The vision achieved this year at the Lions Eye Institute (LEI) is what the layman would describe as perfect 20/20.

The success of the world’s first reliable refractive solid state laser is not only a landmark in biotechnical terms but the commercialisation of the laser, Eye:Q, has rocketed Q-Vis, the company formed to develop and commercialise the work of the LEI’s bioengineering group, to the head of Australia’s biotechnology companies.

It listed on the Australian Stock Exchange last month, over subscribed. And, two weeks later, the company began clinical trials in the United States.

LEI, at UWA’s Centre for Ophthalmology and Visual Science (COVS), now has the potential of a sustaining income — the dream of every research centre.

The Eye:Q laser is smaller than established excimer (gas) lasers and is a low maintenance machine which creates the laser wavelength required for eye surgery using a quintupled Nd:YAG laser instead of gas.

Solid state technology has inherent advantages, including more reliability and less downtime than current lasers.

This breakthrough was designed by the laser and bioengineering group at the LEI, led by Dr Paul van Saarloos.

In 1986, LEI formed the company Q-Vis Ltd as a vehicle to develop and market the group’s laser technologies. This year, it set up new facilities in Herdsman, where manufacturing and testing of the Eye:Q state laser is under way, prior to export.

Dr van Saarloos, who remains the director of the laser and bioengineering group at LEI, is the Chief Scientific Officer of Q-Vis.

He began research into development of excimer laser technology in 1986 and, since its inception, Q-Vis has developed several excimer lasers and laser delivery systems.

Professor Ian Constand, Director of the LEI, and UWA’s Professor of Ophthalmology, performed the first laser vision correction procedure in Australia in 1991, using a Q-Vis excimer laser prototype. Since then, Q-Vis has exported more than ten excimer lasers to various countries.

For more than a decade, physicists around the world had been attempting to design a laser which eliminated the expensive and bulky gas component of the refractive lasers.

In 1998, the LEI claimed success, with the first patients to receive refractive surgery with Eye:Q.

Continued on page 4
Good, punchy title I thought when I first saw and bought my copy of *Why Universities Matter* (Allen & Unwin, 2000), edited by Tony Coady, a Professor of Philosophy at The University of Melbourne.

In a series of essays the book makes out a good and readable — but not especially original — set of arguments for the traditional role of universities, as custodians of knowledge and freestanding research. Work in the arts faculties is given special attention. A slight sense of nostalgia for the past life of the campus — especially the Melbourne campus — also symbolises the volume. With the exception of a few chapters which do deal with the transformative challenges facing universities globally, notably an excellent and provocative essay by Jane Marceau on the future of university research, the book ultimately does not fully address the reality of change: universities will necessarily become somewhat different institutions in the new century, and yet they will still matter crucially in their new modes of operation.

Universities themselves are not helpless in determining that future, and so it is all the more important that we do contribute strongly and creatively to the public debate over public educational institutions such as our own. If we want to defend and advance our ‘idea of a university’ — to coin a phrase! — then we need to do so in language and in concepts which will win the public debate, influence the policy-makers, and convert our political masters.

And here two other documents have been published, from very different sources, which make the claim of why universities matter in a manner actually much more likely to help us win that ongoing policy debate.

Both adopt a more narrowly utilitarian view, involving economic cost-benefits to the nation. Yet curiously they most significantly advance the general cause of universities as powerhouses of original knowledge and key educational capacities for Australia in this new knowledge era.

The first document consists of a report to the Melbourne Vice-Chancellor from their Higher Education Research Program. It focuses on a balance-sheet approach (how much does government spend on higher education and how much does it get back in the form of higher tax returns from the higher earning of graduates). The dramatic answer is that government is about $2.8 billion ahead on its $5.3 billion investment (1997-98 figures), with a high overall rate of return to government on their investment at about 11 per cent. In short: “Investments in higher education yield high returns to individuals, society and the government”.

A second, and slightly broader study, commissioned by The Business/Higher Education Round Table, with the materialistic title *Of Dollars and Cents — Valuing the Economic Contribution of Universities to the Australian Economy*, comes to very similar and positive conclusions. A figure of some $11 billion is deemed to be the value which our universities add to the Australian economy. And as Stuart Hamilton remarked aptly from the AVCC, in welcoming this second report, “That amount might be said to be the annual valuation on what it is for Australia to be a modern nation — one that takes for granted that its people have widespread access to professional skills, and the ideas and technology that supports them”.

Minister Kemp has provided an Introduction to the BHERT study and offered the affirming statement that the report “confirms the importance of university education in building the nation’s human capital”.

The full value of a university such as ours cannot be construed in purely dollar terms and commercial values. But these reports do establish, in language and concepts readily understood in Canberra, why universities are critical to national wellbeing and development.

They provide the sharp end of an argument now being broadly advanced for a new policy and funding framework for our universities as key forces in shaping a knowledge nation.

A wide spectrum of disciplines and research areas embody the spectrum of a major university, and a wide range of educational and professional courses symbolise its service to a complex modern society. All are critical in constituting the mission of the ‘idea of the university’ in the twenty-first century.

This last week my own diary well symbolised that diverse mission . . . presenting national and international prizes to colleagues in Arts, who had won awards in medieval and European studies; introducing a visiting American philosopher to a large public lecture on sociobiology; welcoming to the OVC a Berkeley colleague expert in engineering management; joining the Oil and Gas Engineering Presentation Evening, involving major industry partners; speaking to St George’s residential college on virtual and flexible delivery in education; presenting a seminar paper to the honours students in my own discipline, on the value of history today; and working in our Albany Centre as we lobbied the visiting Deputy Prime Minister for growth HECS places for WA.

