GPs need country practice

Rural medical practitioners are “the last of the great generalists”, says Professor Campbell Murdoch.

And he says that the medical profession needs more generalists.

A professor of general practice in three continents, Campbell Murdoch is now settled in Kalgoorlie as the Head of UWA’s new Rural Clinical School.

After leaving his native Scotland and teaching in New Zealand, the United Arab Emirates and Malaysia, Professor Murdoch felt like a break from travelling, so he and his family settled in the New Zealand town of Southland where he practised as a country GP for three years.

“The medical profession is becoming more and more specialised, with doctors knowing more and more about less and less. It seems that only in the country do you now get the real general practitioners who have to know how to do everything.

“In fact, some medical students are afraid to go to rural areas because they fear they won’t know everything! But they shouldn’t be afraid. It’s a very enjoyable and satisfying profession,” Professor Murdoch said.

He said the profession needed to change to suit the community. “Medicine has achieved a lot through the development of super specialists, and we don’t want that to stop, but what we do want is to ensure that you can still have a baby delivered by a doctor somewhere near your home!”

The Rural Clinical School, based in Kalgoorlie, has, at its heart, the recruitment and retention of a rural medical workforce. If Campbell...
I have recently had to spend some days working in the eastern states with Government over the higher education enquiry, and to lead a quite large AVCC Australian education delegation to Japan. For some years now I have had the intense desire to follow Papal example and kiss the airport tarmac on arriving back in Australia! For political, social, as well as environmental reasons, we have a country to celebrate. Riding my bike along Matilda Bay at sunset on the weekend seemed to evoke a kind of paradise!

I do also increasingly find that work in Canberra is hard work, and that life in the national capital is an ‘acquired taste’ that I am probably too old to acquire… also just too cold – on zero when I attempted a jog at sunrise.

But we do indeed have to be connected to the wider international and national world, both for what we learn comparatively, the important connections we make, and the policy/funding environment we must influence for the sake of UWA and the State itself.

From the intense Japanese forum there came excellent connections and friendships; all Japan’s top universities were represented. And we also learned of the scale of the challenge now faced not only by Japan’s economic and financial system, but by the nation’s universities. The challenge for our current enquiry seemed quite modest in comparison with Japan’s challenge to ‘corporatise’ universities.

From the eastern states’ meetings – which ranged from AVCC meetings which included the Education Minister and the Secretary of DEST – there was left a sense of enormous worries we have still persist – if themes are too narrow, too short-term, too reliant on gearing, too reflective of technological wizardry, too greedy of the balance of the national research funds… then we shall not have gone forward wisely for the future.

The Academy of Science (in which our Professor Michael Barber is taking a lead role on priorities) has issued a statement I commend to you.

In amidst these ‘high affairs of state’ the intense life of our campus and our community continues, of course, a reminder of the human realities that are also a university. Not only did we sadly farewell our Legal Counsel, Ms Linda Key, but we also more happily said bon voyage to our 90th Rhodes Scholar Dr Angus Turner, Medicine) as he prepares for his Oxford tenure … and we opened a remarkable exhibition in the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery which visually and verbally evokes the indigenous Aboriginal experience through the era of child removals – the ‘Stolen Generation’.

Can I also recommend books by fellow UWA historians that are, in fact, academic best sellers overseas? My colleagues Richard Bosworth and Norman Etherington have both written remarkable, readable and influential books in very different fields – Richard, with a stunning new biography of Mussolini and Norman on Great Treks, in the shaping of early modern South Africa.

In all the swirl of policy and priorities our sense of ‘mission’ – identity, values, community – holds powerfully true. A little travel only reinforces these enduring aspects of our University.

The much-awaited research priorities consultation paper.

Again, there is some (qualified!) good news: the process is this time open and inclusive, the broad thrust could involve a sensible support for strengths and excellence. And yet the worries we have had still persist – if themes are too narrow, too short-term, too reliant on gearing, too reflective of technological wizardry, too greedy of the balance of the national research funds... then we shall not have gone forward wisely for the future.

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In all the swirl of policy and priorities our sense of ‘mission’ – identity, values, community – holds powerfully true. A little travel only reinforces these enduring aspects of our University.
Muscular dystrophy, vegetarian athletes, domestic cats and a popular energy drink — they all come together in Tony Bakker’s cell calcium laboratory.

The link between these seemingly unrelated phenomena is taurine, a sulfonic amino acid found in high concentrations in all muscle and nerve cells.

“Taurine was first discovered in ox heart, from where it got its name. It is a conditionally essential amino acid that has been shown to be essential for normal heart and retinal function. However, virtually nothing is known about its effects in skeletal muscle,” said Dr Bakker, a physiologist.

“The human body has a limited capacity to manufacture taurine, so most people get the majority of their taurine through dietary meat consumption. Cats cannot manufacture taurine at all, and if they have insufficient taurine in their food, will suffer from blindness and a cardiomyopathy that severely shortens their life span. Proprietary cat foods usually have taurine added.”

Dr Bakker’s interest in taurine came from its reputation as a modulator of the intracellular Ca\(^{2+}\) concentration in mammalian cells. Ca\(^{2+}\) is a universal signalling agent in practically all cells, and increases in intracellular Ca\(^{2+}\) trigger a diverse array of processes such as contraction in muscle, hormone secretion and fertilisation. In the heart, taurine helps control calcium.

