA home page) which includes the launch of the strategy and an important speech by Professor Alan Gilbert, Vice-Chancellor at the University of Melbourne on the issues facing universities provocatively entitled: ‘Globalisation or Marginalisation: Managing the Collapse of a 900 Year Monopoly’.

Continued from page 16

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FOR SALE

KB LASER HATCHBACK (1985), white, mechanically A1, reliable and in good condition. $2750. Contact Caroline at home on 9387 1471.

OLYMPIC TICKETS, 27 to 29 Sept., 3 events, 2 tickets each. Events are athletics, basketball and canoe/kayak. Total cost: $240 p/w. Call Jo on 9245 2530 (a/h).

WANTED TO RENT

ACADEMIC COUPLE, no children, on study leave from Europe, seeking accommodation from mid-November to March 2000. Preferably small house/cottage or townhouse, ideally near ocean, in leafy surroundings and close to public transport. Please contact Bob Tonkinson on ext. 2858 or tonkinso@cyllene.uwa.edu.au.

TO LET

BRAND NEW THREE-BEDROOM HOME in Scarborough/Doubleview, near beach and shops and 15-20 mins from UWA. Unfurnished, ready to rent, preferably for long-term period. $240 p/w. Call Jo on 9245 2530 (a/h).

Redundant Equipment for Sale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>COND.</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Power Mac 7100/80AV</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Stuart</td>
<td>Elec. Eng.</td>
<td>3899</td>
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<tr>
<td>80MB/700HD CD/Keyboard</td>
<td>Sun Sparc II + printer</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tony</td>
<td>Crystallography</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 x Apple LC 630 with FPU 12M/150M</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tony</td>
<td>Crystallography</td>
<td>2726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HP Omni Laptop 486 (screen fading) 16M/500M PCMCIA ethernet &amp; modem I4.4</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tony</td>
<td>Crystallography</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gateway Laptop P 133</td>
<td>$600</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apple Performer 6360</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tony</td>
<td>Crystallography</td>
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<tr>
<td>486/1.1G 15&quot; Mon, Hi performance module</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tony</td>
<td>Crystallography</td>
<td>2726</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apple CD with remote</td>
<td>Mac LC111</td>
<td>Offers</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Penny</td>
<td>Org. and Lab. Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mac Powerbook520</td>
<td>Toshiba Pronotebook 8mg/T2450 cc/500</td>
<td>$350</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Penny</td>
<td>Org. and Lab. Studies</td>
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<td>Mac IIX</td>
<td>Apple Mac LC11</td>
<td>$70 or offers</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Eng. and Maths Sciences</td>
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<td>Apple Mac LC475</td>
<td>Lanier MP.510-5 Dictaphone</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Dianne</td>
<td>Eng. and Maths Sciences</td>
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<td>Apple LaserWriter LC800</td>
<td>Singer Caramate II Slide Viewer</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>—</td>
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<td>Dianne</td>
<td>Eng. and Maths Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postscript Laser Printer</td>
<td>NEC Silenwriter LC800</td>
<td>$150</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Dianne</td>
<td>Eng. and Maths Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postscript Laser Printer, plus 2 toner cartridges</td>
<td>HP 7215 B Plotter</td>
<td>$50</td>
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<td>2 x Epson FX-85 Dot Matrix Printer</td>
<td>Panasonic KX-P1092</td>
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<td>Multi-mode Printer (Dot Matrix)</td>
<td>2 x Epson LX-800 Dot Matrix Printers</td>
<td>$50 each</td>
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<td>Omnirzom Laminator</td>
<td>Macintosh SE Computer</td>
<td>$50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Macintosh SE Computer</td>
<td>NEC Silenwriter LC800</td>
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<td>GBC Thermabind Thermal Binder</td>
<td>GBC ThermaBind Thermal Binder</td>
<td>$10 (the lot)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ribbon Cassettes – Typewriter</td>
<td>2 boxes of 5 Pegasus Typewriter Ribbons</td>
<td>$20 (the lot)</td>
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<td>Dianne</td>
<td>Eng. and Maths Sciences</td>
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There are times when all of us have challenging issues to deal with. When personal or work related issues make life difficult, the University has an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to help staff manage these issues more effectively.

The EAP is a professional, confidential counselling and consultation service. The services of Davidson Trahaire are available FREE to you and your family for up to six sessions a year.

For appointments, please ring Davidson Trahaire on 9382 8100 or if urgent 9480 4847 (24 hours). Their offices are located at Suite 11, 100 Hay St, Subiaco. Further information can be obtained at www.admin.uwa.edu.au/sho

CLASSIFIEDS

Advertising Rates

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<th>ITEM</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Full page</td>
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<td>Half page</td>
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<td>Sixteenth page</td>
<td>$65</td>
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Bids should be accepted by Monday 24 July with departments to have first option

Departments are reminded that all University equipment available for sale must be advertised in the UWA News. 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 3618/2547 for details.

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

DETYA: EVALUATIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS PROGRAMME
- Prof Paul William Miller, Economics: “Higher education, literacy and labour market outcomes” — $15,000.

GLOBAL FOREST
- Dr Pauline Francis Grierson, A/Prof Mark Andrew Adams, Dr T. L. Bell, Botany: “Linking root anatomy and function: the role of cluster roots in P acquisition by banksia grandis” — $10,000.