All that is the modern university. And all that happens to reflect on the diverse reasons of why universities do indeed so crucially matter to our nation and its culture, both now and in a future world of globalised knowledge.

Deryck M. Schreuder
Vice- Chancellor and President
vc@acs.uwa.edu.au
The best start for biomechanics

What is a fast start in a swimming race?

This seemingly simple, but actually complex, question has brought postgraduate students Rob Welcher from Arizona, USA and Conrad Pearson from Ballarat, Victoria, to UWA’s Uniswim pool.

They have chosen the Department of Human Movement and Exercise Science (Rob could have gone anywhere in the world; Conrad could choose any university in Australia) for what they describe as its critical mass of postgraduate biomechanics students — more, it seems, than almost anywhere else.

But the other attraction was the pool itself, or the aquatic laboratory. “The name says it all. This pool is first and foremost for research purposes, so we have no trouble in setting up testing facilities,” Mr Pearson said. “In Ballarat, the only day we could be guaranteed pool time for research was Sundays. All other times, the pool was too busy being a swimming pool.”

Mr Welcher said pools at US universities were always under pressure from students training for inter-college competitions and there was little pool time available for research work.

His PhD in biomechanics has the practical aim of improving the diving performances of swimmers and working out what their difficulties are.

“Biomechanics applies the principles of physics to movement. It is applied to people through ergonomics, prosthetics and sport,” Mr Welcher said.

“As a former competitive swimmer and a current swimming coach, I’m interested in applying my research to swimmers, specifically their starts.”

Mr Welcher said that, as a swimming coach, he had noticed a girl who was always last to leave the diving blocks, but, within five or ten metres, she was leading the swimmers in the pool.

The velocity with which she left the blocks obviously made up for leaving the blocks later.

“I hadn’t been able to measure the different forces with which swimmers, using different dives, could leave the blocks, until I came here,” he said.

He met up with Conrad Pearson, who brought with him from Ballarat a waterproof force plate, designed to be fixed to the diving blocks to measure different force production for different diving styles.

The pair have been testing young swimmers most mornings over the past few weeks, building up data for their research — Mr Welcher interested in different foot positions for diving and Mr Pearson concentrating on pre-tension and the application of the biomechanics of vertical jumping to swimming starts.

Mr Pearson, who is co-supervised by Professors Bruce Elliot and Brian Blanksby, has already had an impact on swimming at the highest level.

Following research for his honours thesis, Mr Pearson made recommendations to Antiwave, the company that makes diving blocks, to change the angle of the handles they are now providing for swimmers.

“My work showed that the handles would work better if they were reversed, making them easier to hold and suitable for swimmers of different sizes,” he said.

The handles on the diving blocks at the Olympic pool at Homebush were then turned around.

“But they took them off completely for the Australian trials, so I don’t know what will happen at the Olympics. I doubt the swimmers will use them because they haven’t yet been proven,” Mr Pearson said.

His handle design allows swimmers to position their centre of gravity further forward, while waiting for a start.

Continued on page 4
Since then, 63 patients have had their vision corrected by Eye:Q. The laser will be placed in several countries around the world for use by ophthalmologists, to provide independently gathered clinical data.

The current clinical trial in the US will be entered in the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) Pre-market Approval process for the Eye:Q.

Q-Vis Managing Director, John Roper, said the start of trials in the US was an important and exciting step for Q-Vis towards its goal of marketing Eye:Q in the US.

Laser Vision Correction (LVC) technology is one of the fastest growing markets in ophthalmology worldwide, valued at more than $2 billion per annum in the US alone.

An estimated three billion people, or 50 per cent of the world’s population, suffer from some form of refractive vision disorder and need glasses or contact lenses . . . and are candidates for refractive surgery.

Eye:Q relies on a computerised laser to treat refractive vision disorders such as nearsightedness, astigmatism and farsightedness with the goal of eliminating or reducing reliance on glasses and contact lenses.

A computer-controlled laser beam changes the shape of the human cornea in a procedure that takes between 15 and 90 seconds (depending on the degree of refractive correction) and is performed under local anaesthetic.

“"This department has fantastic support, from analysis to biomechanics and physiology. And being part of a big group of biomechanics postgrads is wonderful for bouncing ideas around.”

Mr Welcher has a student travel grant from the International Society of Biomechanics, and also has some funding from his Department of Exercise Science and Physical Education at Arizona State University. Mr Pearson has a UPA scholarship which means he returns to the University of Ballarat when he’s finished his data collection here.

Perth’s famous organist, Annette Goerke, has pledged the proceeds from the sale of her latest CD to the University.

A UWA graduate, Annette Goerke has performed regularly on the organ in Winthrop Hall.

Welcoming her philanthropic commitment, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Deryck Schreuder, said the proceeds would go to the Hackett Foundation.

The CD, Litanies, includes works by Saint Saiens, Franck, Messiaen and others.

“The University’s organ in Winthrop Hall on which Annette Goerke has performed for the community on so many occasions was acquired through a significant bequest and it is very pleasing to be able to thank Annette for continuing that tradition of giving,” Professor Schreuder said.

“Do you wish you had recorded special occasions in your department?

