Open Day

MORE OPEN DAY STORIES AND PICTURES ON PAGES 6 AND 7
Dollars and Sense

Senator Inquiries hardly attract the attention of Royal Commissions, let alone the opening of a Baz Lurhman movie starring Nicole Kidman. Yet many deserve close scrutiny – not least when they are entitled “Senate Inquiry into the Capacity of Public Universities to Meet Australia’s Higher Education Needs”, and which is now ‘open’ and ‘running’ (sequentially) at all major Australian cities. The Inquiry roadshow comes to Perth on 5 July.

Public (and confidential) submissions now total more than 300 – from inside the sector plus many from outside organisations and individuals. A website (see http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/eet_ctte/public%20uni/sub%20list.html) contains the first 97 provided in electronic form (which are not confidential).

We have made our own UWA submission (see http://www.acs.uwa.edu.au/stats/EXTERNALSTRATEGIES/SENATEINQUIRY.html) where we have especially stressed the need for greater public investment in basic funding of EFTSU ‘places’ and of university infrastructure.

The Inquiry is worth watching, even if it does not quite have the drama of Moulin Rouge!

Rather general terms of reference, cross party membership, ideological differences, some leading questions, and ‘witnesses’ with a case to make (or axe to grind!), have created not only some dramatic sessions but have raised key issues about our universities and our future. Issues about funding, quality, standards, missions, state regulations, VET relations, staff morale, academic freedom and the commercialisation of research.

The Inquiry is to report to the Commonwealth Senate in August. Their findings will no doubt be swept into the national election debate later this year.

But one issue already stands out as critical to universities and how we now operate. This concerns the rather defensive comment, coming from parts of our sector, which argues that earned income in universities is a regrettable consequence of Commonwealth ‘cuts’.

This is a troubling argument. To start with, do any of us really expect Commonwealth funding from either party ever fully to meet our needs and international challenges? Yes, we require the national Government (and State governments) to invest much more extensively in education and research. But, realistically, there will always be limits to the share of governments’ budgets we can expect, given other national, social needs.

There is also the positive reality that much significant research is done productively with industry, symbolised by the highly successful CRC programs, and done within appropriately defined contractual frameworks. Indeed, key new areas of research and innovation – in the bio-tech areas, IT itself, etc. – inextricably involve partnerships in a key cycle of laboratory, industry, state.

All this has been fully illustrated in the Commonwealth’s key strategic and funding Report – Backing Australia’s Ability – itself drawing heavily from the Chief Scientist’s vital 2000 paper A Chance to Change.

I now also represent our universities on a major national task-force established by the Prime Minister’s Science and Innovation Council. (Other representatives include the Chair of the ARC, CEO of CSIRO, senior officers from DIST and Defence, as well as bankers, industrialists and entrepreneurs.)

We are developing advice for Government which aims to remove impediments to innovation. And indeed ensuring that an appropriately productive relationship is developed between researchers in universities – who originate the crucial intellectual property – and those from finance and business who see knowledge harnessed and applied through pre-seed and later funding.

I have found it a fascinating experience to work at this interface of universities and industry, research and society, knowledge and economic development. We are all learning to build a new style of research culture in Australia.

UWA is well placed to both lead in that process and to benefit from these developments. A recent address to the OECD education forum identified UWA as being at the top of the Australian table of earned income capacity (47 per cent of our 1999 budget). And more recent DETYA data shows UWA among the least dependent on Government funding within our sector. Building innovation is surely a natural step for our already innovative University!

We need to establish the right framework, and around the right principles, for advancing research which creatively and necessarily involves industry. But we do it in a positive way, looking to the future of research cultures in this third millennium. Not all areas of basic, fundamental research involve these interfaces with the private sector. But where they do, it is not by reluctant default.

More broadly, income diversification has increasingly come to underpin university autonomy – as the President of Princeton has remarked. Fascinatingly, earned income has the potential to give vigorous life to academic freedom in our new century.

Professor Deryck Schreuder
Vice-Chancellor and President
vc@acs.uwa.edu.au
Growing up in a multilingual environment made Professor Anne Pauwels aware of how language affects your perception of the world and reflects your attitudes towards it.

She was born and educated in Belgium, where three languages, French, German and Dutch, are spoken. Her passion now is the English language and her current research is into the changes in Australian English brought about by the impact of discrimination and anti-discrimination policies.

Professor Pauwels is the new Executive Dean of Arts, succeeding Professor John Jory, who is retiring.

“Her first task ... is to work towards making UWA’s Faculty of Arts the strongest in the country.”

After working in both Victoria and New South Wales (most recently as Dean of Arts and Professor of Language and Linguistics at the University of Wollongong), she said she was ready for the challenge of a new University.

“One of the main reasons for coming here is the very strong research aspect of UWA. It provides a great opportunity to foster my own research and the research of others within the Faculty,” Professor Pauwels said.

“This University attracts the most prominent researchers in the country.”

Professor Pauwels said the move from the eastern side of the country also gave her the opportunity to explore another language area.