Experiments using the fluorescent Ca\(^{2+}\) indicators fura-2 and other techniques, where the outer layer of the muscle membrane is physically removed (allowing substances access to the intracellular environment) have enabled Dr Bakker to examine the effects of taurine on skeletal muscle contraction process.

It was found that when taurine was removed from muscle cells, force dropped by almost 20 per cent. In the presence of normal levels of muscle taurine, the force output was maintained at near maximal levels. The effect of taurine was found to arise from its ability to activate the intracellular Ca\(^{2+}\) store, and increase the amount of Ca\(^{2+}\) made available during contraction. More Ca\(^{2+}\) made available for longer periods, increases the amount of force that can be produced by a skeletal muscle. Dr Bakker and his research assistant Helen Berg have recently published these results in the prestigious Journal of Physiology (London).

“Some athletes may need to ensure an adequate supply of taurine to get the best results from their muscles. In a balanced diet containing meat (which is muscle!), there should be little need to supplement normal taurine intake. However, taurine is not found in plants and therefore, vegetarian athletes may need to supplement their taurine levels.

“One study has shown that vegans, who eat no meat, eggs or dairy products have about half the normal level of taurine in their blood.”

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Their success is not debatable

A helping hand from the Vice-Chancellery allowed a UWA student debating team to prove its worth at a recent Inter-varsity Championship in Adelaide.

“It’s always hard to get a team from UWA to the Intervarsity competitions because we’re so far away,” said third-year medical student Simon Zilko, the acting president of the University Debating Union (UDU). “Teams from other, eastern states can easily get a bus between cities but for us, it’s an expensive flight.”

Vice-Chancellery Discretionary Funding of $750 was put towards sending the team away and they successfully made their way through five rounds and the early finals before being defeated in the semi-finals by ANU (one), the eventual winners of the grand final.

“Given that universities such as Monash, Melbourne and Macquarie entered 13, 11 and nine teams respectively, and still didn’t do as well as UWA, this is a terrific sign for the future of debating at our university,” Simon said.

Simon was joined by third-year law/commerce student David Solomon and second-year engineering/science student Paul Tilbrook, all committee members of the UDU.

They finished fifth out of 62 teams, with Simon ranked the seventh best speaker, David 14th and Paul 30th.

“When we do get to enter a team in an Intervarsity tournament, the eastern states universities know that we’re usually a team to watch out for,” Simon said.

Simon, David and Paul were successful schoolboy debaters who all attended Christ Church Grammar School. The topic for the semi-final debate was ‘that governments should not fund private schools’ with our team taking the affirmative side of the argument.

UDU is hoping to be able to send a team to the Australasian Debating Championships in July. For information about debating at UWA, e-mail them at udu_debating@yahoo.com.au

The story of taurine

Continued from page 3

Dr Bakker’s research team includes Tak Suizu, a research assistant and PhD student, Renzhi Han. Dr Bakker also co-supervises an Honours student, James Ridgley, with colleague Professor Miranda Grounds, one of the world’s leading researchers into muscular dystrophy.

Dr Bakker’s expertise has led to several collaborations within the university examining the role of Ca²⁺ signalling in such things as asthma (with Associate Professor Geoff Stewart and Dr Asokananthan Nithiananthan, Microbiology), marine toxicology (with Dr Jackie Wilce, Biochemistry), bone resorption (with Associate Professor Ming-Hao Zheng from Orthopaedic Surgery), free radical production (with Dr Peter Arthur, Biochemistry) and the effects of insulin-like growth factor (with Dr Livia Hool, Physiology).
Murdoch is right, rural training will also help to create a core of generalists.

Its first cohort of seven fifth-year medical students will start its 12-month stint in the country this week. The students will work in rural general practices all over the state, also spending time in rural regional hospitals. The School plans to increase the number of students it places, up to 30 in 2004.

“My task is to create an academic department in a rural area, not just to provide rural experience,” Professor Murdoch said. Within a month, academic clinical staff will be settled in Kalgoorlie, Geraldton, Broome and Port Hedland, senior lecturers for the fifth-year students.

The Kalgoorlie base is staffed by Professor Murdoch, a half-time senior lecturer, a full-time administrator and an Aboriginal health worker. Local doctors provide mentoring for the students.

The School is funded by a $25 million Commonwealth Government grant over five years. The same amount was awarded to nine university medical schools around Australia, to set up rural clinical schools.

One of the seven students setting out this week is Belinda Wozencroft, who will be based at Port Hedland. “It’s a perfect time to experience rural practice, during training when there aren’t other pressures on you. Ian (McWhirter) and I both plan to work in the country when we’re qualified. The other five are keeping their options open.”

Ian McWhirter grew up in Kellerberrin and is heading off to Geraldton. “It’s a chance to live and work in a part of WA I’m not familiar with,” he said. “And, beyond the curriculum, it’s a great learning opportunity.”

Jean-Philippe Lalonde, who will also be based in Geraldton, said the vast and remote rural landscape of WA was similar to his native Canada. “I don’t know whether I will end up working in the bush, but that’s what this year is all about: to expose us all to different experiences so we have something on which to base our choices.”