GRDC (GRAINS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORP.)

- Dr Daniel Vaughan Murphy, Agriculture: Fellowship — “Impact of WA Agricultural practices on the quantity and quality of active components of soil organic matter.” — $10,000.

- Dr M. W. Sweetingham, Dr M. Shanicar and Dr Wallace Andrew Cowling, Legumes in Mediterranean Agriculture: “New strains of phomopsis for resistance on lupins and genetics of resistance in stem pods and seeds” — $74,185 (1999); $75,027 (2000); $77,224 (2001).

HAMERSLEY IRON PTY LTD, BHP, ROBE/NORTH
- A/Prof Mark Andrew Adams, Dr Pauline Francis Grierson, Mr Bradley Paul Degens and Mr Peter Alan Landman, Botany: “Carbon budgets in the pilbara: effects of mining and other changes in land use” — $70,000.

JANSEN-CILAG PTY LTD

LALOR FOUNDATION
- Dr S. A. Williams, A/Prof Graeme Bruce Martin, Animal Science and Production, A/Prof Arunuslim M Dharmarajan, Anatomy and Human Biology: Fellowship — “Contraceptive effect of an extract of Mangosteen leaves in female rats.” — $70,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH
- Prof J. Staddon, Dr Clive D Wynne and Dr Mathew Thomas Martin-Iverson, Psychology: “Learning memory and inference: a new animal model of addiction” — $3745.

RHETORICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA
- Dr C. R. Hicks, Dr G. J. Crawford and Prof Ian Jeffrey Constable, Ophthalmology and Visual Science: “Clinical trial of a novel orbital prosthesis” — $24,000.

RURAL INDUSTRIES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
- Mr Edward Charles Lefroy, Legumes in Mediterranean Agriculture: “Fodder crop consultancy” — $45,000.

Watch out for more Research Grants and Contracts in the next issue of UWA News.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA • JUNE 26 2000
Globalisation, Internationalisation and Universities

There would probably be very few academic staff around the University who did not have international experience. Nevertheless, there are many new kinds of ‘international’ activities developing. We are about to begin teaching a Bachelor of Science (European) where students spend a year in a lab at a European university. We are starting teaching a Master of Educational Management with Nanjing University in which most of the program will be taught in Nanjing by our staff and their staff in both English and Mandarin. Our Graduate School of Management teaches in Singapore and is about to begin in Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta and Beijing. Our Graduate School of Education teaches in Singapore, Hong Kong and Manila. The Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry is exploring research at master’s degree level with a university in southern China. The Department of English is looking at a PhD program connection with another Chinese university. There are many other examples. These kinds of developments are partially responses to a changing and globalising world.

Globalisation is actually an enormously complex set of phenomena involving economic, political and cultural aspects and it is contradictory and paradoxical. Often it is discussed as though it is one (alarming) force bearing down on us. However, the term globalisation is used to describe many different related matters virtually all of which are contested. For example, in terms of economic globalisation, the central debates are about ‘free’ trade versus ‘protectionism’ and which will facilitate both a stronger economy and a high standard of living. The recent protests at meetings of the World Bank and World Trade Organisation show that not all agree with the dominant western economic policies of the day.

In terms of political globalisation, we see both centrifugal and centripetal forces at work. Some previously separate areas of the world are forming new larger alliances, like the European Union. Other previously unified areas are splitting up, usually along ethnic and religious fault lines. Cultural globalisation is equally paradoxical. On the one hand many feel that we are being inundated by one dominant cultural force (the macdonaldisation of the world) and, on the other hand, others feel we are being swamped by too many multiple cultures, languages and races (the Pauline Hanson and La Pen factor).

Another aspect of globalisation is the way it transforms time and space. We can see a reduction in the hold of local circumstances over people’s lives and an increase in impact of distant circumstances. While the Nedlands council’s tree policy is of great concern to many, the American Reserve Bank’s decision on interest rates may have a greater effect on domestic life in Nedlands.

Globalisation also compresses time and space, speeding up events and relationships so that it can be hard to keep up. The now constant cycles of change in industry, government, schools and universities are a result of continual political demands for reform, incessant adoption of ‘new’ theories of management and change, and interminable demands that institutions do more, for more, with less. Increased technological communication and ceaseless requirements for reporting on performance fuel these.

A key to understanding how globalisation affects UWA is to understand how it changes Australia’s place in the world. Arguably we are not a country or a state or a university on the ‘periphery’ any more. We are no longer ‘down under’ from the real world. We are neither distant nor isolated. We in WA sit in the same time zone as another two billion people, three billion if we add another hour. Clearly we are not isolated in relation to the location of the world’s population nor to regions of actual and potential economic growth.

There is a sense that we in Australia and at UWA can be virtually whatever we want to be, whenever we want, wherever we want. In practical terms it is possible for us to decide what we want to teach, where we want to offer it, and what time framework we want to offer it in. A course in educational management to Chinese school principals in Nanjing in a mixed mode of intense teaching followed by distance education techniques and including a professional development experience in Perth? Why not?

Globalisation in all its forms and with all its paradoxes brings many challenges for higher education. Universities themselves have an historically transnational character and in many ways this makes it easier for them to operate — like globalisation itself — as ‘borderless’ entities. However, focusing on the key challenges that face universities and specifically UWA they are the following:

Continued on page 13