“But there isn’t much change in language across Australia, which is unusual for a country of this size,” she said. “It’s because there was a lot of movement between areas right from the beginning of European settlement, which has continued, so dialects have never had a chance to be formed.”

Her first and most important task as the new executive Dean is to work towards making UWA’s Faculty of Arts the strongest in the country.

“I think the Faculty has enormous potential and some of the best teachers and researchers in the humanities and social sciences in Australia.

“And I take on board the challenge of leading a Faculty of Arts at a time when vocation and professionalism are the buzz words,” she said. “I plan to keep the tradition and combine it with innovation, especially in terms of how knowledge is created and disseminated to people.”

Professor Pauwels is supervising some PhD students and hopes to contribute to some teaching in the Faculty.

She is the President of the Applied Linguistic Association of Australia and is a member of the (Australian) Academy of Social Sciences. Professor Pauwels holds qualifications in linguistics, Germanic languages and philology from the University of Antwerp (Belgium) and Monash University.

She has written or co-authored 13 books, edited seven and published many articles in her fields of expertise, including sociolinguistics, intercultural communication and immigrant language contact in Australia.
How a little lump of clear jelly can cause excruciating pain and severe illness is the subject of a research project involving several University departments.

A two-year project, funded by the Raine Foundation, is examining the venom of four Australian jellyfish in an attempt to understand how it works. The project particularly focuses on the dangerous Irukandji jellyfish, found in tropical waters from south Queensland to Broome, where a young woman was seriously stung recently by an unidentified jellyfish.

Having seen many patients become very ill after swimming at local beaches, Dr Flecker concluded that the responsible animal was likely to be a small jellyfish, but in fact he was never able to capture one!

It was not until Dr Jack Barnes, a general practitioner from Cairns, caught one of the jellyfish in 1964 and applied tentacles to his own arm, that of his son, and that of a helpful lifeguard that it was known for sure that this was indeed the animal responsible for making people sick. As a tribute to Dr Barnes’ pioneering experiment, the animal was given the scientific name Carukia barnesi.

Dr Jackie Wilce, from the Departments of Biochemistry and Chemistry, says that the Irukandji jellyfish trails four long tentacles that contain thousands of tiny stinging cells called nematocysts that fire harpoon like structures into victims skin, thereby injecting venom. The sting itself is usually relatively painless, but a short time later, victims experience excruciating chest and abdominal pains, headaches and vomiting that frequently require strong painkilling medications such as Pethidine.

“A small proportion of patients becomes very sick, developing a condition called pulmonary oedema, where the lungs fill with fluid making it very difficult to breathe. In other patients, the venom seems to damage the heart. These patients often require advanced life support that can only be delivered in Intensive Care Units and Emergency Departments,” Dr Wilce said.

“The sting itself is usually relatively painless, but a short time later, victims experience excruciating chest and abdominal pains, headaches and vomiting…”

While it is not known for sure that Irukandji venom can kill people, it is thought that jellyfish stings may be responsible for some otherwise unexplained drownings.”

She said that, owing to the elusive nature of the animal, Irukandji had proven very difficult to catch.

“Consequently, little is known about the venom and how it exerts its serious and potentially deadly effects. Our project aims to identify the components of Irukandji venom, both what they are and how they work.
“Our jellyfish are sourced from the beaches surrounding Cairns by a collaborator from James Cook University, Dr Jamie Seymour. Catching the jellyfish involves many laborious hours of dragging small nets up and down the beach.

“We are expecting that entirely novel bioactive proteins will be discovered in the venom…”

“Our work is conducted by PhD students Roopwant Judge and Paul Bailey (an emergency physician) under my supervision and also that of Dr Matthew Wilce (Pharmacology/Crystallography Centre) and Professor George Jelinek (Emergency Medicine).

“Using a variety of chromatographic techniques, we are able to separate and purify the components of the venom, many of which are likely to be small proteins and enzymes.”

Then information can be gathered on the precise chemical nature of these components and their three dimensional structures solved using X-ray crystallographic and/or NMR spectroscopic techniques with state-of-the-art equipment recently acquired by the University.

“We are expecting that entirely novel bioactive proteins will be discovered in the venom of these jellyfish,” Dr Wilce said.

In parallel, the group is conducting assays using live cells in culture in order to ascertain how these components function. Using fluorescence techniques in collaboration with Dr Tony Bakker (Physiology) they are able to observe calcium ion flux in cardiomyocytes upon exposure to the venoms. Together, the structural and functional studies will help them understand how these bioactive proteins exert such potent effects.

“Similar research into the venom of Cone shells has led to the development of a drug … to treat people with severe pain from cancer”

“We are also examining the venom of three other jellyfish – the deadly Box Jellyfish (Chironex fleckeri), another box jellyfish known as Chiropsalmus quadrigatus, and our local ‘stinger’ which is an unidentified species of the genus Carybdea.

“Armed with this information, we will be able to better understand how such a small jellyfish is able to make victims so sick, and to perhaps come up with a treatment to help these people.”