The students said that now, as they were about to leave, there were other students who wished they had chosen the rural option. “The fourth years are all very keen already,” they said.

A French education magazine has chosen UWA’s Centre for English Language Teaching as the best in Australia.

Australie magazine reported that CELT had received “an excellent report card” from the French students who studied here.

Director of CELT, Bianca Panizza, said there were almost 200 English language centres in Australia. Only 65 of them (including CELT) belonged to the professional association, English Australian Colleges. There were 18 centres in WA, four of them within universities.

Bianca was interviewed by the magazine and asked what she believed gave the Centre the edge: “I think, first and foremost, that the quality of a centre is the direct result of the quality of its teachers. At UWA, we are very careful to pay particular attention to choosing teachers who have degrees in a wide variety of disciplines as well as having qualifications in English language teaching. This allows us to provide the students with a very rich environment for discussions,” she said.

“Then there are the teaching methods. At UWA, we teach students to analyse their own learning needs. The students explain their goals, which English skill(s) they want to improve and why. They have to write in English about subjects that are important to them. They also keep a daily learning diary in which they reflect on what they have learnt that day.

“Naturally we review grammar, and there are vocabulary, pronunciation, listening, speaking and writing classes every week.

“What is fundamental, however, is that we don’t simply teach them English: we teach them to think, to know when to ask questions, and which questions to ask. We encourage them to use their critical faculties. In that way, we give them the tools to continue learning and to make progress long after their stay with us.”

Australie has a circulation of 10,000 and it is distributed quarterly. Its target audience is university students and its aim is to provide information on Australian education to French students and academics.
Time is on their side in the School of Physics.

Many of the researchers pushing the scientific boundaries are young. And these young scientists are accumulating the accolades that once were the province of grey-haired white-coated academics.

The stories on these pages are about young scientists, both graduates and undergraduates, who are ranking high in the world among their peers.

Associate Professor Michael Tobar was only 25 when he came to UWA and started work with the Metrology Research Group in 1989. He was still under 30 when his group was working on the now famous sapphire clock.

Associate Professor Andre Luiten took the group’s idea for that clock to its ultimate limit as his PhD project. He won the Australian Institute of Physics’s Bragg Medal for the most outstanding PhD thesis in physics in Australia in 1997, at the age of 29.

One of Professor Luiten’s postgraduate students, John McFerran, who is still working with his group, won a place at the prestigious Enrico Fermi summer school in physics in Italy, while he was completing his PhD, at the age of 28. Only 50 students are chosen from around the world for this school and John was one of only 28 awarded a full scholarship to attend. He has submitted his thesis and is awaiting the outcome.

Dr Clayton Locke, featured in the story (left), and one of Professor Tobar’s research group, is one of only four young scientists Australia-wide to win an award from the International Union of Radio Science. Three years ago, Andre Luiten won that award and, three years before that, it went to Michael Tobar.

In the same year that Professor Luiten won the Bragg Medal, Professor Tobar was awarded the 1997 Australian Telecommunications and Electronics Research Board medal for outstanding research achievements in the field of Telecommunications and Electronics.

Two years later, he won a European Young Scientist Award, for ‘personal contribution showing a high degree of initiative and creativity, leading to already established or easily foreseeable outstanding advances in terms of time and frequency metrological performance.’

In the same year, Associate Professor Luiten was awarded a Young Scientist Award by the Union Scientifique Internationale organisation of France. Last year he was the sole editor and part contributor to a book published by Springer-Verlag in their applied physics series, titled Frequency Measurement and Control: Advanced Techniques and Future Trends.

In the six years that he has been working at UWA, Associate Professor Luiten has brought $2.1 million in competitive funds in to the University.
When you are pushing the boundaries of precision, only the best will do.

The Frequency Standards and Metrology Research Group in Physics is internationally recognised for its work in time measurement and development of the most precise clocks in the world.

Their newest member, Dr Clayton Locke, who recently completed his PhD with the group, has already been singled out by two international scientific bodies for the quality of his research.

He is one of only four young scientists Australia-wide who has won an award to attend the general assembly of the International Union of Radio Science (URSI) in the Netherlands, in August. URSI is based in Belgium and encompasses eight areas of radio science, including metrology.

He won another Young Scientist award from the international Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers,计量学研究组，他说他

 Particularly keen on particle physics

Believe it or not, particle physics plays a part in our management of knowledge and our everyday communications.

It was from this area of science that the World Wide Web was born. And it is this application that physics students Ranga Muhandiramge and Dane Lance cite when people ask them where a career in particle physics will take them.

“Our research is pure, rather than applicable, but it’s always of value. You never know where it will take you. Nobody could have predicted the World Wide Web 50 years ago,” said the Head of Physics, Dr Ian McArthur. “Just as the scientists who worked in quantum mechanics in the 1920s could not have known that their work would lead to today’s enormous electronics industry.

“There is always the possibility of a spin-off. Pure research is always worthwhile.”

An early spin-off for Ranga and Dane is a six-week summer school at the University of Cambridge for physics undergraduates from around the world.

Last year, Dane was the only Australian among 24 students undergarduates from around the world.