The farewell of a favourite professor, a prize night for those talented students, congratulations on a big project completed . . .

You’d like to have photographs but don’t want to pay a professional photographer?

Here’s the answer: three undergraduate students, all keen on photography, all keen to make a few dollars, are available for occasional work on campus.

They are: Jeffrey Yeung (phone: 9401 8994 or 0404 865 994); Shona Tay (phone 9354 8143 or email: havohej@tartarus.uwa.edu.au) and Melissa Tan (phone 9497 1059 or email: meltan@tartarus.uwa.edu.au).

It costs $30 for about half an hour of their time, plus the cost, developing and printing of film.

Keep these names and contacts or call Lindy Brophy at Public Affairs on ext. 2436 (email: lindy.brophy@uwa.edu.au).
A passion handed down — two PhDs handed in

For many years Charlie Dortch worked as the curator of archaeology in the Department of Anthropology of the WA Museum.

His son Joe was growing up and showing, says Charlie, “not the slightest interest in my work”.

But, after he’d finished high school, Joe took a vacation job on an archaeological dig in France and decided “it was fun!”

So he followed in his father’s footsteps and studied for a degree in archaeology, graduating with honours from Southampton University (“it was the closest university to France!”) in 1991.

Charlie has now spent 30 years at the museum and Joe has been working in heritage project management and, finally, he has caught up to his father.

They both handed in their PhD theses on the same day last month, to the same supervisor, Dr Jane Balme, in the Centre for Archaeology.

Charlie had been working on Aboriginal history in the southwest for years and felt he wanted to bring his work into focus. Joe said he knew that, for a long-term future in archaeology, he would need a higher degree, and chose the southwest because it was close to home and easy to get to, working at first on a master’s degree on the limestone caves of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste area.

Both father and son have looked at aspects of the lives of the Nyoongar people and their responses to changes in environment. Joe has concentrated on the hunter-gatherers of the forest region, examining evidence preserved in caves, that shows different occupation patterns in different forest types. Charlie has directed his research to the coastal occupation.

“In the southwest, we have the country’s best records from the very first years after discovery by Europeans. Soon after those first years, the records become clouded by bias, both positive and negative, about the Aboriginal people.”

He cited as a perfect example of unbiased history the record of a shark caught by explorer Matthew Flinders off the south coast. When his crew cut it open, they found inside half a seal with a spear sticking out of it.

“This was the first proof that the Aboriginal people hunted seals — a totally unbiased record,” Charlie said.

He carried out some of his research on the Recherche Archipelago and Rottnest Island, which were parts of the mainland before the polar ice cap melted about 10,000 years ago, cutting off places like Tasmania, Kangaroo Island and Rottnest.

Joe’s work took him to the caves in the karri forests of the southwest.

“But the evidence I found of occupation in the karri forests doesn’t mean that the Nyoongars lived among the karri trees. These camps would have been among the jarrah, tuart and marri trees, a much more conducive environment for hunter-gatherers,” Joe said.

“The karri trees existed during the ice age but, as the climate changed, so did the incidence of the vegetation. Trees and other plants are now found up to a few kilometres from where they originally occurred thousands of years ago.”

The Dortchs’ theses are both arguing however that vegetational changes have been small over the centuries and have not had a huge effect on Aboriginal populations and the habitats.

“Australian vegetation is very stable,” Joe said.

While his father is continuing his work at the museum, Joe said he was “pretty optimistic” about finding work with Noongar communities.

Both father and son agreed that Australia has great archaeological opportunities just waiting to be discovered.

“IT’s been fantastic doing our PhDs here, rather than in, say, the USA, where we’d have spent most of our time inside with other people’s samples,” Joe said. “Here in Australia, you can still go out and find your own.”
Putting their work on the walls

The framing and hanging of some high school art in the Graduate School of Education (GSE) boardroom has achieved much more than just decorating the walls.

A simple initiative by education lecturer Megan Ewing not only became a valuable lesson in self-esteem for the high school students, but helped the parents to understand the value of their children’s work, instituted a sound educational program for Graduate Diploma of Education (GradDipEd) students and realised the wishes of the Head of the Department.

For a long time, Professor Roger Slee had been wanting the work of students displayed at the GSE. “It’s important for an education faculty to show its connection with schools and to appreciate the work of its young people and children. We have a responsibility to celebrate their work,” Professor Slee said.

When GradDipEd students Andrea Hogue and Linda Neal encouraged their students from non-English-speaking backgrounds to show what they had learned through their art, their lecturer Megan Ewing saw a chance to bring everything together.

Andrea and Linda were teaching Years 8 and 9 ESL (English as a Second Language) students at Perth Modern School. They had been learning descriptions of Australian animals and their habitats from Andrea and were studying buildings with Linda.

The students encouraged the children to paint and draw buildings from their own countries and Australian animals. Ms Ewing had them framed and hung in the boardroom.

“It’s the start of an ongoing project that makes the children feel their work is valued and is a very successful educational project,” Ms Ewing said.

Linda Neal is already encouraging other GradDipEd students to take their pupils down the same path, so their work can be celebrated and displayed at the GSE. As each new exhibition is mounted, the previous framed works will be returned to the artists.

The GradDipEd students are very keen on the project’s links between the GSE and schools.
Both artists exhibiting at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery this month capture elements of suburban life.

But Max Dupain's black and white photographs and John Brack's paintings and drawings evoke very different responses.