She said it may happen that new medical treatments for conditions unrelated to jellyfish envenomation could be derived from their research. Similar research into the venom of Cone shells (carnivorous marine snails) has led to the development of a drug known as Ziconotide, which is currently being used in the USA to treat people with severe pain from cancer.
Hypothetically speaking... it was a success

“Legalise heroin... then tax it like the other legal drugs, tobacco and alcohol.” (Dr Felicity Haynes, ethicist)

“Injection rooms must be part of a clinic with full health services for addicts, not standing alone.” (Dr Bill Saunders, clinical psychologist)

“If Perth had an injection room, it would quickly become part of the culture for new users.” (Elena Jeffries, political activist on the naltrexone program)

“The Government’s ‘Just Say No’ anti-drug campaign doesn’t work: it puts unfair pressure on parents.” (Rhonda Walton, a counsellor with drug and alcohol services)

These were some of the opinions that peppered the lively panel discussion that was UWA’s first Hypothetical.

Drugs in the community: Is there a quick fix? was explored via the considerable talents of the University’s own ‘Geoffrey Robertson’, Associate Professor Paul Moyle, in front of more than 200 people in Winthrop Hall early in May.

The Hypothetical was designed as a curtain-raiser for the Open Day, a few days later, but most of the staff involved agreed that the University should hold this style of public forum regularly.

Three staff members, Dr Felicity Haynes, Professor Ken Clements and Dr Gary Hulse, joined Professor Moyle and ten other panellists, including the Police Commissioner, Barry Matthews, MLA John D’Orazio, criminal lawyer John Prior, radio commentator Paul Murray and manager of the WA Substance Users Association, Tamara Speed.

The wide-ranging discussion ended up with John D’Orazio’s electorate of Ballajura playing host to a huge casino, with obvious money-laundering facilities, a side issue that injected some humour into an otherwise serious issue.

Most of the audience agreed they would have liked the hour-and-a-half Hypothetical to continue longer.

Professor Moyle’s well-prepared script and smooth presentation ensured a successful evening.
It was almost 40 years to the day since young Ken Michael stepped up to the dais in Winthrop Hall to receive his degree in engineering.

Last month, Dr Michael celebrated this anniversary by taking the dais in an entirely different role, as the University’s 13th Chancellor.

The pomp and ceremony of the occasion contrasted with the balloons and tram rides outside the Hall as the University’s Open Day competed with rain and low temperatures.

The displays in the Winthrop Hall undercroft were popular, although the grey skies outside made the undercroft very dark.

The weather kept the crowds away from the Philosophy café in the Tropical Grove, the entry to which quickly became muddy and uninviting. But Professor Andrew Brennan reported a very lively (though small) lunch time discussion on the possibility of ‘the perfect match’.

The campfire at the Centre for Aboriginal Program’s area was a drawcard and the ‘unofficial’ opening ceremony moved there, after the official event was cancelled, creating a much more intimate and enjoyable occasion. Richard Walley’s didgeridoo performance created the feeling of a corroboree and formal speeches were discarded.

Aboriginal staff and students had built two mia mias, were cooking kangaroo and emu sausages and painting children’s faces in traditional style. Their corner of James Oval was a highlight of the Open Day.

New Chancellor recalls old days

Dr Ken Michael enters Winthrop Hall with the Governor, Lt Gen John Sanderson, before his inauguration.

and my wish is that I can return something to this University and to the community in general which will be of benefit in the longer term.”

Among those sharing the young Ken Michael’s first day at UWA was another young man destined to become his lifelong friend and colleague, Jerry Ellis. Mr Ellis, now Chancellor of Monash University, travelled to Perth to attend Dr Michael’s inauguration.

“It is a very proud and humble moment for me. It is most certainly an honour and a privilege to be Chancellor of this University,” Dr Michael said.

“The success of the University over the decades is attributable in no small part to sustained strong leadership and sound stewardship of resources.

“It is my hope that those who follow will view my term as chancellor in similar terms,” he said.

Dr Michael paid tribute to his predecessor, Clinical Professor Alex Cohen, “who for the past three years has guided the Senate and this University with a vision”.

wanted at our fingertips,” she said. “And it was much more comfortable than a tent would have been this year.”

The moot courts and some of the lectures were well attended while some activities, especially those on upper floors of buildings didn’t do so well.

Rosemary Ingham, the Arts Faculty co-ordinator for Open Day, said visitors didn’t seem to feel confident about climbing up stairs in search of more activities.

The displays in the Winthrop Hall undercroft were popular, although the grey skies outside made the undercroft very dark.

The weather kept the crowds away from the Philosophy café in the Tropical Grove, the entry to which quickly became muddy and uninviting. But Professor Andrew Brennan reported a very lively (though small) lunch time discussion on the possibility of ‘the perfect match’.

The campfire at the Centre for Aboriginal Program’s area was a drawcard and the ‘unofficial’ opening ceremony moved there, after the official event was cancelled, creating a much more intimate and enjoyable occasion. Richard Walley’s didgeridoo performance created the feeling of a corroboree and formal speeches were discarded.

