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# UniSA News

April 2004

A newspaper of the University of South Australia

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**May 2004 issue of UniSANews**

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## Fighting cancer with venom

by [Geraldine Hinter](#)

UniSA researchers have made a major discovery using a natural compound in snake venom that shows very promising anti-cancer effects.

The compound works by activating the destruction of cells which make up the blood vessels that supply nutrients to tumours, according to Associate Professor Tony Woods from UniSA's School of Pharmaceutical, Molecular and Biomedical Sciences.

He describes malignant tumours as abnormal living tissues with rapidly dividing cells that grow and feed off nutrients and oxygen accessed through the normal blood supply surrounding the tumours.

"US researchers have found that if the blood supply to these tumours could be prevented from forming, or be damaged once formed, the tumours would not grow," Prof Woods says.

"While research into the use of snake venoms for treating tumours is not new and continues on a global scale, the major difference is that we have identified a compound that can be used in very low concentrations - meaning toxicity is much lower and only affects the cells we're interested in.

"Conventional chemotherapy, radiotherapy and drug treatments don't distinguish between tumour cells and other healthy cells, which often results in debilitating side effects.

"We have identified a novel compound that has a damaging effect on the growth of the endothelial cells in blood vessels within tumours. Endothelial cells must be in association with each other because they have a genetic function which insists that they cohabitate. A single cell on its own will die very quickly. By knowing how to destroy these cells, we can remove the lifeline of nutrients that keeps the tumours alive," Prof Woods says.



Working with Prof Woods is PhD candidate, Emma Bateman, who has been separating the venoms into components and determining their effect on the cells, and Dr Michael Venning, UniSA's specialist in snake venom research. They are collaborating with Peter Mirtschin of Venom Supplies SA, who provides the Australian snake venoms for the project.

"With ten of the most venomous snakes in the world, Australia has an incredible cocktail of components in snake venoms that are very unique and can do many different things in the body," Dr Venning says.

"Our research shows that some Australian snake venoms target the cells that surround tumours, while having less or no effect on some other cells. We expect the final compound to affect the targeted cells only. A really important factor is that our target cells are immediately accessible through the blood supply," Prof Woods says.

"Once we've identified the compound that has the greatest effect, we won't be collecting snakes to milk them and separate out the venom. Instead we'll find the gene that expresses that compound, then put the gene into some bacteria and make the compound, just like human insulin is made," Dr Venning says.

Prof Woods expects to see some significant results within a year or two that could have enormous implications for cancer treatments and real benefits for the University.

ITEK, the commercialisation company of the University of South Australia, is already involved in aspects of the commercialisation of compounds that originate from snake venom.

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## From the Vice Chancellor

The annual symposium of the Australian Technology Network (ATN) was held in Brisbane on February 5 and 6. It was a smaller and more focussed meeting than in previous years with participants from the five ATN members - QUT, UTS, RMIT, Curtin and UniSA discussing teaching, research and research education initiatives. Before the symposium two workshops, for early career researchers and for women through the Women's Executive Development program, were held.



ATN, operating since 1993, is UniSA's most significant collaboration with information sharing, benchmarking and joint initiatives under way in many areas. Three major initiatives, of national significance, are the WEXDEV program for women across all universities; a national project to support development and implementation of a systematic approach to embedding graduate attributes in the curriculum of all five universities; and ATN LEAP - an online program for research students to build generic skills. Working together on each of these projects has meant the outcomes are better than anything that could be developed by one university alone.

The appointment in 2003 of Vicki Thomson as the new Director: ATN has galvanised action in the institutions as well as building greater awareness of the ATN with federal parliamentarians and Australian industry. It is a powerful coalition which is responsible for teaching more than 170,000 students - or almost 20 per cent of the Australian university system including over 37,000 postgraduates and 43,000 international students.

When the five Vice Chancellors meet with Ministers, as they did in Canberra on February 9 and 10, they are seen as a coalition of Australia's five leading technology institutions. It is easy to be heard as a group because of the size of each of the institutions and their distinctive shared characteristics.

Government policy is stressing the importance of collaboration for economies of scale and to build concentrations in teaching and research. The ATN, as an established, successful and dynamic

collaboration is well placed to benefit from these directions.

A range of collaborative projects for 2004 and 2005 was canvassed in Brisbane. Some were:

### **The ATN Challenge**

A scheme to invite and fund research projects across the ATN.

Research Skills Web Site and Online Modules

The development of an ATN research skills website with online modules designed to develop research skills.

### **Global graduate capabilities**

This internationalisation project will explore and identify the capabilities graduates need to work effectively in a global marketplace, using business graduates of the ATN universities as exemplars.

### **Evaluation of Online Learning**

A survey developed by UTS in 2003 to examine the usage and quality of online learning courses and programs will be replicated in all ATN universities. The results will build the groups' combined understanding and will help with the development of each university's online learning strategy and plans for the future.

Projects such as these use the combined talents of five universities to address issues of significance to each of them.

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## News in brief

### \$10 million to protect our children

Federal education minister Dr Brendan Nelson, and senator Meg Lees announced \$10 million in funding for 10 years for a new Chair in Child Protection at UniSA this month. The appointment will help lead research into child abuse nationally across disciplines. Launching the Chair, Dr Nelson said the destruction caused by child abuse had broad and costly repercussions not only for victims

but for their families and the wider community. Senator Lees said all the research carried out showed a strong connection between child abuse and social problems, including poor school performance, homelessness and poverty, drug and alcohol abuse, mental illness and criminal activity. The position will be advertised nationally and internationally with leading practitioners in the field approached to help identify candidates.



### CD to support disabled job-seekers

*Songs of an Angel* is a musical tribute to Amelia Rix who was just 24 when she died suddenly from a cardiac arrest. Amelia's mum, UniSA staff member Barbara Rix and husband Ted have compiled the 17 track CD which contains songs donated by Australian artists including Glen Shorrock, Darren Hayes, Olivia Newton-John and Russell Morris. Amelia was a client of the Jobnet program, an employment service for people with a disability. All proceeds from *Songs of an Angel* will go to an annual award, named in honor of Amelia,

for a Jobnet client who shows Amelia's spirit of determination, honesty and hard work. The CD costs \$19.95 and can be obtained by contacting Barbara or Ted Rix on (08) 8447 1420 or email [barb\\_rix@hotmail.com](mailto:barb_rix@hotmail.com).