A smile of recognition is likely to accompany Dupain's images of the beach, the kitchen and the special occasion, taken across the century, between the 1920s and the 1980s.

But something in Brack's works creates a distance between his images and the viewer.

Although some of his works, Men's Wear (pictured), Latin American Grand Final and his portraits of his young family, are familiar scenes and subjects, there is something slightly shadowy about them.

The exhibition, Inside and Outside, follows this Australian artist's life chronologically and the latest pictures are so different from the early ones that it makes you want to go back and start again.

He uses images of pencils and pens — the artist's tools — in representations of chance and war.

The earlier portrait of the Latin American dancers is echoed in a meticulous arrangement of jointed wooden figures ballroom dancing on a marble tabletop.

He was apparently disappointed by his only trip to Europe, eager to get back to Melbourne to start painting again. But while he was there, he collected picture postcards of antiquities and, later in his life, incorporated them into his paintings.

His views of twentieth-century Australian life require a little more effort to appreciate than Max Dupain's.

Dupain started his professional life as an advertising photographer but, after serving in World War II, decided he "did not want to go back to the cosmetic lie of fashion photography or advertising illustration" even though some of those commercial images have now become icons.

His pictures of the Australian beach, peopled by sunbakers, lifesavers and even nuns in full regalia, became his most famous.

His early still life studies evoked a sense of time and place but his later creations became more self-conscious.

Max Dupain's exhibition makes great lunchtime viewing.

It continues at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery until September 3. John Brack's exhibition will stay at the Gallery until September 24. It's here by arrangement with the National Gallery of Australia.

Tomorrow (Tuesday August 22), Perth artist Mario D'Alonzo will present a lunchtime talk at the Gallery on the art of John Brack, from the perspective of a practising artist.

Next Tuesday (August 29), Ray Spiteri, from the School of Architecture and Fine Arts, will provide some insight into some of John Brack's key ideas.

tuesdays live at the Gallery start at 1pm.
Monday 21 August

**POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ECONOMICS SEMINAR**
"The Middle East after Hafiz ul Asad", Professor Moshe Moaz. 12.30pm, University House.

**ASTHMA AND ALLERGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE SEMINAR**
"Inflammation in Atherosclerosis", A/Prof Joe Hung. 12.30 to 1.30pm, Jaske Seminar Room, Medicine, G Block, SCGH.

**HISTORY SEMINAR**
"History, Native Title and the law: processes and challenges in the practice of history", Christine Choo. 4.30pm, Postgraduate Lounge, Hackett Hall.

Tuesday 22 August

**ARCHITECTURE AND FINE ARTS SEMINAR**
"Political theory and the city state", Professor Paul Hirst, Birkbeck College, University of London. 10am, Hew Roberts Lecture Theatre.

**LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY**
"Mario D’Alonzo on John Brack", Artist Mario D’Alonzo will reflect on the art of John Brack from the point of view of a practising artist. 1pm, LWAG.

**SOIL SCIENCE AND PLANT NUTRITION SEMINAR**
"Denaturing gradient gel electrophoresis as a method to assess microbial community structure in the rhizosphere", Dr Petra Marschner, Institute fur Angewandte Botanik, Hamburg. 4pm, Agriculture Lecture Theatre.

**PERTH MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE GROUP TALK**
"Celtic law: bloodshed and compensation in ancient Ireland", Professor Neil McLeod (School of Law, Murdoch University). 7.30pm, Postgraduate Common Room, Hackett Hall.

Wednesday 23 August

**CHEMISTRY SEMINAR**
"Wave-functions directly from scattering experiments", Dylan Jayatilaka. 12 noon, White Lecture Theatre.

**INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES/INAUGURAL LECTURES 2000**
"Paedophiles, child molesters and incest perpetrators: what is the risk to our community?". David Mace Greenberg, Forensic Psychiatry, Kevin Durkin from Psychology will also be giving a lecture. 1 to 2pm, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery.

**ANATOMY AND HUMAN BIOLOGY SEMINAR**
"Analysis of respiratory sounds", Dr Ralph James, Physics. 4 to 5pm, CTEC Seminar Room, Ground Floor, adjacent to Anatomy and Human Biology Building.

**PHYSIOLOGY SEMINAR**
"Brain temperature regulation in large mammals," Dr Shane Maloney. 5pm, Physiology Seminar Room.

Thursday 24 August

**FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERT**
"A recital of chamber music presented by senior students of WAIM. 1.10pm, Octagon Theatre.

**ZOOLOGY SEMINAR**
"Is nitrogen a limiting resource for reproduction in the honey possum?" Professor Don Bradshaw. 4pm, Jennifer Arnold Lecture Theatre.

**WA HERBICIDE RESISTANCE INITIATIVE SEMINAR**
"Gene flow between adjacent herbicide resistant canola crops", Dr Linda Hall, Agriculture Canada, Alberta. "Gene flow between canola and wild radish", Professor Stephen Powlis. 5.15pm, Simonds Lecture Theatre.

Friday 25 August

**MICROBIOLOGY SEMINAR**
"The role of the NK gene complex (NKC) in controlling infections by DNA viruses", Dr Tony Scalzo. 9am, Seminar Room 1.1, First Floor, L Block, QEIIIMC.

Monday 28 August

**ARCHITECTURE AND FINE ARTS SEMINAR**
"Cities ancient and modern (Part 1)", Professor Paul Hirst, Birkbeck College, University of London. 10am, Hew Roberts Lecture Theatre.