Aboriginal staff and students had built two mia mias, were cooking kangaroo and emu sausages and painting children’s faces in traditional style. Their corner of James Oval was a highlight of the Open Day.

New Chancellor recalls old days
It may be something we take for granted, but gender affects every area of inquiry in the humanities and social sciences and is central to the way we experience ourselves as social and sentient beings.

The Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS) has been running a continuous program this year, Gender and Cultures, convened by Professor Patricia Crawford from the Department of History and Associate Professor Delys Bird from English and The Centre for Women's Studies.

Looking at the impact contemporary feminist politics and thought has had on all areas of Western culture and society, the program has had five separate focus areas: the future of gender; gender and work culture; gender, medicine and health, gender and families; and gender and visuality.

Dr Pamela Sharpe, a QEII research fellow in the Department of History, convened the sessions on gender and work culture. Her speakers included Professor Sylvia Walby, from the school of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Leeds, who presented the annual Grace Vaughan lecture last month.

Associate Professor Janet McCalman from the University of Melbourne was one of the keynote speakers. She argues in her book, Sex and Suffering: Women's Health and Women's Hospital (1998): "It was very hard to have a women's movement if a quarter of women were anaemic and two thirds pregnant."

This led to the questions: Is women's health linked . . . to their politicisation and activism . . . Has woman been the victim of her body?

On July 3 Professor Crawford will look at the role of families in creating gender, class and ethnicities through changes in parent-child relationships, step-parenting, adoptions, nuclear and extended families. She will ask what is the role of clergy, medical practitioners, the law and the state in shaping families over time?

The final seminar will be convened by Professor Hilary Fraser, who will return to Perth to discuss gender and visuality in December.

She says visuality is a critical area in contemporary cultural theory, focusing on questions of gender in literature, film, the visual arts, computer science and psychology.

For details about the final two seminars, call Terri-ann White, the academic executive officer of the IAS, on 9380 2114 or by e-mail at tawhite@cyllene.uwa.edu.au
Emotion is not often cited as the reason for following a particular academic path.

But Hiroya Kadokawa, a visiting scientist from Japan in the Faculty of Agriculture, admits it was his love of animals, and cows in particular, that influenced his decision to study animal science.

Born in the busy city of Osaka, he grew up in a rural area, always surrounded by animals, and chose to study agricultural science at the University of Hokkaido.

Now working for the Department of Animal Production at the National Agricultural Research Centre for the Hokkaido region in Sapporo, Dr Kadokawa is at UWA for 12 months to research the metabolic factors that affect resumption of cycles in females after birth, with a focus on dairy cattle.

"I chose to come to UWA and work with the animal science group and the CSIRO because they are the leaders in the world in this area and they are also very kind people to work with," Dr Kadokawa said.

"We believe that glucose, leptin, growth hormone (GH) and luteinising hormone (LH) are the keys for the mechanism that affects the resumption of the female’s cycle. Here at UWA, the animal science team has had great success in developing an assay system for blood leptin of ruminants. We are combining this with the CSIRO’s GH-transgenic sheep.”

Leptin is a hormone that is produced in fat and has receptors in the brain. It circulates in the blood and, the more fat an animals has, the stronger the message to the brain is to stop eating. (Conversely, in lean animals, the lower blood leptin count signals to the brain to stop the reproductive function.) GH pushes metabolites into muscle, rather than fat or reproductive tissues.

Dr Kadokawa is studying the relationship between blood levels of leptin, GH and the delay from calving to the first ovulation in high producing dairy cows. He is testing whether excessive leptin or GH lengthens the delay to resumption of cycles.

The same basic principle applies to sheep, which is why he is also looking at GH-transgenic sheep, produced by the CSIRO. These animals carry extra copies of the gene for producing GH so they have more in their blood than normal sheep and may resume their reproductive cycle later after lambing.

“In dairy cows given extra GH, the intervals from one calving to the next were extended,” said Dr Kadokawa.

Enhanced reproduction and milk production is of great importance to the Japanese dairy industry, which fully supports its large population’s dairy requirements in a relatively small area.

The large areas and distances of Australia came as a surprise to Mr Kadokawa when he found that he had to travel to the University’s research station, Allandale Farm, to work with the sheep.

“At home in Sapporo, I walk for just three minutes from my laboratory to the cows,” he said.

Dr Kadokawa and his wife are chronicling their year in Perth with a continually updated homepage at http://homepage2.nifty.com/oneyearinperth/
Academics refine their craft

About 80 senior academic staff enhanced their teaching skills at a recent advanced teaching and learning forum.

The forum, co-ordinated by Allan Goody from the Centre for Staff Development and Deborah Ingram from the Centre for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning, under the umbrella of Organisational and Staff Development Services, brought together four of Australia’s exemplary teachers.

Two of them were from our own University: Sally Reagan, from the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, and Associate Professor Bob Bucat, from the Faculty of Science.

Together with Professor Ron Weber, from the Faculty of Business, Economics and Law (University of Queensland), and Dr Richard Baker, School of Resources, Environment and Society (Australian National University), they were asked to challenge their audience with respect to their specific issues.