The summer school is hosted by the Particle Physics and Astronomy International Undergraduate Summer School is for students who are seriously considering a future career in either astronomy or particle physics.

“I love particle physics,” Ranga said. And Dane, who is doing his Honours year with the Frequency Standards and Metrology Research Group, says he would like to return to particle physics when he’s finished his Honours project.

The summer school operates for six weeks, straddling our three-week semester break, with the students attending lectures for the first two weeks. Then there are visits to the optical telescopes at the Institute of Astronomy and the radio telescopes at Lords Bridge. The students then work on projects supervised by the researchers in one of the hosting departments. Each student gives a talk on that work during the last week of the course.

A highlight is a one-day visit to CERN, the European Centre for Research in Particle Physics, in Geneva, which houses the biggest particle accelerator in the world. CERN was the birthplace of the World Wide Web.

The summer school is hosted by the Cavendish Laboratory, the Institute of Astronomy and the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics at the University of Cambridge. Students live in at St Edmund’s College and it involves no cost at all to the participants.
The reader has almost to commit a sin to view the works in Seven Sins, a surrealist 'novel' of prints by fine art students.

To open the handmade handprinted book, you have to break the embossed cardboard cover, a 'sin' for lovers of beautiful things.

Once inside, the reader finds seven deliberate mistakes, described as 'peccadilloes to amuse and intrigue readers'.

The students and their lecturer, Paul Trinidad, who handprinted the limited edition of the students' works, began their project with the seven deadly sins as a point of departure, and created photo-relief prints from the original works they created, handmade collages of Edwardian prints.

"The project was based loosely on German printmaker and painter Max Ernst's surrealist novel, Une Semaine de Bonté," Mr Trinidad said. "Ernst's novel, like this one, contained very little text."

As well as the students' work, the book contains prints by other artists, art teachers and architects, including Theo Koning, Grant Revell, Jon Tarry, Nigel Westbrook, Frances Martin and Geoffrey London.

The launch of the book and an exhibition of the original prints, upstairs in the School of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts, co-incides with an exhibition of Max Ernst prints at the Art Gallery of WA.

Paul Trinidad has been invited to explain to 60 volunteer guides at the Art Gallery the processes and techniques of printmaking.

"The guides know the history of the prints on show at the Gallery but they don't have the technical understanding of how the prints were made, nor can they handle them and look at them closely," Mr Trinidad said.

"They will visit us at the School and be able to see demonstrations of prints being made in exactly the same way as those of Max Ernst and Goya, and they'll be able to handle them and examine them and go away with much more information for visitors to the Gallery."

Nothing was ever too much trouble for Linda Key, the University Counsel who died on May 19.

Martin Griffith, Executive Director, Finance and Resources, said that Ms Key would always do whatever she could to help anybody at the University.

"She was enormously helpful with our investment portfolio and had a reputation as an outstanding property lawyer. Linda gave us invaluable commercial advice. Her broad experience enabled us to enhance our commercial contracts and make the most of our investments," Mr Griffith said. "And she was a crackingly nice person on top of it!"

Ms Key died, at the age of 47, after suffering from motor neurone disease. The Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson, said she fought the disease with dignity and courage and continued her service with the University right to the last.

Professor Robson said Ms Key had brought a high level of legal acumen and skills to the University. Her contribution to the university community was significant across all areas and she would be sadly missed by staff, student and members of industry, the professions and the wider community who have links with UWA.

One of her loves was music and she regularly attended the School of Music's concerts. The School dedicated their lunchtime concert in the week she died to her memory. It featured one of her favourite composers, Franz Schubert.

Ms Key was doing work for the University as a partner of Malleson's when she was invited to join UWA as senior legal officer, in 1995. She was the University's first legal officer and set up the now expanded legal office.

Director of Human Resources, Bob Farrelly, said Ms Key was a great person to work with, very practical and pragmatic. "And she was such a nice person as well," he said.
More than just a break-down service

T he Royal Automobile Club of WA has taken its advocacy role in road safety to a higher degree.

It has funded a 12-month fellowship in the University’s Injury Research Centre for a study of road safety issues, focusing particularly on young drivers.

Dr Claire Adams is the inaugural RACWA fellow. She brings several years experience in researching risk factors and community health issues.

“Statistics show that 17 and 18-year-olds make up 15 per cent of the driving population in WA but they comprise 31 per cent of drivers involved in serious driver accidents. By serious, I mean that somebody goes to hospital or dies. I’m not including the high percentage of minor accidents that young drivers walk away from,” said Dr Adams.

“The Graduated Driver Training and Licensing System, which the State Government recently introduced, is a good start. But it’s not as rigorous a system as the one in other states and countries, where it has shown to be effective.

“I hope that my research will produce some recommendations for the RAC to put to the Government on the system and other areas where the safety of young drivers can be improved,” she said.

The new system allows 16-year-olds to apply for their Learner’s Permit on their 16th birthday, so they have 12 months of driving experience before sitting for their licence. After six months on L-plates, they then do a practical driving test. If they pass this, the young drivers must then keep a log of at least 25 hours of supervised driving before their 17th birthday, when they are eligible to sit for their licence, by doing a computer-based simulated hazard perception test.