**PERTH MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE GROUP TALK**
"T-bar and ball penetration in cohesive soil", Qin Lu. 3.45pm, Room E151, Civil Engineering Building.

**CENTRE FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH IN NEUROPSYCHIATRY SEMINAR**
"Psychosis in ethnic minorities", Professor Julian Leff, Institute of Psychiatry, Kings College, London. 3.30pm, Seminar Room 3, Gascoyne House, Graylands Hospital.

**ANTHROPOLOGY SEMINAR**
"Creativity and politics in the cultural supermarket: synthesising indigenous identities for the [r]evolution of spirit", Jane Mulcock. 12 noon to 1pm, Anthropology Conference Room.

**LEARNING AND RESOURCE ENGINEERING SEMINAR**
"The future of governance", Professor B. Guy Peters, University of Pittsburgh. 6pm, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery. Admission free. RSVP to Department of Political Science, tel: ext. 3448 or political.science@uwa.edu.au by Monday 21 August (today!).

Tuesday 29 August

**CHEMISTRY SEMINAR**
"AIRS in cowpea nodules: the fourth co-targeted protein?" Danica Goggin. 4 to 5pm, Room 2.14, Department of Botany.

**LAND PLACE CULTURE IDENTITY/INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES PROGRAMME**
"Australian and their culture: from Bondi to Beethoven", A/Prof Margaret Seares. 5.15pm, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery.

Wednesday 30 August

**CHEMISTRY SEMINAR**
"Iron carbides as alternative iron sources", Shoji Hayashi. 12 noon, White Lecture Theatre.
ENGLISH WORK-IN-PROGRESS SEMINAR
“Sacred ground”, Sister Veronica Brady. 1 to 2 pm, Ground Floor Common Room (G14), Department of English.

THE PHILOSOPHY SOCIETY MEETING
“On how to undermine the Kalam cosmological argument — at a price”, Paul Kabay. 4.30pm, Arts Seminar Room 1.33.

LAND PLACE CULTURE IDENTITY/INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES PROGRAMME
“Town and country in modern Britain”, Professor Paul Hirst, Birkbeck College, University of London. 6pm, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery.

ANATOMY AND HUMAN BIOLOGY SEMINAR
“The development of an anatomically-guided ultrasound technique for the early diagnosis of vasospasm, following acute subarachnoid haemorrhage”, Rob Hart. 4 to 5pm, CTEC Seminar Room, Ground Floor, adjacent to Anatomy and Human Biology Building.

FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERT
“WAiM wind ensembles present the Hindemith Quintet and Hummel’s Octet. 1.10pm, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery.

ZOLOGY SEMINAR
“Polynesia revisited: parallel evolution in Marquesan partulid land snails”, A/Prof Mike Johnson. 4pm, Jennifer Arnold Lecture Theatre.

TOY DRIVE
The Law Students Community Support Group request your help to fill a ship container and to raise the money to send it to Cambodia.

The container is nearly full with other donations including urgently needed medical and building supplies for Cambodian orphanages funded and built by Awareness Cambodia Inc.

Donations should be made by 31 August and may be left at the Law School General Office.

TOYS
soft toys • marbles • sporting equipment (condition is irrelevant)
SCHOOL SUPPLIES
pens • pencils • textas • coloured paper • exercise books • colour-in books • picture books (with few words)
CHILDREN’S CLOTHES

Friday 1 September

ANTHROPOLOGY SEMINAR
“Social inequality is a health hazard: the case of some Aboriginal Australians”, Dr Myrna Tonkinson. 12 noon to 1pm, Anthropology Conference Room.

BIOCHEMISTRY SEMINAR
“Transcriptional control of plant stress/defense gene expression” A/Prof Karam Singh, Plant Industry, CSIRO. 1pm, Simmonds Lecture Theatre.

CENTRE FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH IN NEUROPSYCHIATRY SEMINAR
“Early diagnostic tests and therapeutic strategies for Alzheimer’s disease”, Dr Ralph Martins, Curtin University/Department of Surgery (UWA). 3.30pm, Seminar Room 3, Gascoyne House, Graylands Hospital.

CIVIL AND RESOURCE ENGINEERING SEMINAR
“Modelling of time-dependent scour below offshore pipelines”, Fangjun Li. 3.45pm, Room E151, Civil Engineering Building.
Tourism research is no holiday

A computer hiccup meant Geography post-graduate student Julianna Priskin almost didn’t make it to an international conference in Oregon last month.

But her supervisor, Dr Ian Eliot, persuaded her that she could rewrite her paper over a weekend, despite having lost it to cyberspace. That hectic weekend meant Miss Priskin (pictured) won the prize for Best Student Paper at the 17th International Conference of The Coastal Society in Portland, USA.

Coastal environments and coastal zone planning throughout the world were under the microscope at the conference. Miss Priskin’s paper on environmental assessment of coastal environments in the Central Coast Region of WA was selected from 20 student contributions accepted for presentation by the conference organisers.

Miss Priskin is examining the development of nature-based tourism in the coastal area between Perth and Geraldton, working with various government authorities and local communities.

“We are sharing and getting feedback on information constantly. It’s a unique opportunity to work on a project like this and I feel quite privileged to be involved,” she said.