Ms Reagan is heavily involved in the development, implementation and teaching of a new medical curriculum. She is also a Problem-Based Learning (PBL) curriculum consultant for the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and has played a pivotal role in the adoption of problem-based learning in the revised undergraduate curriculum. She is a regular visitor to other Australian institutions and medical schools in Asia, sharing her PBL skills. It was these skills that she brought to the forum.

Associate Professor Bob Bucat addressed the forum on teaching in large classes. He has particular interests in research into the teaching and learning of chemistry at the tertiary level. He is a consultant to numerous international workshops on chemistry education, his current research interests encompassing the complexity of learning (and therefore teaching) chemistry, the importance of mental imagery in understanding chemistry and how to transform professional knowledge into forms that students can make sense of.

Professor Ron Weber is the Professor of Information Systems in the Department of Commerce, and Research Director for the Faculty of Business, Economics and Law at UQ. He completed his MBA and PhD in Management Information Systems at the University of Minnesota. He has been recognised as an outstanding teacher both in Australia and the US. He shared his experiences in developing in students the critical ability to learn how to learn.

Effective small group teaching is Dr Richard Baker’s special area of teaching and learning. He is a senior lecturer in geography at the ANU, where he won the University Medal for his combined Honours degree in archaeology and physical geography. His research focuses on community participation in resource management and environmental policy and his work in Australia has concentrated on indigenous communities.

All the speakers are multiple award winners in the field of teaching and learning.

In his opening of the forum, one of the University’s champions of teaching and learning, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Robson, said that, since its inception in 1992, the Centre for Staff Development had provided a good grounding for new academic staff in the fundamentals of teaching and learning.

“But we need to encourage and support the further refinement and improvement of the teaching practice of experienced teachers. This forum is intended as the start of an advanced teaching and learning program,” Professor Robson said.
You don’t have to be a medical scientist to use the state-of-the-art audio-visual system at ctec.

Recently, a local engineer secured himself a position in Scotland by using the facilities for a video job interview.

And Daryl Clark from Medic Vision, the company that supplied, installed, maintains and owns the $3 million audio-visual and telecommunications system in the centre for surgical skills, would like other people to make use of some of the best facilities in the world.

“We have the biggest video switch in the southern hemisphere. We can beam out to eight different locations around Australia or around the world, simultaneously, at 768 kilobytes per second (kbps). We are the only facility with this speed and clarity because it’s needed for microsurgery,” Mr Cook said.

He said that average video conferencing speed was 128 kbps. Medic Vision’s system creates a near-perfect exchange, just like being in the same room with the people at the other end of the country.

Mr Cook said the telecommunications facilities were available for almost any size conference.

“The St John’s Seminar room, with two big screens and cameras at different angles, can take about 60 people. It could be used not only for seminars and conferences but events like product launches, so people involved with a company in Sydney could be part of that company’s launch while in Perth,” he said.

Family reunions have also taken place through video conferencing and either the big seminar room or the board room could be used for these. Cameras and screens are strategically placed in ctec’s boardroom so collaborative ventures with other universities can hold their meetings without getting on a plane.

One-to-one interviews, such as job interviews, can be conducted in a private suite.

“I can see groups of engineers or physicists from different universities communicating with each other and able to see what they’re working on ... it’s a great facility that needs exploiting by so many groups both within the University and outside it,” Mr Cook said.

For more information on how you, your department or even your family can make use of the facilities, call Daryl Cook on 9368 0889 or e-mail him at daryl.cook@medicvision.com.au asked Professor Robson to recommend organisation structures and strategies to ensure that available resources and services could be used to make a real difference towards improving outcomes for students.

He said he had chosen Professor Robson to head the review because he was “an exceptional academic who had an outstanding reputation for practical management in the education sector.

“I want this to be a new era in public education in WA where our Government schools are no longer seen as the poor relation,” Mr Carpenter said.
Having worked in Public Affairs as co-ordinator of three Parents Welcomes and two Open Days, I relish this opportunity to share some of my observations about these events.

Its always interesting and exciting to work on large-scale events, not only for the challenge, but also for the opportunity they provide to meet and work with a wide range of people.

For me, what makes the Parents Welcome and the Open Day special is that both events are about generating goodwill between the University and the wider community. It is always rewarding to work on events that generate goodwill. True, there are other agendas at work here too – a primary one being the belief that the goodwill thus generated will lead to greater support of the University by the community – but, for this to be effective, the goodwill must be genuine. That’s important.

After three years, the Parents Welcome has now settled into its stride and most of the teething problems have been sorted out. Running the event on an annual basis has certainly helped this quick development. The close involvement with the parents and the positive feedback has been another factor. Many of the parents who come along have never before been to UWA – or in some cases any university. It’s great to see how impressed they are by the campus – both its buildings and grounds – and what happens here. They leave excited and genuinely proud that their children have chosen to study at UWA, which shows that the event is having the right impact.

Being on a much larger scale and involving a much greater number of people, the experience of working on the Open Days is something different. If nothing else, it is a great way to find out how the University works and who you have to talk to to get things done.