“Some other states and countries demand that learner drivers clock up many more than 25 hours before they are eligible for their licence. They also stipulate that probationary drivers must not drink any alcohol. Here in WA, P-platers are allowed to have up to 0.02 per cent alcohol in their blood. I’ll be looking at both of these regulations.”

Dr Adams said her study of crash statistics shows a high number of probationary drivers have accidents at night and often when they have other young people in the car.

“Perhaps we should be looking at restricting night time driving or increasing hours of night driving during the learner phase. And it might be an idea to restrict passengers. When young people have a car full of their friends, they are much more likely to take risks than if they are driving alone.

“Teenagers get their licence to drive and their ‘licence’ to drink around the same time and they simply don’t have enough experience of either to understand how alcohol affects their driving. The Injury Research Centre would like to see zero alcohol allowed for P-platers.”

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION ... not just the catchcry of the real estate agents. It’s a crucial starting point for the University’s Expo on August 25.

“In previous years, the location of displays has always been a tricky one,” said Expo co-ordinator Ian Lilburne.

“There has always been the perception that people are reluctant to venture down to the southern end of the campus, so areas like agriculture, botany and human movement miss out on the bigger crowds.

“But, if you gather these faculties and schools together in one area, people then tend only to go to this area and give areas like arts, social sciences and physics a miss.”

This year, each faculty will have its own precinct, with displays, lectures, prospective students’ talks and the sub-dean all in one clearly defined and signposted area. Most of these will be in and around their home buildings, with Natural and Agricultural Sciences focussed around the Geology and Geography building.

Faculties based off the Crawley campus will each have an area on the main campus. They won’t be lumped together. Education will occupy a space on the ground floor of the verandah of the Reid Library accessed via a temporary bridge over the moat.

Medicine and Dentistry will be set up in the ctec and Anatomy building, And Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts will have the perfect setting in the foyer of the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery.

“The precinct encompasses all aspects of the faculty: an architecturally interesting building, galleries full of visual art and, nearby, the unique landscaping of the Sunken Garden,” Mr Lilburne said.

The Reid Library, known to the organisers as Ground Zero, will be the central point of the campus plan for the day. All tours will leave from there and a tram will run all day between the library and the School of Human Movement and Exercise Science.
New planner has designs on campus

The University’s new manager of planning and design is keen to polish up the edges of the campus.

Bruce Thompson, an architect who came to UWA from Murdoch University, refers specifically to the edge of campus that abuts the river, and the intersection of Stirling Highway and Broadway where university properties occupy three of the four corners.

“There is a lot of opportunity to express ourselves in the community. I’m keen to connect more with the community and with the river. It’s a magnificent feature but, as far as I can see, it’s not utilised enough,” Mr Thompson said.

His first big projects are the building of the new Chemistry building (which goes to tender soon) and the Riley Centre. But first he wants to get around the campus and meet as many faculty managers and academics as possible.

“My style is very pro-active. To do my job effectively, I need to know how these people work and what they need,” he said.

Mr Thompson, who has a strong planning background and also has experience in project management, will give a presentation to departmental managers in July.

He replaces Romesh Goonewardene, who is now teaching full-time in architecture.

Bruce Thompson loves the Winthrop precinct, the Law building and the Reid Library and its Great Court.

Off road students online at UWA

Regional development is almost a discipline in its own right, says the Director of UWA’s Institute for Regional Development, Associate Professor Neil Drew.

“Everything has to be understood, analysed and put into practice within the context of rural, regional and remote issues,” he said.

Professor Drew was talking about the IRD’s online postgraduate course, a Masters in Regional Development. Nine new students have started the course this year, all of them funded with studentships of up to $10,000 from the State Government.

The funding comes from a total of $250,000 granted to the institute to help talented Western Australians apply their energy to issues affecting country people.

All of the students are regional development practitioners, all but one living in rural areas.

One module, or lecture, is delivered to the them, via the Internet each week, and every fortnight, they take part in an online tutorial. The students also participate in an online chat room, with the help of a moderator (usually the Institute’s academic program co-ordinator, Sabrina Dei Guidici) and a lecturer, who provides the academic stimulation.

“The students really get a lot out of the chat room. You’ll find somebody from Esperance or Kalgoorlie talking about regional development issues in Karratha. There’s a lot of cross-fertilisation of ideas,” said Professor Drew.

“This online course is a lot better, much less isolated than studying as an external student.”

The Masters in Regional Development usually takes four year part-time to complete, while the students stay in their regions working in the area. Associate Professor Drew said he was considering the possibility of introducing a summer semester, which would reduce the time to three years.

The program was a finalist, in the regional category, of the Western Australian Information Technology and Telecommunications Awards.

“I think one of our strengths is that we are not driven by technology. We only do something if it’s going to add to the learning environment. In fact, we can’t get too high tech because some of the more remote students are not able to receive some telecommunications services,” Professor Drew said.
This chair is hardly a secret, located on the busy intersection of Broadway and Stirling Highway, but even some of the people who work in the buildings on the Nedlands campus didn’t know about it!

Retired curator of grounds, Glen Sproule, said the chair, carved out of a stump, was in the gardens when UWA took over the Nedlands campus of the WA College of Advanced Education in 1991. He doesn’t know who created it.