Her winning paper reported a technique to measure the physical impact of nature-based tourism activities and combined a range of standard techniques, including matrix evaluation, environmental surveys, field mapping and administration of questionnaires.

As well as her research of tourism development in WA, Julianna has an active interest in cross-cultural liaison. She has taken short courses at Uppsala University in Sweden and Bergen University in Norway as part of her doctoral studies.

She has just been granted an Education Exchange scholarship by the Hungarian Department of European Affairs and Bilateral Relations. She will investigate the impact of the recent environmental catastrophe on local tourism in the Tisza River region of Hungary.

The catastrophe was caused by the breakage of a tailing dam at a gold mine in the northwest of Romania which washed vast quantities of wastewater, contaminated with cyanides and heavy metals, into Hungary’s river system.

The University’s summer engineering camp for Year 10 students was pivotal in my career choice,” Ms Loh said.

“I got left behind on a visit to ERG Telecommunications and stumbled into a research and design lab. Their jobs sounded so fascinating and they ended up inviting me to do some work experience there.”

Ms Loh now works as a voluntary tutor at those summer camps, as well as visiting schools as a student ambassador for WISE, working as a science demonstrator at Scitech, and being involved with Electrical and Electronic Engineering’s GENESIS program.

She worked on a Woodside gas platform last summer and is learning to fly, with the help of a Robert Holmes à Court flying scholarship.

Both the WISE and GENESIS programs take her off campus to schools.

“Sometimes girls track me down after a demonstration to find out about engineering. That makes me feel really good!”
Television news bulletins on the Saturday night of the Avon Descent showed a spectacular attempt by a powerboat to drive through the notorious Extracts Weir.

The boat obscured by the foam was the brilliant yellow Daytrader HQ, designed, built and raced by students from the Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering.

Haydn Law and Andy Buck put in the work for their final-year engineering project: a project conceived by PhD student Laurie Walker and supervised by Dr Angus Tavner.

And it paid off, not only in academic and technical terms. Haydn and Andy came second in the 8 HP standard category and won the novice category.

Their HOD, Professor Mark Bush, described it as “a remarkable achievement for first time Avon Descenders” and sent his congratulations to all involved in the project.

The project involved some innovative composite materials design, an area on which Laurie Walker is concentrating for his postgraduate research.

“We had lots and lots of people asking us about our boat’s design at the Avon,” Laurie said.

The boat was battered and Andy was slightly injured but the students are planning to get Daytrader HQ back into the white water again before the end of the season.

Daytrader HQ looking great and the crew, Dr Angus Tavner, Laurie Walker, Andy Buck and Haydn Law looking expectant just days before the Avon Descent.

We are happy to announce the introduction of an IAS Professor-at-Large Program to commence in 2001.

This initiative is designed to enable individuals who have achieved distinction through broad intellectual interests to be invited to visit the University and roam widely across disciplines and the intellectual life of the campus community.

Visitors selected as a Professor-at-Large will make a commitment to travel to UWA for a minimum of two weeks each year for two years, with the potential of renewal for a third year. The program will cover economy airfare from their home institution to Perth, accommodation in Perth and honorarium.

Professors-at-Large do not have to be academics — they may also be writers, public intellectuals and artists.

The establishment of this program will complement current arrangements for inviting and hosting distinguished visitors to UWA. The program aims to attract eminent visitors to the University on a regular and coordinated basis; the rewards of such ongoing associations are numerous and include loyalty and ambassadorship.

Selection

Selection will be made in two stages by a Selection Committee set up by the IAS. The first stage consists of a brief letter (no more than two pages) signed by academics from at least two departments who will be expected to act as co-hosts along with IAS. This letter should outline the appeal of the nominee across disciplines with an indication of potential forthcoming support from other departments or areas. A brief curriculum vitae of the nominee should be attached. At this stage it is unnecessary to have contacted the nominee.

Further information: Terri-ann White, Institute of Advanced Studies, 9380 2114 or tawhite@cyllene.uwa.edu.au.
Geography with a whimsical touch

Dr Joe Gentilli, one of the University's, and the country's, great geographers, died recently aged 88.

Dr Gentilli, Senior Honorary Research Fellow in the Department of Geography, was an outstanding scholar, teacher and researcher who over many decades made a major contribution to the study of physical geography and migration studies.

He was one of Australia's foremost climatologists; a fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society and the Royal Geographical Society and a member of the American Meteorological Society. During his career he was the author of hundreds of papers and several books.

Dr Gentilli was instrumental in founding UWA's Department of Geography and will be remembered by many UWA graduates and staff for his enthusiasm and his ability to stimulate and excite interest in climatology.

Dr Gentilli began work as a lecturer at UWA in 1940. He retired at the end of 1977, but continued his association with the University as a Research Fellow right up until he became ill in late 1998.

He had just published a major work on the growth and development of the Wanneroo-Joondalup-Yanchep region. He talked about the city of Joondalup, with whimsical analogy, springing up out of the bushland he remembered so well from his long Australian life.

"In Greek mythology, Athene, the goddess of wisdom, had sprung fully clad and armed from the brain of Zeus. Likewise, here we have a new city, armed with all sorts of educational institutions, and clad in the shimmering of its lake, springing suddenly to life."

The Department of Geography suspended all teaching for the morning, on the day of Dr Gentilli's funeral, as a mark of respect for their fondly remembered colleague.

Inspiration for science teachers

You show me yours, I'll show you mine was the enticing title of one of the workshops at the recent science teachers' conference at UWA.