The committee meetings for Open Day have also been lively and stimulating. In 1999, the committee had some 30 members while this year it had 38. This is a significant group – certainly the biggest committee I’ve ever worked with.

The camaraderie that developed between the members of this committee was good to be part of. It provided a rare opportunity for both academic and administration staff from different disciplines and departments across campus to work together as a team and get to know each other. Names and voices on telephones became faces on the other side of a table.

But all the planning in the world couldn’t stop the rain. Of course it was a big disappointment for everyone that it was so wet on this year’s Open Day – all the more frustrating as the days either side were much better and the following week was perfect. As I was heading off to the committee debriefing last week and, once again, it was raining – the first showers since Open Day – I couldn’t help but think this committee may have a greater role to play. Perhaps the University could hire it out to drought-stricken regions.

It has been suggested by some that the Open Day and the Parents Welcome could be combined and held on the one day. On consideration, I tend to think this would be akin to running a Test Match simultaneously with the AFL Grand Final and using the one set of umpires. The two events have distinct audiences and different purpose. The aim of the Parents Welcome is, in part, to make parents of new undergraduates feel that they are an exclusive group because their children have been accepted into UWA. The Open Day, on the other hand, aims to make everyone who comes onto the campus feel proud that there is an institution such as this in Western Australia, that the work carried out here is excellent, the staff are outstanding and willing to show their work to the wider community. Some of the people who come to Open Day may eventually study at the University, some may have already studied here, others are just interesting in seeing how the place ticks. Whatever their motive, they can all take pride in their University.
Cloudy future clearing

The weather – and especially the possibility of rain – is something that seems to fascinate us all.

Graduate research assistant at the Centre for Water Research, Nicola Telcik (pictured), is aiming to develop a greater understanding of the paths and behaviour of cloudbands across Australia, which will help with the seasonal forecasting of rain.

Ms Telcik has been studying for several years cloudbands that bring significant rainfall to many parts of Australia and her findings are likely to be of particular interest to farmers.

Having completed work on the influences on south-west rainfall for her Master's thesis, she is now looking at north-west cloudbands which form off the WA coast. These massive bands – between 3,000 and 8,000 kilometres long and at least 20 degrees in longitude and five degrees in latitude – sweep over the state and into Australia's interior. It has been estimated that rainfall associated with the north-west cloudbands can provide up to 80 per cent of annual rainfall to parts of Australia.

“A lot of the rain from the north-west cloudbands falls on agricultural areas such as the Gascoyne-Murchison, so one of the questions I am trying to answer is how many cloudbands are likely to cross Australia between April and October, because this information will be very useful to farmers,” Ms Telcik said.

Although the cloudbands play an important role, very little is known about them.”

Ms Telcik’s research is supported by the Gascoyne-Murchison Strategy Group of Agriculture WA and the Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation.

More on back page of LIFT-OUT
Monday 4 June

BOTANY SEMINAR
‘Integrated catchment management’, Professor Arthur Conacher, Geography. 4pm, Room 2.14, Department of Botany.

Tuesday 5 June

SOIL SCIENCE AND PLANT NUTRITION SEMINAR
‘Slow-release multi-nutrient fertilisers for leaching soils’, Hsien Lim. 4pm, Agriculture Lecture Theatre.

Wednesday 6 June

CHEMISTRY SEMINAR
‘Asymmetric diastereoselective syntheses of the aphid insect pigments ‘quinone A’ and ‘quinone B’, Robin Giles, Murdoch University. 12 noon, White Lecture Theatre.

GEOGRAPHY SEMINAR
‘Dancing with a tiger: Australia’s engagement with Indonesia’, Elizabeth Scott. 1pm, Geography Lecture Theatre 1.

ARCME SEMINAR
‘Voice-activated front end for APSM System’, Dr Roberto Togneri, CIIPS. 5.15pm, Billings Room, Electrical and Electronic Engineering Building.

Thursday 7 June

CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN AUSTRALIAN LITERATURE SEMINAR
Jan Kapetas will read selections from her recent writing on violence as part of the CSAL seminar series. 1pm, Postgraduate Student Lounge.

FREE LUNCHETIME CONCERT
Windy City, performed by the WAIM Chamber Winds, with Peter Moore as director. 1.10pm, Windthrop Hall.

ZOOLEGY SEMINAR
‘The energetic cost of ventilation in the sand-burying crab Ovalipes catharus’, Dr Glen Davidson. 4pm, Jennifer Arnold Lecture Theatre.

UNIVERSITY MUSIC SOCIETY
String Masterpieces, with Paul Wright and friends. Ravel’s Duo for Violin and Cello, Brahms’ G major Sextet and a Mozart Quintet complete the evening. 8pm, Windthrop Hall.

Friday 8 June

MICROBIOLOGY SEMINAR
‘Expression library immunisation as a vaccine strategy’, Yvonne Foong, John Curtin School of Medical Research, Australian National University, Canberra. 9am, Seminar Room 1.1, First Floor, L Block, QEII.MC.