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## Browser Briefs

**by Karen Williams**

The (more accurate) big picture

Sick of smokescreens and sanitised news? Want to know a little more about what's really happening? If you want to fill in a few gaps, this is one of the best sites to visit. Crikey claims to be Australia's leading independent online news service, and more than just a website. Their homepage states that, while the Crikey team respect the laws of our country, they will point out theft, corruption, deception and collusion

whenever and wherever they can. The reason? They aim to fill the gaps the Australian media seem unable or unwilling to fulfill. You can subscribe and receive daily email updates, or if you're not so inclined, you can enjoy the free information they offer. An excellent feature is a hotlinks page - included here are links to sites which include information about who donates to Australian political parties, the world's best review of online journalism, and a site which exposes urban myths. The team does warn that if anyone wants to sue them, they have very little money and will not be silenced by so-called 'stopper writs'. They intend to play fair and if a complaint is made, they will endeavour to resolve it quickly and fairly. Here's to free speech.

[www.crikey.com.au/](http://www.crikey.com.au/)[▲ Back to top](#)

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## Classifieds

### For sale

**Sharp viewcam** 12x power zoom, 8 mm camera, all cords, and battery included \$350. Phone Nadine 0402 598 580

**Student drawing board** A1 size (750 x 1050mm) plus T-square. \$45. Phone Stewart (08) 8302 3048

**Quality linen floral lounge** Pink tones. 2 seater settee + 2 armchairs. Excellent cond. \$600 Ph Karen (08) 8302 0096 AH (08) 8365 1263.

### Accommodation

**Housesitter required** who likes animals (2 small dogs, cat,) required for mid-September to mid-October 2004, while occupant is overseas on study leave. N-E suburbs, large older style house, with all facilities. Phone (08) 8302 4799 (Wk) or (08) 8251 1085 (home). Email [lyndall.lush@unisa.edu.au](mailto:lyndall.lush@unisa.edu.au)

**Tumby Bay SC holiday units** Experience the secrets of the Eyre Peninsula, based at the beautiful seaside town of Tumby Bay, 45km from Port Lincoln. The perfect spot to enjoy clean beaches, great fishing, walking tracks. Phone (08) 8683 3935 to book your next holiday.

**Email your classies to [unisa.news@unisa.edu.au](mailto:unisa.news@unisa.edu.au)**

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## Academic board

by **Peter Cardwell**  
**Executive Officer, Academic Board**

February 2004

### Revised honorary academic titles policy and guidelines

Academic Board approved a series of amendments to the Honorary Academic Titles Policy, as well as the guidelines and appointment documentation for adjuncts. The changes arose from a review initiated by Research Degrees Committee (RDC).

The changes include:

- A new definition of adjuncts to reflect the current profile and contributions made by holders of honorary academic titles
- A revised adjunct corporate policy to recognise the new definition
- Revised guidelines to streamline the appointment process, incorporate annual reviews, and ensure appropriate screening was carried out in the initial nomination stage
- A standard adjunct appointment contract to cover specific details of intellectual property, and 'contract for service' should an adjunct receive casual or honorarium payments
- The need for more rigorous, consistent and detailed record keeping of adjunct appointments and resource requirements at the Divisional and Research Institute level

### Research and Research Education Management Plan 2003-2004

The Pro Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation) introduced changes to the University's Research and Research Management Plan 2003-2004. The changes are not major and their purpose is to update the 1999 version of the plan. The changes approved include:

- Including the three priorities relating to the University's Academic Profile 2010-2015
- Updating internal grants schemes
- Revising the second University strategy, involving development of a broader research culture to include increased emphasis on collaboration
- Moving indigenous studies from a priority research area to one for further development

- Establishing of threshold levels of performance for areas designated 'priority areas'. This will involve the allocating \$500,000 per annum for social sciences (broadly defined) and \$1,000,000 for other areas
- Including a revised section on research education to better reflect current activities
- Cross checking of statements against the Research Management Plan to DEST, the AUQA Performance Portfolio and the Corporate Plan.

### **Program viability reports**

Academic Board noted that Academic Policy A-35.A.9: Quality Assurance and Improvement: Programs, Courses and Teaching Arrangements sets the framework for both the quality and viability of all the University's programs. In line with this policy, the Planning and Assurance Services Unit produces an annual report on the viability of all programs against indicators previously agreed by the board. Programs are listed as falling into one of four quartiles of viability. Divisions are required to report on what actions they plan for programs in the fourth (or lowest) quartile.

A report was received on programs that fell into the fourth quartile during 2002. The report also summarises what actions Division plan for these programs. It was noted that in 2002 program viability for undergraduate awards had been measured against total student load, the number of first preference applications and retention rates. All programs in the fourth quartile will be carefully scrutinised by Academic Policy and Program Review Committee (APPRC), although a number of these programs were withdrawn in 2003.

### **Review of Academic Board**

Academic Board resolved to establish a working group to consider recommendations arising from the Review of Council Committees Report 2003. The working group will consider changes recommended in the review report, and report to the March meeting.

### **Program development**

The following new programs were approved:

Division Of Education, Arts And Social Sciences

- Bachelor of Education (Adult, Vocational and Workplace Learning)
- Bachelor of Education (Middle and Secondary) (Graduate Entry).