But it provides a tiny oasis of peace and gives the impression of solitude, even though it’s surrounded by cars and buses all day.

If you have a secret spot on campus, a favourite feature or a little-known fact to share, please send it to us: lindy.brophy@uwa.edu.au or ext 2436, fax 1192

A lot of our understanding about Australia’s Indigenous people is thanks to the efforts of Bob Tonkinson and his colleagues.

Professor Tonkinson, from Anthropology, is a long-serving council member of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies. He has just been re-elected for another two-year term. He has been on council for 16 years and a member of AIATSIS since the 1970s.

He and the three other elected members and five appointed Indigenous members head up the federally funded organisation whose principal function is to promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies.

This year, AIATSIS approved research grants of about $700,000. The research covers a diverse range of issues including language and sociological studies, community histories, archaeology and cultural heritage, anthropology, history, health, music and art.

Projects must show that they have the support of the Aboriginal community, before they are allocated funds.

Professor Tonkinson said that each year, more of the research money went to Indigenous people. “It’s great to see. Even ten years ago, they would have represented a tiny proportion of those who were allocated funds for research,” he said.

The Institute’s new building in Canberra (which Professor Tonkinson reports is stunning) is the world’s biggest repository of written materials on Indigenous Australia. It also houses an extensive public library, community outreach facilities and family history services and an in-house publisher, Aboriginal Studies Press.

“A lot of the stolen generation have been able to use the facilities and services to trace their families,” Professor Tonkinson said.

Increasing the involvement of Indigenous Australians in the affairs of AIATSIS is a priority for the institute. And it shows in its council membership. Professor Tonkinson is, in his words, “the only white fella” on the nine-member council. Having attracted the second-highest number of votes from the 600-plus membership, he is deputy chair for what he says will probably be his final two-year term.
In India protection and regulation were designed, not only to ensure the viability of local production, but also to distribute industry and resources among the different regions of the world’s largest economy. Even today, the vast majority of workers – in excess of 90 per cent – belong to the unorganised sector. The policies adopted at the time of Independence (1947) sought to widen the orbit of commerce and industry in an attempt to remove the concentration of wealth and resources in a few areas and thereby increased the proportion and reach of those operating in the organised sector. Protective policies also sought to ensure that industrialised sectors did not decay, thereby adding to those in the unorganised non-wage sector. As a result, significant impediments were put in the way of both foreign and local competition. Most economic sectors were declared state monopolies. In the limited areas in which the private sector was permitted to operate, impediments were placed in the way of employers’ capacity to dismiss or retrench employees. Rather than add to the unemployed, the state took over ailing establishments, thereby adding to its sphere operations.

Both countries have had to reassess their approach to economic and labour regulation. Australia has done so on a voluntary basis. Since 1973 tariffs and other forms of regulation have been reduced; public entities have been corporatised and/or privatised; the financial and other sectors have been deregulated; the role of awards and the operations of industrial tribunals constrained. Australia has sought its economic salvation by embracing the global market rather than seeking to keep out that market. The centralised system of industrial relations and wage determination has given way to one in which the primary concern is with “enterprise” relations.

In India the transition has been more painful since it has been imposed upon the country. By 1990 the imbalance in trade came to dominate economic management. The government had to pledge gold to augment the foreign exchange reserves. There was a flight of capital and a lowering of India’s credit rating. IMF assistance came at a price: a commitment to lowering the budget deficit; opening the economy, in particular by the lowering of tariffs; and providing a greater role for the private sector. A range of ‘reform’ and ‘liberalisation’ policies have followed. Foreign investments and operations are now encouraged and the role of the private sector has been enlarged. Labour market deregulation has attempted to reduce the role of arbitration. The Industrial Relations Bill has sought to provide for a system of collective bargaining.

If both countries have experienced the need for change, so too they have felt political inertia and resistance. In Australia, political opposition has resulted in compromise legislation. In India the IR Bill has been stalled for over five years. Many Indians resent the imposition of “reforms” by an outside body such as the IMF.

Whatever the final outcome, both countries illustrate the limitations of the notion of the “sovereign state”. It is this assumption that has been embedded in industrial relations legislation. The Australian and India experience would suggest countries may opt for globalisation or have it forced upon them.

Musicians and typists need not apply!

Postgraduate psychology student David Morris is currently conducting an experiment as part of his PhD project and is looking for participants.

The project examines potential mechanisms mediating hand preference, and the current experiment involves performing a sequence of finger movements with each hand. The experiment involves two testing sessions, each taking approximately 60 minutes, and participants will be reimbursed five dollars for each session.

The criteria for participants are that they must be right-handed and neither proficient at typing (ie participants should NOT be able to type more than 50 words per minute) nor able to play a musical instrument.

If you meet these criteria and wish to take part in the experiment, David can be contacted during office hours (9am - 5pm) most days on ext 1420, or leave a message. Alternatively, email him at dmorris@psy.uwa.edu.au, letting him know what times you would be available.
**Tuesday 4 June**

**PUBLIC HEALTH SEMINAR**

**SOIL SCIENCE AND PLANT NUTRITION SEMINAR**
‘Presentation of orals and posters in preparation for WCSS, Bangkok’, various speakers. 4pm, Agriculture Lecture Theatre.