ASIAN STUDIES SEMINAR
‘Diaspora and cultural identity: Gao Xingjian and the 2000 Nobel Prize for Literature’, Wang Yi. 1pm, Social Science Seminar Room Room Q25.

BIOCHEMISTRY SEMINAR
‘Definition of type specificity of the L1 protein of HPV16 by a panel of monoclonal antibodies’, John Sadleir, Biochemistry. 1pm, Simmonds Lecture Theatre.

CIVIL AND RESOURCE ENGINEERING SEMINAR
‘Analysis of piled raft foundations on soft clay’, Oliver Reul, Darmstadt University of Technology, Germany, and Dr Hackmet Joer. 3.45pm, Room E151, Civil Engineering Building.

Tuesday 12 June

ARTS ‘CAREERS IN ASIA’ NIGHT
Keynote speaker: Lieutenant General John Sanderson AC, Governor of Western Australia; Graduate speaker: Colin Yoong. 7.15pm, Social Sciences Lecture Theatre. Admission is free but bookings are essential. Telephone Dr Philippa Christmass on ext. 3316 or email arts.marketing@uwa.edu.au by Monday 11 June.

CENTRE FOR STAFF DEVELOPMENT
What’s on Next

Schools and insure your insurance needs, and make sure you have the right insurance to protect your business.

WACCAMSA: Acaemic and Customary Law

Places are available in the following workshops due to close within the next month. Further details are available on the CSD web page: http://www.csd.uwa.edu.au/programme/ or by contacting the Centre on extension 1504 or emailing: csdoffice@csd.uwa.edu.au.

Staff Selection Skills for Panel Members: Medicine & Dentistry

Staff Selection Skills for Panel Members: Science

How the University Works: The University Budget Process

Legal Responsibilities of Managers and Supervisors

WISE OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE
A careers night for girls in Year 10 who are interested in Science and Engineering. Meet women scientists and engineers and find out what they do. Find out what studying science and engineering at University is like. Learn how to keep your options open. 7.30pm to 9pm, Murdoch Lecture Theatre, UWA. Entry is free. For more information, contact Tricia on 9380 3996 or email wise@uwa.edu.au or view the website at http://www.wise.uwa.edu.au.

Celebrating 90 years of achievement

Student debutants at Graduation Ball, early 1960s
A Nobel survivor

Thun Channareth (pictured) was a soldier in the Cambodian civil war out of necessity, not from choice.

Fighting meant food and clothing, and he had a destitute wife and family, living in the refugee camps on the Thai-Cambodia border.

When he lost both his legs after a landmine exploded in 1982, Thun plunged to the depths of despair and tried to commit suicide. But he was helped through his tragedy by family and friends and, 15 years later, he won the Nobel Peace Prize.

Thun accepted the prize on behalf of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, for which he is an ‘Ambassador at Large’.

He visited UWA last month, to talk to the Red Cross of WA International Humanitarian Law Unit and to support the work of Associate Professor James Trevelyan’s UWA De-mining Research Project in the Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering.

Dr Trevelyan also spoke to the gathering in the Alexander lecture theatre on the reasons why mine clearance efforts are so slow and why the many technological solutions promoted by other people have not been effective.

Early opportunity to say sorry

Traditional music and kangaroo sausages on the Oak Lawn welcomed National Reconciliation Week at UWA.

The University’s celebration of the week reflected a commitment to the ongoing reconciliation process and equality of opportunity for all Australians, according to the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson.

Professor Robson spoke at the Guild-sponsored launch of activities, being held a week early at UWA to fit in with exam schedules.

He said this year’s theme, Reconciliation: Keeping the flame alive, reminded all Australians of the need to work hard to maintain the positive momentum of reconciliation.

“This process is important for all Australians. It is about building bridges. It is about respecting our differences. It is about giving everybody a fair go. It is about building on the strengths of common ground,” he said.

“The University is deeply committed to the process or reconciliation. Injustices are not just things of the past – residues of hurt persist, as do aspects of racism.”

The Sea of Hands, on the Oak Lawn all week, gave staff and students an opportunity to say sorry and the University flew the Aboriginal flag out the front of the campus.

The Centre for Aboriginal Programs ran a forum on treaty on Thursday, then finished the week with a traditional feast, prepared by Torres Strait Islander staff and students.
### Research Grants & Contracts

- A/Prof K. Ngan, Electrical and Electronic Engineering: 'Multiple video object rate control for MPEG-4' — $156,236 (2001-03).
- Prof C. Praeger and Dr C.-H. Li, Mathematics and Statistics: 'Finite almost transitive groups and graphs' — $165,000 (2001-03).
- A/Prof J. Pan, Mechanical and Materials Engineering and Dr J. Wang, Physics: 'Acoustic wave propagator and its applications' — $206,543 (2001-03).
- Prof G. Stachowiak, Mechanical and Materials Engineering: '3-D characterisation and classification of wear particles and surfaces' — $189,517 (2001-03).
- Prof D. Day, Biochemistry: 'Metabolite transport across symbiotic membranes from legume nodules' — $360,000 (2001-03).
- Dr J. Whelan, Biochemistry and Dr H. Millar, Plant Science: 'The role of mitochondria in the establishment of rice seedlings' — $229,000 (2001-03).
- Dr A. Oakley, Pharmacology: 'The mechanism of acation of replication termination protein'.

### AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL

- Em/Prof C. Osnard, Anatomy and Human Biology: 'Modelling species migration and evolution: Implications for fossil and molecular studies of primate origins especially the origins of modern humans' — $201,000 (2001-03).
- A/Prof M. Adams, Botany and Dr N. Turner: (external): 'Architectural constraints to water use and photosynthesis by eucalypts' — $169,000 (2001-03).
- Dr J. Wilce, Chemistry: 'Fellowship — New applications in the regulation of gene expression'.
- Prof D. Haig, Dr J. Backhouse and Dr R. Howe, Geology and Geophysics: 'Frequency and lateral extent of marine biostratigraphic events on a cretaceous passive continental margin' — $186,500 (2001-03).
- Dr N. Mcnaughton and Dr B. Rasmussen, Geology and Geophysics: 'High-precision U-Pb and Pb/Pb geochronology of diagenetic phosphates' — $239,299 (2001-03).

### AUSTRALIAN ROTARY HEALTH RESEARCH FUND

- A/Prof P. J. Jansen, Psychiatry and Behavioural Science, A/Prof V. Burbank, Anthropology: 'Social rituals and mental health: A novel approach to early intervention in mental illness' — $20,000 (2001-03).
- A/Prof G. Rhodes (pictured), Psychology, Dr J. Halberstadt (external), Dr L. Simmons, Zoology: 'Attractiveness of human facial symmetry and averageness: Adaptive significance and cognitive mechanisms' — $117,682 (2001-03).

### CLIVE AND VERA RAMACIOTTI FOUNDATION

- A/Prof G. Yeoh and Dr E. Croazer, Biochemistry: 'A novel strategy to enhance the quality of human hepatocyte cultures for use in liver cell therapy' — $10,000 (2000).
- Dr D. Trinder and A/Prof J. Olynyk, Medicine: 'Benchtop refrigerated centrifuge' — $10,000 (2000).
- Mr K. Tay, Molecular Immunology and Pathology: 'The evaluation of informative markers of memory for serial order' — $35,000 (2001-03).

### CLASSIFIEDS

#### FOR SALE

- **TOYOTA CAMRY, CSX, 1996, 2.2L, auto, airbag, ABS, a/c, climate control, cruise control, all electrics (incl. power windows, remote locking), factory engine immobiliser, 100,000km, service history, RAC checked, white, $13,500. Phone Frank on 9380 2781 or fred@ece1.uwa.edu.au.
- **MAZDA EUNOS ’94 30X Coupe, Red, immaculate, as new cond., 5 speed, manual, a/c, sun roof, CD, mags, low kms. $19,000. Call Ken on 9250 1631 or 0408 934 895.
- **COROLLA AUTO SEDAN ’91, diesel (later conquest shape), white, ex. cond., a/c, stereo, fit windows, p/steering, fantastic economy and reliable. $7500. Phone Lorna on ext. 3976 or sh on 9250 3835.

#### HOUSE EXCHANGE

- BRITISH ACADEMIC visiting UWA would like to exchange his London home during the month of August. Located in central London, the 3-bedroom flat is ideal for academic study or sightseeing, being located in Bloomsbury and a couple of minutes from the British Museum. For further details, contact Mel Davies, Economics, on 9380 2939 or email mdavies@ece1.uwa.edu.au.

#### WANTED

- 3-4 BEDROOM fully-furnished accommodation for doctor and family from Minnesota, USA, on sabbatical at CSIRO Livestock Industries from 5 November 2001 to 29 March 2002. Preferred location in western suburbs, north of river, near UWA and Shenton Park. Happy to look after pets. Please email Christina Stocks at pa.suebaker@cmas.csiro.au or phone 9333 6137 on Mon. to Fri. between 9am and 1pm.

#### FOR RENT

- TWO-BEDROOM furnished character home opposite park on large block. Located in Shenton Park, 5 minutes drive to UWA and walking distance to shops, primary school, and high school. Available July to December 2001, with possible extension to June 2002. Non-smokers only. Pets OK. $280 per week. Call Paul on 9380 2738 or paul@physics.uwa.edu.au.

### Redundant Equipment for Sale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>COND.</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>EXT.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 x Trio CS-1562 10MHz</td>
<td>£200 ono</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>Stuart</td>
<td>3899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2Ch Oscilloscopes</td>
<td>£200 ono</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>Stuart</td>
<td>3899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fujitsu General LPF-3200 LCD Projector</td>
<td>£800 ono</td>
<td>6-10</td>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>Stuart</td>
<td>3899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various Monitors VGA and Mono</td>
<td>£15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sue</td>
<td>2822</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Bids should be accepted by Monday 18 June with departments to have first option

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>COND.</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>EXT.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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