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## Research grant opportunities

Below is a list of new grant and fellowship opportunities that have become available in the last month. For details of other opportunities, visit these sites:

Grant opportunities – [www.unisa.edu.au/orc/grants/grants.htm](http://www.unisa.edu.au/orc/grants/grants.htm)

International funding opportunities – [www.unisa.edu.au/orc/grants/international.htm](http://www.unisa.edu.au/orc/grants/international.htm)

Research fellowship and award opportunities – [www.unisa.edu.au/orc/grants/fellowships.htm](http://www.unisa.edu.au/orc/grants/fellowships.htm)

For more info contact the grants officer on (08) 8302 5229, email [Natalie.Thorpe@unisa.edu.au](mailto:Natalie.Thorpe@unisa.edu.au)

The UniSA Research Office can only act as an agent for current staff and postgraduate students. Contact the funding source directly for guidelines and applications if you are not a current staff member or postgraduate student.

### New grant opportunities

#### Australian Research Council – Linkage Projects

Supports collaborative research projects between higher education researchers and industry and identifies an allocation to projects of benefit to regional and rural communities. Proposals must contain an industry contribution. Internal closing date April 23. External closing date May 7.

[www.arc.gov.au/grant\\_programs/linkage\\_projects.htm](http://www.arc.gov.au/grant_programs/linkage_projects.htm)

#### Linkage – Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities

Enhances the institutional resources including costs essential for mounting high-quality research projects in a particular field. The program supports major facilities and equipment, and non-capital aspects of library and information infrastructure. Internal closing date April 23. External closing date May 7.

[www.arc.gov.au/grant\\_programs/linkage\\_infrastructure.htm](http://www.arc.gov.au/grant_programs/linkage_infrastructure.htm)

#### Discovery – Indigenous Researchers Development

Supports Indigenous Australian researchers to develop research expertise and experience to a level competitive with mainstream funding. Internal closing date April 23. External closing date May

7.

[www.arc.gov.au/grant\\_programs/discovery\\_indigenous.htm](http://www.arc.gov.au/grant_programs/discovery_indigenous.htm)

### **Ian Potter Foundation**

Grants, travel and conference funds

Areas of interest are the arts, education, environment, health, social welfare, science and medical research. Internal closing date April 23. External closing date May 3.

[www.ianpotter.org.au](http://www.ianpotter.org.au)

### **Brain Foundation SA**

Grants in aid of Research

Invites applications for grants in aid of research projects concerning the causes, diagnosis, prevention and treatment of diseases of the nervous system. Please contact the grants officer (see above) to obtain the application form. Internal closing date May 3. External closing date May 14.

### **International funding**

#### **Lindberg (Charles A. and Anne Morrow) Foundation**

Grants Program

Support is provided to people whose initiative and work in a wide spectrum of disciplines furthers the vision of a balance between advancing technology and preserving the natural/human environment. Internal closing date May 27. External closing date June 10.

[www.lindberghfoundation.org/grants/index.html](http://www.lindberghfoundation.org/grants/index.html)

### **Fellowships and awards**

#### **2004 Australian Museum Eureka Prizes**

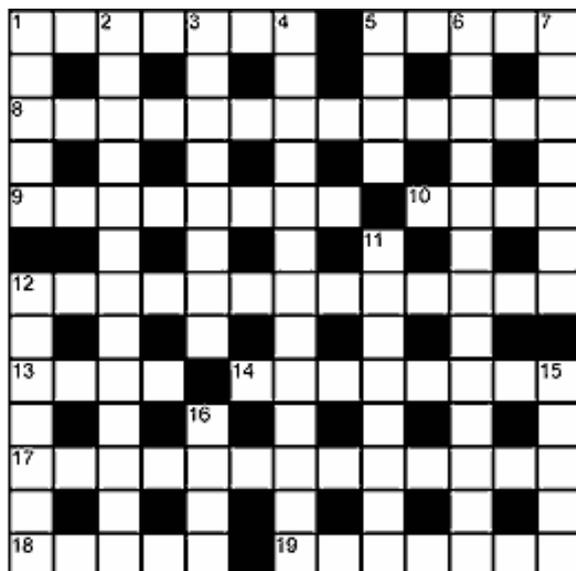
Eureka prizes are Australia's premier and most comprehensive national science awards, rewarding outstanding Australian science, research, industry, education, innovation and science communication. Internal closing date May 1. External closing date May 14.

[www.amonline.net.au/eureka/](http://www.amonline.net.au/eureka/)

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## Colgan's Cryptic



### ACROSS

1. "Bassin d'eau souterraine en Afrique" translation (7)
5. What to do with broken down vehicle, in particular (2,3)
8. In the main, periodic payments function to keep one in check (13)
9. At least three pounds needed by those involved in wines (8)
10. Draws up study plan (4)
12. Pressure introduced by state towards those continually pushing speed (7,6)
13. Put up with cut (4)
14. City auction (8)
17. Spirit's allocation is cut by head of the show (13)
18. Girl, 10, does addition (5)
19. Small, rugged and gaunt (7)

### DOWN

1. Personal attitude, a reflection of legendary Greek (5)
2. Upset sporting body initially excludes cricketer. He's represented in a song (5,8)
3. One who understands husband of Mrs Simpson, perhaps (8)
4. French man of maps, a rationalist (4,9)

5. Group from Tennessee's capital city (4)
6. Devour game-fish. Many women find it offensive (4,9)
7. To play up while in motor vehicles (7)
11. Type of ride where one can take it easy (8)
- 12 A native girl receives letter from Athens (7)
15. Niggle one that reared up (5)
16. Theologian is at the door, we hear (4)

### SOLUTION

A	Q	U	I	F	E	R		T	O	W	I	T
E		R		A		E		R		O		O
S	U	B	S	T	A	N	T	I	A	L	L	Y
O		A		H		E		O		F		O
P	E	N	F	O	L	D	S		S	W	O	T
		S		M		E		A		H		A
E	X	P	R	E	S	S	T	R	A	I	N	S
C		A		R		C		M		S		
H	A	C	K		C	A	L	C	U	T	T	A
I		E		K		R		H		L		N
D	E	M	O	N	S	T	R	A	T	I	O	N
N		A		O		E		I		N		O
A	N	N	E	X		S	C	R	A	G	G	Y

**Explanations** (C = cryptic part of clue + S = straight part of clue; or S + S = clue holding answer twice with two different straight meanings; or POW = play on words.) Note that joining words may or may not be an integral part of the clue. Punctuation and capital letters are irrelevant. The art of the setter is to make it non-obvious how and where to split the clue, and to mislead the solver along an irrelevant path.