Along with Executive Dean Professor George Stewart's keynote address on forensic science, The Plant, the Crim and the Bust, it set the tone for the three-day Conference of Australian Science Teachers Association, for more than 300 science educators from around Australia.

Professor Stewart said the conference theme, Past Reflections, Future Directions, was timely, given the national and international focus on the challenges, both ethical and technical, facing the study of science.

Delegates learned of new procedures to place vaccines for hepatitis B in genetically modified potatoes and bananas and the development of a genetic modification for aquaculture salmon from Murdoch University's Joanne Edmonston.

UWA's Professor Barry Marshall presented his story of the battle to have accepted the diagnosis and treatment he had developed for the treatment of stomach ulcers.

Teachers had opportunities to discuss cutting-edge technology with researchers and scientists from a range of fields covering physical, earth and life sciences.

"If Australia is to fulfil its potential and succeed in the twenty-first century, it needs to have a strong base in science," Professor Stewart said. "It needs skilled and effective teachers, a strong research base and resources to maintain its educational infrastructure.

"As a progressive society, we have to be prepared to commit resources to the education and training of the next generation of scientists and technologists. The community needs to value science teachers and science education."
The Save the Children Fund Booksale reached another milestone this year.

Last year, their total for more than 30 years of booksales, passed the million-dollar mark. This year, they made their first individual “tonne”, netting more than $100,000 for the first time.

The final total of $103,000 will be distributed to needy children, both locally and overseas through charitable projects.

The group is already receiving donations for next year’s sale. They are now based at the old Zoology building in Crawley, behind St Georges College. It’s just close enough, says organiser Rosalind Lindsay, for staff members to walk over and donate their lunch hours occasionally to help sort the books.

“We are often in need of some specialist advice when we receive textbooks,” Mrs Lindsay said. “But we would welcome help from anybody on campus.” Mrs Lindsay’s phone number is 9381 3423.

A rarely-told musical story

Do you remember when Israel in Egypt was last performed in Perth?

Handel’s tumultuous and evocative oratorio recounts the story of the oppression of the Israelites in Egypt, of the plagues that befell the Egyptians and of the flight of the Israelites from Egypt.

But the story has not been told in Perth since 1950 when it was performed at the Ross Memorial Church by the University Choral Society and the ABC Singers.

The UWA Choral Society has joined with the Perth Oratorio Choir to bring this magnificent work back to the stage on Saturday September 2.

The 160-voice choir, conducted by Robert Braham, will perform at the Perth Concert Hall at 8pm.

The choirs’ performance is supported by Healthways to promote the Heart Foundation’s message: SmokeFree WA.

Prosh proceeds appreciated

Amanda Young, the University rower, who died tragically in 1997 after an intervarsity regatta, has been remembered by her peers.

The Amanda Young Foundation is a major beneficiary of Prosh 2000. Prosh raised a record $70,000 this year, easily eclipsing last year’s (also record) total of $58,000.

The aims of the Amanda Young Foundation are to increase public awareness in the early recognition of the symptoms of Meningococcal Septicaemia; to raise funds for medical research; and to conduct an annual summer camp for Year 11 students with a focus on educational leadership and public health issues.

Meningococcal Septicaemia has a high incidence among 16 to 24-year-olds, especially at universities and student hostels.

Other charities to benefit from the students’ day of fun are the Leukaemia Foundation of WA, the Huntingdon Awareness Ride, the Motor Neurone Disease Association of WA; and the Resource Unit for Children with Special Needs.

Prosh organisers have already presented cheques to these charities and have received a heartfelt thanks from the parents of Amanda Young.

While many high school students are eying a career in Information Technology, it appears not all of them have their eyes on the future.

Nearly 80 students visited the Department of Classics and Ancient History recently, showing an interest in Greek and Latin.

HOD Associate Professor John Melville-Jones met the students from Carey Baptist College in Winthrop Hall, the perfect backdrop for a short history of the University.

The students were then given some brief lessons in the ancient Greek and Latin origins of some English words — words that might inspire them to return to UWA to study the classics.
Redundant Equipment for Sale

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Bids should be accepted by Monday September 4 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.

Kenata Rentals providing short term, fully furnished accommodation to UWA since 1982.

UWA Employee Assistance Program

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

Can you help us in our research?

FAMILY ASTHMA STUDY

We are seeking families in which two siblings have or have had asthma. Those siblings must be aged between 7 and 35 years.

Participation involves a home interview and a clinic visit to complete respiratory function and allergy assessment.

For further information please contact: Professor Peter Sly, Dr Raewyn Mutch or Ann Callaghan (RN) 9489 7811, TVW Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, 100 Roberts Rd, Subiaco
AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE
Dr Timothy Robert Ackland, Dr David Gavin Lloyd, Mr Thor Franciscus Besier and Prof Bruce Clifford Elliott. Human Movement and Exercise Science: “The effect of strength and proprioceptive training on knee joint ligament loading” — $32,000

MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MDA)
Prof Miranda Deirdre Grounds, Anatomy and Human Biology, and A/Prof N. Rosenthal (external): “Enhancement of stem-cell mediated muscle regeneration by IGF-I” — $85,000 (2001/02/03).

NATIONAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA
Dr W. M. Carroll, Neuromuscular and Neurological Disorders, “Capacity for replenishment of oligodenrocyte progenitors following demyelination of adult mammalian CNS” — $40,000 (2000/01).