**Wednesday 5 June**

**GEOGRAPHY SEMINAR**

**PERTH MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE GROUP TALK**
‘An analysis of Sofonisba Anguissola’s The Chess Game (1553)’, Sally Quin, Registrar and Curator of Australian Art, LWAG. 7.30pm, Postgraduate Lounge, Hackett Hall.

**CHEMISTRY SEMINAR**

**Thursday 6 June**

**FREE LUNCHEON CONCERT**
The University Chamber Winds closes the Autumn/Winter Lunchtime Concert Series with a program of popular wind music. 1.10pm, Octagon Theatre.

**Friday 7 June**

**MICROBIOLOGY SEMINAR**
‘Dead pitches, a virus, molecular methods and mathematical models—where to next!’ Dr Brian Jones, Department of Fisheries. 9am, Seminar Room I.1, First Floor, L Block, QEIIMC.

**Saturday 8 June**

**AFUWW(A) POSTGRADUATE WOMEN’S NETWORKING BREAKFAST**
If you would like to please a Saturday morning breakfast networking with other postgraduate women from all WA universities come along to our networking breakfast. Where: Old Swan Brewery Bar and Restaurant, 173 Mounts Bay Rd Crawley. Cost: Whatever you choose to order from their menu. Toast is $2.50; full breakfast: $15. Bus from the city (72) stops outside at the end of the free zone. RSVP by 5th June to Karen at afuwwa@cygus.uwa.edu.au or phone 9386 3570.

**Monday 10 June**

**PLANT BIOLOGY LECTURE**
‘Mitochondrial protein import’, Monika Murcha, Biochemistry. 4pm, Agriculture Lecture Theatre.

**ASTHMA AND ALLERGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE SEMINAR**
‘Applications of gene therapy for disease and research’, Prof Piroksa Rakoczy, LEI. 12.30 to 1.30pm, Joske Seminar Room, Medicine, 4th Floor, G Block, SCGH.

**Wednesday 12 June**

**THE 2002 KYLE ORATION**
‘These are our children’, presented by His Excellency the Right Reverend Dr Peter Hollingworth AC OBE, Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia. 8pm, Winthrop Hall.

**Friday 14 June**

**CLIMA SEMINAR**
‘Yield limiting potential and occurrence of two damaging diseases of lupin or canola and oversummering infection reservoirs’, Dr Roger Jones, WADA; ‘Lupin fusarium and anthracnose resistance project in Poland and Russia’, Dr Mark Sweetingham, WADA. 4pm, CLIMA Seminar Room.

**ASIAN STUDIES SEMINAR**
‘The adaptation of vocabulary to a new religion—an example from the Bikol region in the Philippines’, Dr Malcolm Mintz. 1pm, G.25 Seminar Room, Ground Floor, Social Sciences Building.

**ENGLISH, COMMUNICATION AND CULTURAL STUDIES’ WORK-IN-PROGRESS PRESENTATION**
‘Planning fantasies—notes towards a series of fantasy stories’, A/Prof Van Ikin. 1pm, G.14, Arts Building.

**THE 2002 CALLAWAY LECTURE**
‘Culture, creativity and the future of Western Australia’, presented by the Honourable Geoff Gallop MLA Premier of Western Australia. 7pm, Octagon Theatre.

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**Saturday 16 June**

**UWA TABLE OLIVE WORKSHOP**
**Getting Started 2002**

**Sunday 16 June**

0 lives are now on the trees

If you want to learn more about table olive processing then the place to be on Sunday 16 June 2002 is at UWA in the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences.

The day workshop, to be conducted by Stan Kailis and Jan Oldham, will include the best varieties to plant, how and when to pick olives and the processing methods to get the best results. The workshop will appeal to a wide range of persons from those that love olives to the more serious growers. During the workshop hands-on activities will include olive tasting, olive evaluation, olive processing and marinating, and making tapenade. Refreshments are provided during the day. Lunch will include dishes based on Mediterranean and Middle East Cuisine. Notes, olives and materials are provided. You may wish to bring your own olives for processing or tasting.

9am to 4pm, Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences. Cost: $165 (includes GST).

Contact: Professor Stan Kailis, Department of Plant Biology, Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, 35 Stirling Highway, Crawley, WA 6009. Tel: 9380 1644; fax 9380 1108; email: skailis@agric.uwa.edu.au.

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**ADVANCE NOTICE**

**Monday 17 June**

**PLANT BIOLOGY LECTURE**
‘Water and nutrient management in turf systems’, Digby Short, Plant Biology. 4pm, Agriculture Lecture Theatre.

**ASTHMA AND ALLERGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE SEMINAR**
‘Maggots in the justice system—forensic entomology and what it can do for the dead’, Dr Ian Dadour, Centre for Forensic Science. 12.30 to 1.30pm, Joske Seminar Room, Medicine, 4th Floor, G Block, SCGH.

**Wednesday 19 June**

**ANATOMY AND HUMAN BIOLOGY SEMINAR**
‘Lifestyle and psychosocial determinants of human fertility’, A/Prof Neville Bruce. 1pm, Room 1.81, ANHB Building.