### ACROSS

1. C: "Afrique" translation (anagram of "Afrique") S: Bassin d'eau souterraine = aquifer
5. C: what to do with broken down vehicle (tow it) S: in particular = to wit
8. C: periodic payments (subs) function (tan) keep one in check ('I' in 'tally') S: in the main = substantially
9. C: at least three pounds ('pen' = 'pound' , 'folds '= 'pounds') S: those involved in wines = Penfolds
10. C: draws up ('tows', reversed) S: study plan = swot
12. C: pressure (strain) introduced by state (inside 'express') S: those continually pushing speed = express trains
13. S: put up with = hack S: cut = hack
14. S: city = Calcutta S: auction = calcutta

- 17. C: spirit's (demon's) allocation (ration) is cut by head of the (interrupted by 't') S: show = demonstration
- 18. C: girl (Anne) 10 (X) S: addition = annex
- 19. C: small (s) rugged (craggy) S: gaunt = scraggy

## DOWN

- 1. C: personal attitude, a reflection ('pose, a', reflected backwards) S: legendary Greek (Aesop)
- 2. C: upset sporting body initially (R.U. , upwards) excludes (bans) cricketer (paceman) S: he's represented in a song = urban spacemen
- 3. C: husband of Mrs Simpson, perhaps (fat Homer) S: one who understands = fathomer
- 4. C: French man of maps ('Rene des cartes' is French translation) S: a rationalist = Rene Descartes
- 5. C: Tennessee's capital (t) city (Rio) S: group = trio
- 6. C: devour (wolf) game (whist) fish (ling) S: many women find it offensive = wolf whistling
- 7. C: to (to) play up ('toy', upwards) while (as) S: motor vehicles = Toyotas
- 11. POW: type of ride where one can take it easy = armchair
- 12. C: girl (Edna) receives letter from Athens (contains 'chi') S: a native = echidna
- 15. C: one (an) that reared up ('yon', upwards) S: niggle = annoy
- 16. C: is at the door, we hear (homonym of 'knocks') S: Theologian = Knox

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## Bali trauma team visits UniSA

A team of specialists from the main public hospital in Bali spoke at a recent UniSA seminar about some of the tough lessons learnt in the aftermath of the 2002 bombings.

With no pre-hospital assessment available, Sanglah hospital was flooded with patients in the hours and days following the disaster on October 12, 2002.

Besides the immediate need to help the injured, hospital staff also had to deal with a barrage of questions from the international media, language barriers (patients were from 25 different countries), and managing the many volunteers who turned up at the hospital wanting to help.

Since the blast, the Australian government has helped upgrade Sanglah's intensive care and emergency facilities, with a new burns centre to be opened this month.

The team (including emergency services nursing coordinator Luh Made Oka Rusmini, operating theatre clinical instructor I Gede Ngurah Ardika, trauma surgeon Dr I Gede Suwedagatha and head nurse of the emergency department I Ketut Mendera) spent four weeks in Adelaide, hosted by UniSA's School of Nursing and Midwifery and the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

UniSA nursing and midwifery lecturer, Elizabeth Haebich (who organised the visit) said the experience was worthwhile, both for UniSA and Sanglah Hospital staff.

"Sanglah are looking to form an ongoing relationship with a hospital in Australia so they can benchmark against comparable international health services and continue to improve care provided for visitors to Bali and the local community," she said.

"In sharing the experience of the bombing tragedy we were able to appreciate the enormous task local staff coped with in extremely difficult circumstances."



"The Sanglah group took part in sessions on everything from pre-hospital disaster management to specialist surgical procedures, with exposure to western health culture a high priority."

"With such a senior group of staff involved we are sure that adaptation of 'lessons learned' in Adelaide will be swift, meaningful and shared with many other Sanglah staff."

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## Doing IT for themselves

by [Charlotte Knottenbelt](#)

You can blame the computer-geek image, a lack of female role models, culturally-driven gender stereotypes, or just your garden variety sexism, but whatever the reasons there is no denying that women are dramatically under-represented in the IT industry.

In Australia women make up only 20 per cent of the IT workforce, behind other countries including Germany (40 per cent), Brazil (37 per cent), Italy (30 per cent) and the US (29 percent.)\* And that imbalance is set to increase in future, with women making up less than 20 per cent of IT students nationally. \*\*



It's a sorry state of affairs for an industry that prides itself on being at the cutting-edge, but it has not gone unnoticed by UniSA's School of Computer and Information Science, which each year awards a scholarship to help support a woman through one of its programs.

Named after Ada Byron - aka Lady Lovelace - who displayed remarkable foresight in the 1840s when she designed a plan for what is now regarded as the first computer program, the Ada scholarship was this year awarded to Kelly Rivett.

Kelly was the only Year 12 IT student at Lucindale Area School last year, and after blitzing her exams (earning a TER of 94, including a 19 for IT) she is now enrolled in a Bachelor of Computer and Information Science/Bachelor of Arts (Multimedia) double degree program at UniSA.

She sees that IT is a male-dominated area but refuses to let that get in the way of her goals. "I've always been one to try and show them up - whether it's on the sporting field or on the computer - so the fact that there are more men in IT is not going to stop me."

If change is going to occur, it's going to take a lot more women like Kelly to alter the culture from

within, according to the head of the School of Computer and Information Science, Professor Andy Koronios.

"Will men ever think about the lack of numbers of women in the industry? It's certainly not uppermost in their minds and given ingrained cultural perceptions about women I don't think so," he says.

"My experience, certainly in private industry, has shown that some men do find it threatening working with women on IT problems".

Koronios says this is despite the fact that many women are well-suited to IT, possessing a host of desirable qualities including better people skills, an ability to work collaboratively, organisational and negotiation skills and strong aesthetic instincts.