NHMRC
C. J. Martin: Fellowship, “Transfer from Flinders University to UWA”.

Dr C. A. Jones, Paediatrics: PMH Fellowship, “Pathways of the intrauterine environment”.


PFIZER CENTRAL RESEARCH

WAGIN WOOLARAMA
Prof D. R. Lindsay, Animal Science and Production: “Factors involved in wool colouration” — $5000

WA HEALTH PROMOTION FOUNDATION
Dr Stephen Randolph Kisely, Psychiatry and Behavioural Science, and Dr P. Shannon and Mr N. Preston (external), Starter Grant: “A pilot study to reduce smoking in mental health settings” — $19,977 (2001).

LAND AND WATER RESOURCES R AND D CORPORATION
A/Prof Wallace Andrew Cowling, Plant Sciences: “Factors involved in wool colouration” — $5000

Convoction, the UWA Graduates Association and the UWA Student Guild present

The Matilda Award FOR CULTURAL EXCELLENCE

ARIES ELIGIBLE FOR THE $1000 INCLUDE:

ARTS MUSIC DANCE DRAMA LITERATURE PUBLIC SPEAKING VISUAL ARTS

Applications close Friday 22 September 2000

For further information and nomination forms, contact

The Graduates Co-ordinator
Convocation, the UWA Graduates Association
Telephone: (08) 9380 1336
email: uwaga@cyllene.uwa.edu.au
or
The UWA Student Guild
Telephone: (08) 9380 2295
email: enquiries@guild.uwa.edu.au

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

NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL (NAMI): THEODORE AND VADA STANLEY FOUNDATION
Prof Assen Veniaminov Jablensky, Ms Vera Anne Morgan, Psychiatry and Behavioural Science, A/Prof C. Bower and A/Prof S. R. Zubrick, Institute for Child Health Research, and Mr N. Preston (external): “Pathways of risk from conception to disease: a population-based study of the offspring of women with bipolar disorder and schizophrenia” — $103,055 (2000); $84,642 (2001).

NHMRC

RURAL INDUSTRIES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Prof John Anthony Considine, Agriculture, Mr D. J. Grows and Mr M. Webb (external): “Preparation and publication of a protocol for obtaining intellectual property rights for plants” — $9000.

SMITH KLINE BEECHAM
A/Prof Gerald Francis Watts, Medicine: “Insulin as a regulator of postprandial lipaemia and related projects” — $20,000.

UROLOGICAL FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALASIA
Dr Justin Vivian, Surgery: “The role of CD44 in renal cell carcinoma” — $40,000.

WA HEALTH PROMOTION FOUNDATION
Dr B. Giles-Corti, Public Health, Ms A. Williams, Institute for Child Health Research, Ms L. J. Wood and Ms S. M. Mackay (external): “Starter Grant: Social capital, physical environments and health” — $19,000 (2001).

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A report on universities in the United States has resulted in third-year undergraduates in the Department of Psychology becoming involved in research.

The Boyer Commission’s report on Higher Education (http://notes.cc.sunysb.edu/Pres/boyer.nsf) examined research-intensive universities within the United States and offered a variety of criticisms, including these failures:

- to take every opportunity to welcome undergraduate students into the research activities of the university;
- to provide opportunities for undergraduate students to meet and collaborate with staff members with international research renown; and
- to provide a context where undergraduate and postgraduate students could meet and foster links and develop mentoring relationships as students grew and developed while studying at a university;
- to provide opportunities for postgraduate students to develop their own teaching and mentoring skills.

Even though these criticisms are less pertinent to Australian universities, staff at the Department of Psychology were inspired by the recommendations to increase the degree to which the research activity of the department could be incorporated into the undergraduate curriculum.

Drs Andrew Page and Vance Locke were given the task of developing guidelines for just such a development, in collaboration with the department’s Undergraduate Teaching Committee, chaired by Dr Davina French.

The outcome has been a new program of study fully supported by the department. Consequently, the Department of Psychology has restructured its undergraduate study to implement many of the key aspects of the Boyer Commission Report. In making these changes, the chief aim has been to welcome undergraduate students into the internationally-recognised research activities of the department, by giving them an opportunity to become partners in the science of psychology.

The centrepiece is a newly-introduced teaching unit that builds on innovative teaching developments instituted by a number of staff members in a variety of our courses to date. The unit seeks to fulfil a number of aims. Among them are the following:

- To further strengthen the teaching-research nexus by bringing an enlivening research experience into the undergraduate teaching curriculum.
- To allow undergraduate students the opportunity to work with academics in their own area of expertise.
- To provide an opportunity for mentoring relationships across years and between students who are learning within the undergraduate and postgraduate programs.
- To enhance the research skills of students in preparation for research in their honours year, the existing capstone experience of the undergraduate program.
- To create teams, where academic staff and postgraduate students work together in the planning and delivery of teaching.

The seminar and laboratory classes, led collaboratively by a staff member and an advanced PhD student, shepherds class members to conduct research of their own devising in small groups.

In the course of the unit, students hear presentations from the current honours students and then present the results of their own research investigations to the current second-year students. In so doing, students can be mentored as they become active participants in innovative and internationally-recognised research programs currently taking place within the department, and learn how to present research to non-specialised audiences.

Mounted for the first time this year, the new unit has been greeted with excitement and enthusiasm from staff and students.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Andrew Page, Vance Locke, Davina French

...the last word