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To place an advertisement please send your details to: CSD, Room 8, Level 1, G Block, 108 Mounts Bay Road, Crawley, WA 6009. Tel: 9380 1500; fax 9380 1120; email: csd@uwa.edu.au (If you only require a small advertisement place a note in the CSU diary on your campus).

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**CENTRE FOR STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

What’s on Next

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 CSD on ext. 1504 or csdoffice@csd.uwa.edu.au.

**Foundations of University Teaching and Learning**
**Introduction to WebCT**
**Designer’s Introduction to WebCT**
**Using WebCT Quiz**
**File Management — WebCT**
Be sure to read these great new titles from UWA Press

Cathedral and Community
A History of St George's Cathedral, Perth
By John Tonkin
$45.00 (hb)

Blood, Sweat and Welfare
A History of White Bosses and Aboriginal Pastoral Workers
By Mary Anne Jebb
Described by Professor Henry Reynolds as “one of the best books currently available about race relations on the pastoral frontier and required reading for anyone interested in Aboriginal history”.
$34.95 (hb)

The Legend of Moondyne Joe
By Mark Greenwood and illustrated by Frané Lessac
The story of the greatest escape artist of Australia’s convict era.
$24.95 (hb)

Silverskin
By Guundie Kuchling
With a sweet storyline and vivid colour illustrations it tells the story of Liasis a baby Albino snake who learns to love being different.
$24.95 (hb)

Greek Pioneers in Western Australia
By John Yiannakis & Reginald Appleyard
$54.95 (hb)

Uniprint can provide your entire course outlines, lecture notes and course reader requirements and also offer an “Early Bird Discount”.
For Semester 2, provide your originals to Uniprint prior to 24 June and receive a 10% discount, or before 8 July and receive a 5% discount.

Sale of Course Readers
Uniprint can also arrange for the sale of your course readers to students through the University Co-operative Bookshop. You need to provide the originals and pay for the copies you require for your own use — and Uniprint will take care of the sales to students through the Bookshop.
Uniprint can also scan your originals into an electronic (PDF) document. We can remove black borders, dirty marks etc. and then add page numbers, titles, logos or even insert new text if requested. After production of your course readers we can either archive your electronic document at Uniprint or return it to you burnt to CD.

If you have a Job ready you can either
Ring Uniprint Reception on extension 3624 for collection on our daily delivery run
OR
send it via the internal mail
If you have any queries please ring
Ray Horn on ext. 8790 or David Prior on ext. 8791
or visit Uniprint Arts Copy Centre (Ground floor, Arts Building)

There will be NO issue of UWA news published on July 15

Many staff take advantage of the semester break coinciding with school holidays which means a much-reduced readership.

Please note that all notices for CAMPUS DIARY for the period July 16–29 will be published in the July 1 issue for which the deadline is June 19

Greek Pioneers in Western Australia
By John Yiannakis & Reginald Appleyard
$54.95 (hb)
Blokes’ business: obesity and heart disease

What can you do about your paunch?

With the backing of the National Heart Foundation (NHF) and the National Health & Medical Research Committee (NHMRC), three professors at The University of Western Australia are investigating it, looking at two major health problems: obesity and heart disease.

Their research is based on a group of male volunteers, all of who have visceral obesity — the distinctive paunches that can be warning signs for heart disease.

With coronary heart disease continuing to be a leading cause of death in Western societies, and obesity, which increases the risk of hardening of the arteries, on the rise — the UWA research is timely. According to NHF data 68 per cent or men and 49 per cent of women are overweight or obese and the numbers are increasing.

Associate Professors Hugh Barrett, Gerald Watts and Professor Trevor Redgrave, have been granted more than $300,000 over three years from the NHF and NHMRC to investigate the regulation of lipoprotein metabolism in men with visceral obesity.

The focus of the NHF grant is to study the role of high-density-lipoprotein (HDL). This major research project is a continuation of an earlier study into low-density-lipoprotein (LDL). Both are produced by the liver, but whereas the apolipoprotein-B containing lipoproteins (principally LDL) transport cholesterol through the circulation where it can be incorporated into plaque, the deadly lining that can be a major factor in heart disease, HDL plays a role in the removal of cholesterol from plaque in the artery walls and delivers it back to the liver in a process known as reverse cholesterol transport.

The NHMRC grant will allow investigation into how a small, but important protein, apolipoprotein CIII, regulates the metabolism of the apolipoprotein-B containing lipoproteins and HDL.

“We want to look at how we can manipulate the concentration and metabolic properties of lipoproteins with statins (drugs that lower cholesterol) and fish oil which is known to reduce triglyceride concentrations in people with visceral obesity,” Professor Barrett said.

“Many obese men have internal, or visceral fat which is thought to drive the over-secretion of what we call the bad lipoproteins, and to bring about a concomitant decrease in the concentration of HDL, the good lipoproteins.

“There is a strong relationship between a risk of heart disease and HDL levels – with low levels increasing the risk and high level reducing it – so we need to know much more about the workings of HDL and the other lipoproteins and how they can be manipulated to reduce cardiovascular risk.”

The UWA research projects will run over three years.