"The problem is that we need women to influence and to change the IT culture from within the workplace - but in order to achieve this we need more women in the IT industry. It is crucial that we break this cycle so that we can build a more vibrant and balanced IT industry."

\* Galpin, V. 2002. *Women in Computing Around the World*, SIGCSE Bulletin Vol. 34, No 2

\*\* Von Hellens, L. 2001. *Australian Women in IT*, Communications of the ACM, July 2001.

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## Sporting pride before a fitness fall

by [Michèle Nardelli](#)

Just a tad over 200 years old, modern Australia has built much of its sense of national pride on the backs of wars. Instead of Jason of the Argonauts or indeed William Wallace, we have looked to the diggers of Anzac Cove to weave our legends and myths.

In his histories of Australians at war C.E.W. Bean paid particular attention to the physical strength and vitality of Australians compared to other troops. A ruddy blend of Irish, Scottish, Welsh and English, living in a sunny, resource-rich country,

Australians were noticeably healthy. The first wave of Australian troops in WWI were fine specimens indeed - men who walked miles, rode wild horses, and came from far flung cattle stations where a good day's work was a hard one - they were as Bean says "lean and wiry".

And we loved them for that - we idealised their vigour so that the bronzed Anzac became the epitome of Australian manhood in the nation's psyche. Today he may not be marching off to war but elements of the fit, heroic Australian live on in our adoration of footballers, cricketers, athletes, tennis players and swimmers - they fight the good fight - they win and make us feel good about ourselves.

But in a little less than 100 years, the truth is we have taken a dive. The new breed of bronzed Aussie is flagging, much less fit than their UK counterparts and just keeping pace with far-flung nations such as Slovakia.

A recent UniSA study carried out by Dr Tim Olds shows the fitness levels of children between 12 and 15 are declining by about five per cent every 10 years. Dr Olds' examination of data that tested the aerobic fitness of about 18,000 South Australian school children from 1995 to 2000 showed that compared to children in 36 other countries, Australian children had poor fitness levels. In fact, they ranked 28th out of 37 countries, based on data on more than 400,000 children tested over the



last 20 years. The fittest children are from Estonia, Iceland, Finland and Lithuania. However, Australia is ahead of countries such as Singapore and the USA. But while the trend in declining fitness is international, he believes, Australian kids are in "free-fall".

"We have considered many physical factors that might be contributing to the decline such as increased weight, the earlier onset of puberty for both boys and girls, but at the end of the day we think it is about lifestyle," Dr Olds said.

"We spend more time watching sport than playing it, more time downloading music than dancing to it, more time riding in cars than walking - our children are living sedentary lives."

Meanwhile with the Athens Olympics just around the corner it is likely that we will again flick on the telly and watch adoringly as our heroes take to the international battlefield to bring home coveted gold.

But as UniSA's Professor Kevin Norton and Kieran Hogan outline in their research paper *The 'Price' of Olympic Gold (2000)*, millions of dollars invested in elite level sport may win us a bag of gold medals and vicarious good vibes about our physical prowess as Australians but does little to make Australian kids healthy.

The notion that pushing funds into the top end of sport would by "demonstration effect" encourage the wider community to engage in physical activity has proved false. Prof Norton believes quite separate efforts and investments need to be made in community health and elite level sport.

He says while there is a link between a sense of national pride and sporting success, the value of that success can be measured more in political terms than in any long term health benefits to the community.

"In some countries there are very clear strategies to capitalise on promoting elite sporting success because it has such a strong impact on a nation's sense of pride - a kind of 'all's right with the world' impact. Politically that is a powerful thing," he said.

"Right now the UK is gearing up for a best ever Olympics effort, pouring money into the coaching and infrastructure required to get results at the games. Much as Australians were disappointed by our poor performance in the 1976 Montreal Olympics, English morale has suffered because of poor international sporting performances and they have decided to up the ante.

"We have shown there is a clear and simple connection between expenditure and success at the elite level - the more money you put in the more medals you win."

But as one of the founding fathers of the Australian Institute of Sport, Adjunct Professor John Daly, will tell you, alarming hikes in obesity and poor fitness in Australia have precipitated a rethink.

"Providing our elite sportsmen do well, and Australian sports people are doing very well in many, many fields, we pat ourselves on the back and feel satisfied," he says. But we are looking down the barrel of a health crisis in Australia.

"We need to learn from the past and understand that investment in the high end of sport will get results at the high end only - there needs to be considerable investment in getting children active and fit, reintroducing physical education in schools and encouraging community sport. That is not a short term investment but it will pay dividends across the whole community and in building a healthier nation, give us something far more substantial to be proud of."

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## Mark's quest for the ashes

by [Charlotte Knottenbelt](#)

Mark Waugh may have hung up his baggy green, but there's another Mark who's just getting started in international test cricket - and he works at UniSA.

During office hours, Mark Haskett is the friendly face at the reception of Magill's Learning Connection office where he works as a disability services administrator. He loves his job, but admits the thrill of dealing with student enquiries does come a close second to representing Australia in the national blind cricket team.

Mark has central vision, meaning he can see what's straight ahead of him but has only about five per cent sight with no peripheral vision. (In blind cricket, they use a hollow ball with a rattle in it.)

He first got involved in cricket five years ago when he went along to an SA Blind Cricket Club clinic. Four weeks later he was on the state team, and last year achieved his dream of representing Australia when he was selected as part of the Test team that took on New Zealand in January. (Mark put in a great performance with half a century and two wickets in hand).

Now the 21-year-old wicketkeeper-batsman is looking forward to travelling overseas in August and September to tour England for five one-day Tests - for the Ashes, no less - and South Africa for three.

"One of the tests will be played at Lords, so the whole team is really excited," Mark says. "My ultimate aim would have to be to make a century and be part of a winning series that brings the Ashes back to Australia."



Mark will be joined by two other South Australia blind cricketers, Eugene Negruk and Nick Carrozza, on the tour to England and South Africa later this year. They are all seeking sponsorship to help cover the cost of the trip. If you would like to help, email [mark.haskett@unisa.edu.au](mailto:mark.haskett@unisa.edu.au)

The Australian Blind Cricketers will be training at Adelaide Oval from April 9 -11. Spectators are welcome.

**STOP PRESS: The SA Blind Cricket Club is holding a MOVIE NIGHT to raise funds to help Mark Haskett represent Australia in the Blind Cricket Ashes series. *Troy*, starring Brad Pitt, will be screened at 7PM on Friday May 14. Cost is \$10.50 per person. For tickets call Mark on 0400 259 336 or 8302 4003.**

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## Mawson Centre construction underway

More than 140 people came together for the recent launch of construction of the new \$9.2 million Mawson Centre at Mawson Lakes.

The centre, due to be completed by the end of this year, will be home to a public library, a 24/7-computer barn, a 250-seat theatre, a 'shopfront' for the Mawson Lakes Education Service, various teaching, meeting and exhibition spaces, a café, and the office of UniSA's Pro Vice Chancellor for Information Technology, Engineering and the Environment.

The launch of construction was celebrated with the unveiling of a commemorative plaque by SA Premier Mike Rann.

UniSA will have the majority ownership and management responsibility for the centre. The development is a partnership between UniSA, the City of Salisbury, the Land Management Corporation, Delfin Lend Lease and the SA Department of Education and Children's Services.

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## Professor grant rocks on

by [Michèle Nardelli](#)

He is one of our youngest and brightest.

Based at UniSA's Institute for Telecommunications Research, in the working week, Alex Grant uses mathematical theories to build a much more thorough understanding of the fundamental aspects of communications systems.

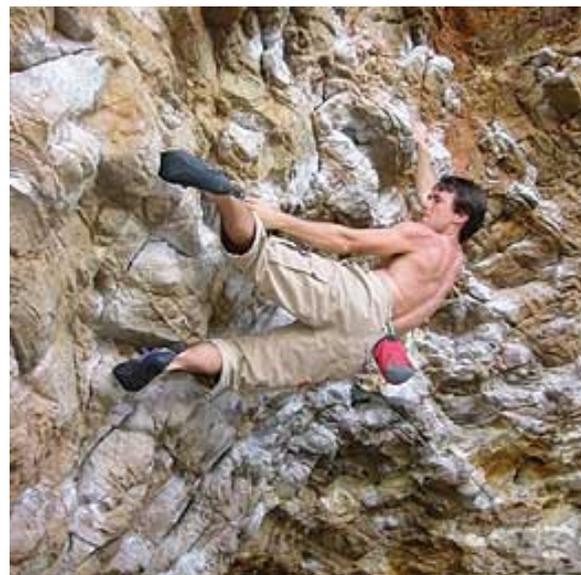
He is developing new research into algorithms and codes to find ways to increase the capacity and efficiency of communications systems in wireless networks, wide band systems, and new mobile networks. And he hopes that his work will ultimately give us all cheaper and better communications.

Alex leads the Coding and Information Theory Research Group at ITR and his research concentrates on the application of information theory to multiple user communications problems. He has published more than 100 technical papers and is supported by several Australian Research Council grants and industry-sponsored projects.

Alex is 33 years old and since January this year he has been Professor Alex Grant - UniSA's youngest professorial appointment.

So what do young professors do in their spare time? Well in one way or another, Alex rocks.

You might catch him some night at the Grace Emily Hotel playing bass guitar in his band *The John Edwards Experience* and then again, but most likely not the next day, you could find him literally hanging around the Adelaide Hills. A rock climbing enthusiast, Alex has mastered some of the faces at Morialta and Norton Summit and taken his rock climbing adventures to both Utah and Switzerland where he lived for a year.



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## Risky business can pay off

by [Charlotte Knottenbelt](#)

Most of us have fantasised at some point about selling our brilliant idea and getting rich quick, but it's obviously not that easy or we'd all be millionaires.

Well, entrepreneurialism is no cakewalk but it can be lucrative if you're prepared to take some risks, according to UniSA's new innovation and entrepreneurship professor, Noel Lindsay.

"There are a number of dimensions generally associated with successful entrepreneurs including: being proactive, being innovative and creative, and being able to effectively manage risk," Professor Lindsay says.

"Most people are fearful of going out on their own - we conjure up this idea that we can't do something and it's often not true. Part of entrepreneurship is a belief in yourself as well as a passion for going out there and creating your own future."

Prof Lindsay has been appointed by UniSA to establish and head the new Centre for the Development of Entrepreneurs. In his new role he aims to develop a hub of entrepreneur-related research expertise, establish an entrepreneurship outreach program for business and industry, as well as working to incorporate entrepreneurship -related subjects as electives throughout the University's degree programs.

"Most students think about getting their qualifications and going out and working for someone else - but what will happen a few years down the track when they decide they want to set up their own businesses?"

"I want to give them some insight into the entrepreneurial process so if they do decide to go down 'the road less travelled' they'll have an idea of what they need to consider."



"We need to teach our students how to think like and become employers, not just employees."

Prof Lindsay is speaking from experience. He left school at 16 to launch his first business manufacturing men's body shirts (it was in the '70s), later returning to school and then university, and going on to establish a number of business ventures in Australia, Malaysia, and South Africa.

A director of a venture capital fund which typically invests between \$1 million to \$3 million in "growth oriented entrepreneurial ventures", before joining UniSA's Division of Business and Enterprise, Lindsay was director of Bond University's Australian Centre for Family Business.

While praising Australia's track record in coming up with new ideas and technologies, he says we could be doing more to capitalise on our knowledge.

"Australia is a very smart country but what we're not so great at is taking technology and commercialising it," he says. "The patent offices are full of thousands of inventions that are never going to see the light of day. It's not enough for the government to throw money at R&D - you've got to teach people how to be entrepreneurial and commercialise the innovations that we are so good at developing."

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## Free trade in business ideas

UniSA and a visiting group of American MBA students have proved that free trade is alive and well - at least when it comes to sharing knowledge and ideas.

From March 6 -12, UniSA's International Graduate School of Management (IGSM) co-hosted a visit of 35 American MBA students and staff from the McCombs School of Business of the University of Texas in Adelaide's sister city, Austin.

During their time in Adelaide, the American students teamed up with local UniSA MBA students from IGSM to undertake management projects on American companies with South Australian operations.



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## Giving kids a say in urban renewal

by [Charlotte Knottenbelt](#)

Children from Ridley Grove Primary School and Woodville Gardens Preschool are breathing new life into the schoolyard with the help of UniSA.

As part of a project designed to increase children's participation in the urban renewal process, students from the school and preschool have been working with education, architecture and communications experts from the University of South Australia to plan a garden or structure to link the preschool and primary school areas. The project has been made possible thanks to a \$44,000 grant from The Myer Foundation.



With the area in question currently taken up by a car park and bare lawn, the aim is to transform the space into a safe, comfortable and aesthetically pleasing garden corridor - a place where kids want to be.

To this end, Ridley Grove students are being taught some of the basics of design drawing and model making by UniSA architecture students. They've put their new-found knowledge in to practice by creating plans of their own houses, and will develop those skills further by generating ideas and plans for the schoolyard transformation. They will also work with UniSA communications students to produce media releases and print, video and website reports on the project as it progresses.

It's all about raising expectations for students in an area of socio-economic hardship, according to project leader Professor Barbara Comber, director of UniSA's Centre for Studies in Literacy, Policy and Learning Cultures.

"There has been a lot of talk about minimum standards - particularly in literacy and numeracy - yet the aim for us as educators should be to raise expectations so that all children achieve beyond the

so-called basics," says Prof Comber.

"We don't want just minimal standards for these kids, we want them to have incredible opportunities and to be doing things that they never imagined they would at this age."

And the children are absorbing the new knowledge quickly, says UniSA senior architecture lecturer Stephen Loo, who has reviewed the students' initial drafting attempts.

"The students were able to communicate what their houses looked like very professionally - it seems they have a great ability to think spatially," he says.

"We are definitely hoping to extend this to develop innovative ways of consulting with children, so we can talk at different levels and find out what they feel should happen in their own environment and neighbourhood."

*The Ridley Grove schoolyard renewal is a cross-disciplinary project involving Professor Barbara Comber and Dr Helen Nixon from UniSA's School of Education, Stephen Loo from the Louis Laybourne Smith School of Architecture and Design and Dr Jackie Cook from the School of Communication, Information and New Media.*

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## Lecturer loses locks for leukemia

Physiotherapy lecturer Ian Fulton has had an extreme makeover as part of The World's Greatest Shave for a Cure appeal.

Ian collected \$4,776 - including \$225 raised online following an advertisement over University wide email - for the Leukemia Foundation by taking the traditional short-back-and-sides one step beyond.



The dramatic new look is sure to be a hit with staff and students at the School of Health Sciences - if they recognise him.

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## Fresh new ad campaign coming to a street near you

UniSA's new advertising campaign will go outdoors in 2004.

New billboards - simple in design and low in production cost - will help boost awareness of UniSA at key locations throughout the metropolitan area.

The campaign is designed to further increase awareness and understanding of the University among the general public, industry and prospective students.

The campaign will continue to highlight what makes UniSA a unique and different institution.

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## Visual arts triumph

With more than 40,000 people attending the many events held during Artists' Week as part of the 2004 Adelaide Festival of Arts, UniSA can be proud of being an integral part of that success.

The visual arts program was coordinated by UniSA Art Museum director, Erica Green, who says the Artists' Week program is being widely described as a triumph. "This festival really put Adelaide back on the map as a cultural destination," Green said, "and the visual arts program was recognised as a big part of that success."



More than 2,000 people visited the UniSA Art Museum for the William Robinson exhibition, and there was standing room only when the artist spoke at one of the many *Artists Talking* events - one of the best attended artists talks ever held at UniSA.

Other highlights included UniSA graduate Darren Siwes' sculpture at Government House, and the inaugural Architecture Symposium, coordinated by UniSA architecture lecturer, Rachel Hurst.

Hurst said keynote addresses by Marco Frascari and Sarah Wigglesworth attracted double the expected number of people, while students, staff and alumni from UniSA's Louis Laybourne Smith School of Architecture and Design had the chance to work with Frascari at workshops held at City West campus.

*The festival may be over but UniSA's involvement continues. Students from the South Australian School of Art will exhibit works in response to Artists Week at A4 Play, an exhibition being held at UniSA's Underdale Gallery from March 23 - April 9.*

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## Reginald Hill shares writing tips

Fans of one of the world's finest living crime writers, Reginald Hill, had a rare opportunity to get close to the author when he spoke at a breakfast at UniSA's City West campus during Writer's Week.

Thirty crime buffs, including UniSA's vice chancellor Professor Denise Bradley and the executive producer of Writers' Week, Rose White (both pictured with Hill), attended the breakfast.

Hill - best known for writing the Dalziel and Pascoe novels - entertained the crowd with tales from his

days in academia, as well as insights into plot construction and character development (the Pascoe character was originally based on Hill himself) and his own working environment. "I believe in the Quentin Crisp theory on dust: that after a while it doesn't get any worse," he said.

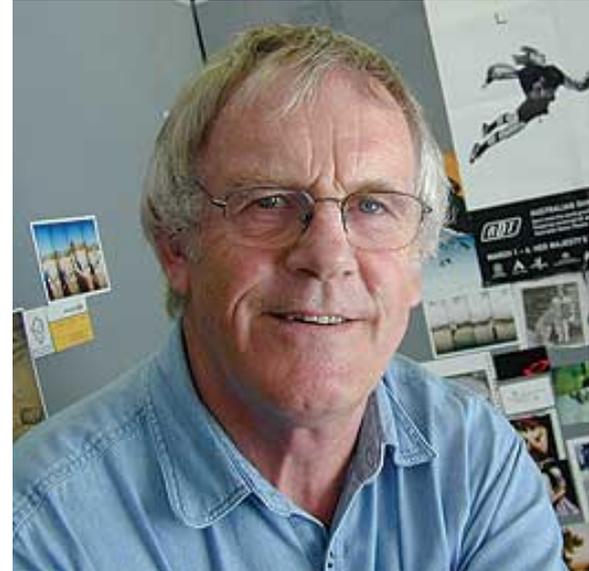


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## Our people Fred Littlejohn

When I arrived in South Australia from Scotland mid-1986 there was one and a bit columns of graphic designers listed in the Yellow Pages. There are now nine columns and that does not include the display ads! Most of these designers have been educated at the South Australian School of Art and I, along with my colleagues, have taught the majority of them. Of course these columns do not include the many more who have gone interstate and overseas.



I have now spent nearly half my working life in education after 20 years in industry. Not only did I change my vocation in 1986 I also changed my country. Even though I came from UK it takes time to fit into a new culture. I still haven't learned to say "G'day" the Aussie way, preferring to use the British greeting of "good morning" "good afternoon" etc and even though I became an Australian in 1992, I still barrack for Scotland when they are playing against Australia.

At UniSA I have had the privilege of working with a great team of designers from all the design and visual art disciplines and enjoyed the support we get from the design profession.

Our reward is seeing our graduates succeed in the professional world. Some of who are now icons to whom our present students aspire to emulate. It is also great to see some former graduates who have spent time in industry coming to working with us to teach new generations of designers and illustrators.

Being located at Peel Street has been quite isolating, so the move at the end of this year to the new School of Art at City West should be a good one. Once again we will have the opportunity to work on collaborative projects with art, architecture and design as we used to at Underdale. I am looking forward to that.

*Fred Littlejohn is the program director for visual communications (honours) and director of the*

*Visual Communications Consultancy within the South Australian School of Art.*

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## Farewell for O'Brien

More than 200 friends, family and colleagues gathered to pay tribute to Professor Kevin O'Brien at a recent function to celebrate his retirement.

O'Brien was closely involved in UniSA's establishment in 1991, and as the first Pro Vice Chancellor for the Division of Business and Enterprise since 1998, oversaw a period of massive growth and change, particularly with the establishment of offshore programs.

In retirement, he says he's looking forward to "a bit less pressure and a lower golf handicap", but his association with UniSA will continue, as he chairs the ITEK and GTA boards.

"I greatly enjoyed my time with the University and hope that the current and future staff find their careers as rewarding," he said.

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## UniFem breakfast attracts 1,400

by **Carol Sutherland**

Women often don't think they have the qualifications or skills to achieve their goals and are frequently failing to take risks or put themselves forward. That was one of the messages of the Chief Commissioner of the Victorian Police, Christine Nixon, when she spoke at this year's International Women's Day UniFem breakfast on March 8.



Speaking to more than 1,400 women, Nixon said that women had come a long way, but still need to persevere to achieve their goals.

She said she eventually achieved her goal of police commissioner by simply applying for the job. After unsuccessfully applying for the SA police commissioner's position in 1996, Nixon went on to complete a PhD before winning the Victorian commissioner's role in 2001. She said that a strong sense of self was essential to survive set backs and remain focused on personal goals.

Since becoming commissioner, Nixon has made an impact by challenging conventional attitudes to policing, facilitating a more accessible police service, and increasing the focus on domestic violence and juvenile crime.

Eighty women from UniSA attended the annual breakfast, including the vice chancellor, Professor Denise Bradley. The \$14,000 raised from the breakfast will go towards a long term UNIFEM program to support women's peace and security in the Pacific.

*Carol Sutherland chairs the UNIFEM Adelaide Breakfast Committee and is manager of Learning Connection at Magill Campus. For more information visit [www.unifem.org.au/~adelaide](http://www.unifem.org.au/~adelaide)*

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## Computer games help intelligent reasoning

by [Geraldine Hinter](#)

Developing computer games with strategies for playing against or with each other at the University of Paisley in Scotland, and for teaching reasoning and learning to Australian defence industry agents at UniSA, have led to similar research investigations, despite their very different starting points.

The search for intelligent reasoning using techniques in computer games based on artificial immune systems has led to projects being conducted jointly by visiting researcher, Professor Colin Fyfe from Scotland, and Professor Lakhmi Jain from UniSA's Knowledge-Based Intelligent Engineering Systems.

Professor Fyfe, who returned to Scotland in March, said that while much of the research is conducted in their own countries, the Internet makes it easy for them to cooperate on joint projects.

Professor Fyfe has a wealth of expertise in the area of computer intelligence and has written more than 200 papers on artificial neural networks, genetic algorithms and artificial immune systems. He has also participated in projects as diverse as automatic image registration and segmentation and automatic speech understanding, and is currently involved in a European Union-funded project to place academic research on computer intelligence at the centre of industrial and commercial projects.

Professor Jain is keen to see this partnership continue and has set in place structures for a deep and lasting collaboration between Scottish and Australian universities.

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## Abhary appointed to SSABSA committee

Professor Kazem Abhary, from the School of Advanced Manufacturing and Mechanical Engineering has been appointed as a member of SSABSA's Subject Advisory Committee for a three year term.

Prof Abhary was also invited by SSABSA to the 2004 Merit Ceremony on February 17, where he presented Certificates of Merit to students who scored 20 in science subjects (biology, chemistry, geology and physics).



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## UniSA theses go global

The UniSA Library's link to the Australian Digital Theses program is giving our postgraduate scholars the chance to share their work with the world.

Twenty five PhD and Masters theses from UniSA have now been deposited on the database helping to raise the University's research profile.

Physiotherapy lecturer Ian Edwards contributed his 2001 PhD thesis to the program. "With qualitative data which is long and voluminous, it's not possible to include it in articles that I write, so I include the thesis link as an online reference," he says.

For further information see [www.library.unisa.edu.au/adt-root/](http://www.library.unisa.edu.au/adt-root/)

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